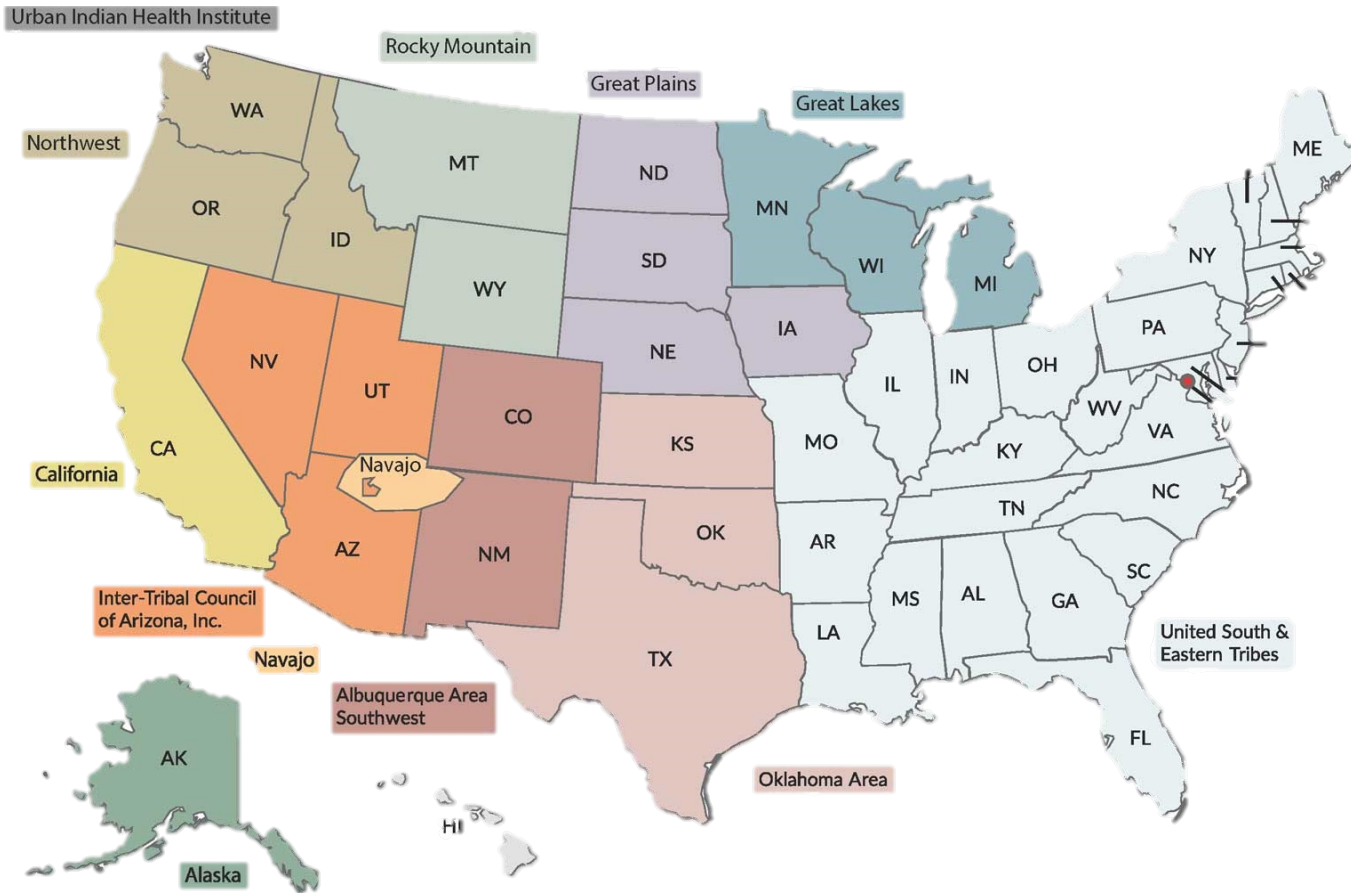


THE DATA BEHIND THE OPIOID CRISIS IN INDIAN COUNTRY

Crisandra Wilkie, MPH
Northwest Tribal Epidemiology
Center



Tribal Epidemiology Center



- One of 12 Tribal Epicenters across the US
- Funded by the Indian Health Service (IHS)



Northwest Tribal Epidemiology Center (NWTEC)

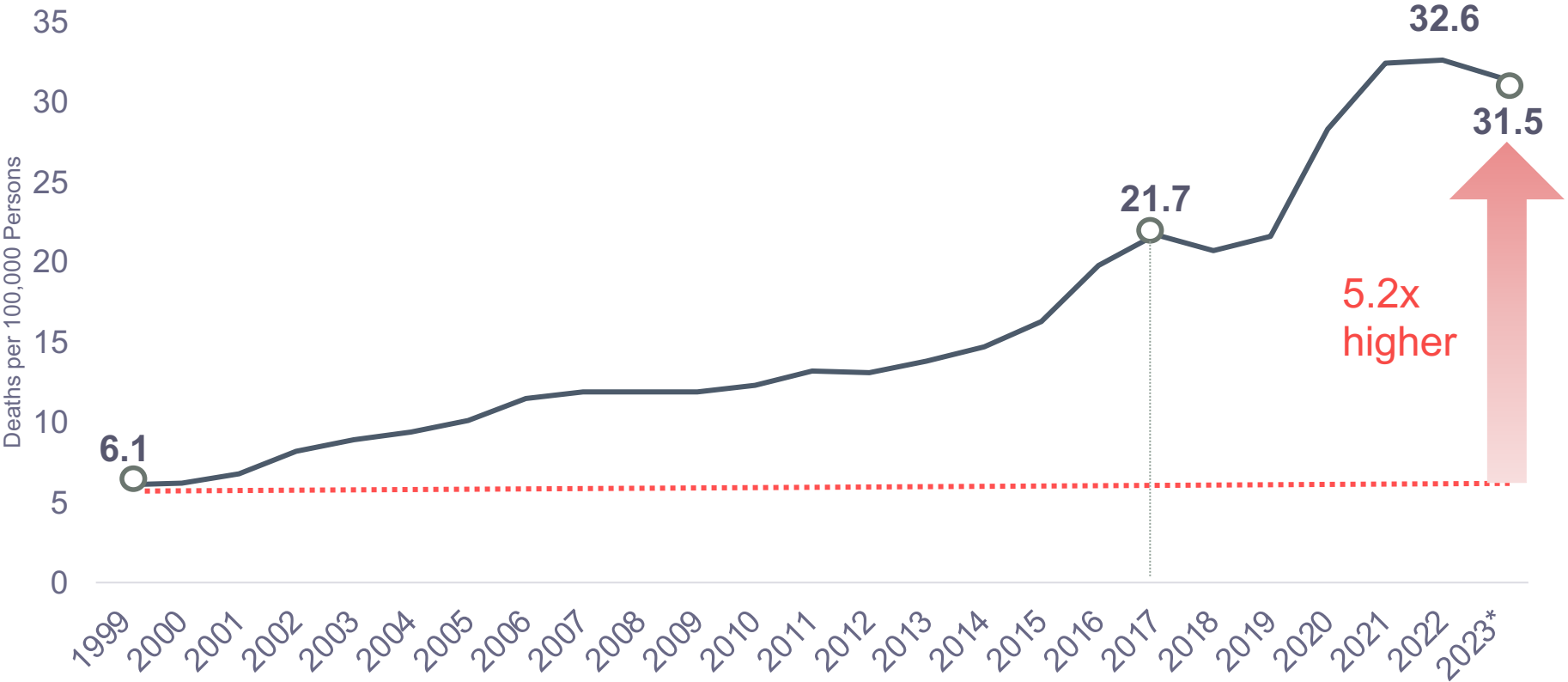
Housed within the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board
(NPAIHB)

Our organization provides epidemiological and public health support for the **43 federally recognized tribes** in a three-state region: Washington, Oregon, and Idaho (~300,000 AI/AN)

