**Prevention and Health Promotion**

**Opioid-related overdose deaths**

Opioid-related overdose\(^1\) is one of the leading causes of injury mortality in Oregon. Opioid overdose, which includes prescription drugs as well as street drugs, deaths have markedly increased during the past decade, from 73 total deaths during 2000 to 332 deaths in 2011. Since then there has been a significant decrease to 245 deaths in 2016 (Figure 1).

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**FIGURE 1**

Opioid-related overdose death rate by year, Oregon

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Opioid-related overdose death rates vary by race/ethnicity (Figure 2). The highest average age-adjusted mortality rate from 2012 to 2016 occurred among American Indians/Alaska Natives (7.6 per 100,000), and whites (7.6 per 100,000). The lowest rates of Opioid-related overdose death occurred among Asian/Pacific Islanders (0.8 per 100,000), and Hispanics (2.8 per 100,000).

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\(^1\) Including both unintentional and undetermined intent.
Efforts targeted at patients who use opioids as well as clinicians who prescribe them are needed to address this important public health problem.

Additional Resources: Injury and Fatality State Plans and Reports

About the Data: Data source is Oregon Death Certificate Data. Data include deaths for which the underlying cause of death was accidental or undetermined intent poisoning and opium, heroin, methadone, other synthetic narcotics or other opioids were listed among the contributing causes. Data for 2014-2016 do not include out of state deaths. Population estimates used in calculating rates are from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS).

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