

American Indian/Alaska Native Drug Abuse in California

Examining Indian Health Service Patient Encounter Data

Drug Abuse: The habitual taking of addictive or illegal drugs, including tobacco, alcohol, and illicit drugs.

Drug abuse is a serious public health problem that can have negative impacts on community health and wellness. Drug abuse contributes to injury, illness, crime, major social problems, and even death every year.

The Cost of Drug Abuse

Abuse of drugs such as tobacco, alcohol, and illicit drugs comes at a great cost to our health care nationally -- \$166 billion in health care-related costs per year.

National Institute on Drug Abuse, 2011. Accessed from: <https://www.drugabuse.gov/related-topics/trends-statistics>

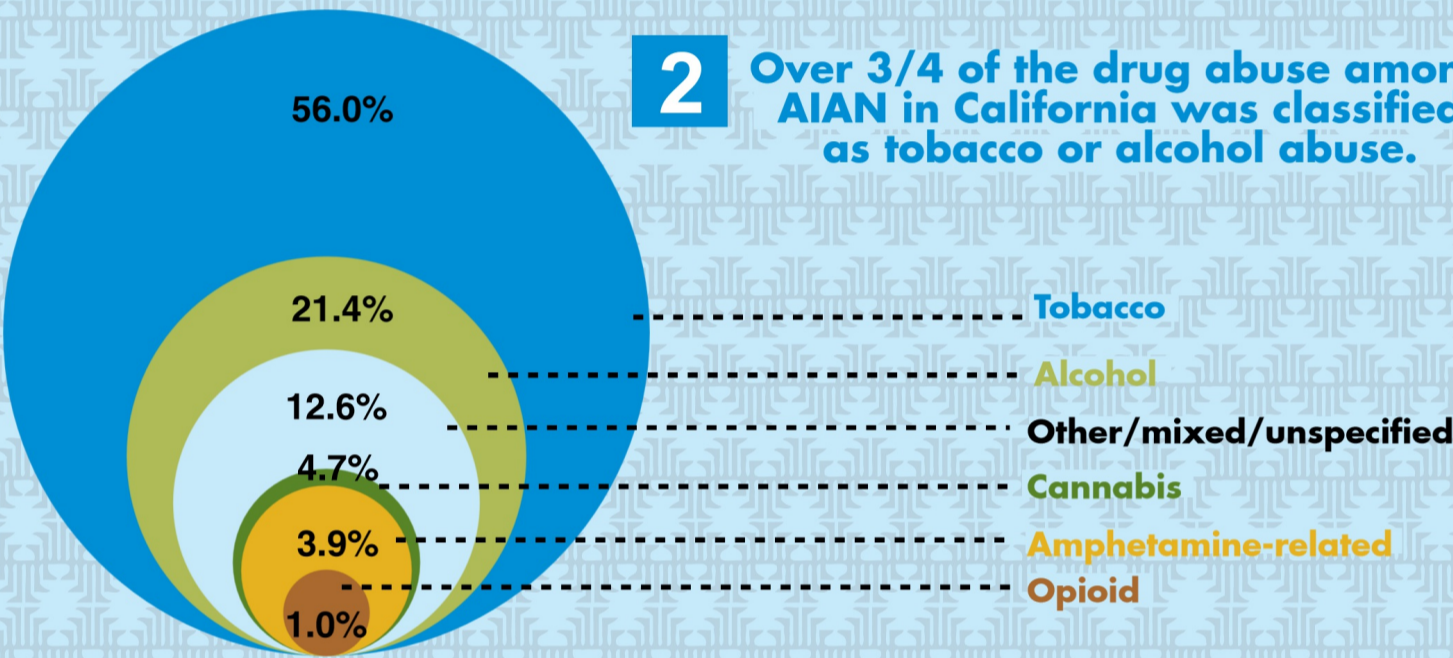


The following data [1-5] were retrieved from: IHS National Data Warehouse Epidemiology Data Mart, 2004 - 2014.

1 Between 2004 and 2014, the prevalence of drug abuse was nearly 17% among American Indians/Alaska Natives (AIAN) in California.

According to Indian Health Service (IHS) Patient Encounter data, 16.9% of AIAN in California received a diagnosis for drug abuse of any kind, including tobacco, alcohol, cannabis, amphetamine, opioid, and other unspecified or mixed drug abuse.

