

TITLE: Suicide deaths among American Indians/Alaska Natives: Oregon, 2009-2013

AUTHOR(S): Monika Damron, Chiao-Wen Lan, Sujata Joshi

PRESENTER(S): Monika Damron

STUDENT SUBMISSION: No

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Program developers and researchers

ABSTRACT: Background: Suicide rates in the United States have increased in the last decade. Nationally, American Indians/Alaska Natives (AI/AN) experience higher rates of suicide compared to the total population.

Purpose: We compared patterns of suicide deaths between AI/AN and Non-Hispanic White (NHW) residents in Oregon.

Methods: We utilized death certificates from the Oregon Center for Health Statistics between 2009-2013 corrected for misclassified AI/AN race. Suicide deaths were identified using ICD-10 codes in the underlying causes of death field: S19, X60-X84, Y87.0. Rates were age-adjusted to the 2010 US Standard population.

Results: From 2009 to 2013, there were 72 deaths by suicide for AI/AN in Oregon. The age-adjusted suicide rate for AI/AN was similar to the NHW population (17.8 vs 18.1 per 100,000).

However, 45.8% of AI/AN deaths were among people aged 35 years or younger compared to 21.5% of NHW. The age-adjusted suicide rate for AI/AN males aged 18-34 was the highest (12.0 per 100,000) compared to similar NHW males (3.8 per 100,000).

Conclusions: AI/AN youths and young adults in Oregon are disproportionately affected by suicide. The study findings illustrate the importance of developing and implementing effective targeted suicide prevention/interventions that will address the specific needs of AI/AN in Oregon.

OBJECTIVE(S): Describe the patterns of suicide deaths among American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) men and women living in Oregon.

Identify the disparities of suicide deaths between AI/AN and Non-Hispanic White.

PRIMARY CONTACT INFORMATION:

mdamron@npaihb.org, Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board