- If you are in the NW region, contact me for data assistance!
cwilkie@NPAIHB.org
- If you are located outside the NW, contact your EpiCenter!
<https://tribalepicenters.org/>



National Drug Overdose Deaths: Trend Since 1999



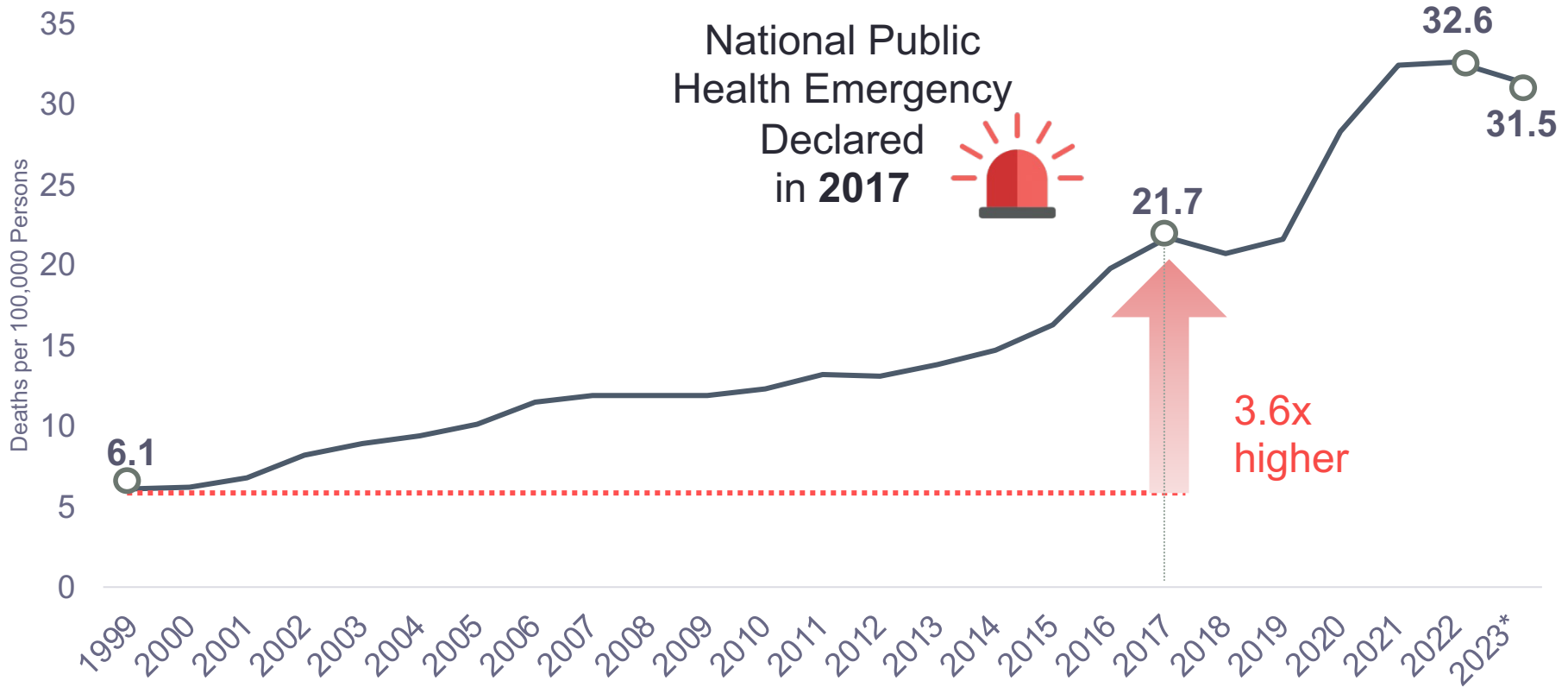
*Data for 2023 is preliminary



Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board

National Age-Adjusted Rates per CDC NCHS Multiple Cause of Death Files 1999-2020 and from provisional data for years 2021-2023 on CDC WONDER Online Database

