





Morbidity



Morbidity Highlights



The prevalence of diagnosed diabetes among Alaska Native people is 6.3%.

The leading cause of hospitalizations in the Alaska Tribal Health System is for abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, followed by pregnancy and childbirth, digestive disease, and injury and poisoning.

Cancer incidence rates have increased significantly among Alaska Native people since 1969.

The leading types of cancer among Alaska Native people are colon/rectum, lung/bronchus, and breast cancer.



Morbidity Highlights

Over half (51.7%) of Alaska Native adults have experienced tooth loss due to tooth decay or gum disease.



Chlamydia infection rates among Alaska Native people are more than 3 times greater than among Alaska non-Natives, with the greatest reported number of infections among females aged 15–34 years.

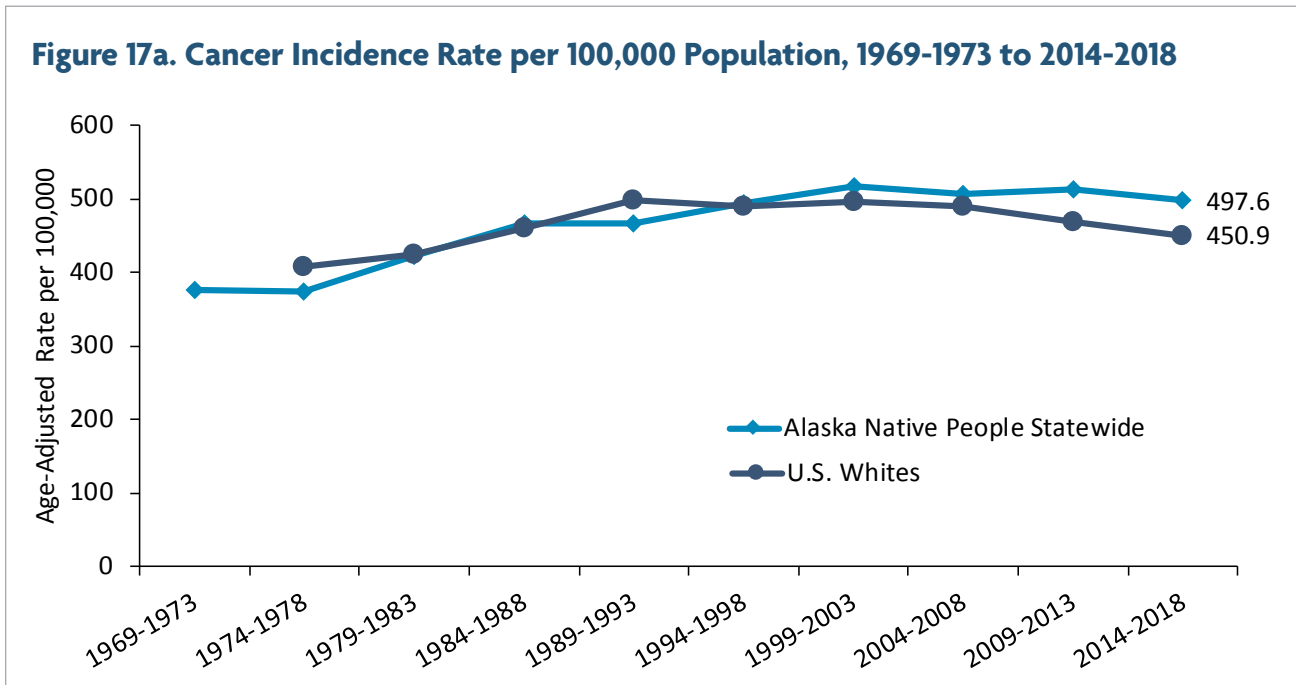


Gonorrhea infection rates among Alaska Native people are more than 3 times greater than among Alaska non-Natives, with the greatest reported number of infections among females aged 15–34 years.

Over half of all outpatient visits in the Alaska Tribal Health System are for reasons such as examinations and reproduction related matters. The leading cause of outpatient visits is for musculoskeletal diseases.



Cancer Incidence



Data Source: Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, Alaska Native Tumor Registry; National Cancer Institute, Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results Program (SEER)
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Definition

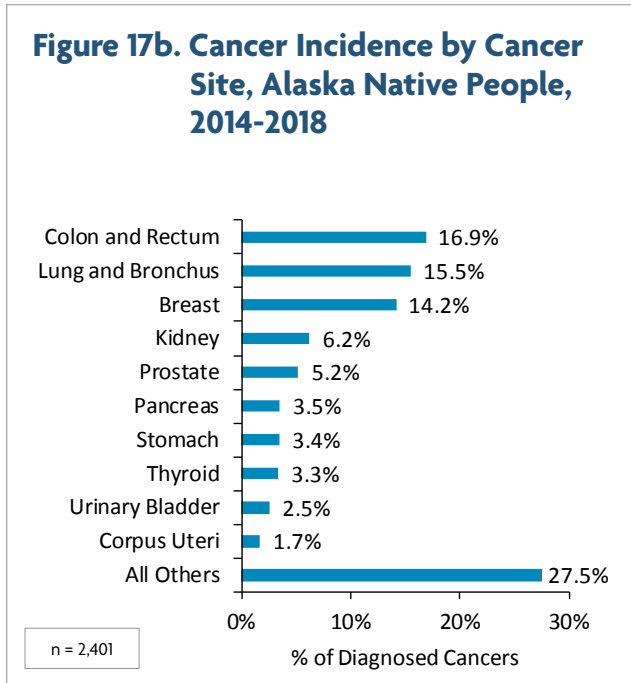
Cancer incidence is the number of new cancers diagnosed in a specified population during a specified time period. Cancer incidence rates for a specific type of cancer are based on the primary site reported or on the site of origin.

