

Department of Health Updates



2022-23 Flu Season & Immunization Efforts



Flu Deaths

- 2022-2023 flu season had highest number of lab-confirmed influenza-associated deaths in five years
 - 262 reported deaths
 - Tenfold increase over 2021-2022 flu season
- Flu vaccine was effective in preventing flu hospitalizations and deaths



Washington State Department of
HEALTH

News Release
www.doh.wa.gov/newsroom

For immediate release: May 11, 2023 (23-062)

Contact: [DOH Communications](#)

Washington flu deaths increased tenfold this season compared to last year

Vaccine was effective in preventing flu hospitalizations

OLYMPIA – Following two seasons of unusually low flu activity, the 2022-2023 flu season was the deadliest in five years. A total of 262 Washingtonians were reported to have died from the flu, including 257 adults and five children, which is a tenfold increase compared to the [2021-2022 flu season](#). Nationwide, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates as many as 640,000 flu hospitalizations and 57,000 flu deaths occurred between Oct. 1 – April 29, 2023.

This year's flu vaccine reduced risk of influenza A-related hospitalization among children by nearly three quarters and among adults by nearly half, [according to the CDC](#). Despite vaccine effectiveness, flu vaccination rates have decreased nationally in certain groups. Flu vaccination rates for children dropped more than 6% and rates for pregnant people decreased nearly 15% compared with pre-pandemic rates.

Considerations

- Flu activity was significantly higher during the 2022-2023 season than the 2021-2022 season
 - 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 flu seasons were outliers with unusually low flu activity likely due to pandemic measures
 - 3 of the 7 previous flu seasons have had about 250 flu deaths or more
- Community mitigation measures did not remain consistent across the two seasons

Washington State Influenza Deaths

Table 5: Count of Reported Laboratory-Confirmed Influenza-Associated Deaths, Past Seasons to Week 20 and Total

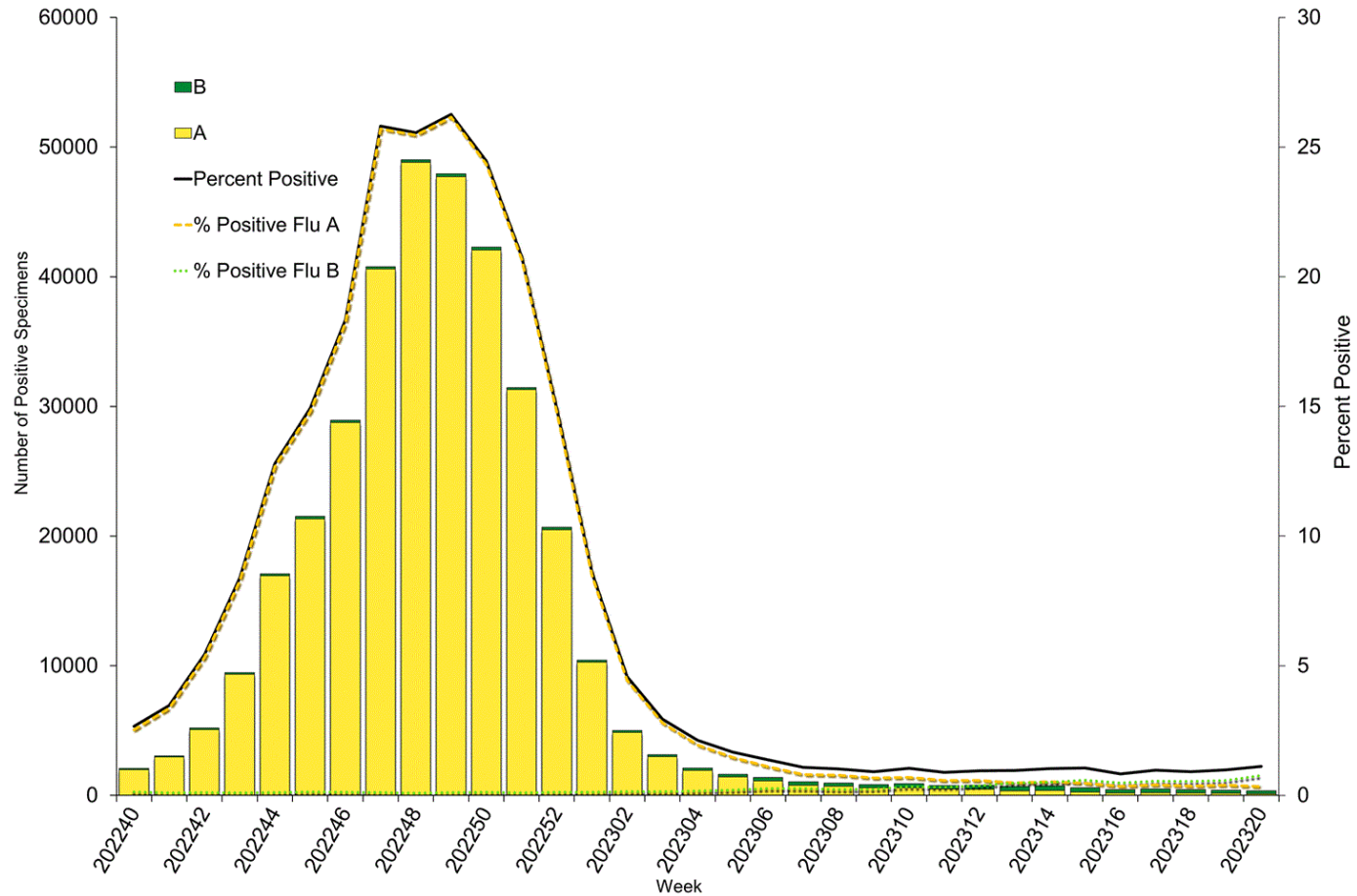
Season	Count of Deaths as of Week 20 of Season	Count of Deaths Reported for the Entire Season (week 40 to week 39)
2022-2023, to date	262	262
2021-2022	16	26
2020-2021	0	0
2019-2020	103	114
2018-2019	225	245
2017-2018	287	296
2016-2017	277	278
2015-2016	65	67
2014-2015	149	156