National Drug Overdose Deaths: Trend Since 1999



*Data for 2023 is preliminary

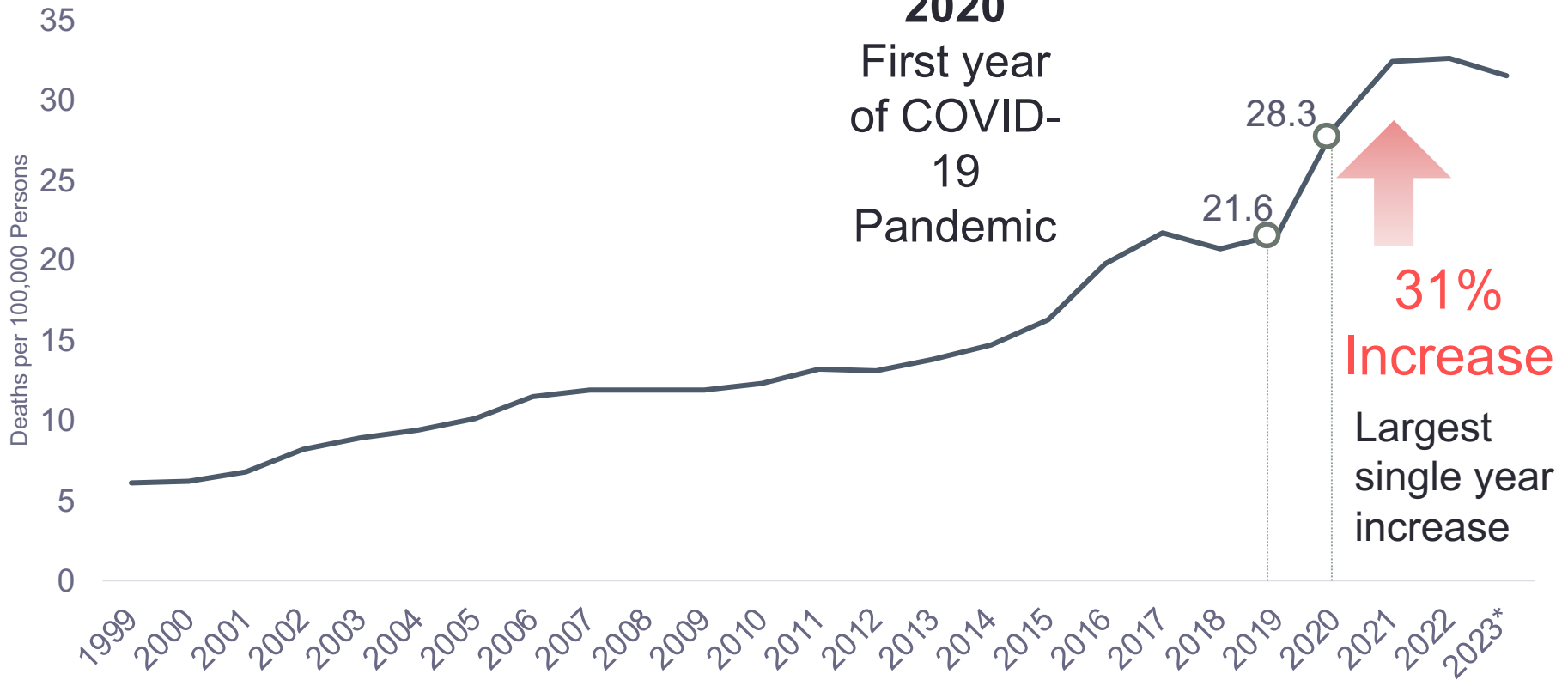


National Drug Overdose Deaths: Trend Since 1999



2020

First year
of COVID-
19
Pandemic

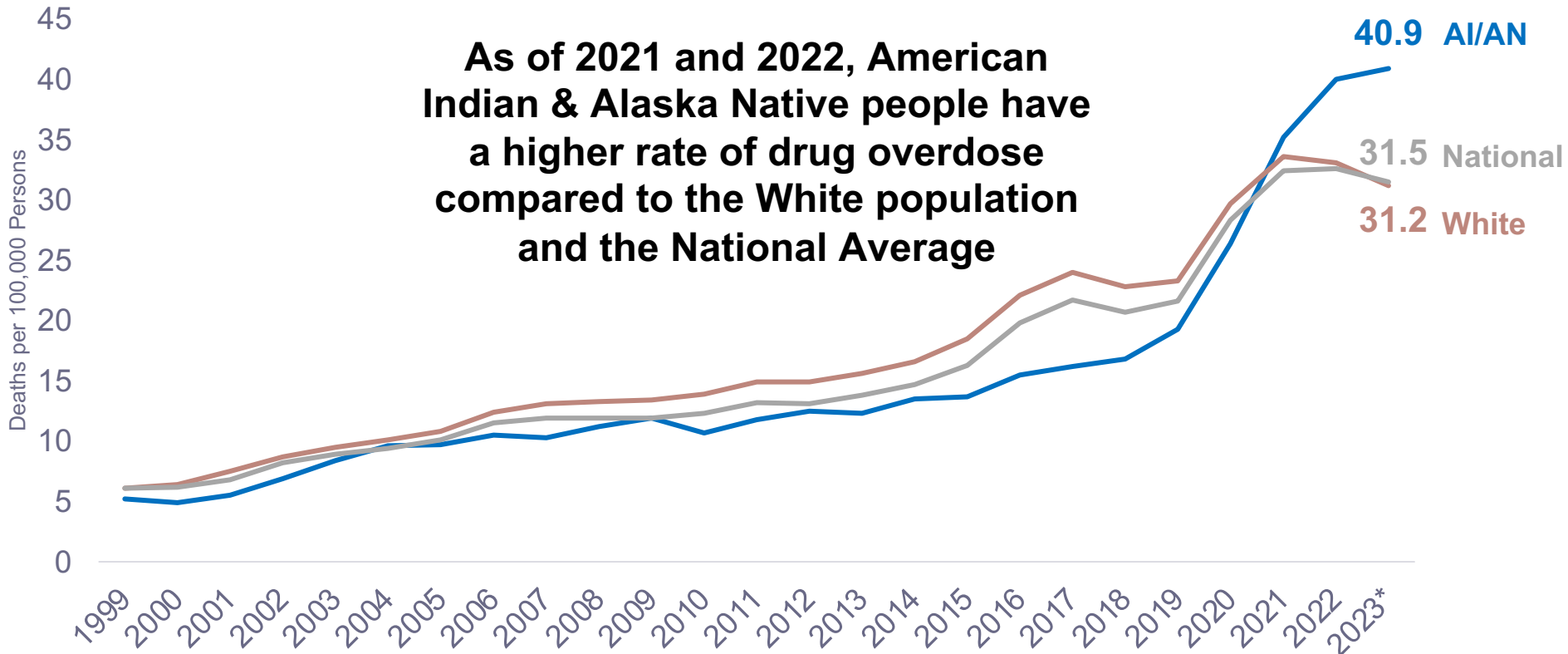


**31%
Increase**
Largest
single year
increase

*Data for 2023 is preliminary



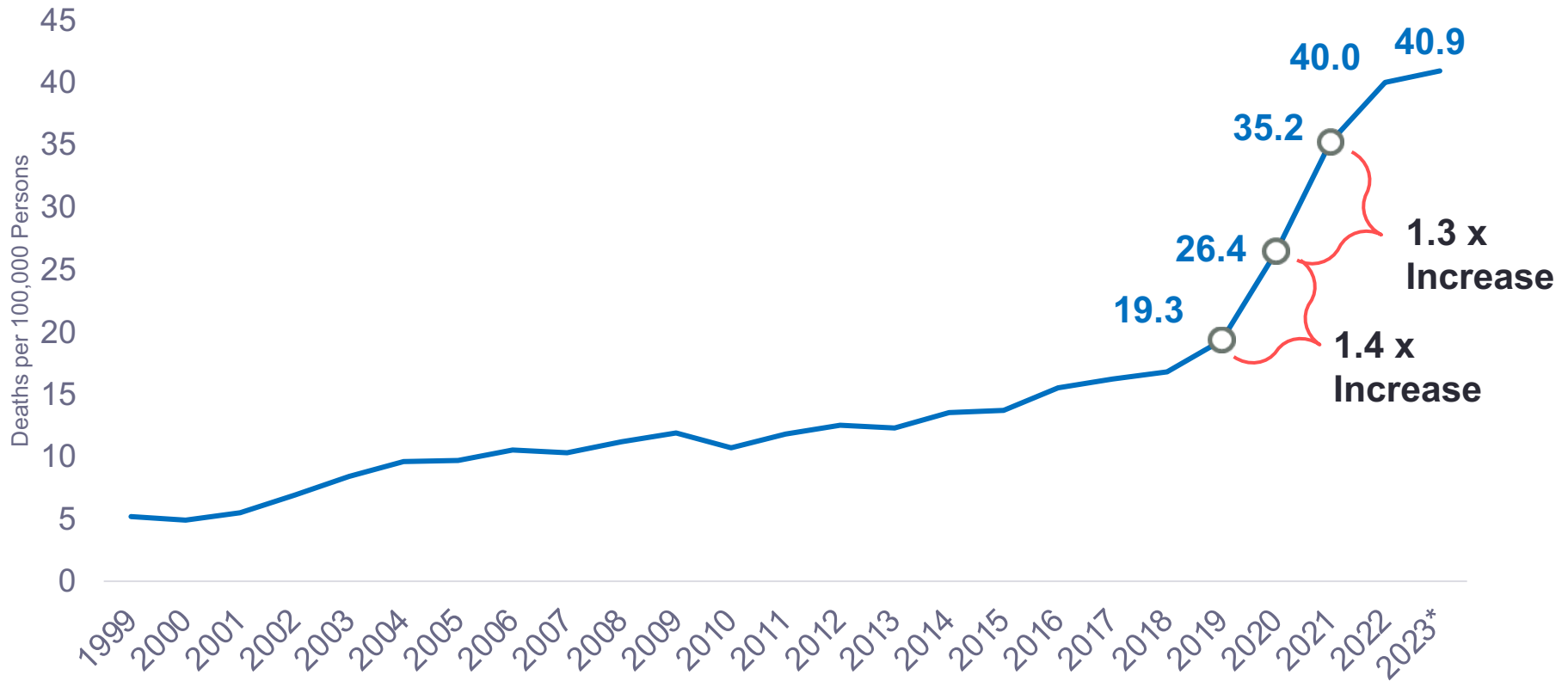
National Drug Overdose Deaths: Trend Since 1999



