

An Executive Summary
of the
Alaska Native Mortality Report



ALASKA NATIVE
TRIBAL HEALTH
CONSORTIUM
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Alaska Native Mortality: 1980-2018 | Executive Summary

Alaska Native people have higher rates than all other races in the U.S. for every one of the ten leading causes of death. During the most recent five-year period for which we have data (2014-2018), the mortality rate for Alaska Native people was 51% higher than the U.S. all races rate. Reliable information on cause of death is essential to the development of policies and programs for prevention and control of disease and injury. It is also important for public health planning, healthcare resource allocation, and research.

This booklet summarizes information about key mortality indicators among Alaska Native people. It gives information on leading causes of death, life expectancy, and other related measures, including years of potential life lost and regional mortality rates.

Data for the full report were based on death certificate data provided by the State of Alaska's Health Analytics & Vital Records section of the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services. The full report, *Alaska Native Mortality Report: 1980-2018* is available on the ANTHC Epidemiology Center website (<http://anthctoday.org/epicenter/publications.html>).

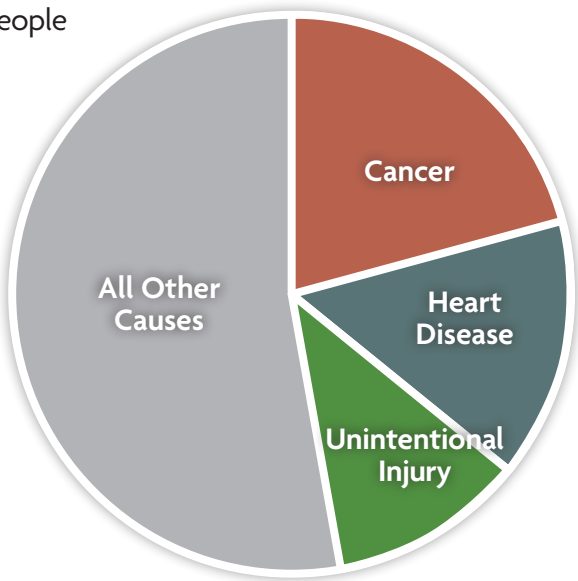
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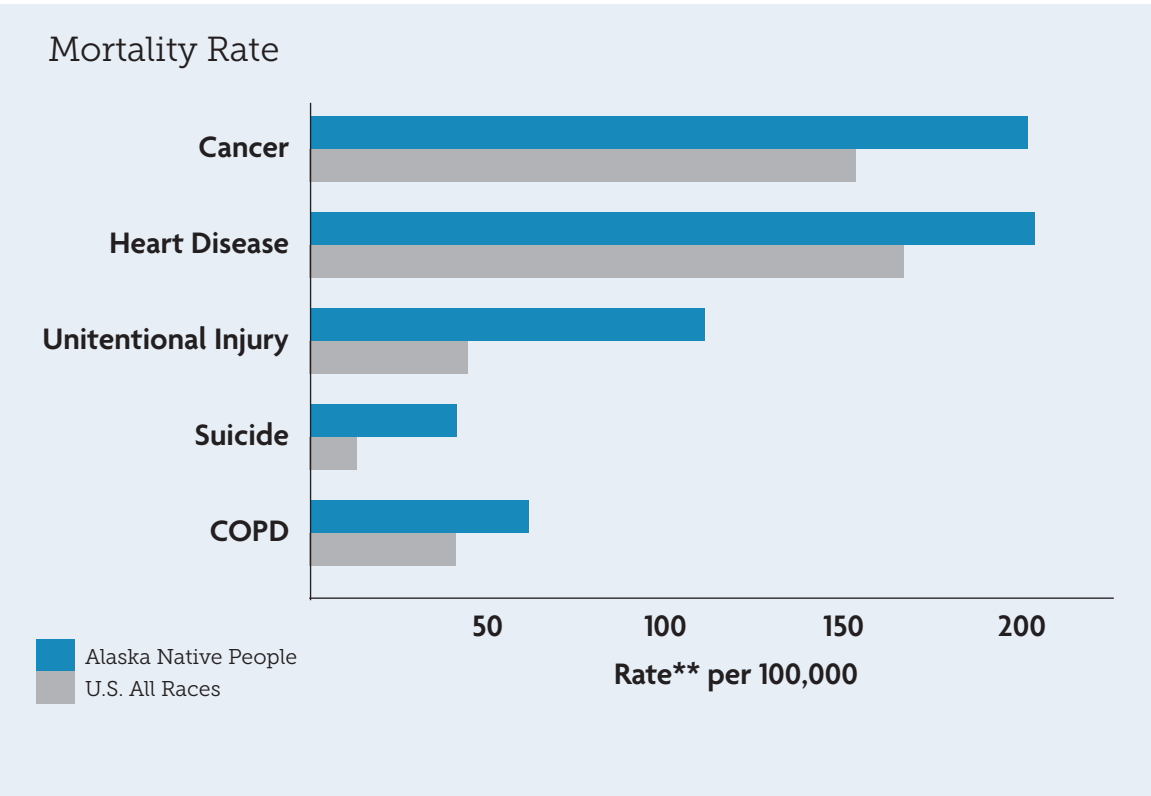
Leading Causes of Death among Alaska Native People, 2014-2018

The top 3 causes of death for Alaska Native people (cancer, heart disease, unintentional injury) accounted for nearly 50% of all mortality during this period. Cancer continued as the leading cause of death.

