

SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER & OVERDOSE

IN AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITIES



Highest Overdose Death Rates:



70.4
per 100,000

In 2023, non-Hispanic American Indian and Alaska Native people had an overdose death rate of 70.4 per 100,000 - the highest of any racial/ethnic group (vs. U.S. overall: 33.5 per 100,000).¹

OVERDOSE DEATHS



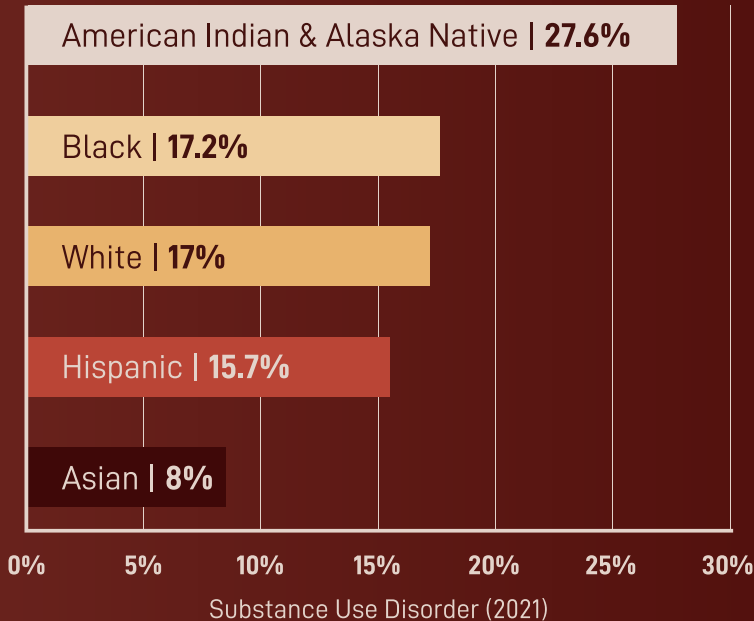
Urban American Indian & Alaska Native People Disproportionately Affected:

In 2020, American Indian and Alaska Native people had the highest drug overdose death rates in both urban (44.3 per 100,000) and rural (39.8 per 100,000) counties - outpacing all other groups.²

Substance Use Disorders Among Native Communities

27.6%

In 2021, 27.6% of American Indian and Alaska Native people (12+) had a Substance Use Disorder (vs. 17.2% of Black, 17% of White, 15.7% of Hispanic, and 8% of Asian people).³



Treatment Gap In Native Communities

Only 5.3%

Received Treatment

Among American Indian and Alaska Native people needing treatment in 2021, only 5.3% received any treatment and just 3.7% received specialty care - the largest gap of all racial/ethnic groups.⁴

Urban Indian Organizations are Supporting Native Communities

UIOs are a Critical Resource for Substance Use Disorder/Opioid Care in American Indian and Alaska Native Communities

Urban Indian Organizations (UIOs) are an integral part of the Indian health system (comprised of the Indian Health Service, Tribes, and UIOs), and provide essential healthcare services, including primary care, behavioral health, and social and community services, to patients from over 500 Tribes in 38 urban areas across the United States.

Indian Health Service facilities, Tribes, and UIOs provide lifesaving substance use disorder and behavioral health care, culturally tailored services, support groups, and outreach.

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2024, December 12). *State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS) Dashboard: Fatal Drug Overdose Data - Final Data*. US Department of Health and Human Services. Retrieved August 15, 2025 from <https://www.cdc.gov/overdose-prevention/data-research/facts-stats/sudors-dashboard-fatal-overdose-data.html>.

2. Spencer, M. R., Garnett, M. F., & Minino, A. M. (2022). Urban-Rural Differences in Drug Overdose Death Rates, 2020. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Center for Health Statistics. Retrieved August 15, 2025 from <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db440.pdf>.

3. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). (2022). *Key substance use and mental health indicators in the United States: Results from the 2021 National Survey on Drug Use and Health* (HHS Publication No. PEP22-07-01-005, NSDUH Series H-57). Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Retrieved August 14, 2025 from <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/report/2021-nsduh-annual-national-report>.

4. *Id.*