*Data for 2023 is preliminary



National Drug Overdose Deaths: AI/AN Rate



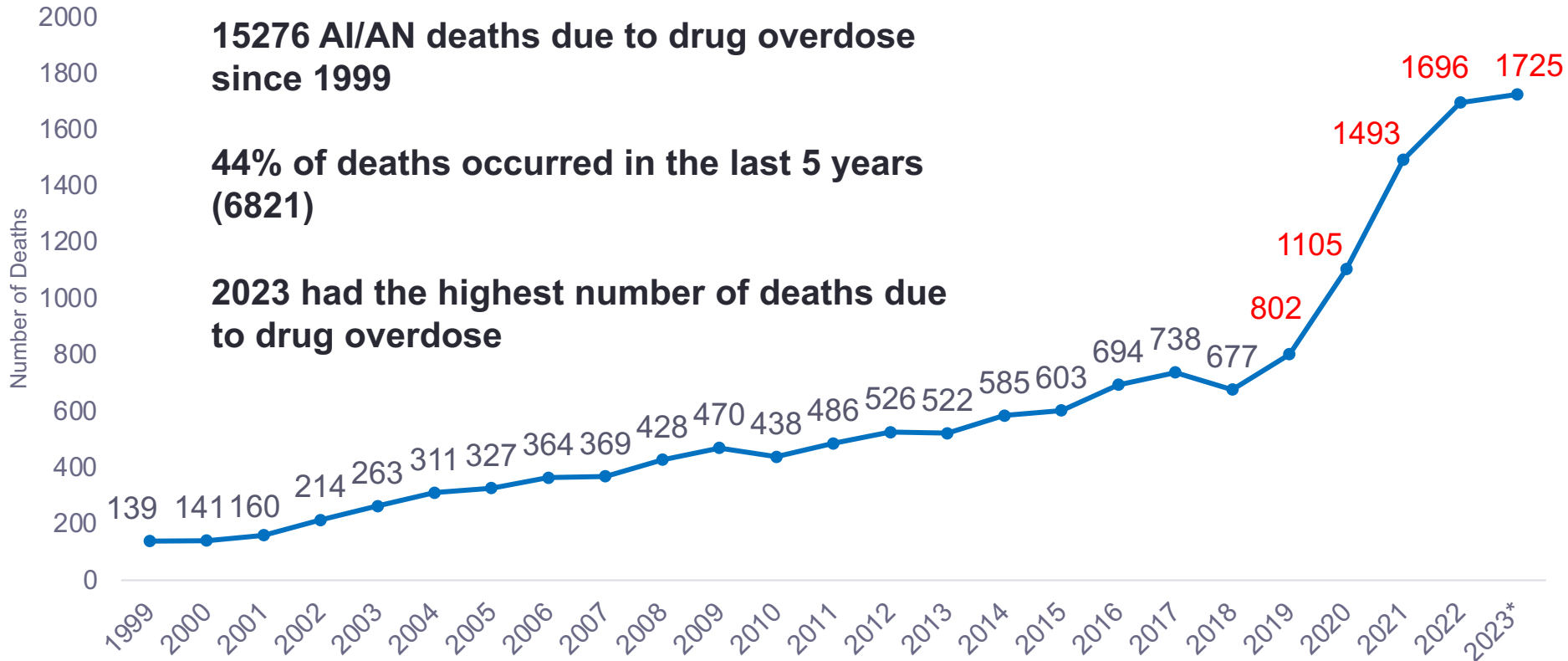
*Data for 2023 is preliminary



Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board

National Age-Adjusted Rates per CDC NCHS Multiple Cause of Death Files 1999-2020 and from provisional data for years 2021-2022 on CDC WONDER Online Database

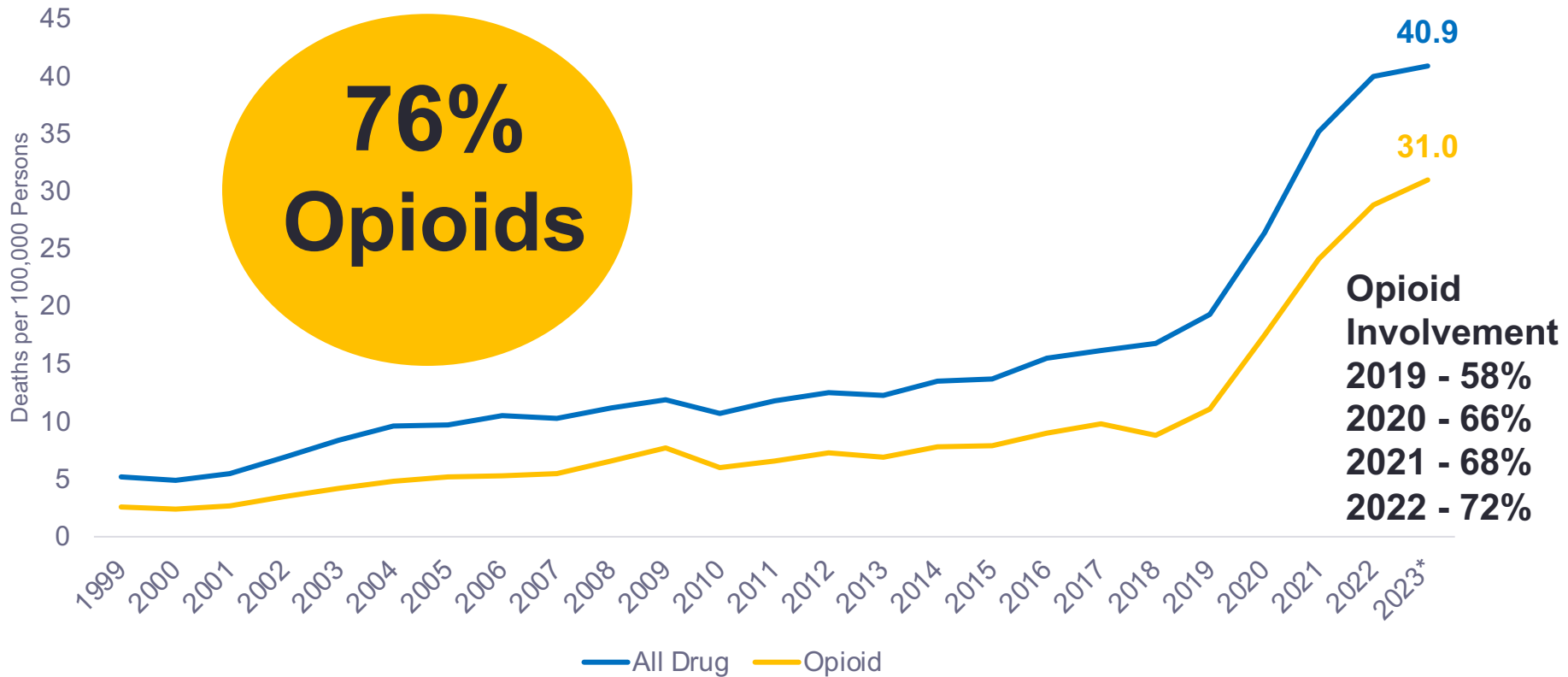
National Drug Overdose Deaths: AI/AN Number of Deaths