CAUSE OF DEATH	COUNT*	%
Cancer	979	18.1
Heart Disease	893	16.6
Unintentional Injury	698	12.9
All Others	2,826	52.4
Total	5,396	100.0



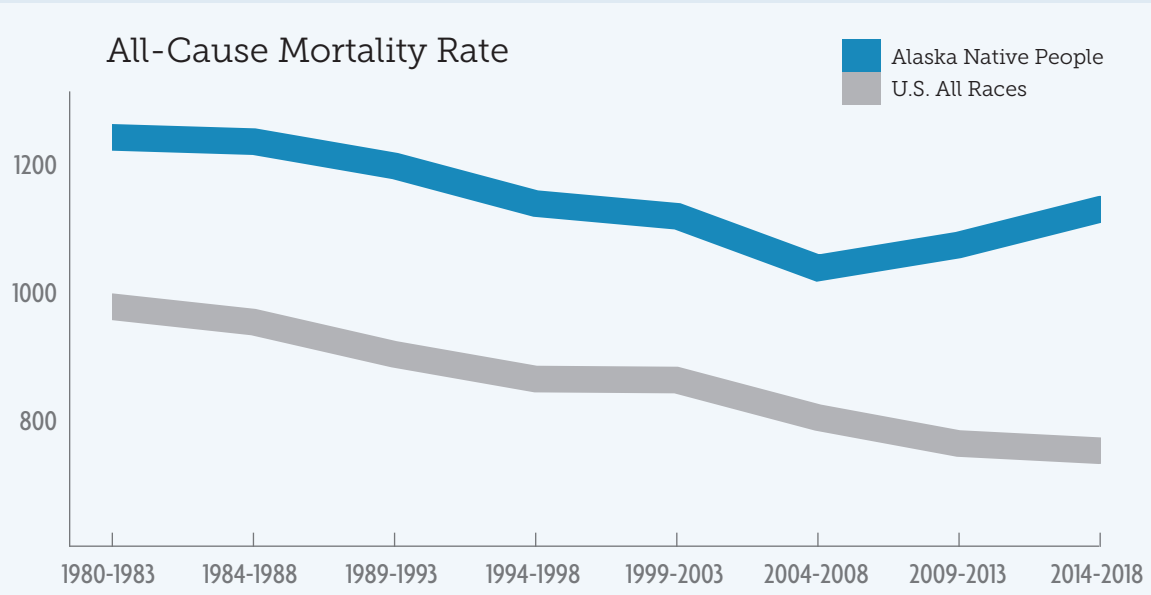
The top 5 causes of death among Alaska Native people had significantly higher mortality rates compared to U.S. all races rates.



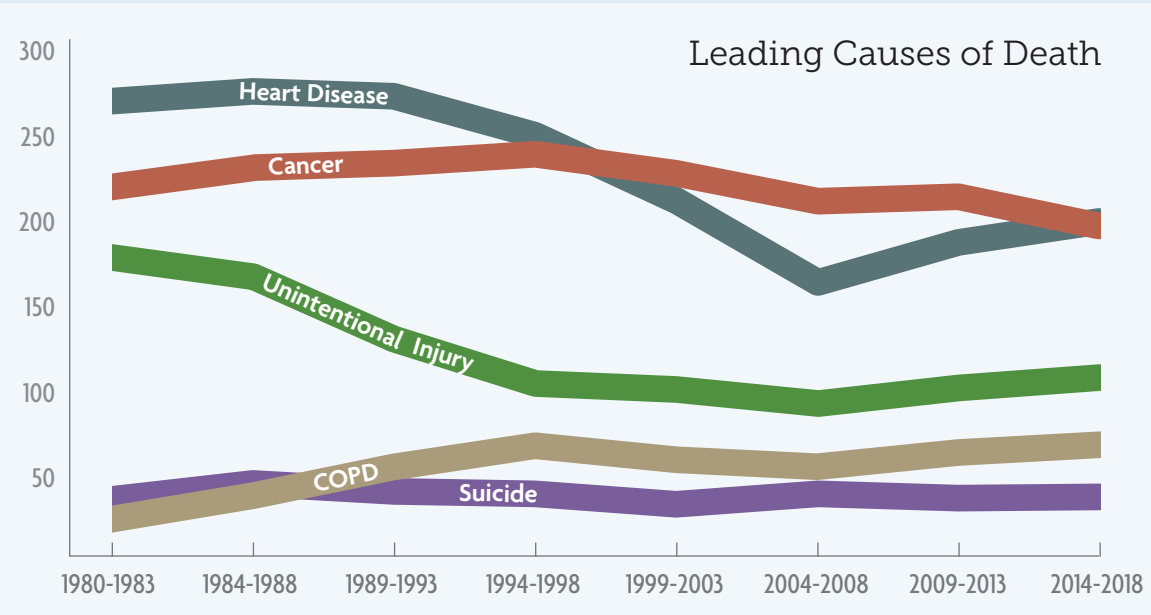
* **Count** is the total number of deaths due to an associated cause.
** **Rate** is the age-adjusted total number of deaths per 100,000 people to the U.S. 2000 standard population.

