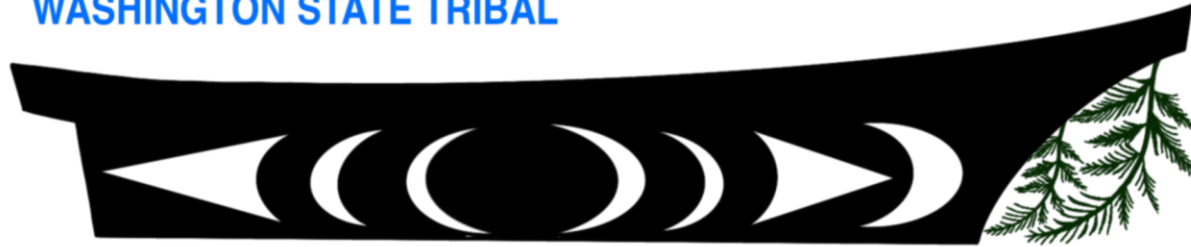


WASHINGTON STATE TRIBAL



## OPIOID FENTANYL SUMMIT



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# We help one another together.

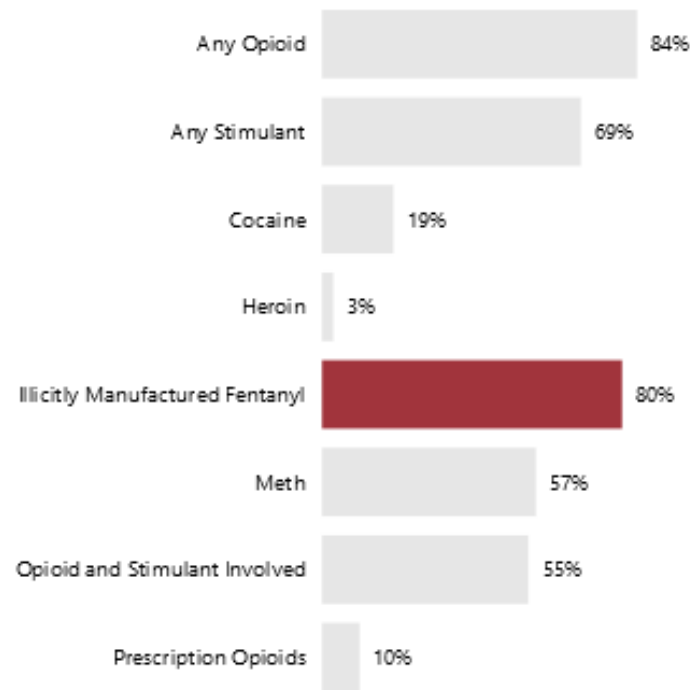
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Understanding the Impact

