



RACIAL MISCLASSIFICATION OF OPIOID OVERDOSE DEATHS among American Indian and Alaska Native(AIAN)

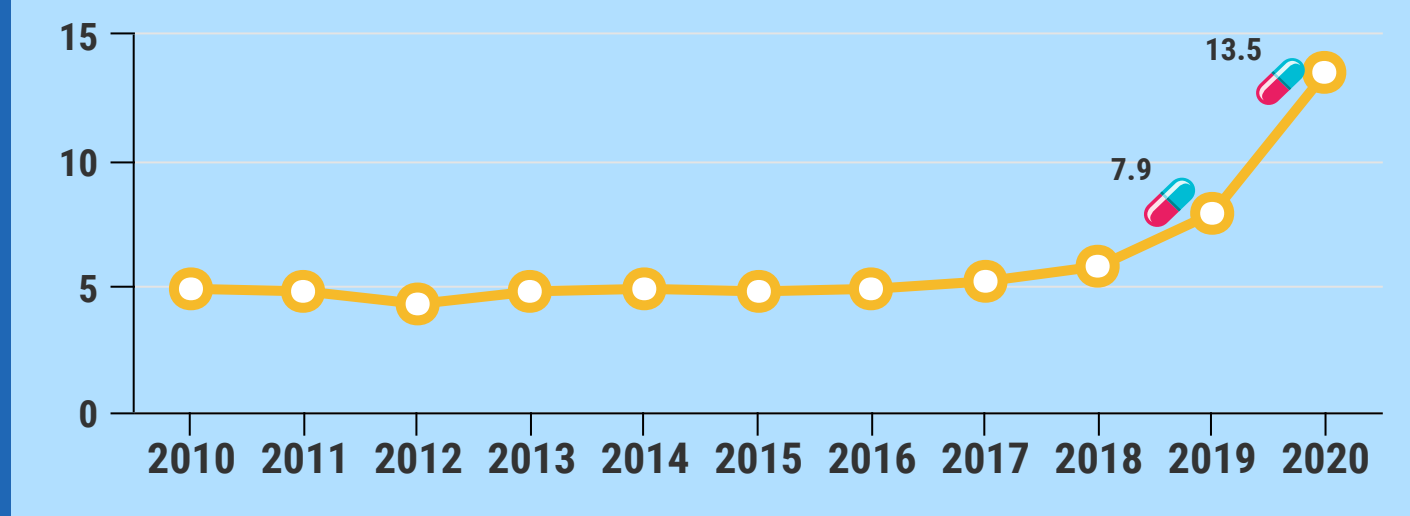


The accuracy of health assessments is vital in estimating the burden of disease in a population. However, AIAN race and ethnicity information on death certificates is often missing or misclassified. There is limited information on the accuracy of opioid overdose death rates in the AIAN population in California. Therefore, the California Rural Indian Health Board, Inc. (CRIHB) California Tribal Epidemiology Center (CTEC) investigated the racial misclassification rates in California Vital Statistics (CVS) death data by comparing the racial information with patients' records from two Tribal Health Programs (THPs).



Opioid Overdose Death Rates

California Opioid Overdose Death Trend



The opioid overdose death rate in California increased by 71% from 2019 to 2020.

73% of all opioid overdose deaths are caused by synthetic opioids such as fentanyl.

Opioids greatly affect AIAN **27.1 per 100,000** died from an opioid overdose in 2020. However, the death rate might have been underestimated due to racial misclassification.

SOURCES: California Overdose Surveillance Dashboard. <https://skylab.cdph.ca.gov/ODdash/>

Finding the Rate of Racial Misclassification of Opioid Overdose Deaths among AIAN

To find the rate of racial misclassification, the CRIHB CTEC linked the CVS data with patient registration records from two THPs – United Indian Health Services, Inc. and Sonoma County Indian Health Project, Inc.