Trends in Alaska Native Mortality

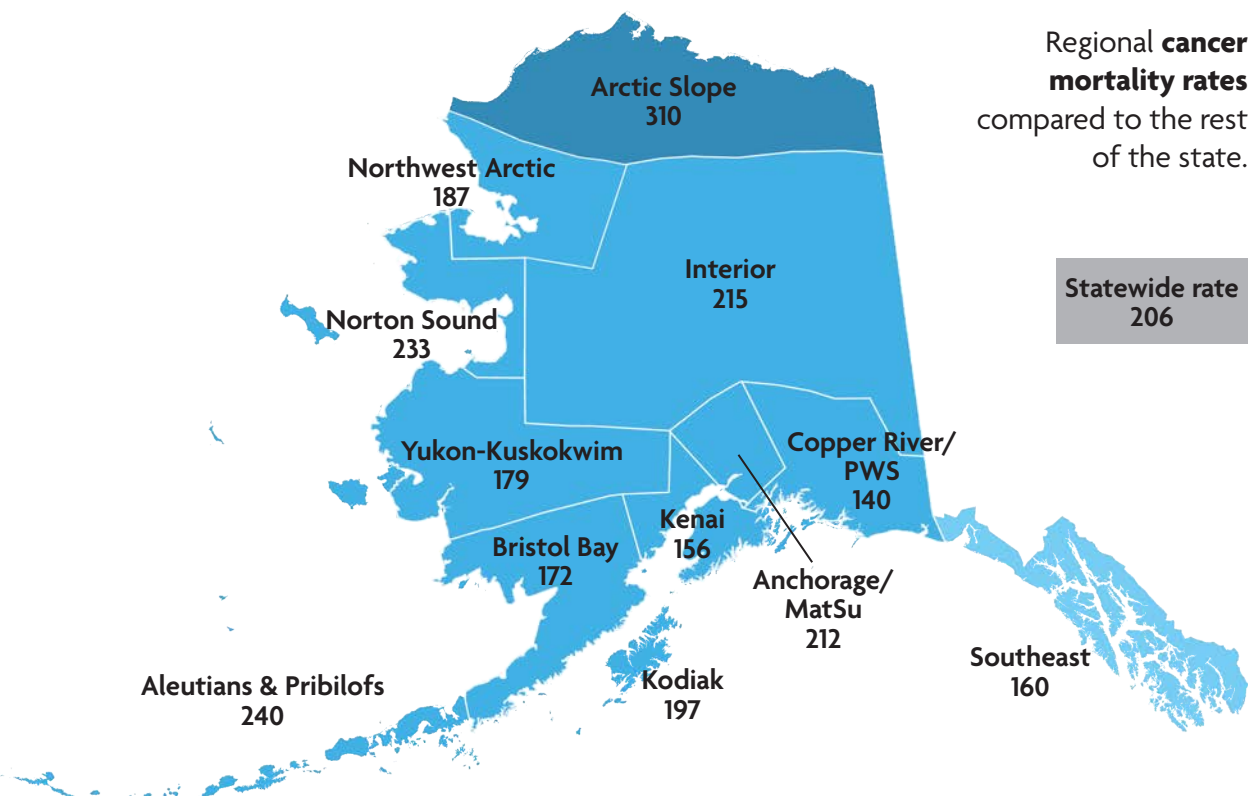
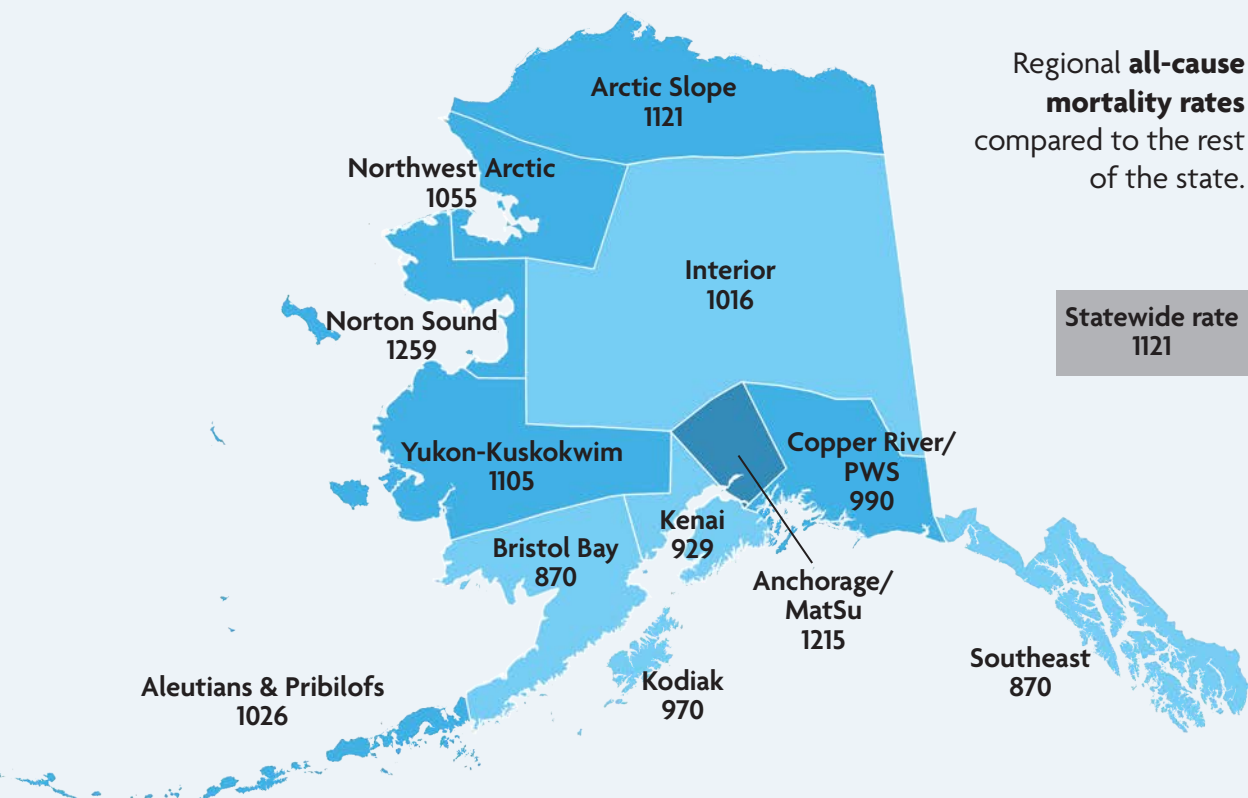
The all-cause mortality rate for Alaska Native people declined 9% overall, however the gap between Alaska Native and U.S. all races rates has increased since 2004-2008.