Summary

- » During 2014–2018, the cancer incidence rate among Alaska Native people statewide was 497.6 cases per 100,000 population. This was significantly higher than among U.S. Whites (450.9 per 100,000).
- » Cancer incidence rates increased significantly among Alaska Native people between 1969–1973 (376.8 per 100,000) and 2014–2018 (497.6 per 100,000). However, since 1984–1988 these rates have remained relatively stable.
- » The leading cancers diagnosed among Alaska Native people statewide during 2014–2018 were colon/rectum (16.9%), lung (15.5%), breast (14.2%), and kidney/renal pelvis (6.2%).
- » During 2014–2018, Alaska Native cancer incidence rates varied by Tribal health region, ranging from 352.9 to 590.2 per 100,000.

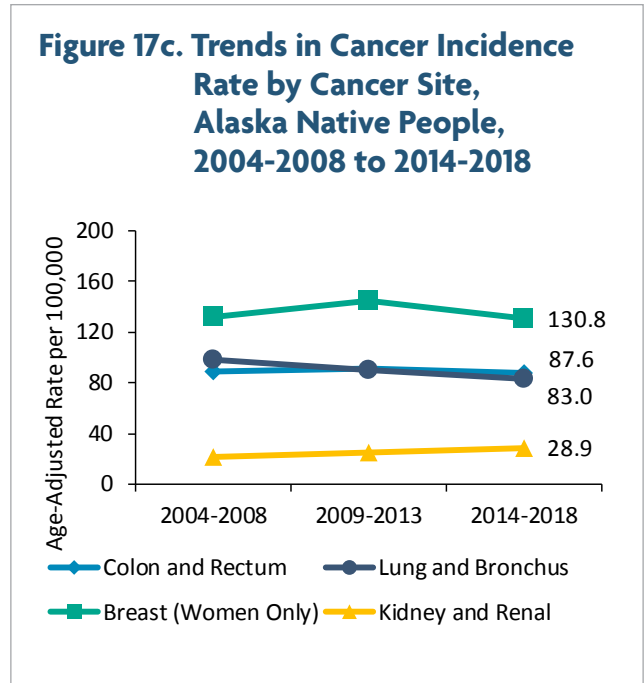
Cancer Incidence

Figure 17b. Cancer Incidence by Cancer Site, Alaska Native People, 2014-2018



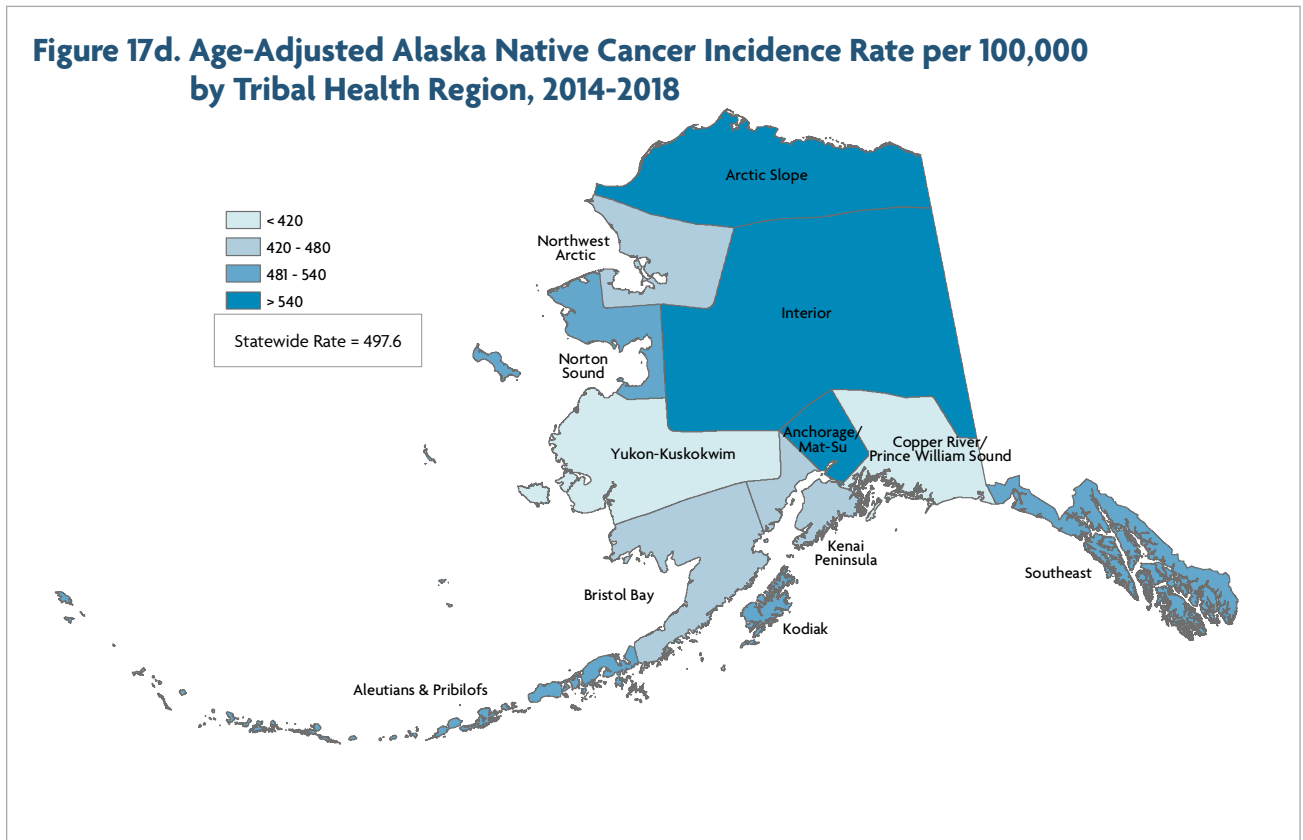
Data Source: Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, Alaska Native Tumor Registry
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Figure 17c. Trends in Cancer Incidence Rate by Cancer Site, Alaska Native People, 2004-2008 to 2014-2018