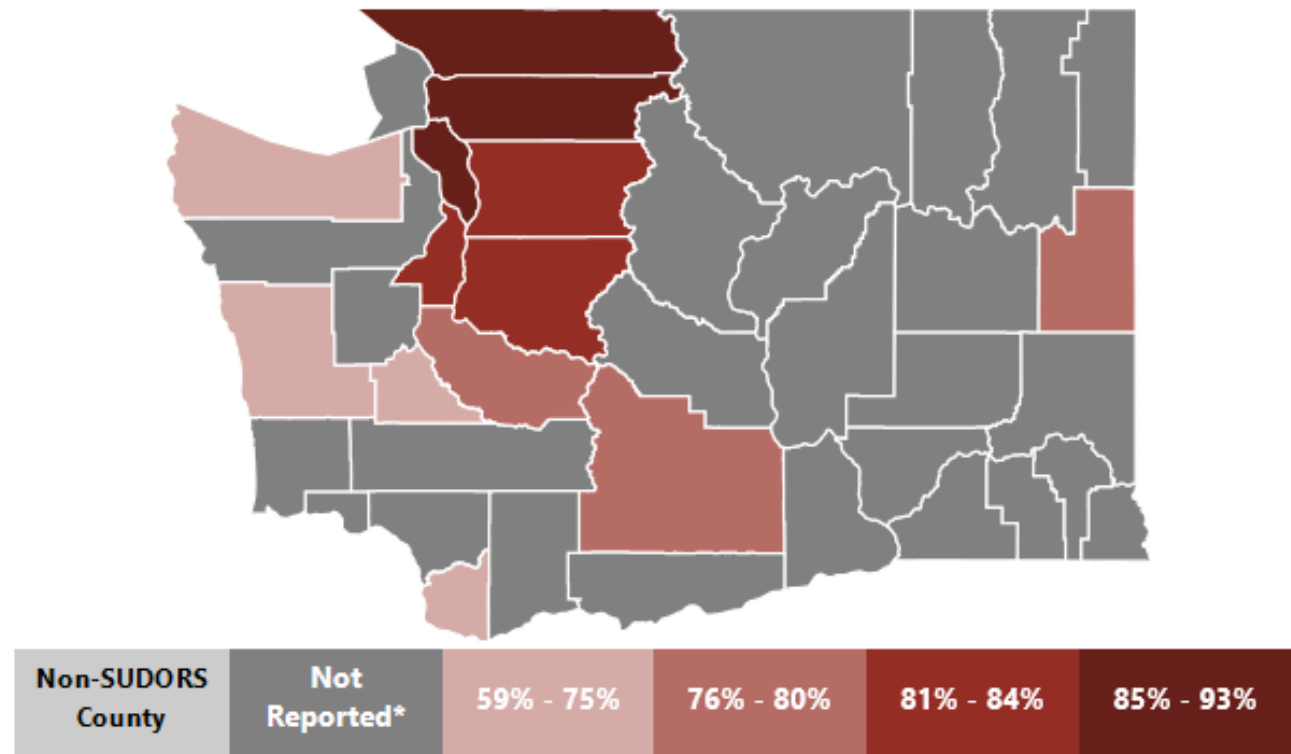
Opioids are the highest cause of drug related deaths in Washington, with 80% of deaths caused by fentanyl in 2023.

2,995 Total Overdose Deaths

Drug Specific Overdose Deaths as Percent of All Overdose Deaths in 2023



All SUDORS Counties Percent of Overdose Deaths Involving Illicitly Manufactured Fentanyl in 2023

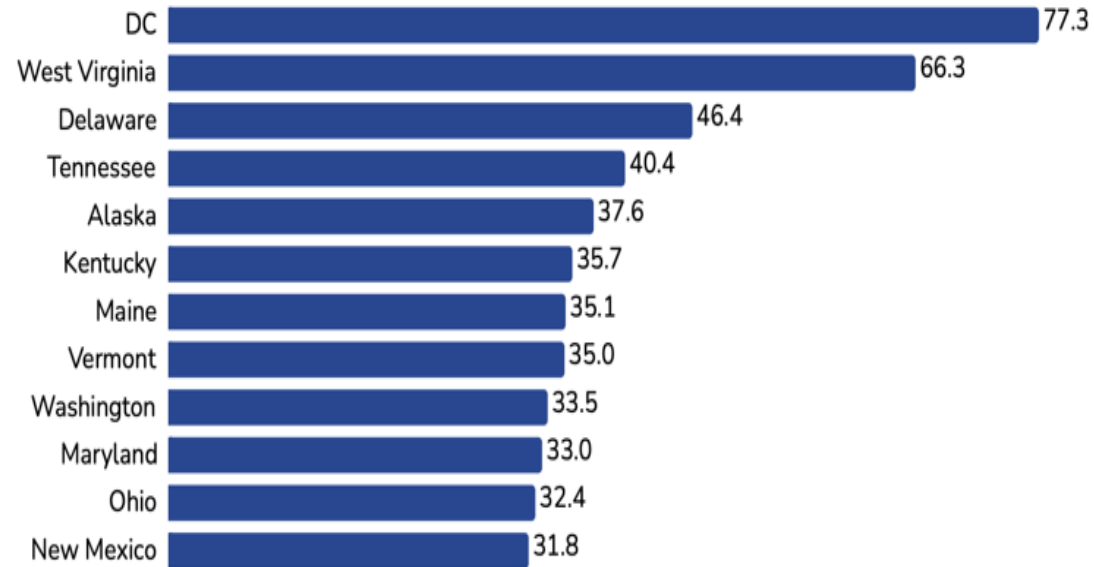


Source: WA DOH Overdose SUDORS dashboard



# Fentanyl related overdose deaths

## National Fentanyl Overdose Death Rate By Jurisdiction 2023



## American Indian/Alaska Native Fentanyl Related Overdose Deaths in 2023

- 3.8 times the general population
- 9.2 times the general population in Whatcom County
- 2 times the rate of Washington DC (DC had the highest rate of any state/jurisdiction in the US)

