Health Equity Concerns

Opioids

- Washington State rates of opioid overdose death vary by race/ethnicity. Data indicate American Indian/Alaska Native rates were highest, Hispanic and Asian populations were lowest. (2011-15)*
- Those who die from heroin overdose tend to be younger than those who die from prescription opioids.*
- Low-wage workers in physically demanding jobs may use opioids so they can avoid missing work.*
- Rural communities are challenged by a shortage of treatment providers and counseling infrastructure.*
- Access to alternative pain treatments such as physical therapy or acupuncture is limited for some populations. Factors include insurance coverage, sick leave, transportation and/or childcare.*

* Sources:
DOH Death Certificates, includes all intent of drug-related deaths with the additional ICD-10 codes of T40.0, T40.1, T40.2, T40.3, T40.4, or T40.6
DOH Death Certificates, methodology identifies opioid deaths using both ICD-10 codes and the literal text on the death certificate, and excludes intentional deaths due to opioid overdose
HRSA 2016
HRSA 2016
NIH Mar 2017