Overdoses by Race

Indiana residents
2013-2017

The number of drug overdose deaths in Indiana increased 72% from 2013 to 2017 as heroin and fentanyl deaths continued to climb, and it is an epidemic that has continued to spread regardless of race.

Drug overdose death rates for black Hoosiers reached an all-time high in Indiana in 2017. While the rate increased for both whites and blacks, the increase was higher for blacks at 51 percent (up from 20.27 per 100,000 in 2016 to 30.62 per 100,000 in 2017) compared to the 15 percent increase for whites (up from 24.09 per 100,000 in 2016 to 27.78 per 100,000 in 2017).

A common synthetic opioid pain reliever that can be manufactured both legally and illicitly. It can be mixed in with heroin and cocaine either with or without the user's knowledge. It can be up to 50-100 times more potent than morphine.

Fentanyl:

42% of black Hoosier drug overdose deaths in 2017 included a synthetic opioid, such as fentanyl or tramadol, compared to 34% of white Hoosiers.

Percentage of synthetic and non-synthetic opioid-related deaths by race

Source: Indiana State Department of Health, Epidemiology Resource Center, Data Analysis Team; Vital Records. Report prepared by Indiana State Department of Health, Division of Trauma and Injury Prevention