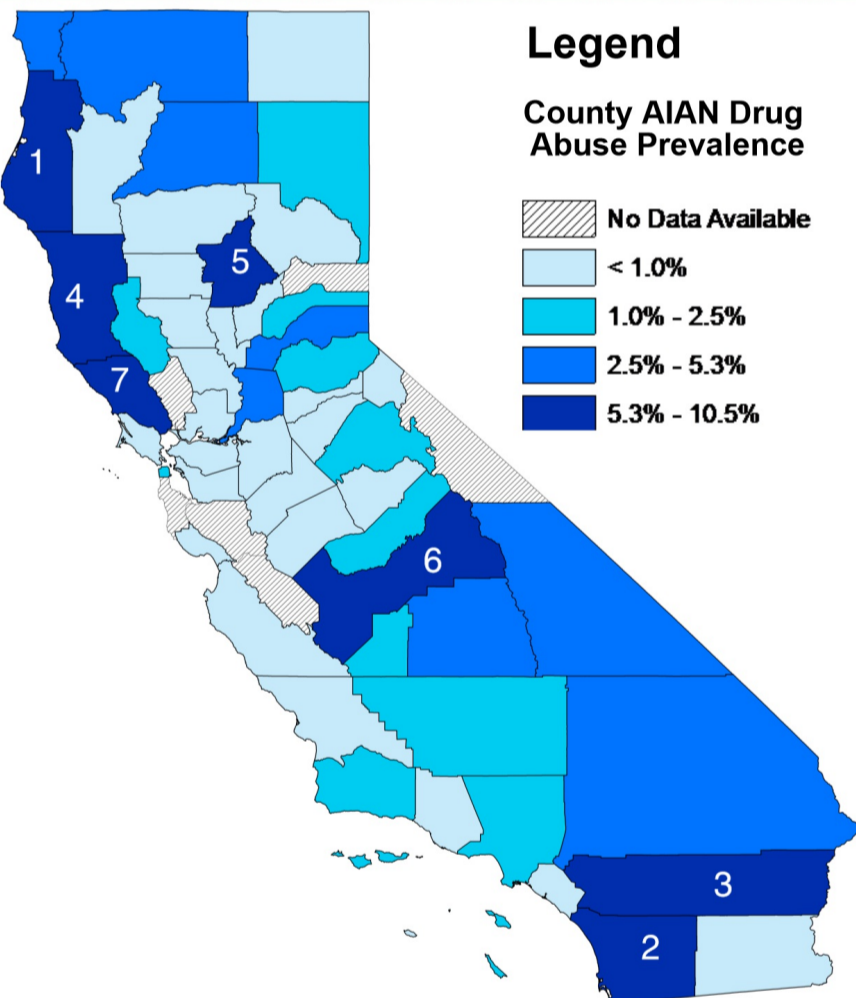
2 Over 3/4 of the drug abuse among AIAN in California was classified as tobacco or alcohol abuse.



3 Humboldt County had the highest percentage of drug abuse among AIAN.

The rate of drug abuse among AIAN in California was highest in the following counties:

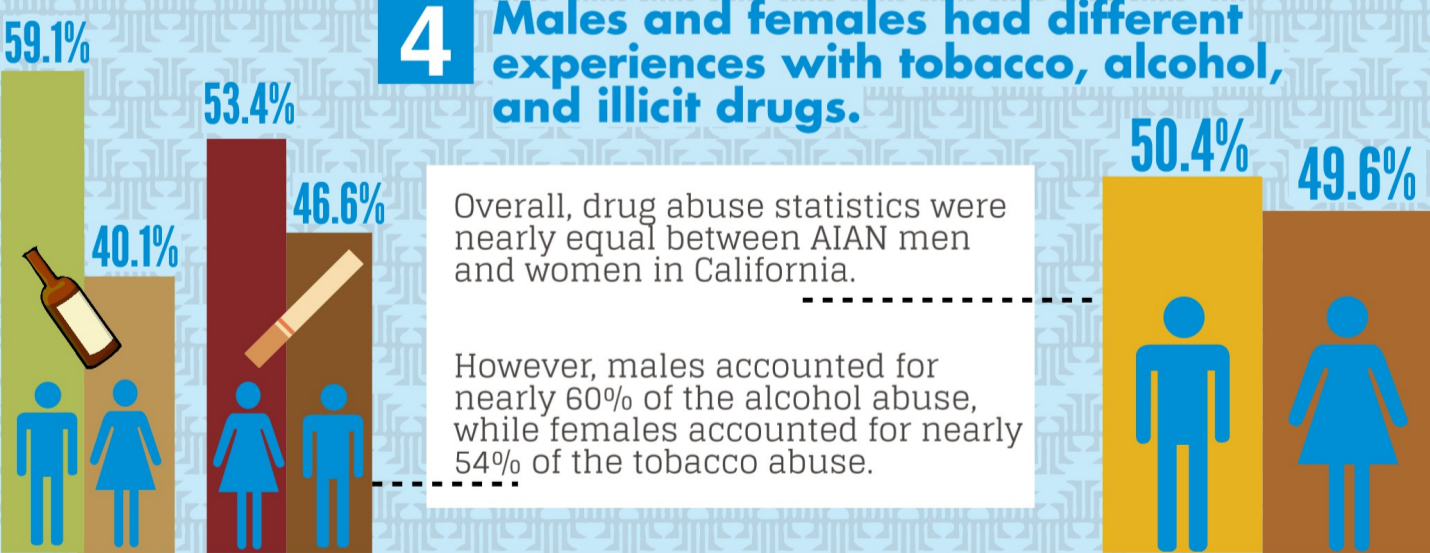
1. Humboldt (10.4%)
2. San Diego (8.4%)
3. Riverside (7.9%)
4. Mendocino (6.0%)
5. Butte (5.5%)
6. Fresno (5.4%)
7. Sonoma (5.4%)