*Data for 2023 is preliminary



National AI/AN Drug Overdose Deaths



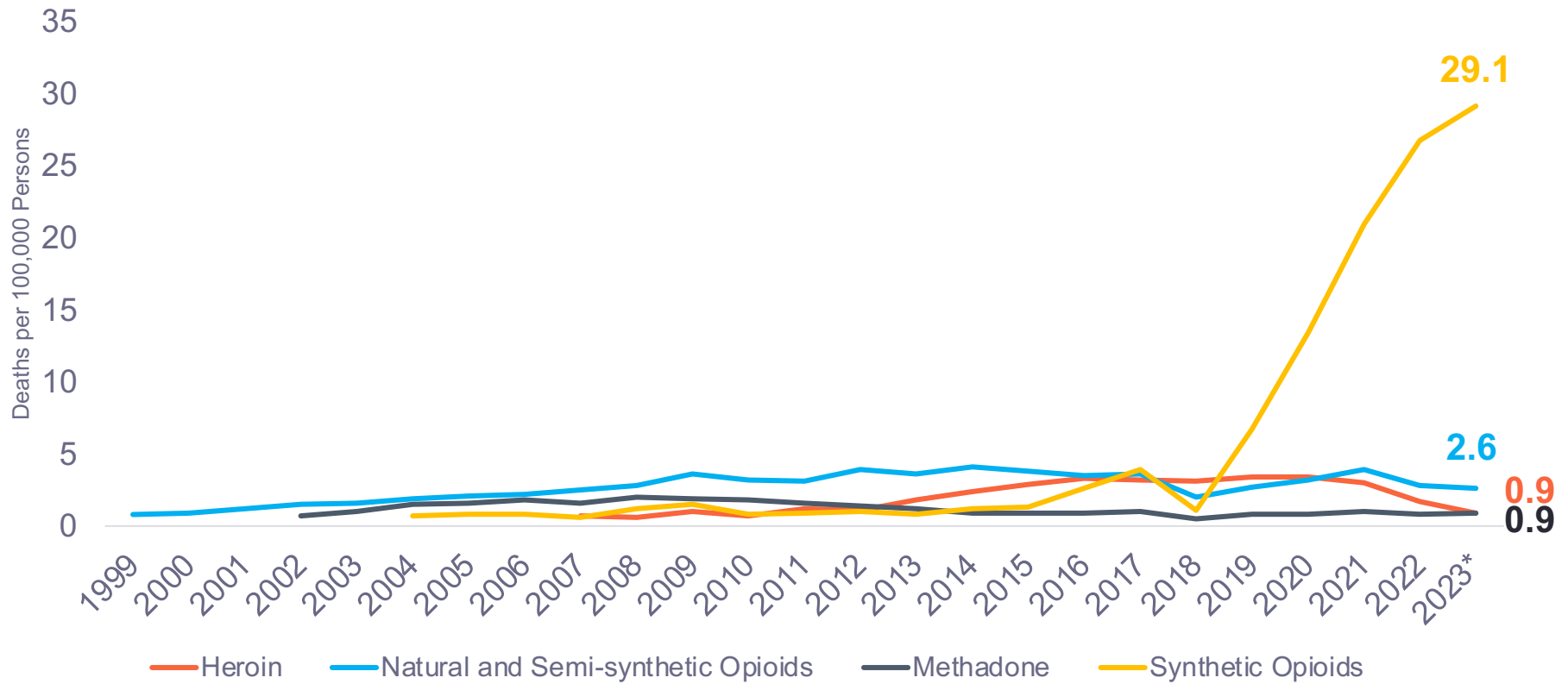
*Data for 2023 is preliminary



Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board

National Age-Adjusted Rates per CDC NCHS Multiple Cause of Death Files 1999-2020 and from provisional data for years 2021-2022 on CDC WONDER Online Database

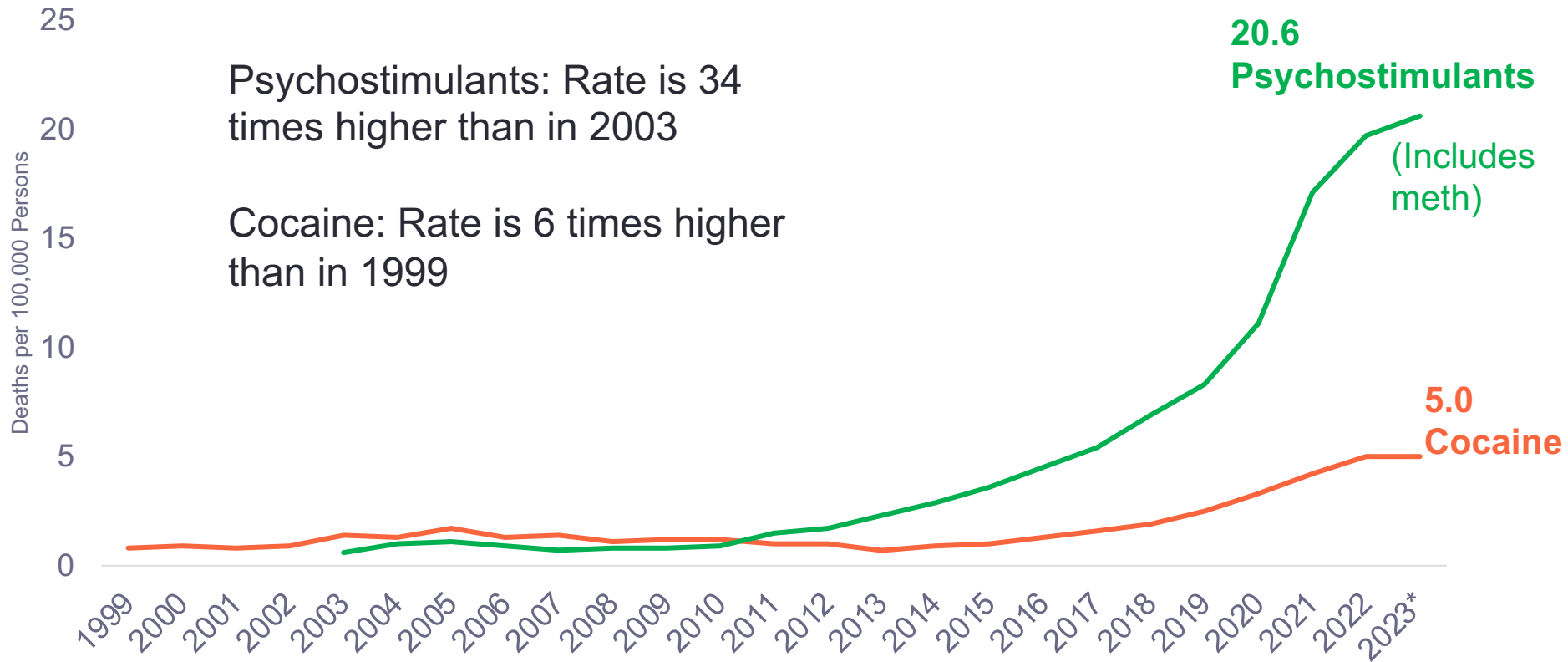
National AI/AN Drug Overdose Deaths: Which Opioids?



*Data for 2023 is preliminary



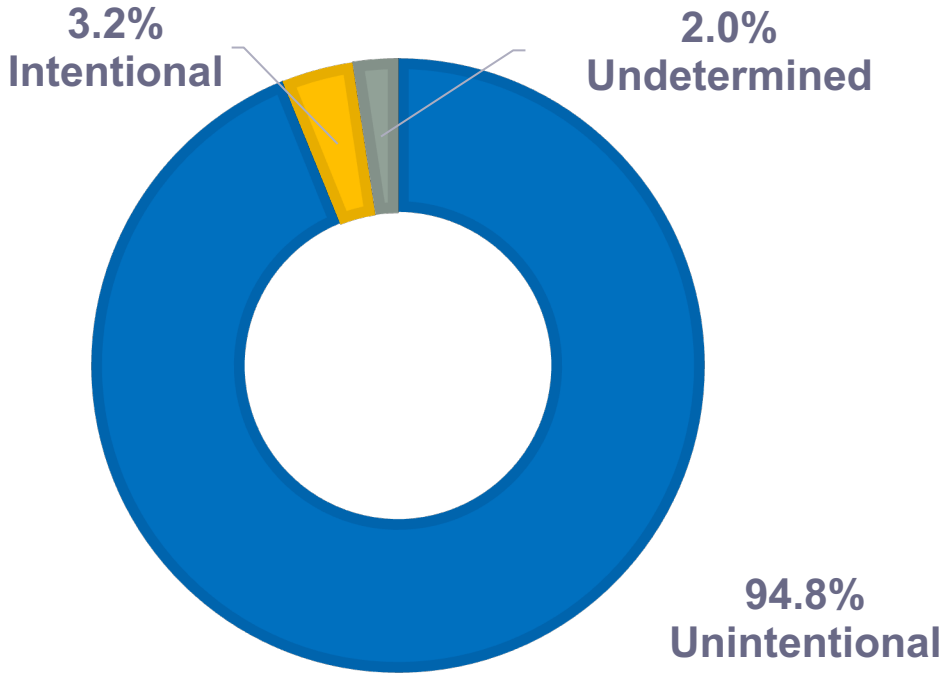
National AI/AN Drug Overdose Deaths: Other Drugs?



