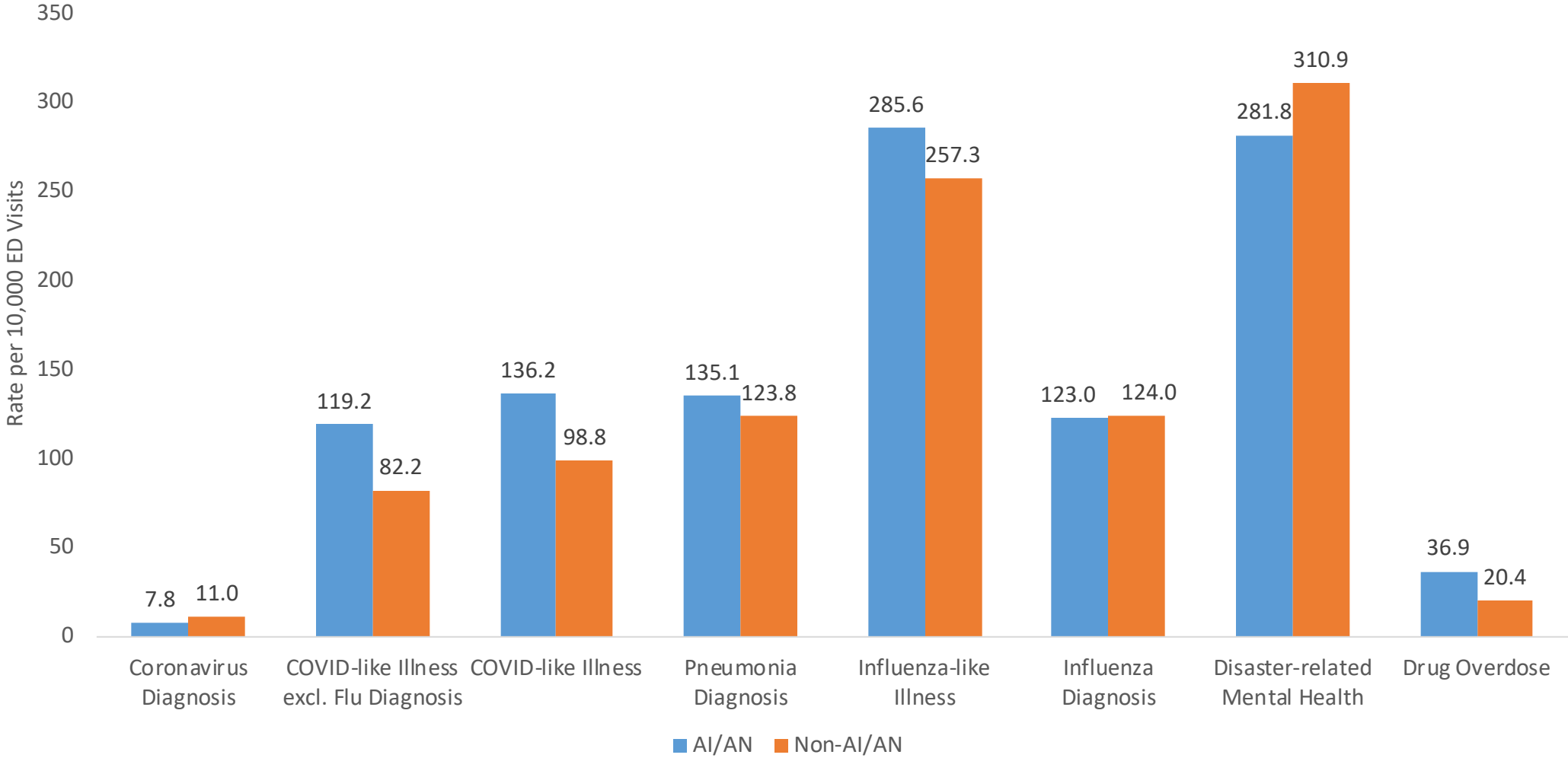# ESSENCE Data for COVID-19 Monitoring
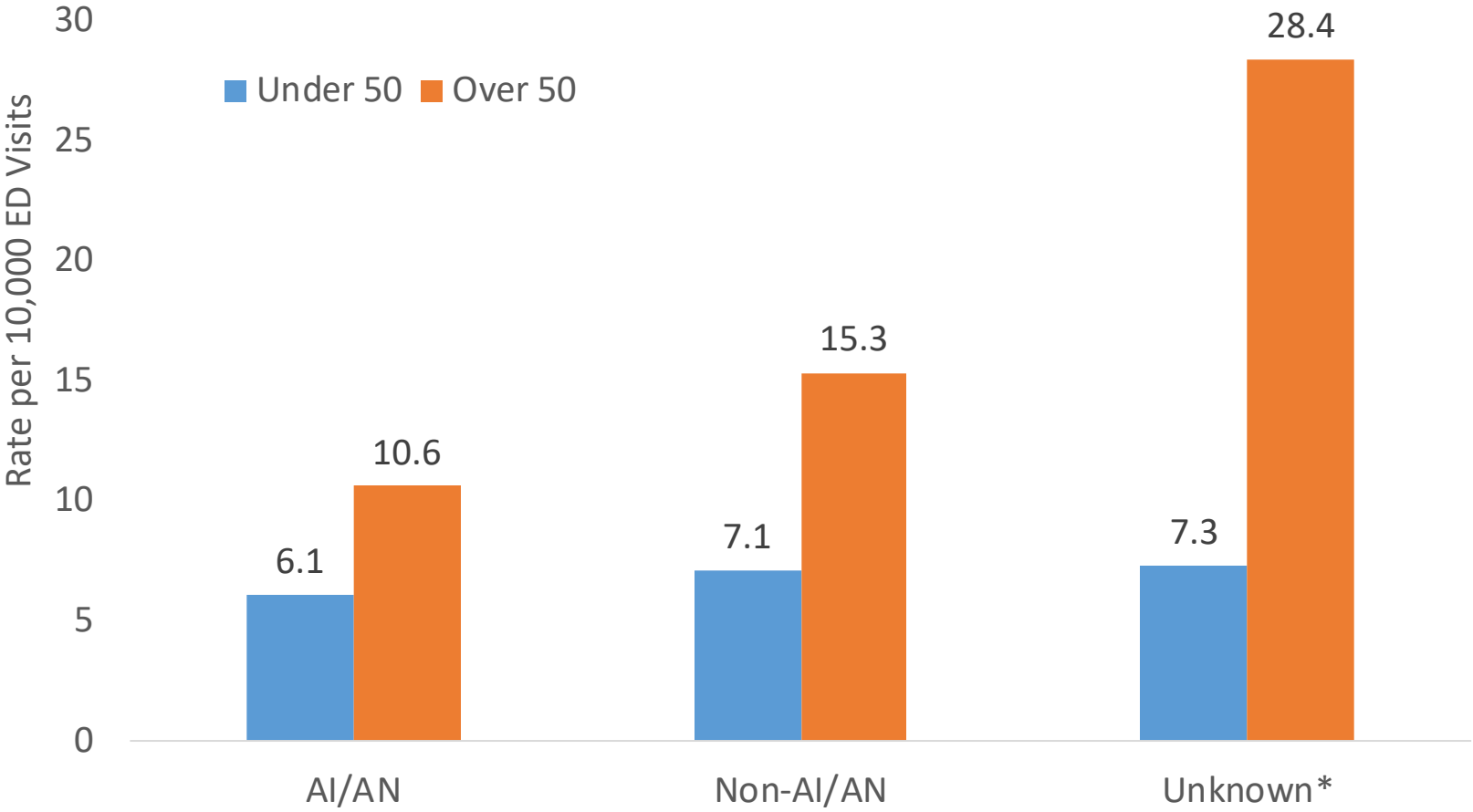
Sujata Joshi, MSPH