Heart Disease and Unintentional Injury mortality rates decreased significantly during the 1980-2018 time period, while COPD increased significantly.

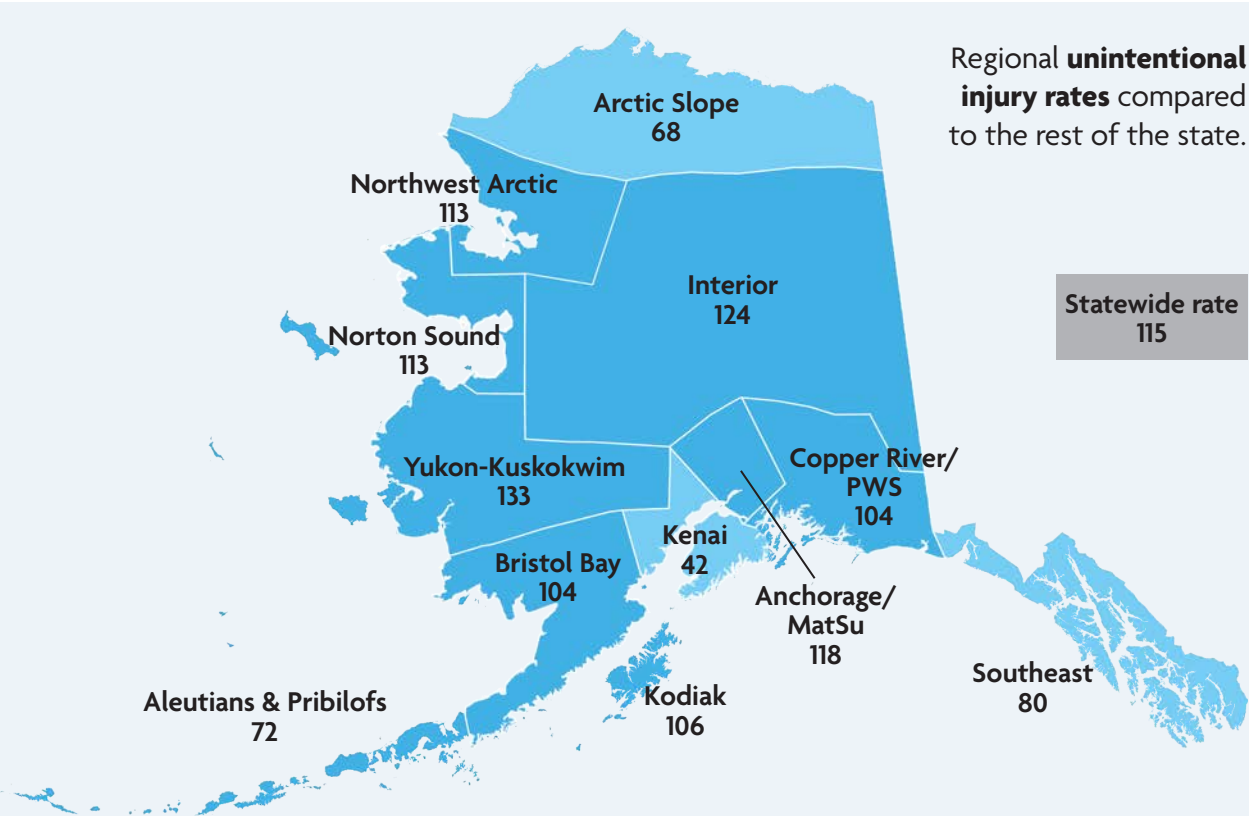
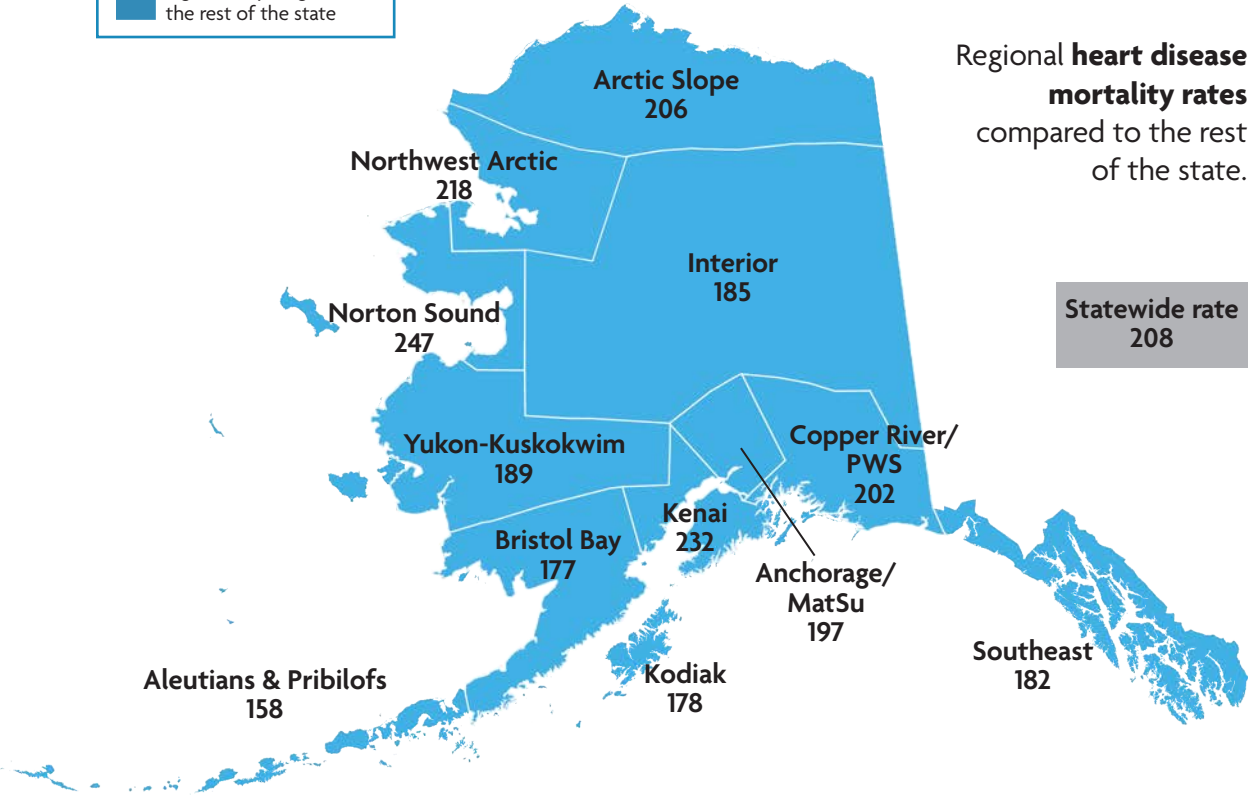
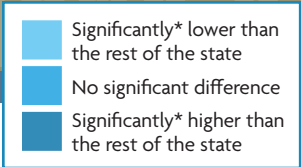