1,073

AIAN matched between two datasets

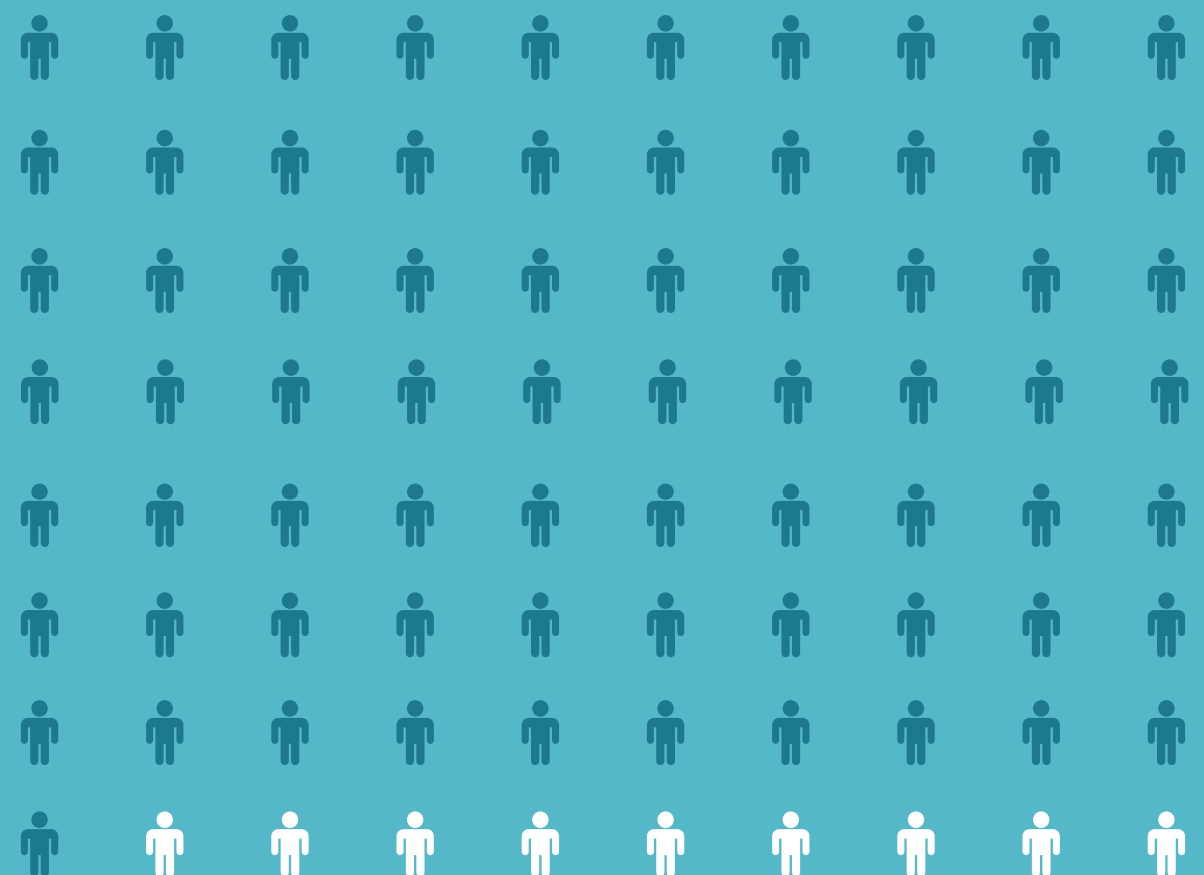
70

out of 1,073 AIAN people died from opioid-related overdoses

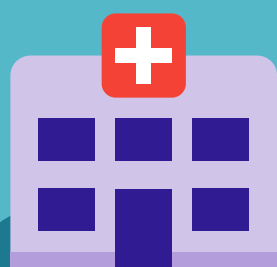
- Out of all the patient registration records, only deceased patients were linked with CVS data.
- Linkage software was used to link two different datasets

13%

Nine out of 70 AIAN were misclassified as White, which is 13% of the total opioid-related overdoses.



CVS Death Data from 1970 to 2017



Patient Registration records from two THPs

The CRIHB CTEC project shows that there is an underestimation of opioid-related overdose deaths in the AIAN population. Collaborative efforts are needed across the healthcare and public health sector to address racial misclassification and to better understand the opioid overdose epidemic.

For more information, please visit www.crihb.org/ctec
Source: www.cdph.org