*Data for 2023 is preliminary



National AI/AN Drug Overdose Deaths: Overdose Intent, 2019-2023*

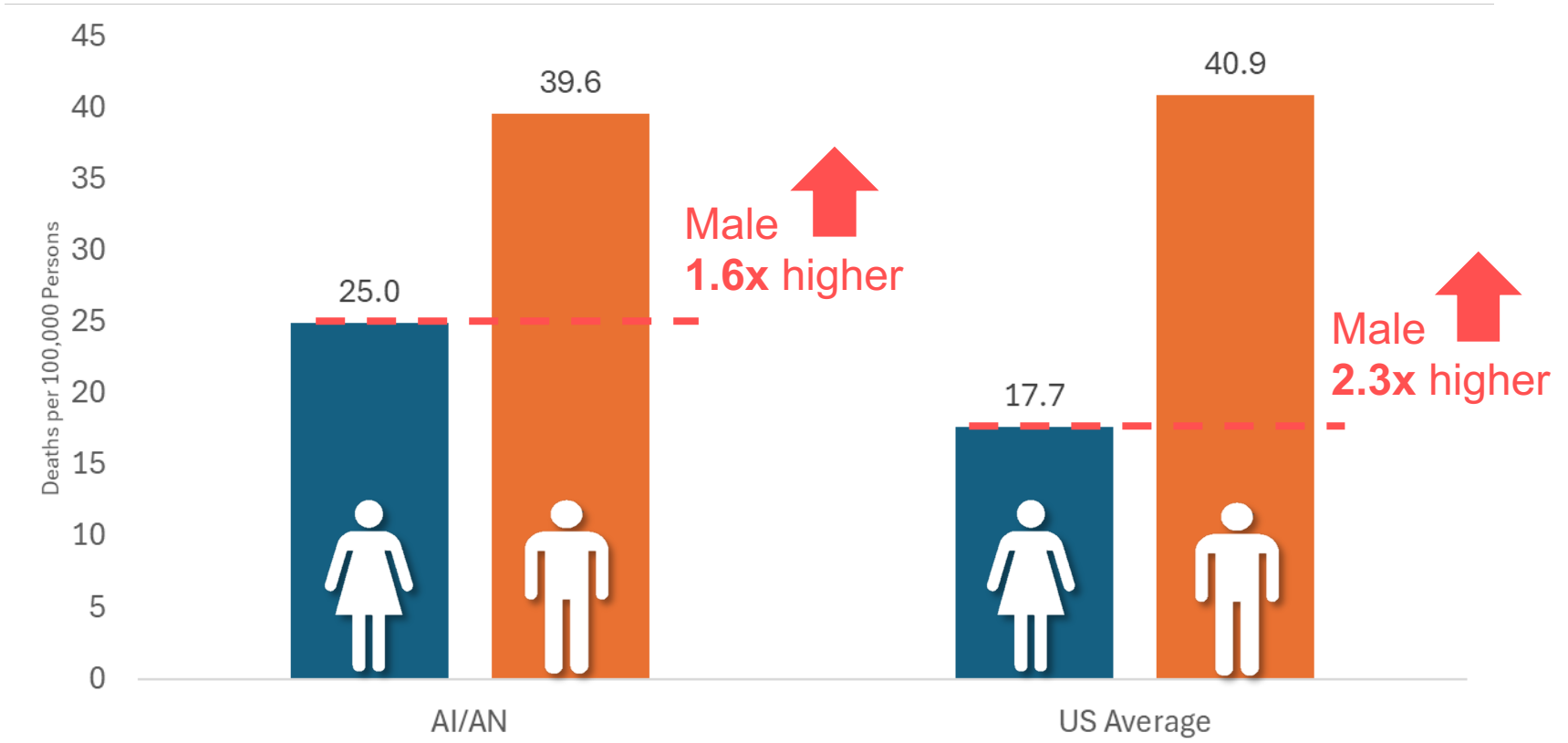


- **Most AI/AN overdose deaths were unintentional (accidental).**
- 3.2% of overdose deaths were intentional (suicide)
- In some cases, the intent could not be determined

*Data for 2023 is preliminary



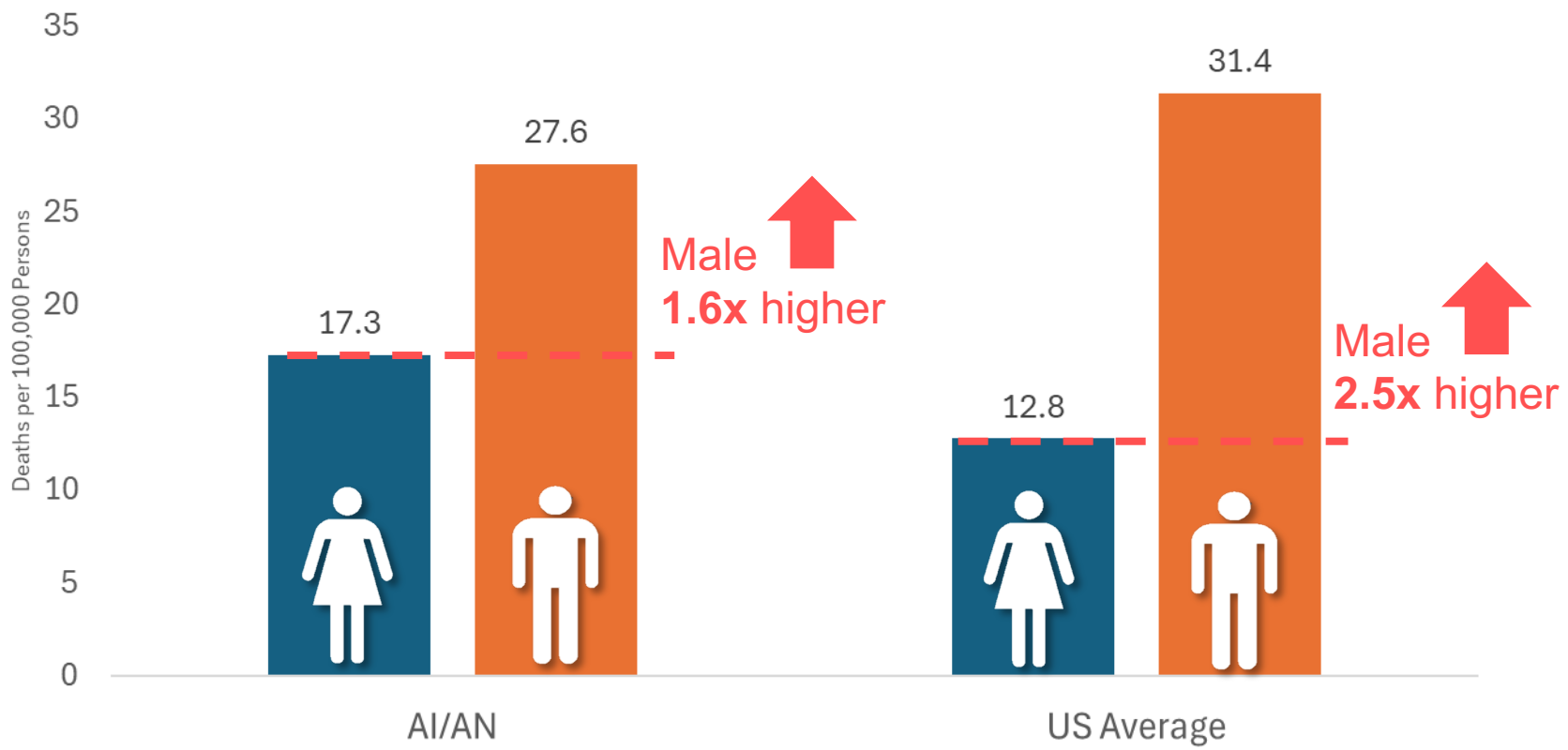
National Drug Overdose Deaths: By Sex, 2019-2023*