Table 4: Count and rate of reported laboratory-confirmed influenza-associated deaths by age group, Washington, 2022-2023 season to date

Age Group (in years)	Count of Deaths	Death Rate (per 100,000 population)
0-4	2	0.44
5-17	3	0.25
18-29	2	0.17
30-49	15	0.77
50-64	41	2.86
65+	199	16.96
Total	262	3.53

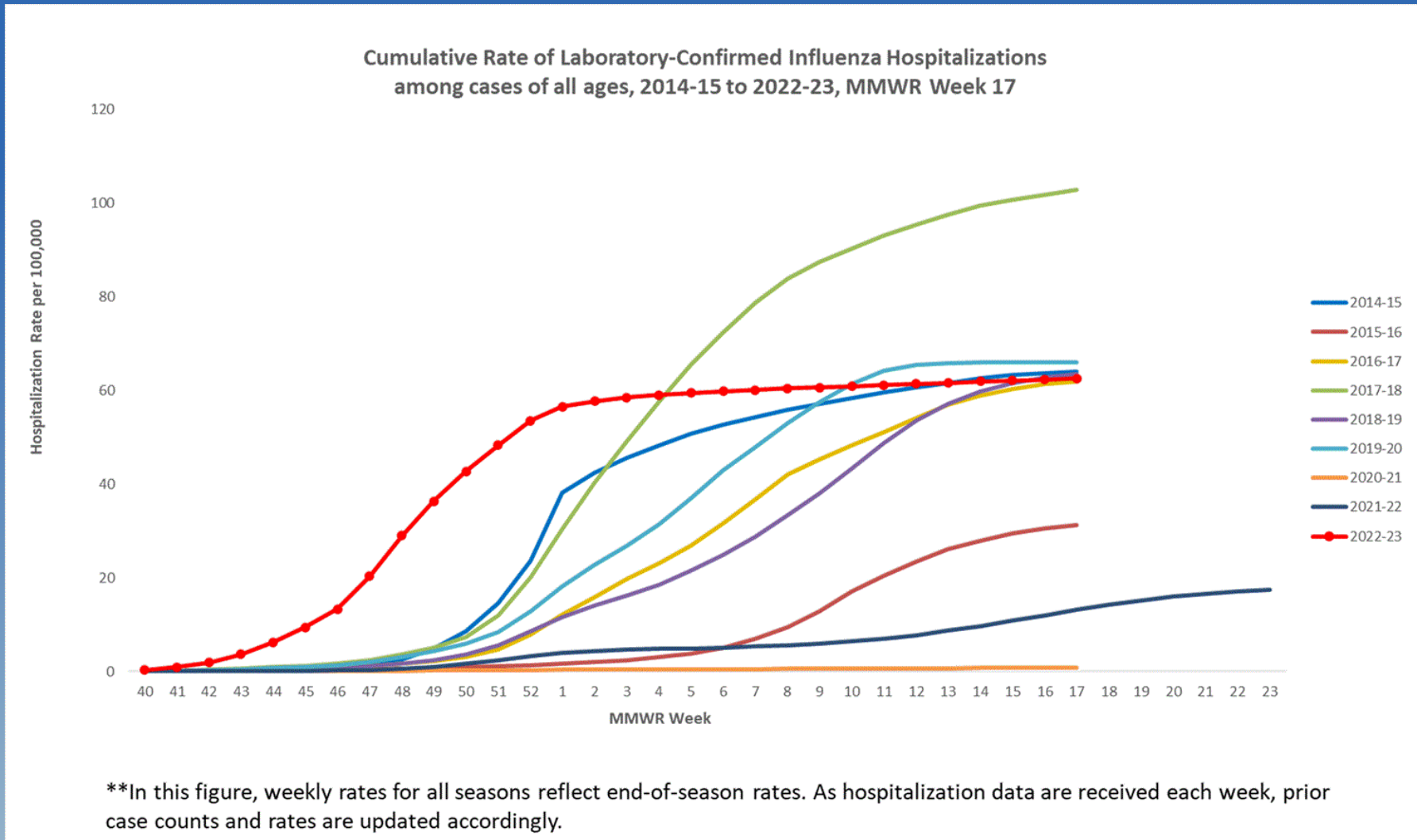
U.S. Influenza Activity

Influenza Positive Tests Reported to CDC by U.S. Clinical Laboratories, National Summary, October 2, 2022 – May 20, 2023



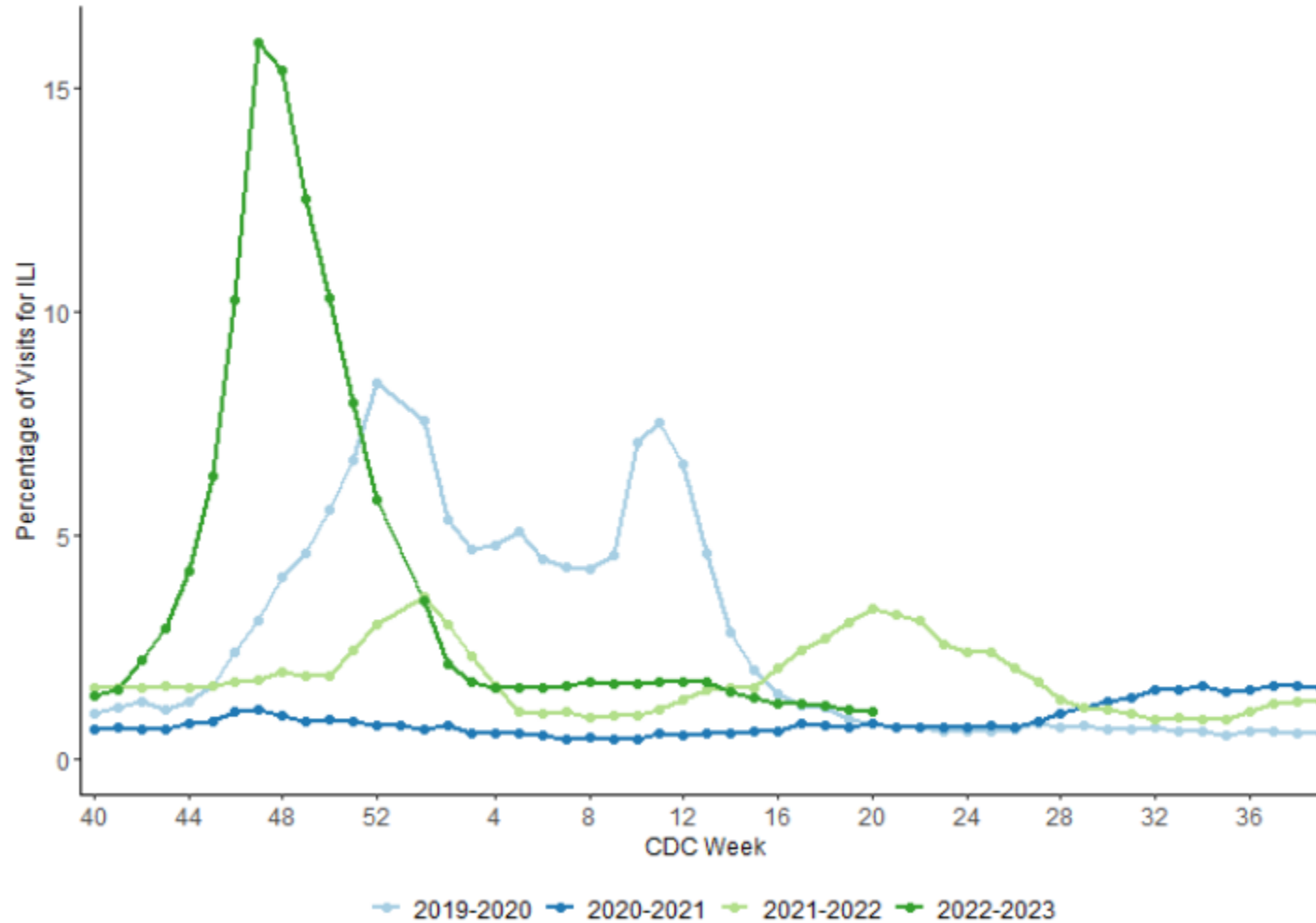
Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/index.htm>