Regional Mortality Rates among Alaska Native People, 2014-2018



- Deaths were assigned to the service region in which the person was resident, regardless of place of death.
- Rate is the age-adjusted total number of deaths per 100,000 people to the U.S. 2000 standard population.

map of Alaska Native People

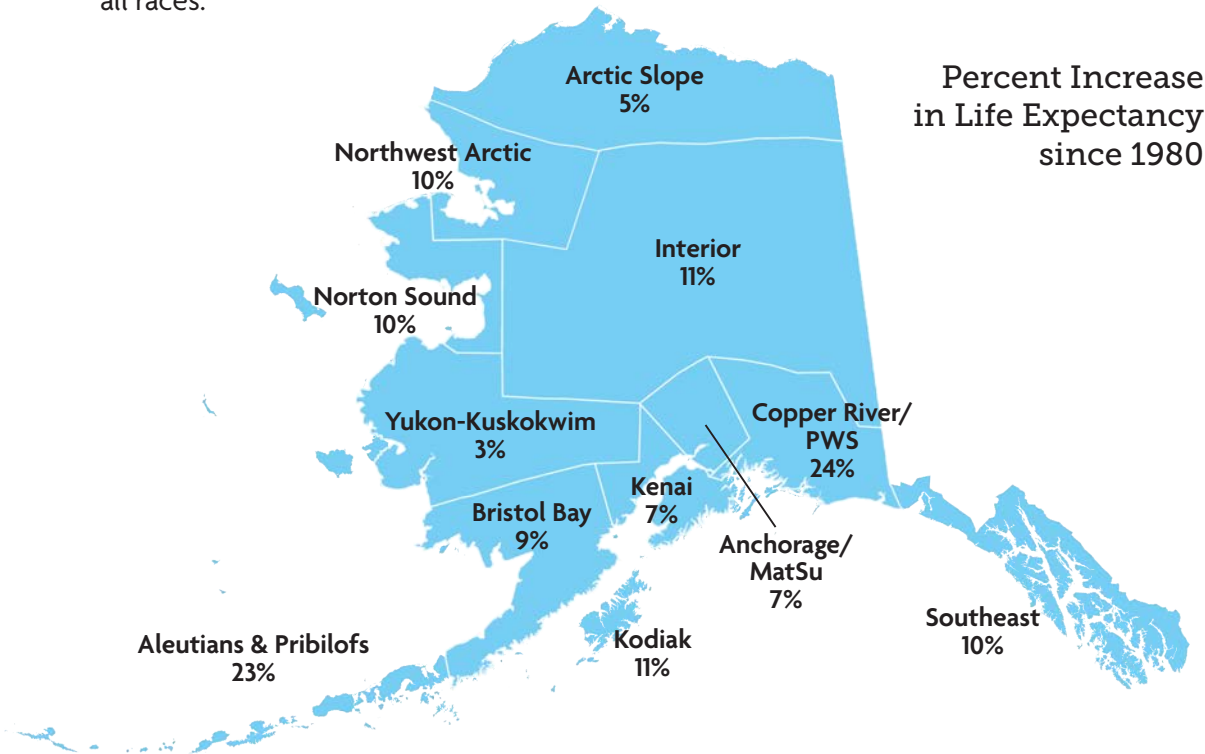


* A statistically significant difference is likely due to actual population differences rather than occurring by chance.

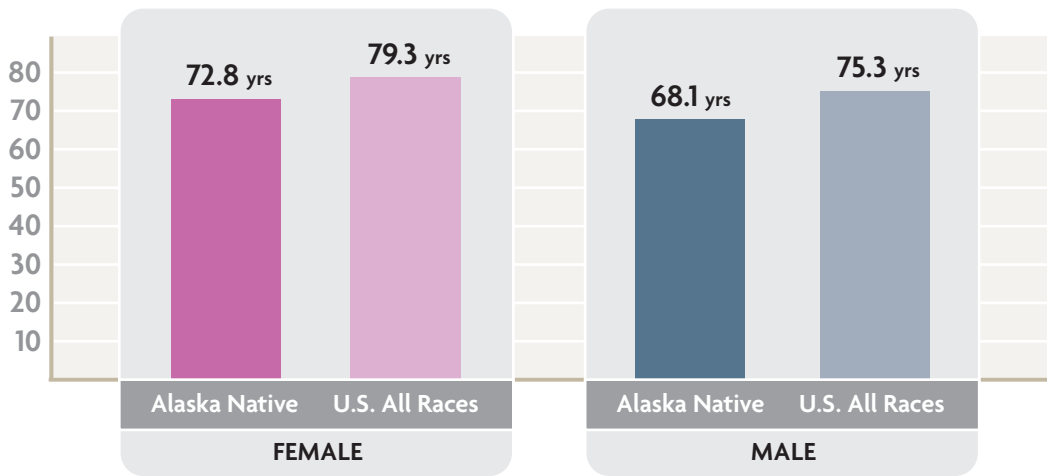
Life Expectancy at Birth among Alaska Native People

