

IH784 Indigenous Health Policy

Advocating for a State Policy to Require AI/AN Cultural Competency Training for Healthcare Providers in Colorado

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⊕ Medical Discrimination

By the numbers

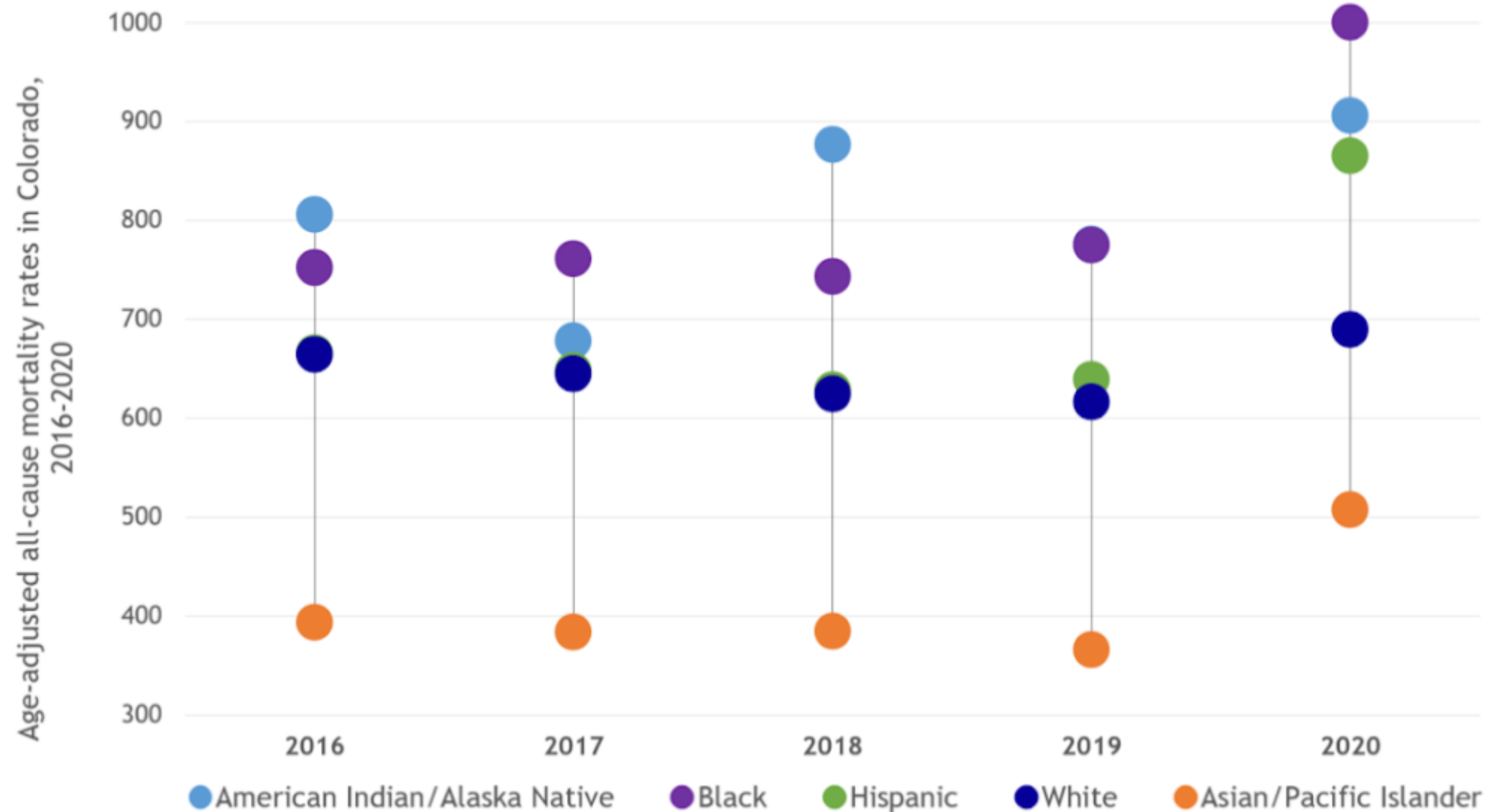


- 207,787 AI/AN residents in Colorado, 3.6%
- 1.4 percent of medical school graduates in Colorado were AI/AN
- All healthcare fields 0.35% AI/AN in CO
- CO AI/AN people are not likely to encounter a healthcare provider who shares their culture and racial perspectives
- 296,065 respondents reported disrespectful treatment in CO Health Access Survey
- Most often by physician
- 15 percent of AI/AN people reported experiences of racial discrimination when visiting a doctor or health clinic in US
- 23 percent of AI/AN people in US avoid going to the doctor because of concerns of racial discrimination and poor treatment

2020, CDPHE declares racism a public health crisis

Widening Disparities

All-cause mortality increased for all populations in 2020 and racial/ethnic disparities widened with the **American Indian/Alaska Native**, **Black** and **Hispanic** populations bearing an increasingly disproportionate burden of deaths.



Source: Colorado Health Information Dataset (COHID), Mortality Statistics, Age-Adjusted Rates, 2016-2020.

Current regulations and requirements

- Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services in Health Care (CLAS) for healthcare institutions. The goals of CLAS are to “advance health equity, improve quality, and help eliminate health care disparities.”
- National Committee for Quality Assurance, NCQA, is a private nonprofit organization that accredits and rates healthcare providers and sets cultural competency and proficiency criteria in healthcare organizations.

None include standards or requirements for AI/AN cultural competency



Current regulations and requirements



- JCAHO accreditation requires that healthcare entities provide culturally responsive care by respecting diverse cultural beliefs and practices, understanding the influence of race, ethnicity, language, and social conditions on health outcomes, and forming strategies to recognize and mitigate implicit biases while ensuring patient-centered care (CO a JCAHO state).
- Colorado Option (HB21-1232) requires the Division of Insurance (DOI) to ensure that all carriers offering a Colorado Option Standardized Health Benefit Plan develop a provider network that is culturally responsive and representative of the community it serves
- CDPHE's Health Facilities and Emergency Medical Services Division oversees many regulatory standards related to healthcare, including the Standards for Hospitals and Health Facilities

AGAIN: None include standards or requirements for AI/AN cultural competency



Citations:

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Thank you!



Photo of Governor Polis and members of the Colorado AI/AN community from CCIA



This policy ensures that all Coloradans have access to culturally respectful and competent care. There can be no true health equity in Colorado without considering the needs of Colorado AI/AN people.