U.S. Influenza Hospitalizations



Washington State Influenza Activity

Figure 4: Syndromic Surveillance, Percentage of Hospital Visits for a Chief Complaint of ILI, or Discharge Diagnosis of Influenza, by CDC Week, Washington, 2019-2023



Immunization Summit

- Within Reach Immunization Summit held on May 25, 2023
- More than 450 attendees, in person & virtual
- Health care providers, local health jurisdictions, tribal partners, community health workers
- Speakers shared tools, skills, and knowledge to to be successful in equitably improving vaccination rates for diverse communities



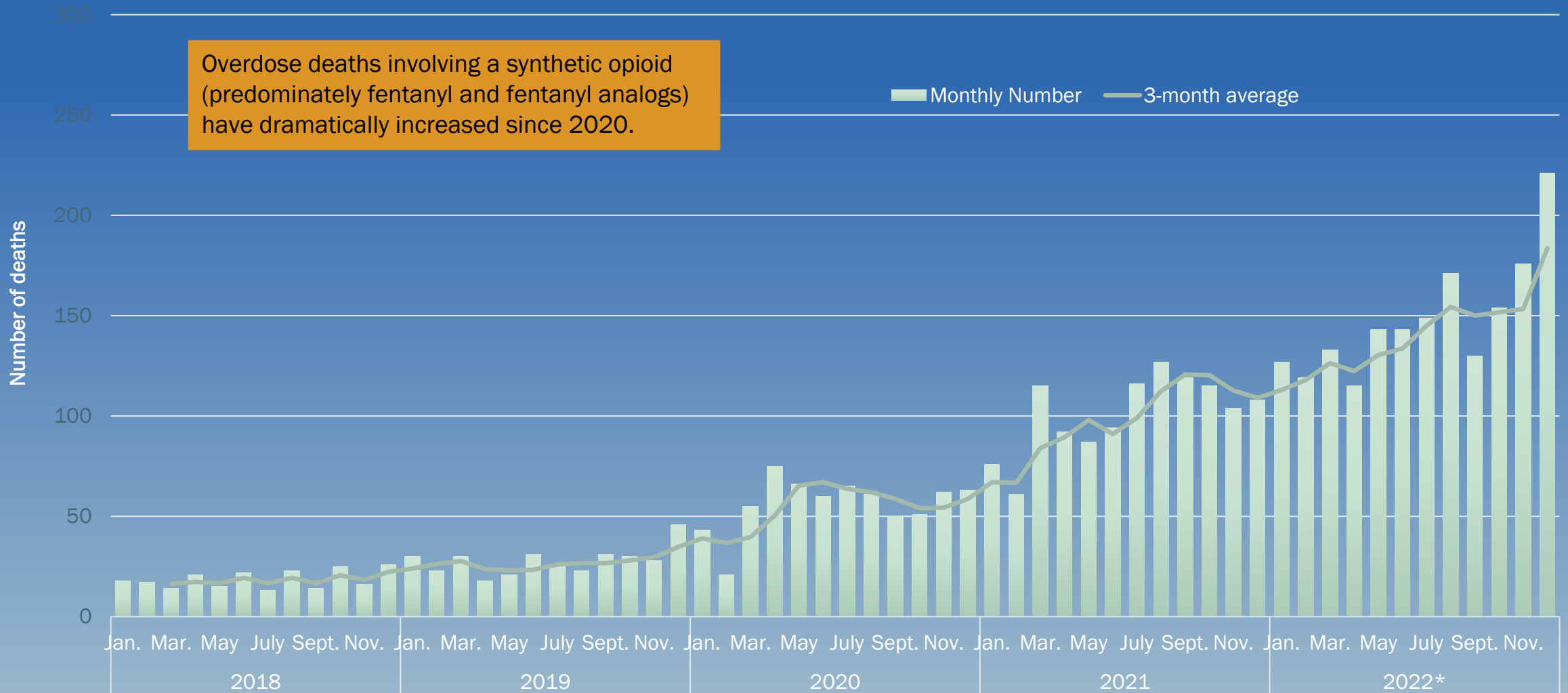
We're In This Together

- Take Your Shot with the Seattle Storm and DOH at home events with our Care-a-Van
 - Routine childhood vaccines for ages 3-17
 - COVID-19 vaccines for all ages 3 and older
- Community engagement
- Partnerships
- Trusted community messengers