Data Source: Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, Alaska Native Tumor Registry
Appendix Table C-43

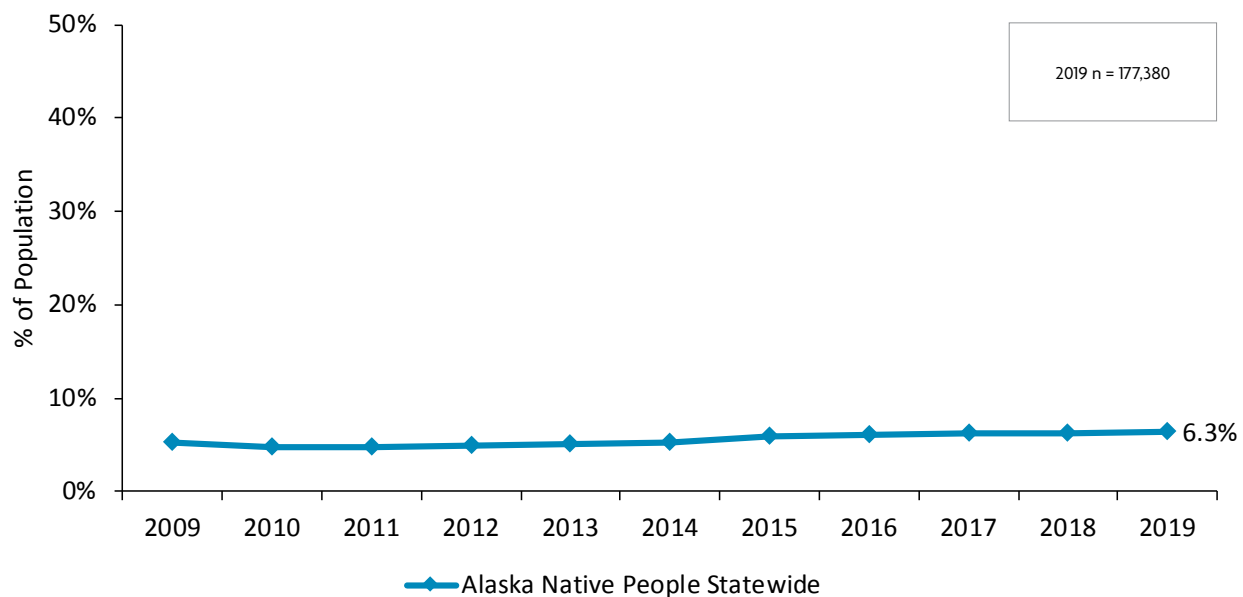
Figure 17d. Age-Adjusted Alaska Native Cancer Incidence Rate per 100,000 by Tribal Health Region, 2014-2018



Data Source: Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, Alaska Native Tumor Registry
Appendix Table C-44

Diabetes Prevalence

Figure 18a. Age-Adjusted Alaska Native Prevalence of Diagnosed Diabetes, 2009-2019



Data Source: Alaska Native Medical Center Diabetes Registry
Appendix Table C-45

Definition

Diabetes mellitus is a group of metabolic diseases characterized by high blood sugar levels during a prolonged period of time. When you have diabetes, either your body doesn't make enough insulin or can't use its own insulin as well as it should. This causes sugar to build up in the blood and can lead to serious health complications including heart disease, blindness, kidney failure, and lower-extremity amputations.⁵

Diabetes prevalence is the number of Alaska Native people living with diabetes during a specific time period expressed as a percentage of the Alaska Area Indian Health Service (IHS) estimated population. The estimated population is a statistical projection based on the U.S. decennial census (2010).