*Data for 2023 is preliminary



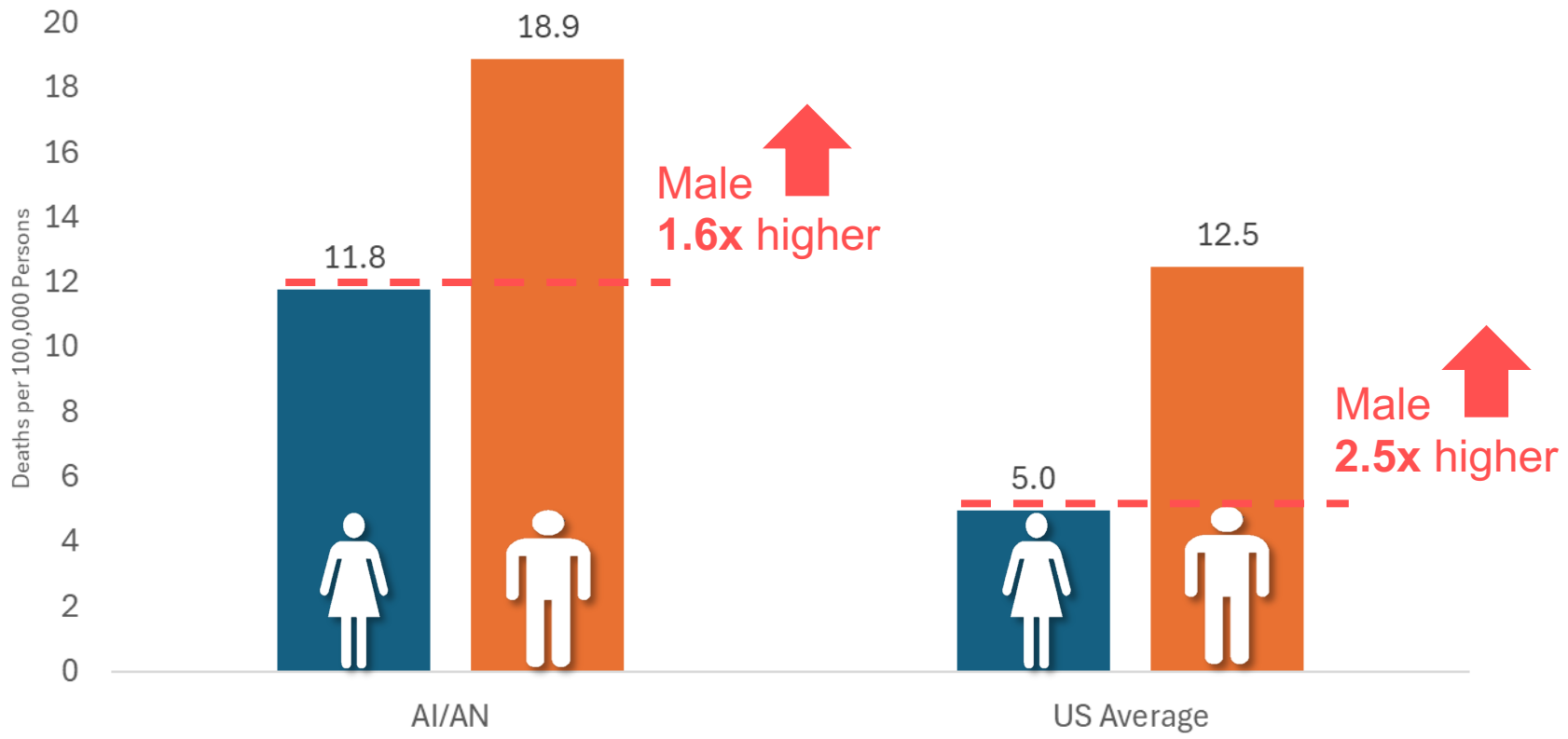
National Opioid Overdose Deaths: By Sex, 2019-2023*



*Data for 2023 is preliminary



National Psychostimulant Overdose Deaths: By Sex, 2019-2023*



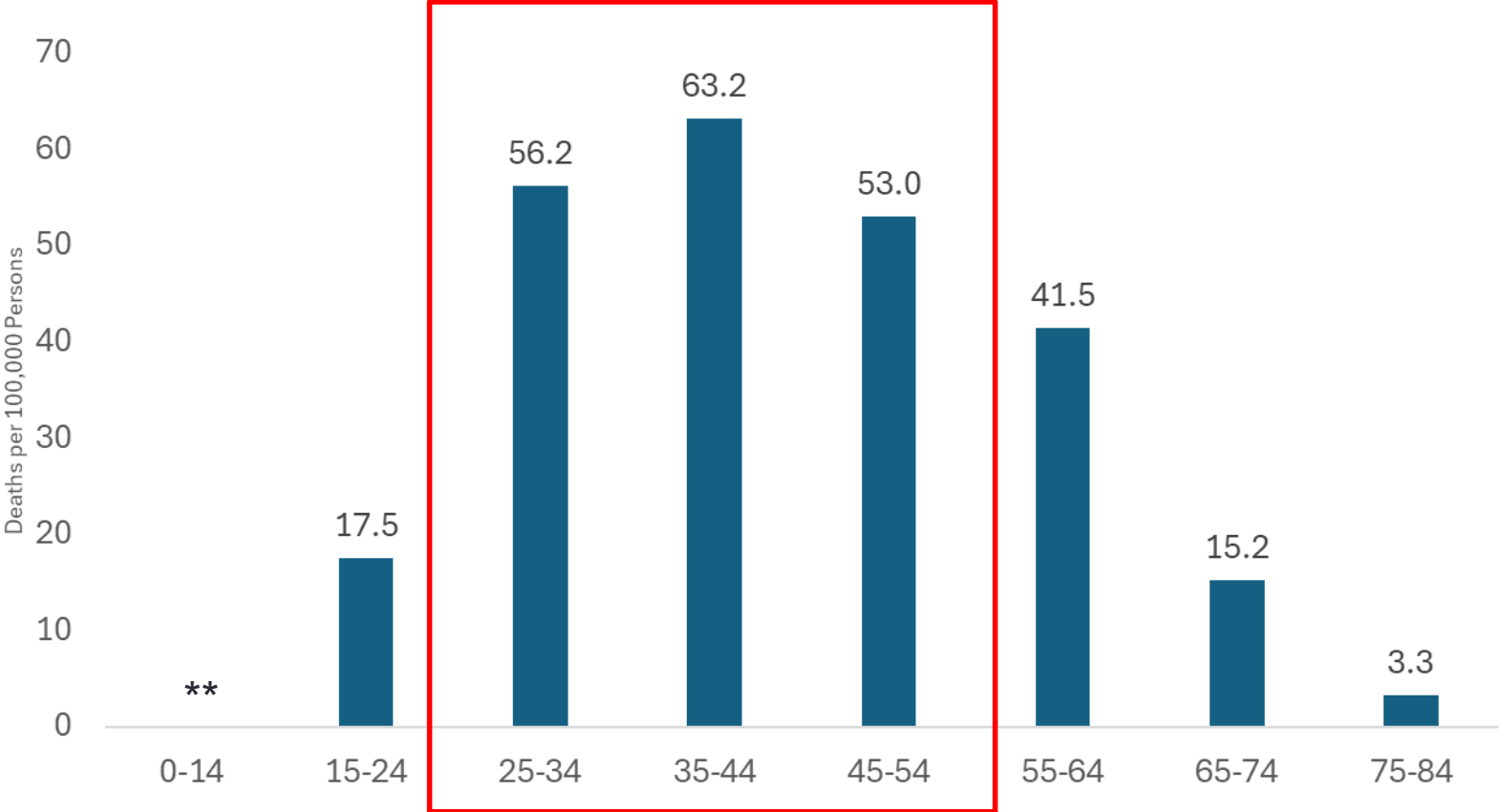
*Data for 2023 is preliminary



Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board

National Age-Adjusted Rates per CDC NCHS Multiple Cause of Death Files 1999-2020 and from provisional data for years 2021-2022 on CDC WONDER Online Database