Opioid/Fentanyl Overdoses & Initiatives to Reduce Harm & Death

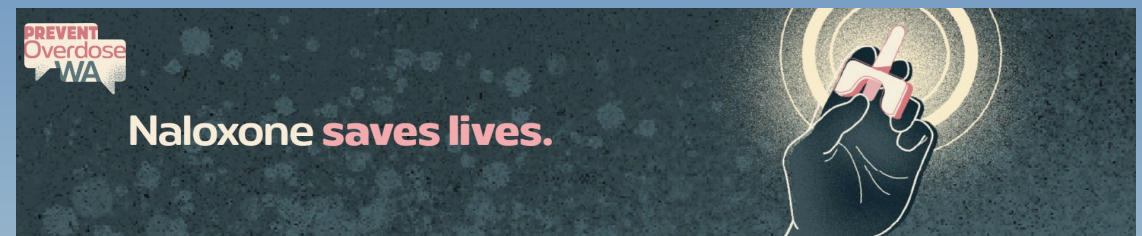
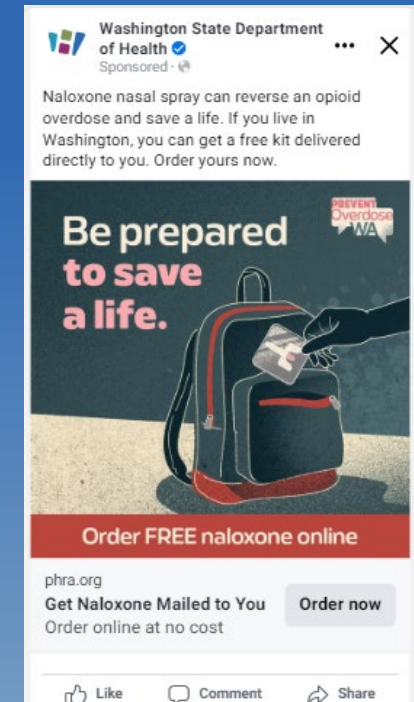
Overdose Deaths INVOLVING SYNTHETIC OPIOID



DOH's Opioid Overdose Prevention Campaign

- Audiences
 - People who use non-prescribed, illegally manufactured opioids
 - Friends, family and support systems of people who use opioids
- Media channels
 - Digital and broadcast TV and radio; social media; billboards
- Launch run dates
 - May 29th-June 30th
- PreventOverdoseWA.org (English) / NoMásSobredosis.org (Spanish)

:30 Video [English](#) | [Spanish](#)



Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution Program

- Between April 2019 and December 2022, the OEND Program provided nearly 200,000 naloxone kits to partnering organizations for distribution in communities.
 - Program participants have reported nearly 17,000 overdose reversals
- OEND is supported through two federal SAMHSA grants and state funds. This funding comes to DOH via interagency agreements with HCA.
- State legislature approved \$3.5M to help us expand naloxone distribution.

OEND Funding		
Source	Amount	Term
Substance Abuse Block Grant	\$864,000	FY19—Ongoing
WA Prevent Drug Overdose	\$693,093	FY22—FY27
FY23 Proviso	\$3,551,000	SFY23—Ongoing

Health Engagement Hubs

- State legislator invested \$4M in two health engagement hubs.
- A health engagement hub is intended to serve as an all-in-one location where people 18 years of age or older who use drugs can access a range of medical, harm reduction, treatment, and social services.
- DOH will work with partners at HCA to provide technical assistance, training, and support necessary to implement health engagement hubs.

SB 5536 - 2023-24
Concerning controlled substances, counterfeit substances, and legend drug possession and treatment.
Sponsors: **Robinson, Lovick, Rolfes, Mullet, Dhingra, Billig, Hasegawa, Keiser, Kuderer, Lias, Lovelett, Nobles, Randall, Stanford, Wellman, Wilson, C.**

[Send a comment on this bill to your legislators](#) [Get Email Notifications](#)
[RSS Notifications](#)

Bill Status-at-a-Glance ⓘ
See **Bill History** for complete details on the bill

As of Tuesday, June 13, 2023 01:44 PM

Current Version: 2nd Engrossed 2nd Substitute - 2E2SSB 5536	Current Status: C 1 L 23 E 1
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Where is it in the process?