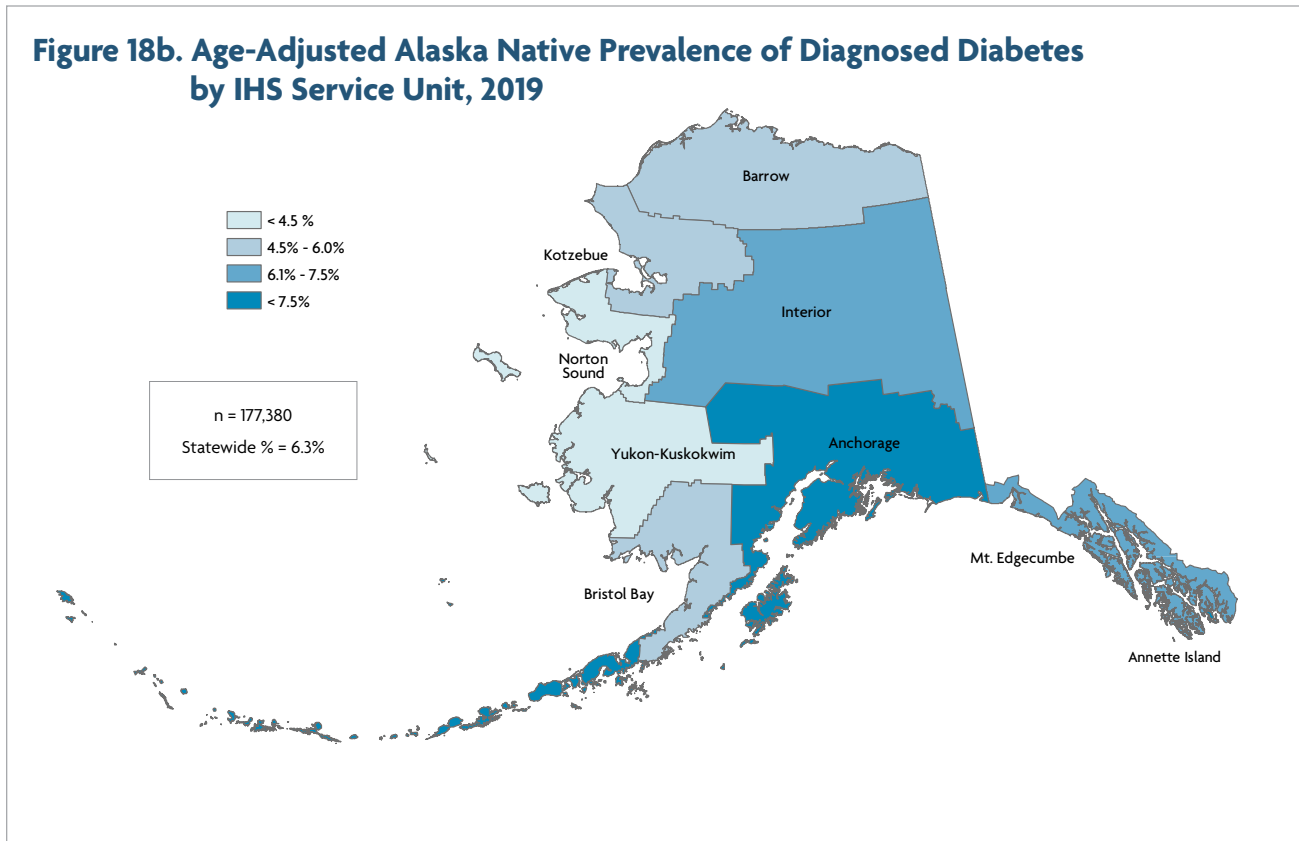
Related Objectives

Reduce the number of diabetes cases diagnosed yearly to 5.6 per 1,000 population. - *HEALTHY PEOPLE 2030, OBJECTIVE D-01*

Summary

- » The statewide age-adjusted prevalence of Alaska Native people diagnosed with diabetes was 6.3% in 2019.
- » Between 2009 and 2019, statewide Alaska Native diabetes prevalence increased 21% from 5.2% to 6.3%.
- » Diabetes prevalence varied by IHS Service Unit area, ranging from a low of 3.7% in the Norton Sound Service Unit to a high of 11.0% in the Annette Island Service Unit.