## WA AI/AN Washington Fentanyl Overdose Death Rate 2023



Source: CDC SUDORS database, WA DOH Opioid Overdose Dashboard



American Indian/Alaska Native **fentanyl** related overdose deaths occur ***up to 9 times*** the rate as compared to the statewide population rate

**Washington AI/AN fentanyl overdose death rate  
proportionate  
comparison to state rate, 2023**



Source: WA DOH Overdose dashboard



“Suspected opioid overdoses reported have decreased by 19.8% in Apr 2025 compared to Mar 2025.” (for the general population) – WA DOH

Since 2016, the rate of opioid overdose death is increasing...**and hasn’t stopped increasing for American Indians/Alaska** Natives in Washington.

Washington’s overall drug overdose mortality rate masks racial disparities.

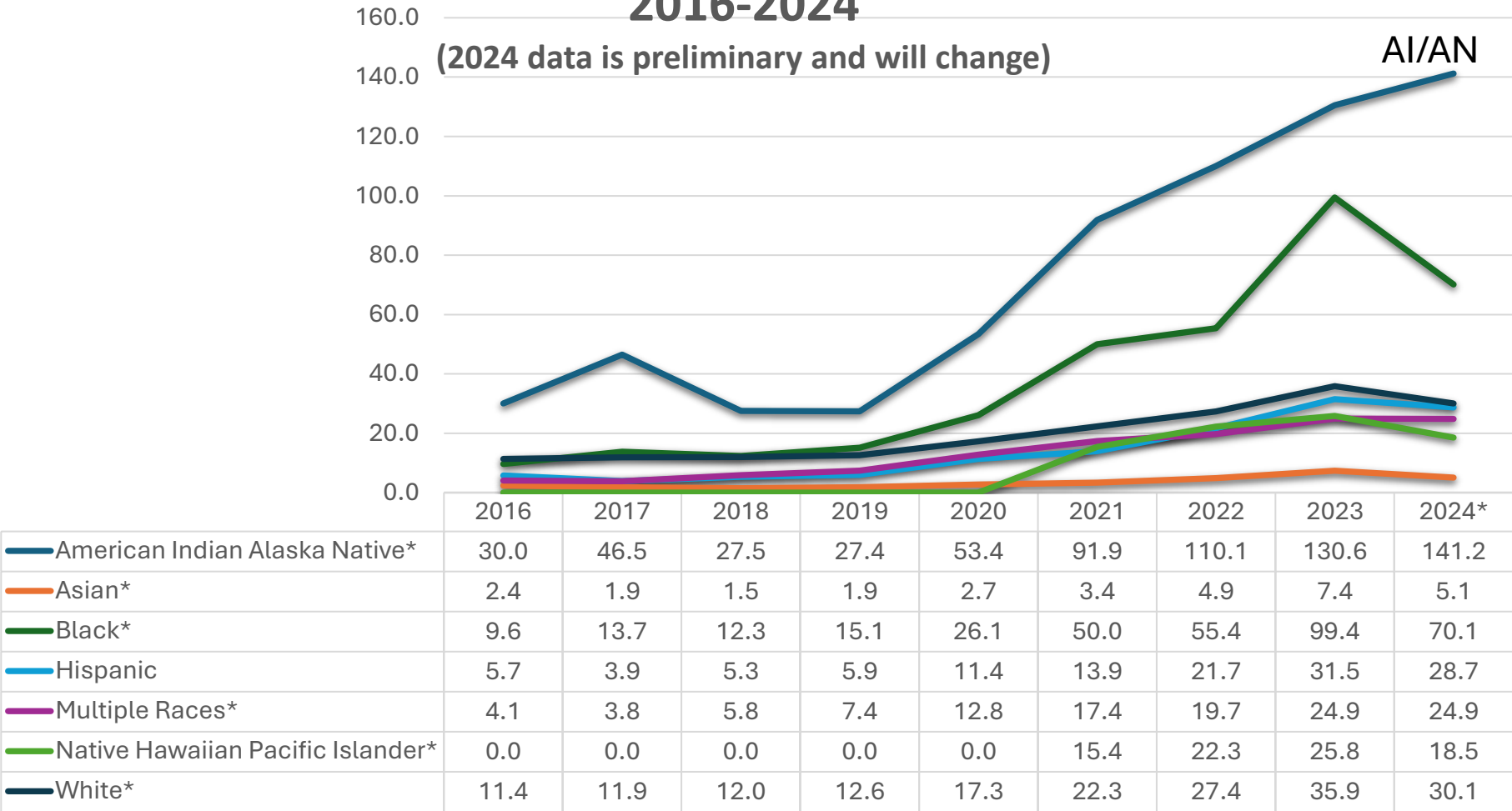
Source: WA DOH  
Data received by DOH as of: 12May2025.  
Note: Counts and Rates based on counts of 9 or fewer (<10) are not shown.  
Data limited to Washington residents

