

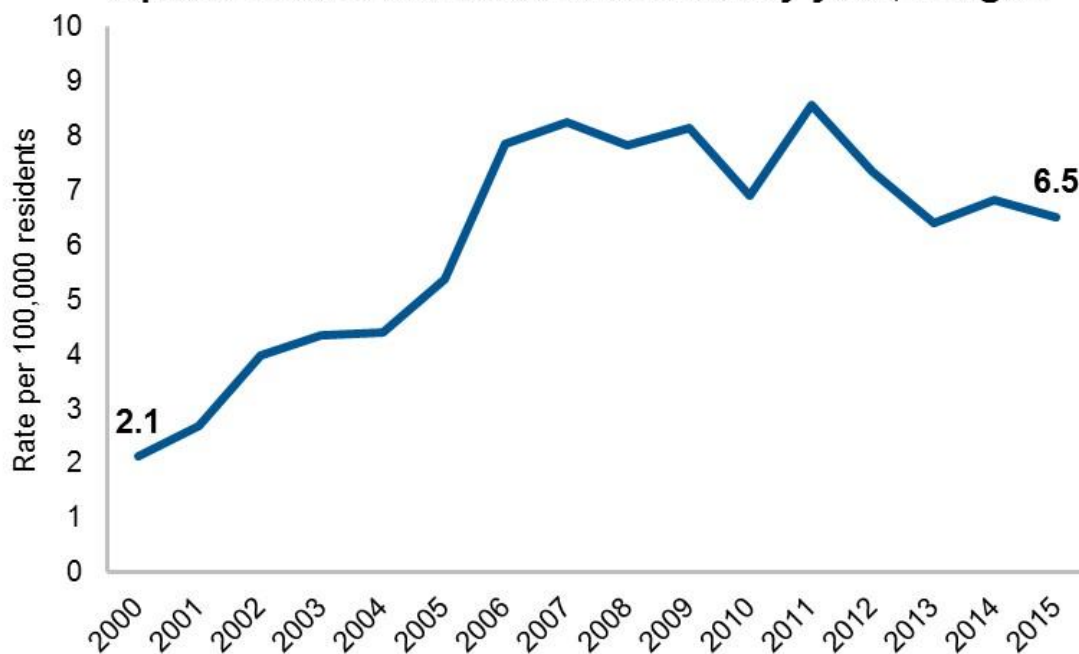
## Causes of Death

# Opioid-related overdose deaths

Opioid-related overdose<sup>1</sup> 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 263 deaths in 2015 (Figure 1).

FIGURE 1

**Opioid-related overdose death rate by year, Oregon**



Source: Oregon Death Certificate Data

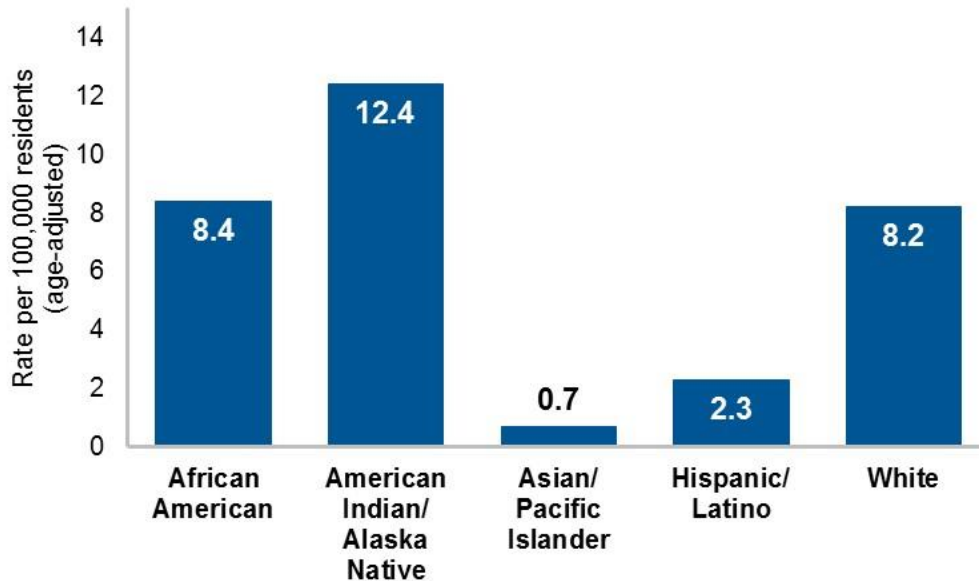
Opioid-related overdose death rates vary by race/ethnicity (Figure 2). The highest average age-adjusted mortality rate from 2011 to 2015 occurred among American Indians/Alaska Natives (12.4 per 100,000), followed by African-Americans (8.4 per 100,000) – both were higher than the rate among whites during the same time period (8.2 per 100,000). The lowest rates of Opioid-related overdose death

<sup>1</sup> Including both unintentional and undetermined intent.

occurred among Asian/Pacific Islanders (0.7 per 100,000), and Hispanics (2.3 per 100,000).

FIGURE 2

### Opioid-related overdose death rate by race/ethnicity, Oregon, 2011–2015 average



Notes: All other groups exclude Hispanic ethnicity

Source: Oregon Death Certificate Data

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. Population estimates used in calculating rates are from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS).

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**Date Updated:** July 24, 2017

[Oregon State Health Profile](#)

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