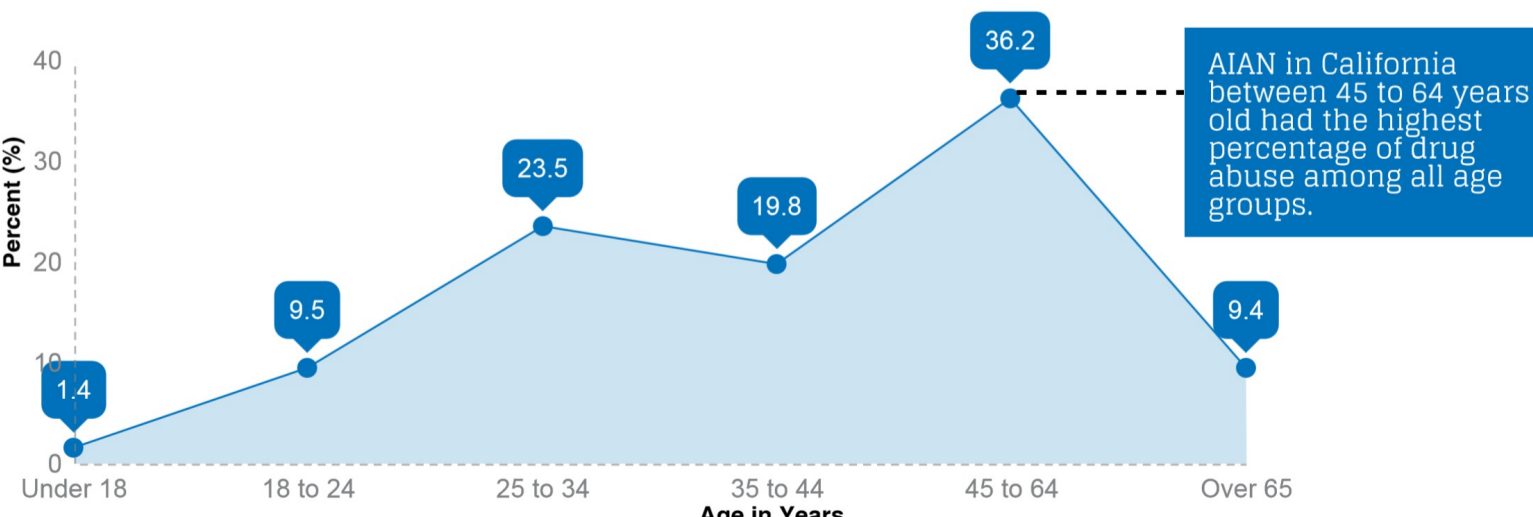
4 Males and females had different experiences with tobacco, alcohol, and illicit drugs.

Overall, drug abuse statistics were nearly equal between AIAN men and women in California.

However, males accounted for nearly 60% of the alcohol abuse, while females accounted for nearly 54% of the tobacco abuse.



5 The largest variation in drug abuse was found among middle-to-older age AIAN in California.



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