	Introduced	In Committee	On Floor Calendar	Passed Chamber
In the Senate:	●	●	●	●
In the House:	●	●	●	●
After Passage:	●	●	●	●

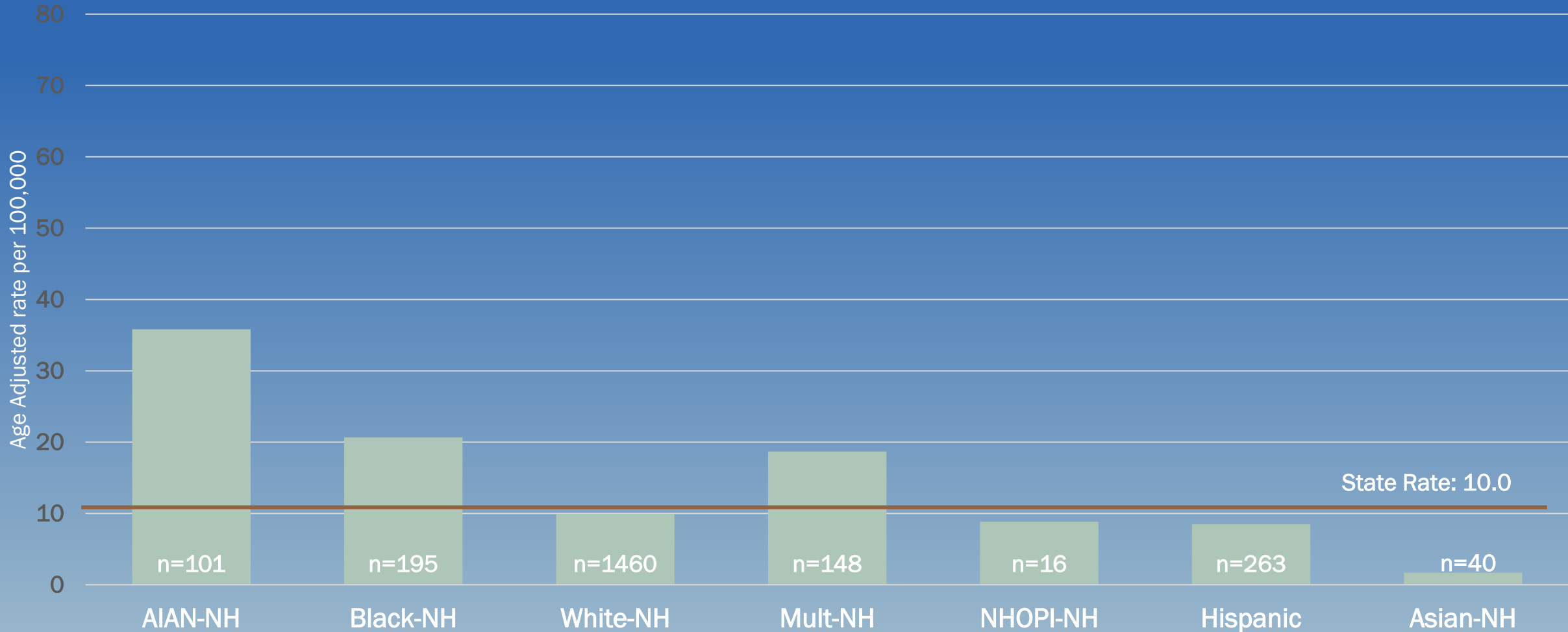
Passed Legislature On Governor's Desk Governor Acted Session Law

2023-25 Washington State Operating Budget

- Continued construction of a new 350-bed forensic hospital on the Western State Hospital campus;
- A new civil commitment facility in Stanwood and a 48-bed residential treatment facility in Vancouver;
- Strengthening the behavioral health workforce and community behavioral health providers;
- Supports and services for children and youth experiencing a behavioral health crisis;
- Increased access to opioid treatment and prevention services;
- The first-ever statewide 9-8-8 system behavioral health crisis response system that will include new mobile crisis response teams and seven crisis stabilization facilities.



Drug Overdose Deaths Involving Synthetic Opioids by Race/Ethnicity among WA Residents (2019-21)



Abbreviations: NH: Non-Hispanic; AIAN: American Indian/Alaskan Native; NHOPI: Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander; Multi: Multiracial

Data Source: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, Death Certificate Data. Data last updated: May 1, 2023

State Tribal Opioid/Fentanyl Summit



National Tribal Opioid Summit

August 22-24, 2023

Tulalip, WA



NORTHWEST PORTLAND AREA
INDIAN HEALTH BOARD

The Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board invites you to partner with us, Tribal Nations, federal and state policy makers, and national and regional Tribal organizations to address the fentanyl crisis in our communities.

National Tribal Opioid Summit
SAVE THE DATE: August 22-24, 2023

Join us for the inaugural National Tribal Opioid Summit - Scan the QR CODE for Sponsorship Opportunities. Let's heal our Nations Together!