Life expectancy at birth is the average number of years that a newborn is expected to live if current mortality rates continue to apply.¹

- Life expectancy at birth increased in all regions since 1980, ranging from 3% in the Yukon-Kuskokwim region to 24% in the Copper River/Prince William Sound region.
- For the time period 2014-2018, life expectancy at birth for Alaska Native females was 72.8 years, 6.5 years less than U.S. all races.
- Life expectancy at birth for Alaska Native males was 68.1 years, 7.2 years less than U.S. all races.



Life Expectancy at Birth, 2014-2018



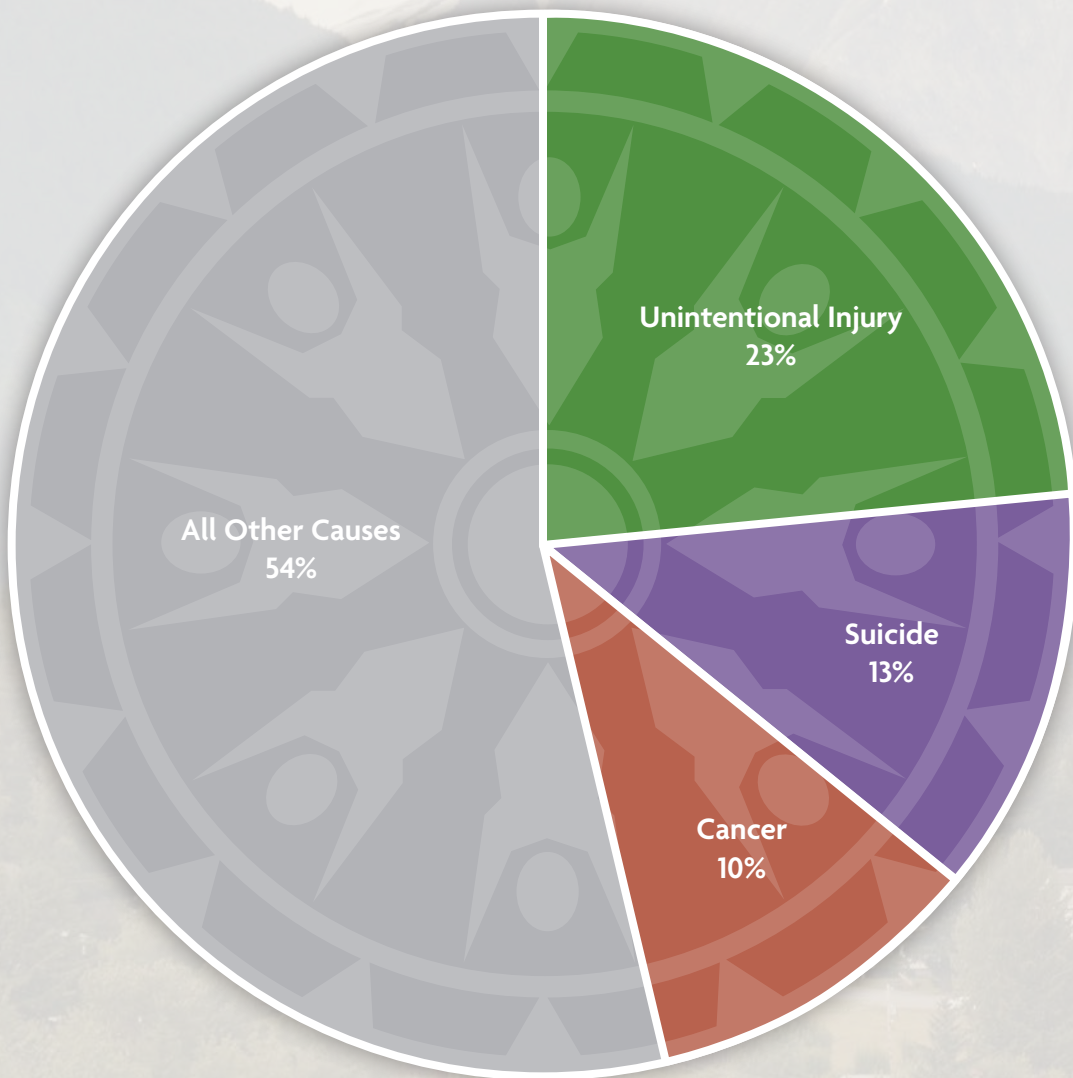
¹ who.int/whosis/whostat2006DefinitionsAndMetadata.pdf