# Washington Opioid Overdose Mortality Rate by Race

## 2016-2024

(2024 data is preliminary and will change)

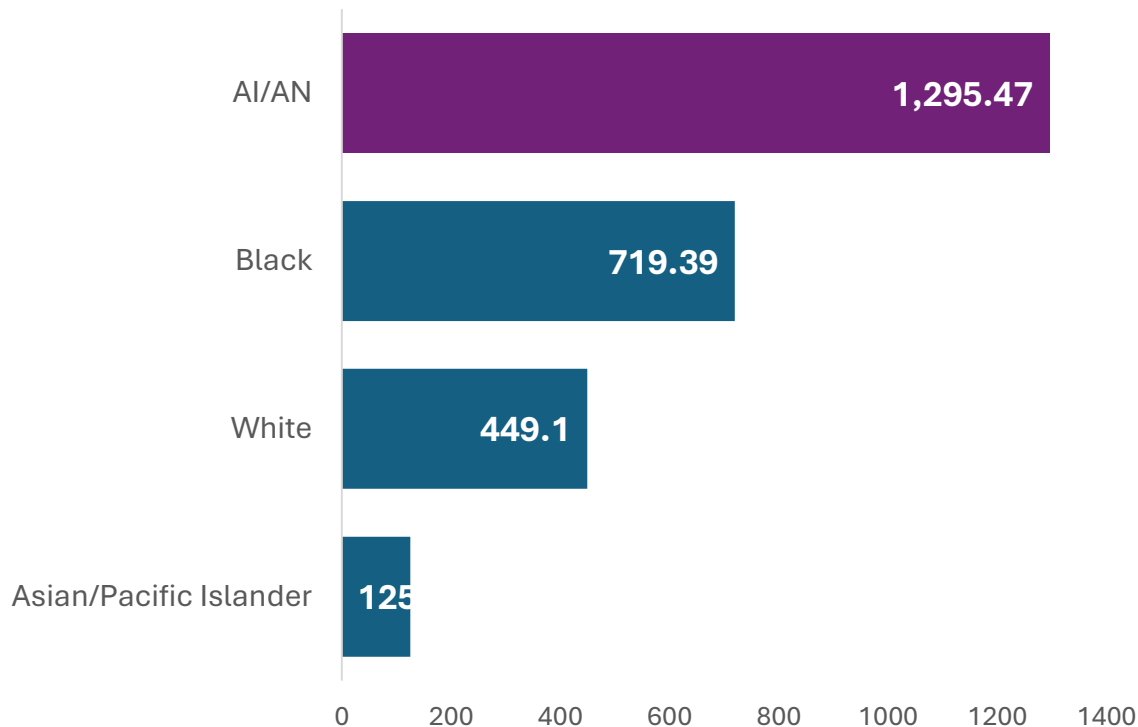
AI/AN



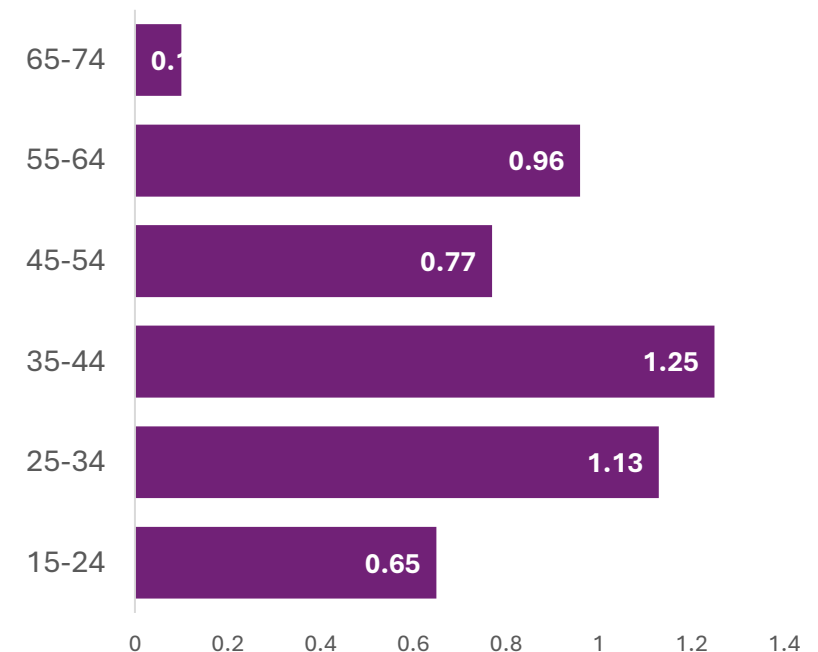
# Premature Deaths: AI/AN have lost substantially more collective potential years of life when compared to other populations

Opioid Related - Years of Potential Life Lost  
(per 100,000)