Department of Health Organizational Development





Office of Tribal Public Health & Relations
OTPHR Government-to-Government



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
PO Box 47830 | Olympia, WA 98504-7830
(360) 236-3000 | 711 Washington Relay Service

May 31, 2023

RE: Washington State Department of Health Launching **New** Office of Tribal Public Health & Relations (OTPHR)

Greetings Honorable Tribal Leaders and Tribal Partners,

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to serving the needs of Tribal people and the communities in which they live across Washington and beyond. In accordance with chapter [43.376 RCW](#), the [Washington State Centennial Accord of 1989](#), and Washington State Department of Health (DOH) [Consultation and Collaboration Procedure](#), we invite collaboration with sovereign tribal nations and tribal organizations in the development of policies, agreements, and program implementation that directly affects Indian tribes and tribal people.

Almost a year into the launch of the [DOH Transformational Plan: A Vision for Health in Washington State](#) (Dear Tribal Leader Letter – August 3, 2022), we have continued to listen, have learned a tremendous amount, and continue to recognize of the work that remains. Our agency's cornerstone values of **Equity, Innovation, and Engagement (EIE)** are the foundation of the plan and help to focus our work on five key priorities that reenergize our commitment to *Transformational Health*:

Executive Office of Global and One Health



Washington State Department of
HEALTH

Equity and optimal health for all.

Chief of Global and One Health (EMS Band 4)
Office of Global_One
Seattle (King County) OR Tumwater, WA
(Flexible/Hybrid)
DOH7308

Washington State Department of
HEALTH

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Community and Environment

One Health

[One Health Conference 2023](#) | [What is One Health?](#) | [How is the department involved?](#) | [Collaborative](#) | [Workgroups](#) | [Resources](#)

Washington State One Health Conference, 2023

WASHINGTON STATE
One Health Conference
August 16, 2023

Central Washington University | Ellensburg, Washington

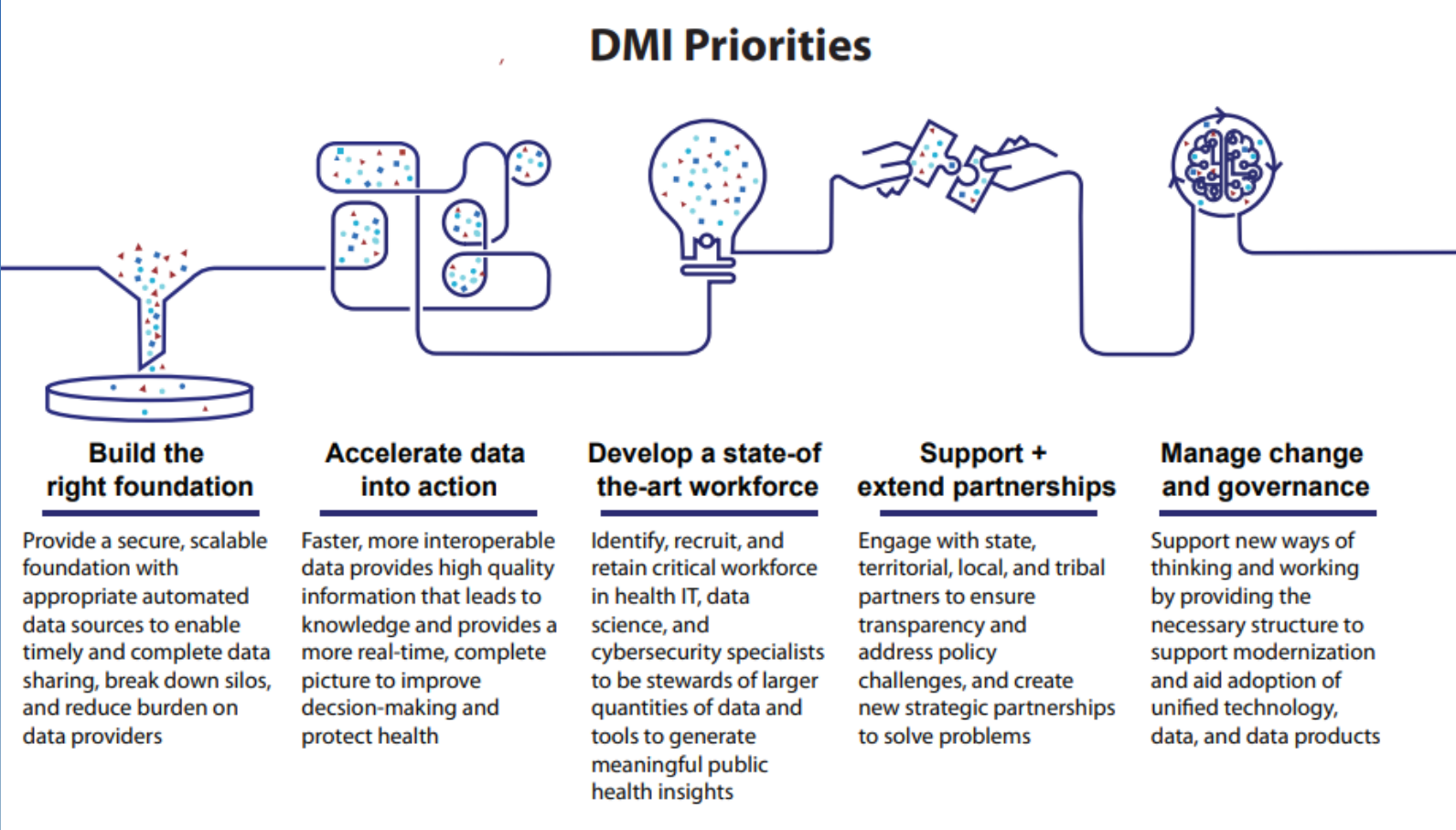
The Washington State Department of Health is hosting this year's Washington One Health Conference on August 16, 2023 at Central Washington University in Ellensburg. This is an opportunity for cross-sector sharing and collaboration on human, animal, and environmental health issues. To volunteer at the event, email lauren.sarkissian@doh.wa.gov.