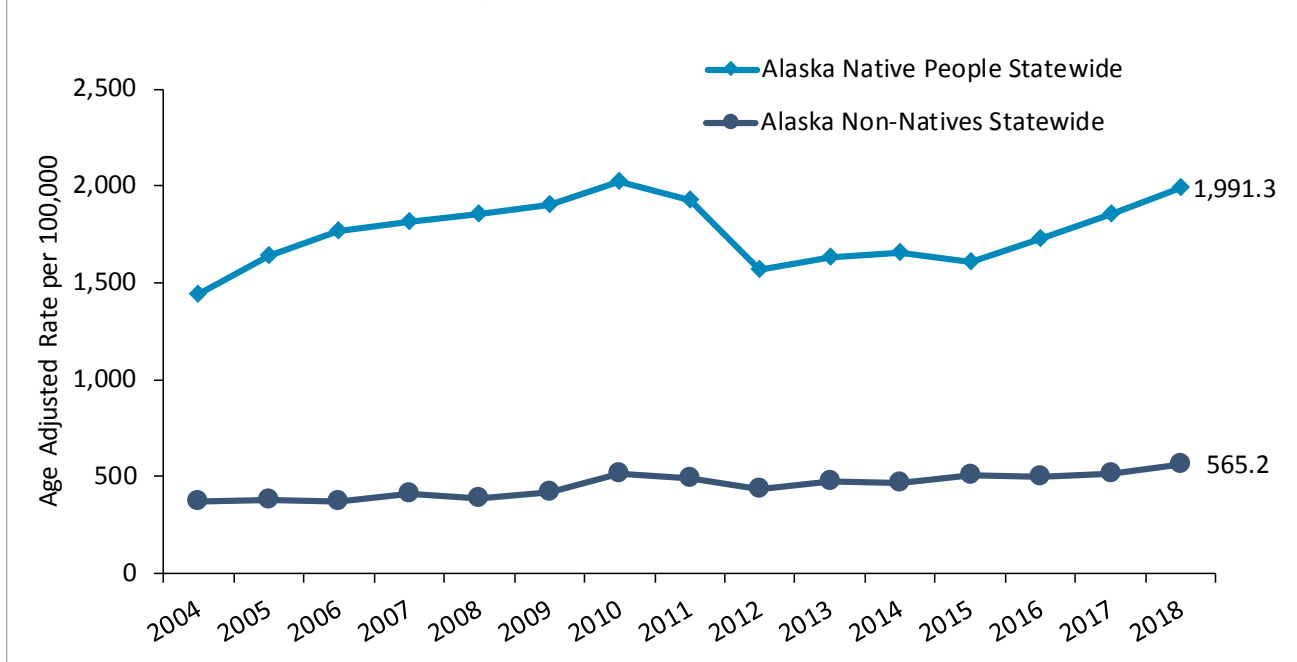
Diabetes Prevalence



Data Source: Alaska Native Medical Center Diabetes Registry
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Chlamydia

Figure 19a. Age-Adjusted Chlamydia Incidence Rate per 100,000 Population, 2004-2018



Data Source: Alaska Division of Public Health, HIV/STD Program
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Definition

Chlamydia (CT) is a common sexually transmitted infection caused by the bacterium *Chlamydia trachomatis*. Both men and women can get CT. Most people who have CT have no symptoms. Untreated CT can lead to permanent damage to a woman’s reproductive system, making it difficult to get pregnant.⁶

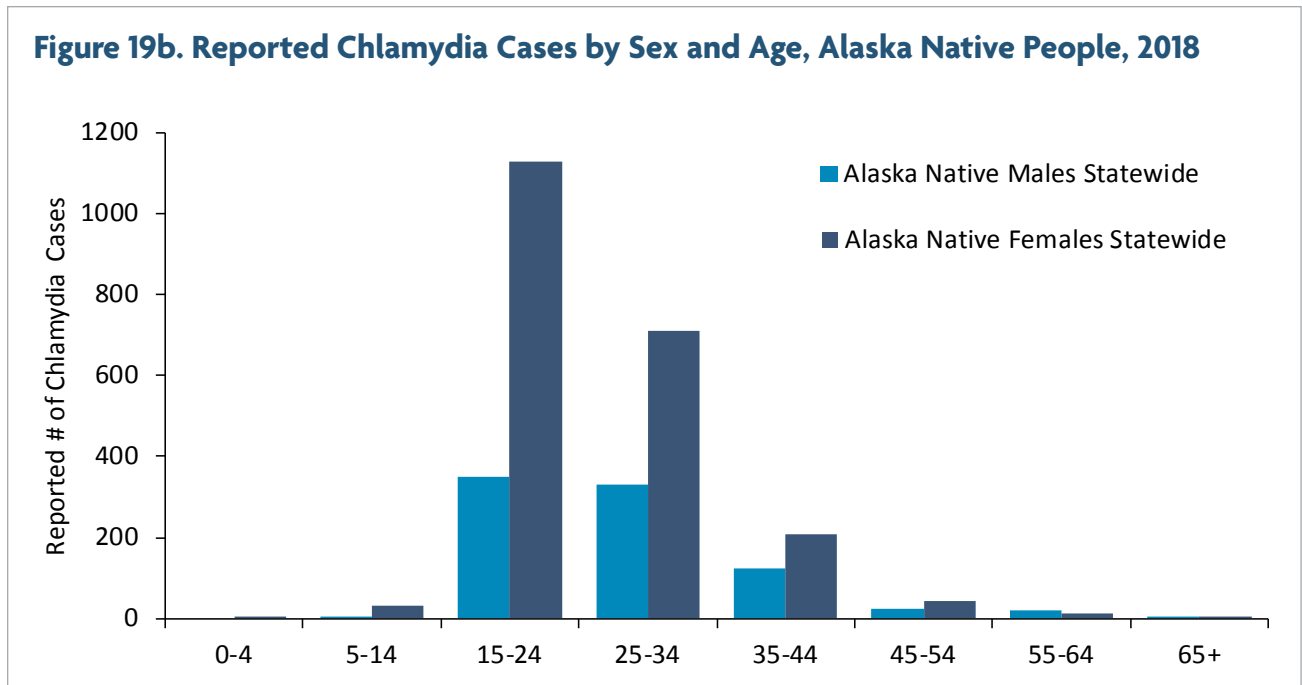
Summary

- » In 2018 Alaska’s CT rates were the highest among all U.S. states.
- » Chlamydia infection rates among Alaska Native people increased between 2004 and 2018, with 2018 having the second highest rate (1991.3 per 100,000) among all years shown.
- » The 2018 Alaska Native CT rate was 3.5 times greater than the Alaska non-Native rate.
- » The greatest number of CT infections were reported among those aged 15-34 years; nearly 3 out of 4 reported cases occurred in a female.
- » Unadjusted chlamydia rates varied by Tribal health region, ranging from 534.4 to 3,450.4 cases per 100,000.