Washington, By Race, 2017-2021



AI/AN Opioid Related Deaths,  
2018-22, By Age Group, Age-  
Specific Rate

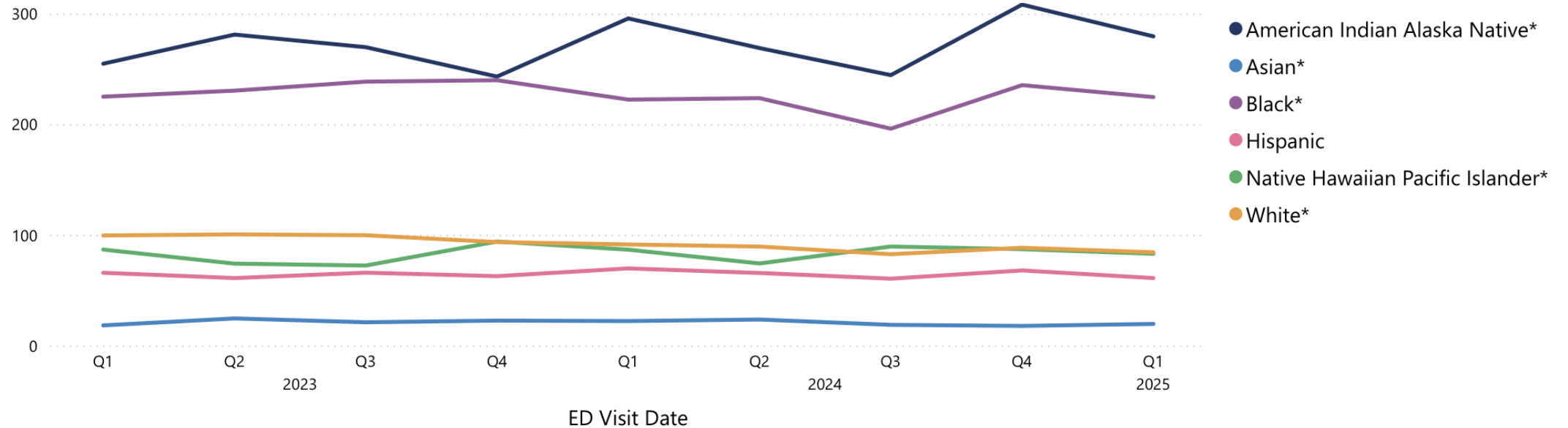


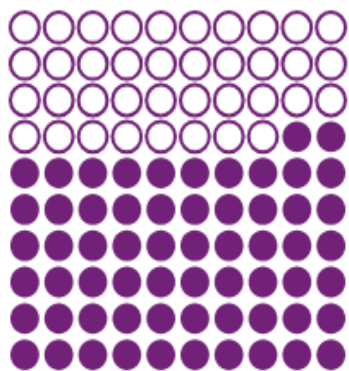
*“Our Elders have taught us – we aren’t supposed to be burying our young. We need them to be around as future leaders.”*  
-Marilynn Scott, Councilwoman, Upper Skagit



# Emergency Department Visits Overdose Related By Race 2023 Through Early 2025

**Statewide Age-Adjusted Rate of Non-Fatal Suspected Any Drug Overdose ED Visits per  
100,000 Population by Race and Ethnicity**





62.2%

of drug overdose deaths had at least one potential opportunity for intervention

What were the circumstances<sup>20</sup> surrounding overdose deaths in 2023, *Washington*?<sup>†</sup>

5.8%

Current treatment for substance use disorder(s)<sup>21</sup>

11.4%

Fatal drug use witnessed

40.2%

Potential bystander present<sup>22</sup>

10.5%

Prior overdose

7.7%

Decedent was recently released from institutional setting<sup>23</sup>

27.3%

Evidence of a mental health diagnosis

<sup>†</sup> Circumstance percentages are only among decedents with sufficient information on circumstances surrounding the overdose death.