[Register for the 2023 conference!](#)

Data Modernization Initiative

Data Modernization Initiative (DMI)

DOH is aligning with CDC around core DMI priorities



Better Data. Better Decisions. Better Health

WA DOH 5 Year DMI Priorities

- To modernize disease surveillance systems and the overall health information system ecosystem
 - Standardize data practices and increase interoperability
 - Strengthen data integration and advanced analytic capabilities
 - Revise data governance policies and statutes
 - Improve data timeliness and data quality for rapid decision-making support
 - Invest in our people, processes, and technology

Current DOH DMI Initiatives

- Center for Data Modernization and Informatics and Center for Data Science established to support agency data modernization strategy and implementation.
- Developing a board for data governance, data modernization, and cloud analytics. This group will have representation from state, local, and tribal partners and will drive strategy and priorities for agency data modernization efforts.
- Creating the Public Health Data Learning Center in partnership with the University of Washington/Northwest Center for Public Health Practice.
- Investments in enterprise infrastructure for data analytics and visualization.

DMI Successes at DOH

- Establishment of Surveillance, Epidemiology and Data Science Community of Practice.
- Deployed state Public Health Data Learning Center, with first round UW and DOH led Data Science Training Collaborative.
- Launched Opioid and Overdose dashboards to support public health decision making with near real-time data sharing.
- Developing burden of disease methods to estimate the public health impact of on our communities.
- Retooling our disease surveillance systems to improve response readiness and streamline timeliness of data collection and dissemination across critical response partners in the state of WA.

United States



Congressional Debt Limit

- U.S. debt limit raised until January 1, 2025 (H.R. 3764)
- Bill caps non-defense discretionary spending at the fiscal year 2023 level
- Rescinds unobligated Federal COVID-19 funding (\$28B)

H.R.3746 - Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023
118th Congress (2023-2024) | [Get alerts](#)

LAW Hide Overview ✕

Sponsor: [Rep. McHenry, Patrick T. \[R-NC-10\]](#) (Introduced 05/29/2023)

Committees: House - Ways and Means; Budget; Appropriations; Veterans' Affairs; Rules; Transportation and Infrastructure; Judiciary; Education and the Workforce; Agriculture; Energy and Commerce; Financial Services; Natural Resources; Small Business; Homeland Security

Latest Action: 06/03/2023 Signed by President. ([All Actions](#))

Roll Call Votes: There have been [12 roll call votes](#)

Tracker:  Introduced > Passed House > Passed Senate > To President > **Became Law**

New CDC Director

- Current CDC Director Rochelle Walensky to step down June 30th
- President Biden picked Mandy Cohen, MD, MPH, to lead CDC
- Dr. Cohen was North Carolina health secretary 2017-2022



Transforming Our Public Health System Together



1. 2022-23 had high level of flu related deaths, but was not higher than flu seasons pre-pandemic.
2. Disparities in opioid overdose death continue, but new initiatives and strengthened partnerships may help turn the tide and help heal communities.
3. The Office of Tribal Public Health & Relations will lead DOH's government-to-government tribal relations.
4. Washington state's public health system is being strengthened through data modernization to tackle the health threats facing our communities.
5. With federal debt ceiling crisis averted, new CDC director will likely renew focus on connecting often-siloed parts of health systems and building bridges between public health and health systems.

Going farther together



Washington State Department of
HEALTH

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