IDEA-NW Project, NPAIHB

Background

- ESSENCE is an emergency department syndromic surveillance data system that:
  - Provides near real-time information on emergency department visits
  - Can be used for early detection of events of public health importance
  - Can be used to measure burden on health care systems during events like the COVID-19 pandemic
- ESSENCE data can **supplement** (but not replace) official case counts, deaths, and lab results reported by states and by IHS
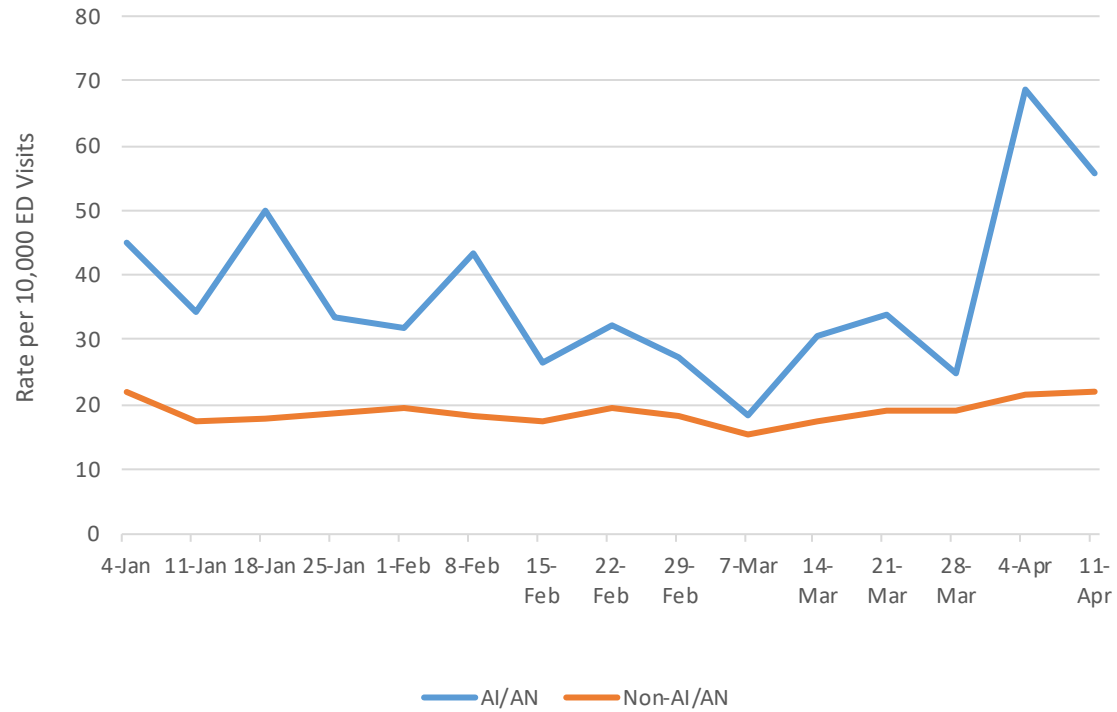- NWTEC currently has access to ESSENCE data for Oregon and Washington