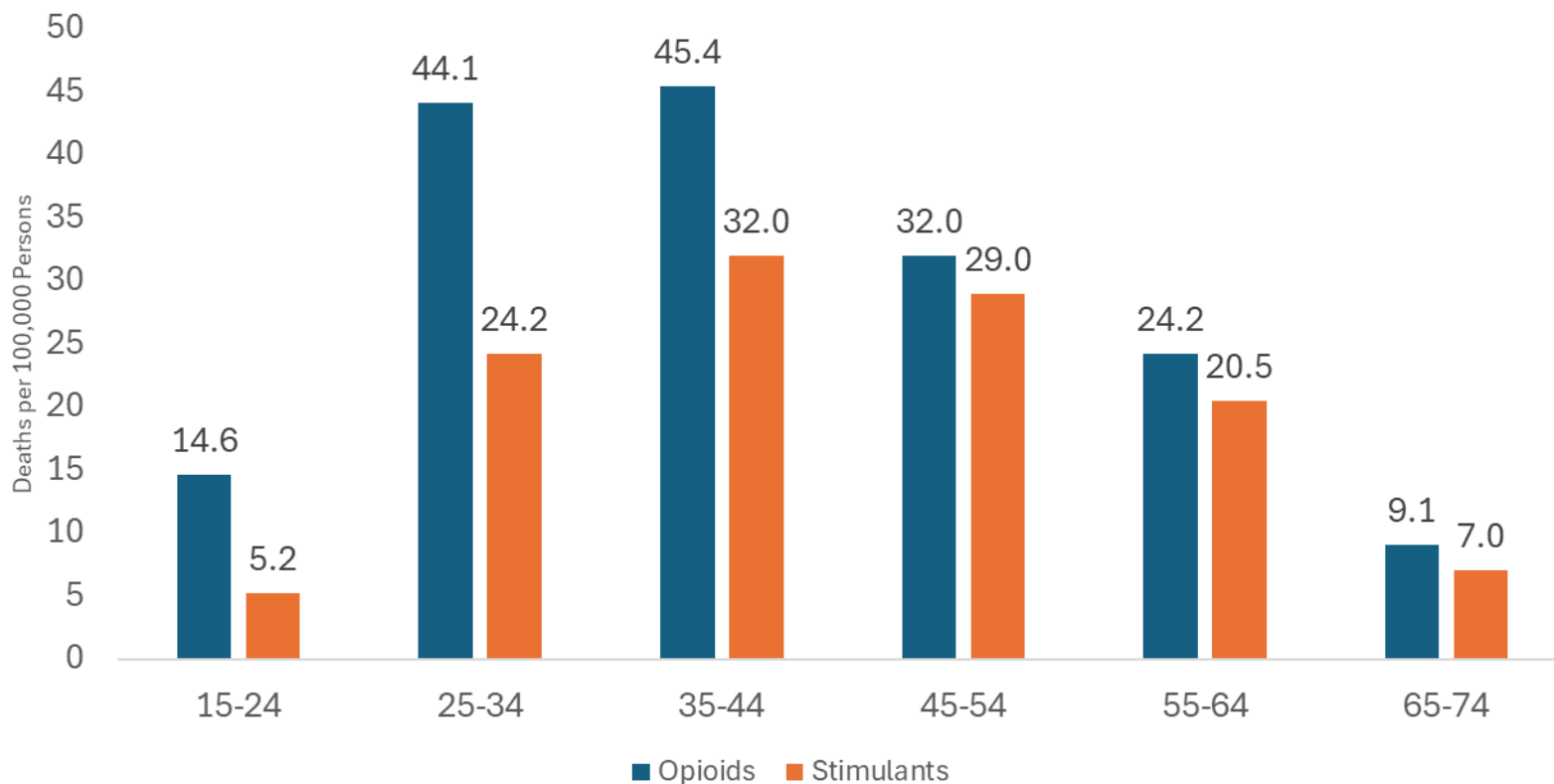
National AI/AN Drug Overdose Deaths: By Age, 2019-2023*



*Data for 2023 is preliminary; **Rate suppressed or unreliable due to small count



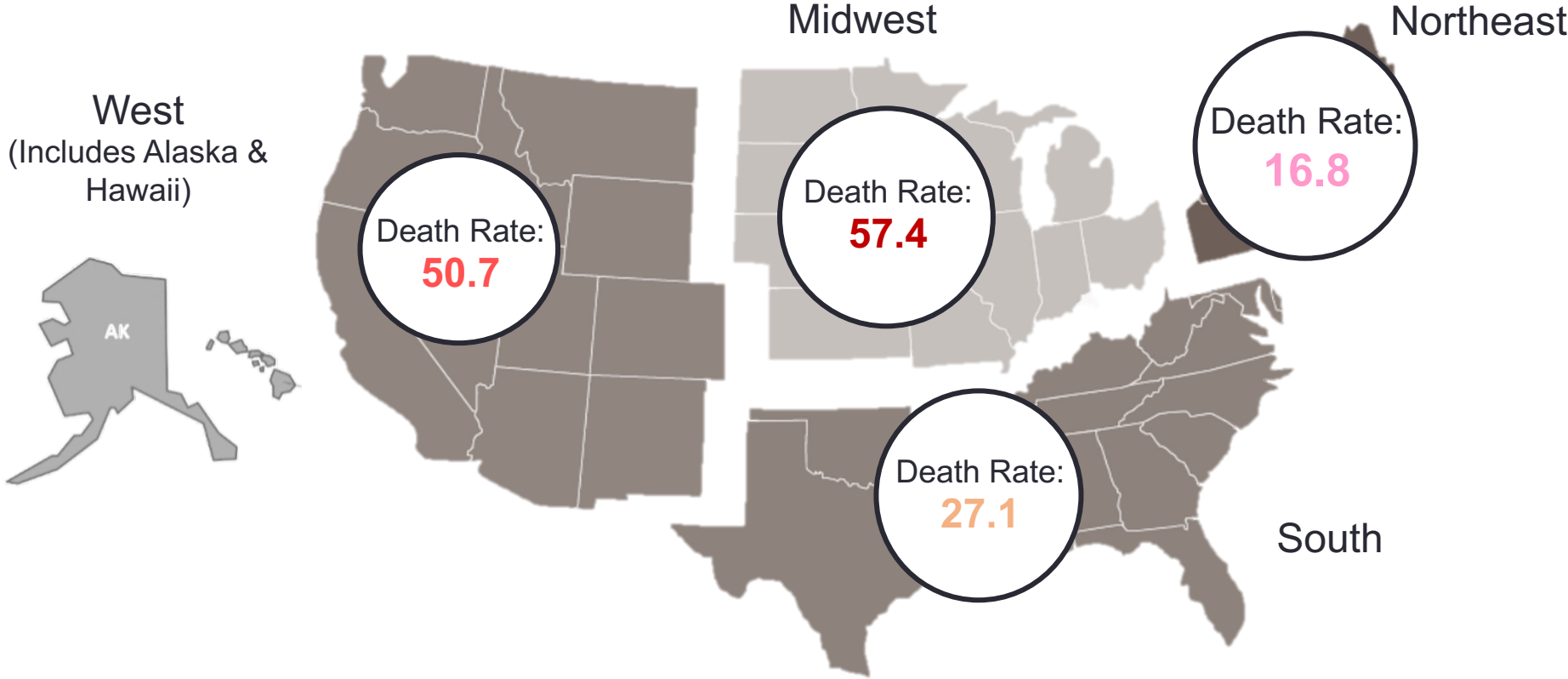
National AI/AN Overdose Deaths: By Age & Drug, 2019-2023*



*Data for 2023 is preliminary



National AI/AN Drug Overdose Deaths: By Census Region, 2023* Rates



*Data for 2023 is preliminary

Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board

National Age-Adjusted Rates per CDC NCHS Multiple Cause of Death Files 1999-2020 and from provisional data for years 2021-2022 on CDC WONDER Online Database



The Importance of Data

- Identify and establish priorities
- Develop policies, advocate and educate
- Apply for funding
- Select and implement interventions
- Evaluate programs and progress toward goals



Data Challenges

- Small numbers
 - Too few AI/AN to calculate stable disease rates and trends
- Racial misclassification
 - In state data systems, many AI/AN are not classified as AI/AN
 - Inaccurate or incomplete AI/AN health data
- Limited access to behavioral health/treatment data
 - Hard to know how many people have SUD in the community or are being treated for SUD
- Difficulty obtaining tribe-specific data
 - Can only provide state or county data



Overcoming Data Challenges

- Use what you've got!
- Combine multiple data sources to get the big picture
- Combine years, sub-groups, geographies
- Find linkage-corrected data



Thank you

Contact Me

Crisandra Wilkie

cwilkie@npaihb.org