Note: Number and rate do not include cases designated as multi-racial or with unknown race. Caution is advised when comparing data between years because changes to racial classification have occurred over time.

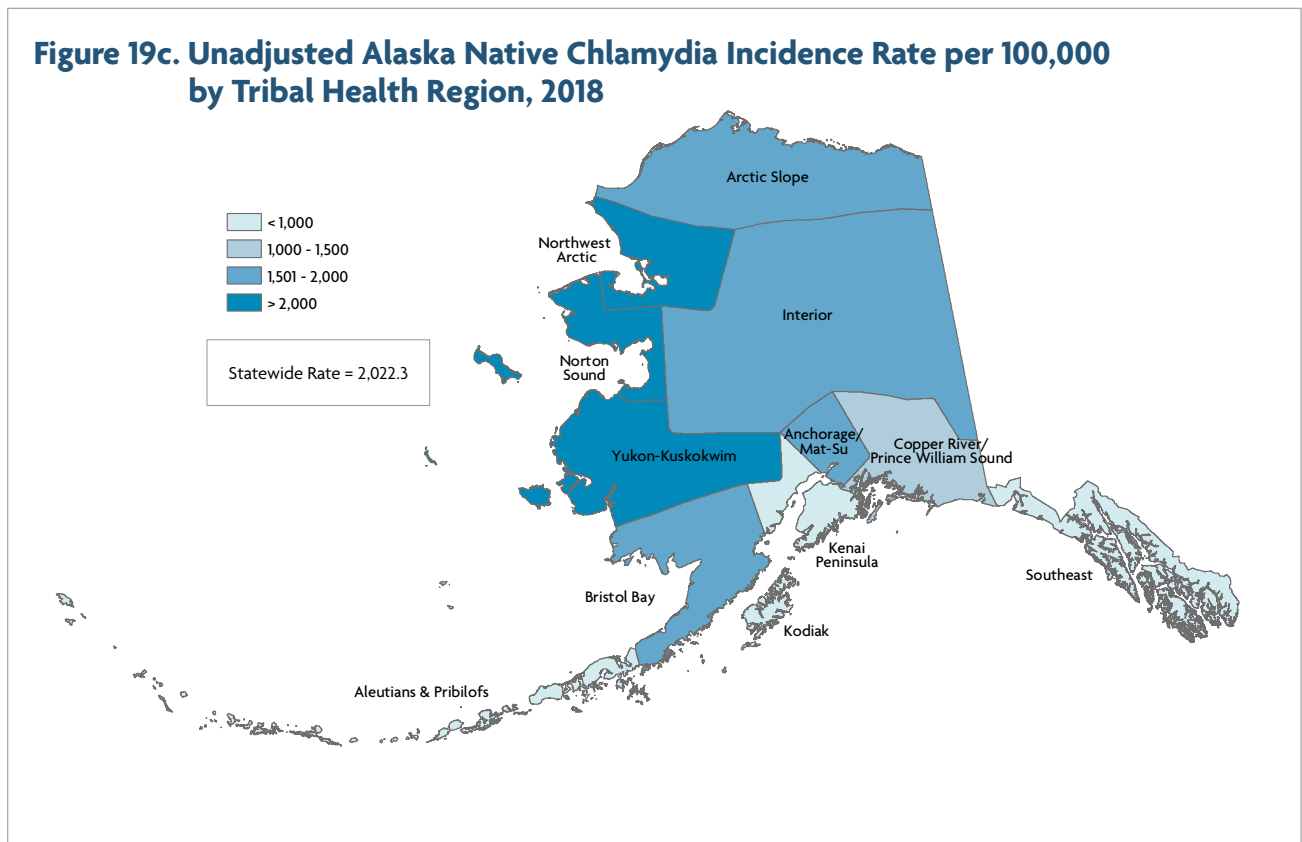
Chlamydia

Figure 19b. Reported Chlamydia Cases by Sex and Age, Alaska Native People, 2018



Data Source: Alaska Division of Public Health, HIV/STD Program

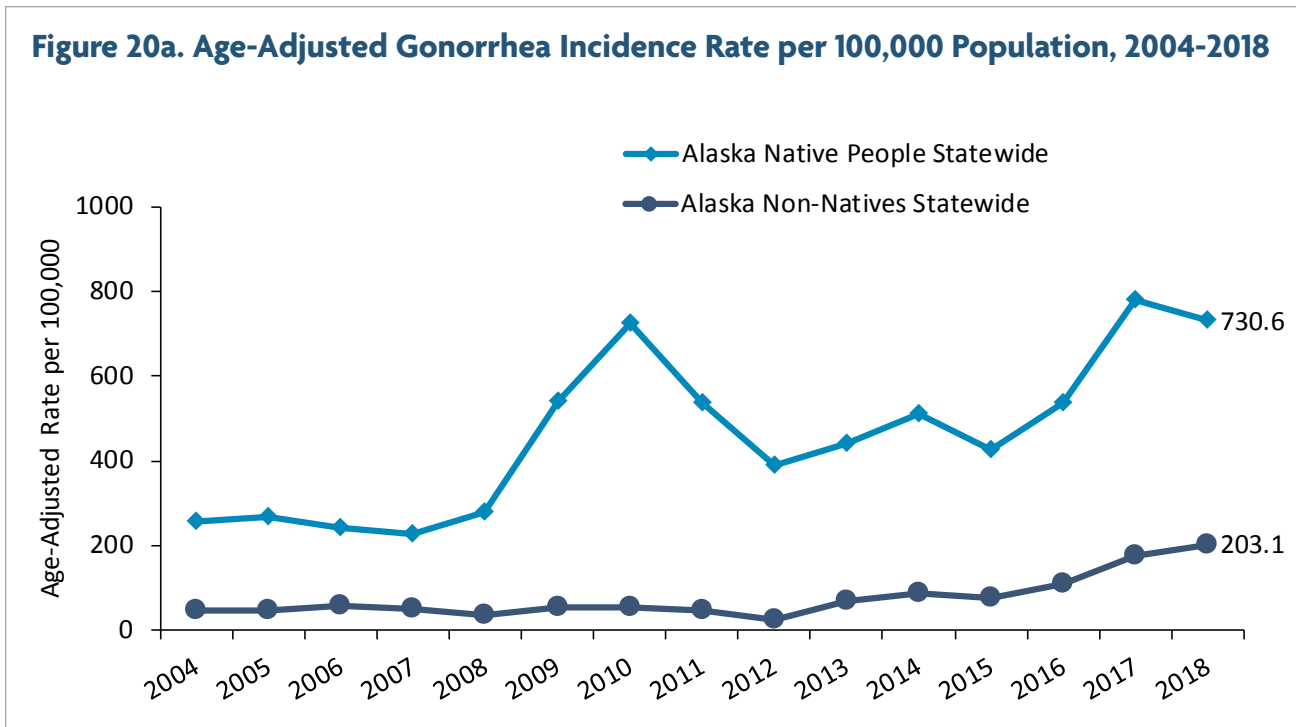
Figure 19c. Unadjusted Alaska Native Chlamydia Incidence Rate per 100,000 by Tribal Health Region, 2018



Data Source: Alaska Division of Public Health, HIV/STD Program
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Gonorrhea

Figure 20a. Age-Adjusted Gonorrhea Incidence Rate per 100,000 Population, 2004-2018



Data Source: Alaska Division of Public Health, HIV/STD Program; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Appendix Table C-49

Definition

Gonorrhea (GC) is a sexually transmitted infection caused by the bacterium *Neisseria gonorrhoea*. Gonorrhea can infect both men and women. It can cause infections in the genitals, rectum, and throat. GC can lead to permanent damage to a women’s reproductive system.⁷

Related Objectives

Reduce the incidence rate of gonorrhea to 199.0 per 100,000 population. - *Healthy Alaskans 2030, Objective #11*

Reduce gonorrhea rates in male adolescents and young men to 471.2 per 100,000 population. - *Healthy People 2030, Objective STI-02*