Years of Potential Life Lost (YPLL), 2014-2018

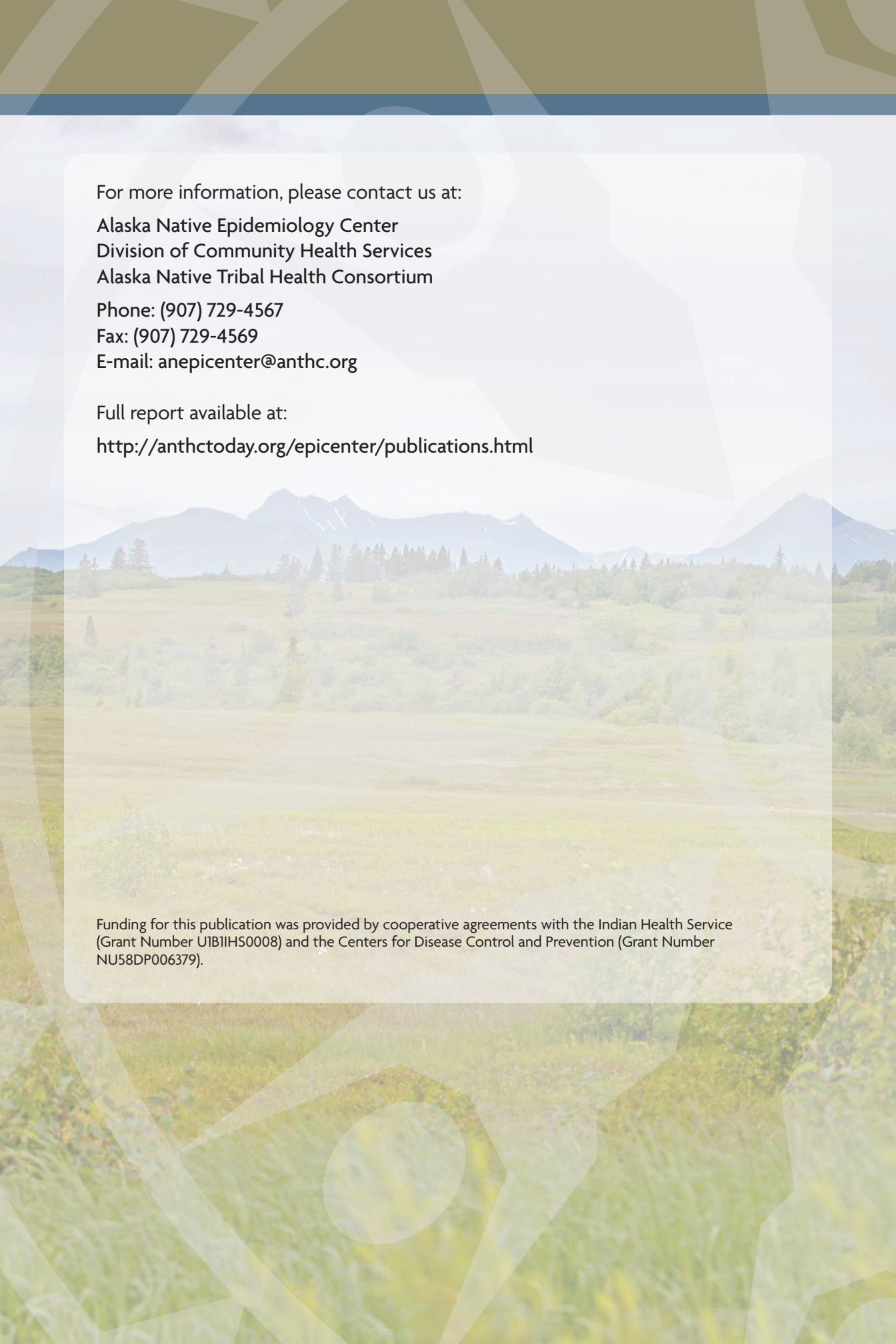
Years of potential life lost (YPLL) is the number of years more a person would have lived if the person lived to age 75. It is a measure of premature mortality.²

- Alaska Native people experienced an average of 26.8 YPLL from all causes during this time period.
- Unintentional injury caused the greatest number of YPLL among Alaska Native people.

26.8
YEARS



² cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/fatal_help/definitions_ypll.html



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Full report available at:

<http://anthctoday.org/epicenter/publications.html>

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