COVID-19 Emergency Department Indicators by Race
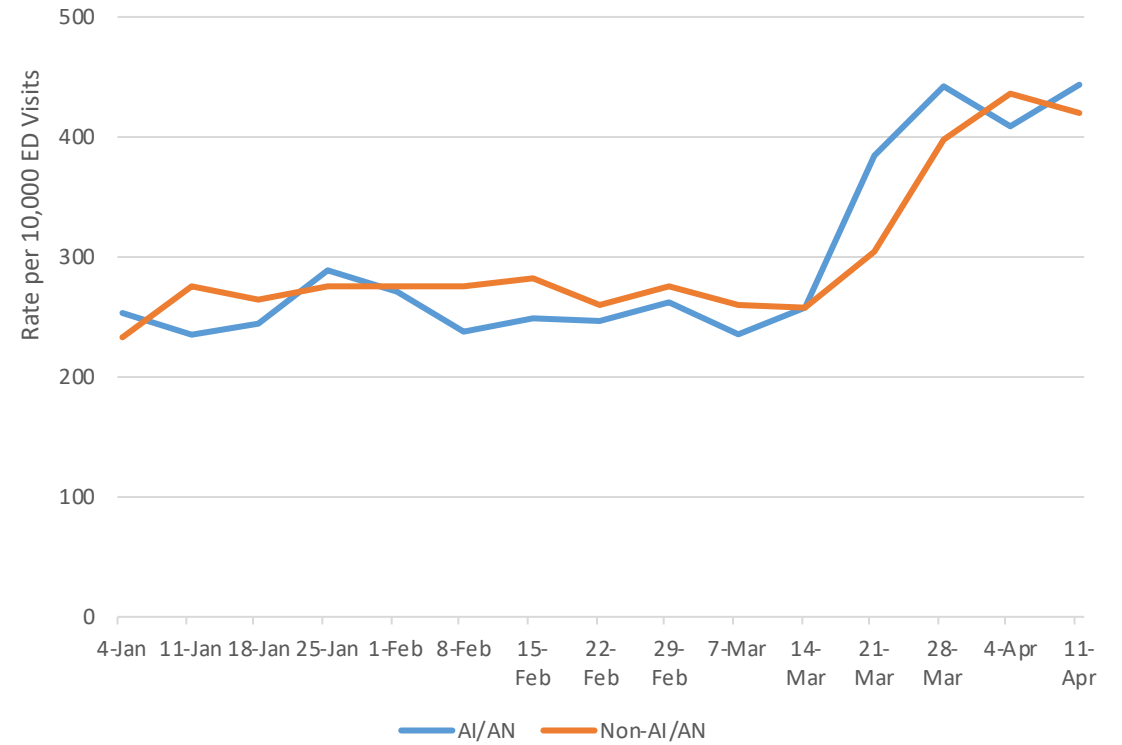Washington State, 12/22/2019 - 4/12/2020, Rates

Rate per 10,000 ED Visits

Indicator	AI/AN	Non-AI/AN
Coronavirus Diagnosis	7.8	11.0
COVID-like Illness excl. Flu Diagnosis	119.2	82.2
COVID-like Illness	136.2	98.8
Pneumonia Diagnosis	135.1	123.8
Influenza-like Illness	285.6	257.3
Influenza Diagnosis	123.0	124.0
Disaster-related Mental Health	281.8	310.9
Drug Overdose	36.9	20.4

■ AI/AN   ■ Non-AI/AN

Coronavirus Diagnosis Rates by Age and Race
Washington State, 12/22/2019 - 4/12/2020

Drug Overdose ED Visit Rates by Race
Washington, 12/30/2019 - 4/11/2020

Disaster Related Mental Health Visit Rates by Race
Washington, 12/30/2019 - 4/11/2020

Limitations & Caveats

- Data only represent cases that presented to Emergency Departments that report to ESSENCE

- Completeness of data may be affected by technical issues at the facility or system level

- Accuracy of race/ethnicity information is not known

- Definitions for syndromes/outcomes being monitored evolve over time