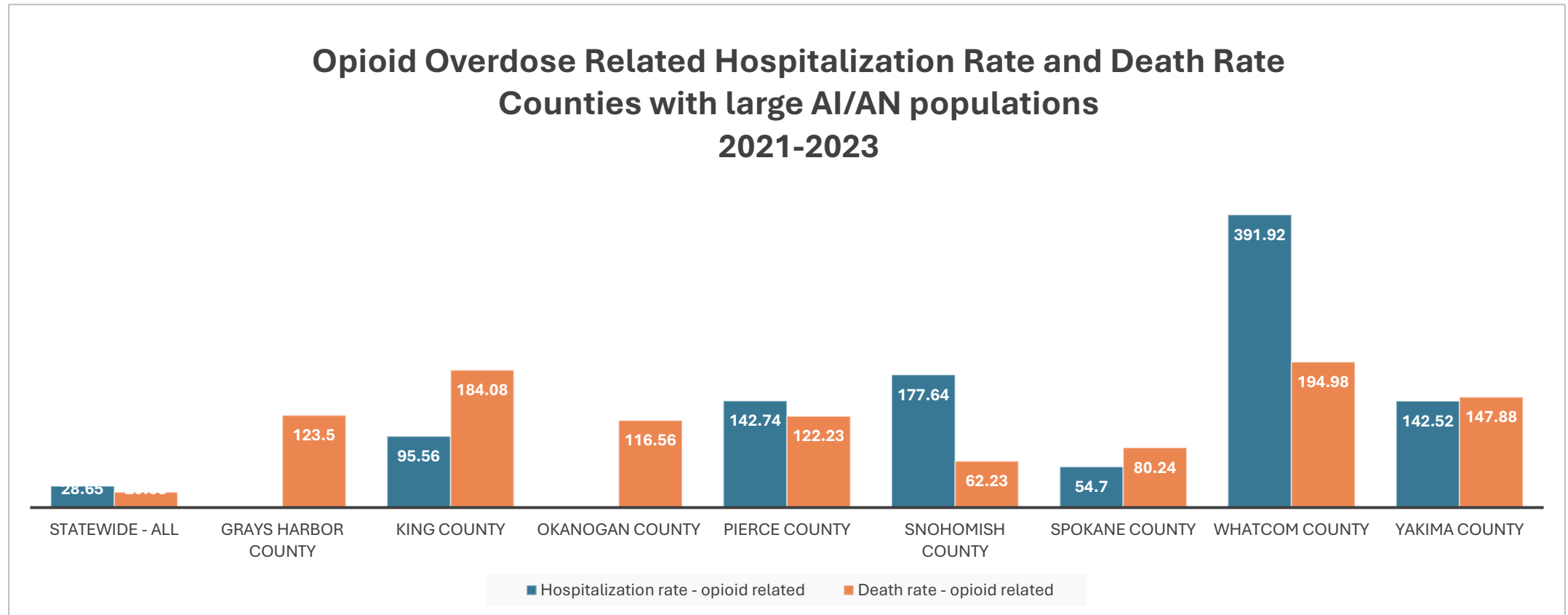
Source: CDC SUDORS database





# Opioid related hospitalization rates and death rates are substantially higher for AI/AN in Washington compared to general population

*Q: Is access to EMS and Emergency Departments a need in some counties?*



Source: Washington Department of Health, Washington Tracking Network, Opioid and Drug Use Data Dashboard,  
<https://doh.wa.gov/data-and-statistical-reports/washington-tracking-network-wtn/opioids/overdose-dashboard>



# Review of Effort Since July 2024 Summit

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- Review Efforts since last summit
- Understand accomplishments since July 2024 summit
- Learn about development of resources library



# 2025 Accomplishments: Community and Family Services

- Tribal-State Behavioral Health, Opioid, Fentanyl Prevention, Education, and Awareness Workgroup
- WA Prevention System- North Star Funding
- Support for Indigenous Prevention Framework
- Enhanced engagement with Tribes on the Healthy Youth Survey

# 2025 Accomplishment: Community Response

- ✓ Tribal Law Enforcement Conference
- ✓ Held FEMA Continuation of Operations Training for Tribal Public Health/Emergency Managers
- ✓ Implemented Tribal Data Users Group
- ✓ Held one cross jurisdictional coordination meeting

# 2025 Accomplishments:

## Continuum of Care

### Legislative accomplishments

- ✓ Directive for HCA to work with Tribes and UIHPs to develop operational plan for Tribal Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization (BHASO)
- ✓ Funding for Traditional Indian Medicine Waiver application and implementation.
- ✓ \$21.5 million in capital funds to expand behavioral health services at four Tribes

# 2025 Accomplishments:

## Housing that Wraps Around

Established Tribal Housing and Wrap Around Services Committee as a subcommittee of Governor's Tribal Leaders Social Services Council (GTLSSC)

Connecting work to WA State Poverty Reduction Plan

Review of housing programs available through the following agencies:

- Department of Commerce,
- Department of Health and Social Services-
  - Aging and Long-Term Services Administration
  - Economic Services Administration
- Health Care Authority
- Department of Children Youth and Families

# 2025 Accomplishments:

## Public Safety and the Justice System

- ✓ Linking people to care at release – *re-entry program begins July 1, 2025*
- ✓ Tribal Law Enforcement Conference held March 12th, 2025

**Through the Tribal Warrant Work Group, the following priorities were addressed:**

- ✓ Addressing complexity of jurisdiction on Tribal lands
- ✓ Establishing Tribal warrant reciprocity
- ✓ Enhancing collaboration between Tribal police and other law enforcement agencies.
- ✓ Create clear, consistent process for jurisdictional transfer between counties and Tribes
- ✓ Strengthen collaboration between different sectors including law enforcement and providers

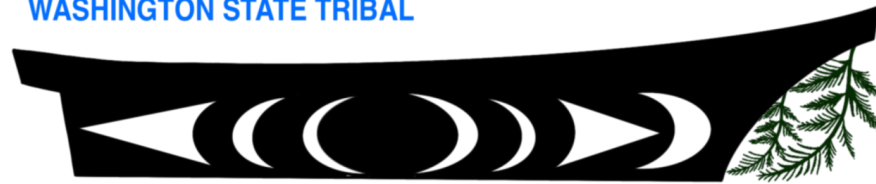
# Break out Session Questions for Audience

- What resources are missing?
- What support does your community need?
  - Training?
  - Toolkits?
  - Funding?
  - Education?
- What efforts should be the priorities for the Taskforce in this next year?
  - Policies
  - Resources
  - Legislation



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