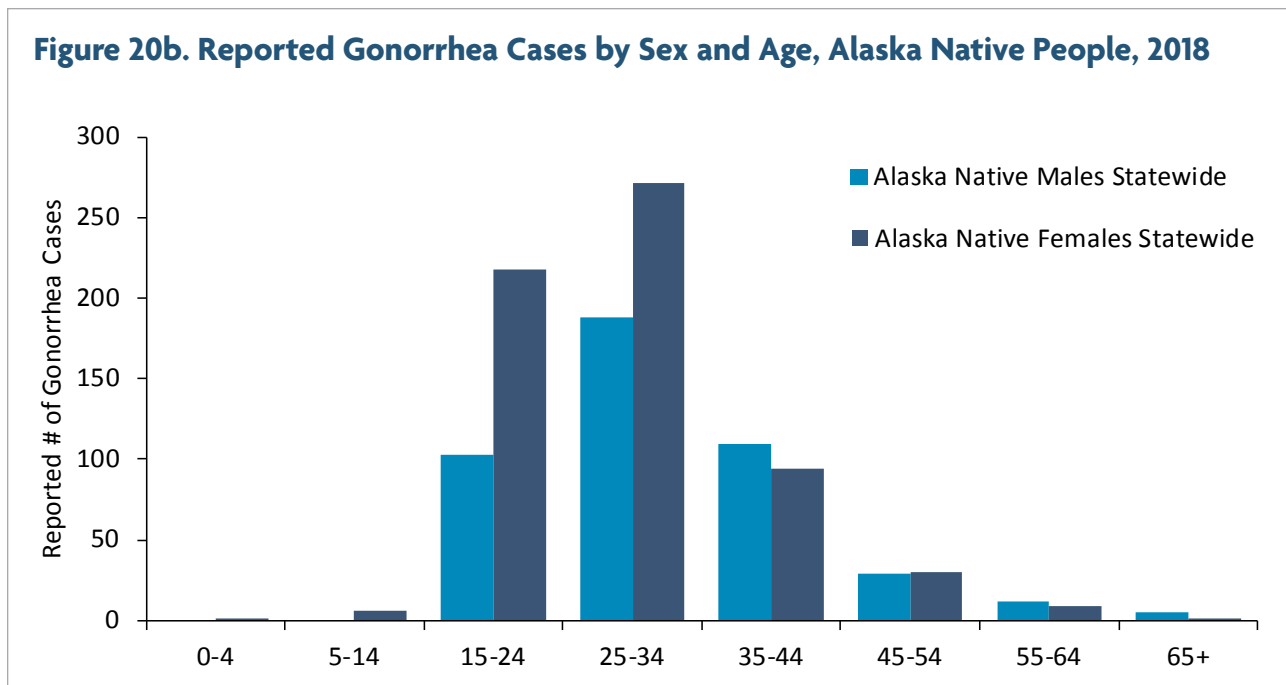
Summary

- » In 2018 Alaska’s GC rates were ranked 2nd among all U.S. states.
- » Alaska Native gonorrhea incidence rates increased sharply starting in 2008, subsequently decreased, then sharply increased again starting in 2016, and as of 2018 was at its second highest rate (730.6) among all years shown.
- » The 2018 Alaska Native gonorrhea incidence rate was slightly more than 3.5 times the rate among Alaska non-Natives.
- » During 2018 the greatest number of reported gonorrhea cases were among those aged 15-44 years.
- » In 2018, unadjusted gonorrhea incidence rates varied by Tribal health region, ranging from 69.7 to 1,378.6 per 100,000.

Note: Number and rate do not include cases designated as multi-racial or with unknown race. Caution is advised when comparing data between years because changes to racial classification have occurred over time.

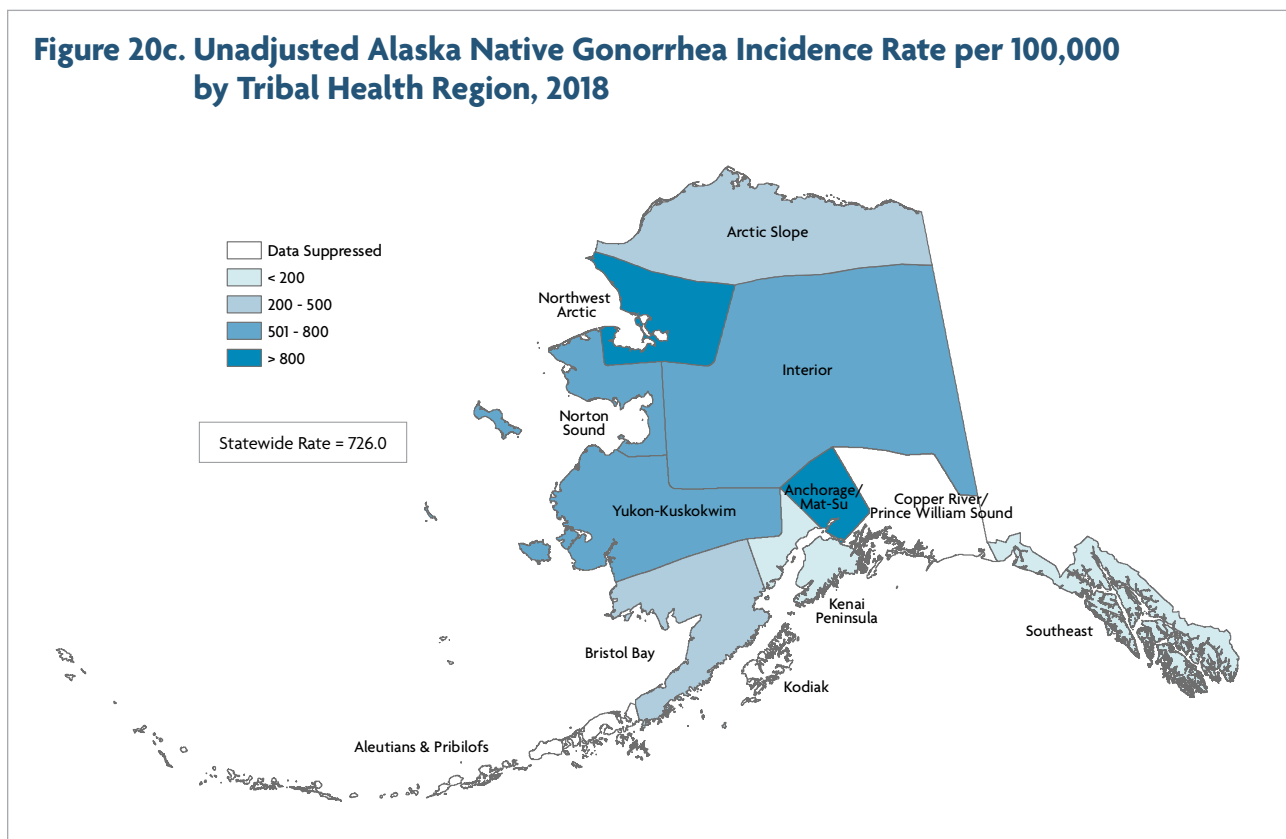
Gonorrhea

Figure 20b. Reported Gonorrhea Cases by Sex and Age, Alaska Native People, 2018



Data Source: Alaska Division of Public Health, HIV/STD Program

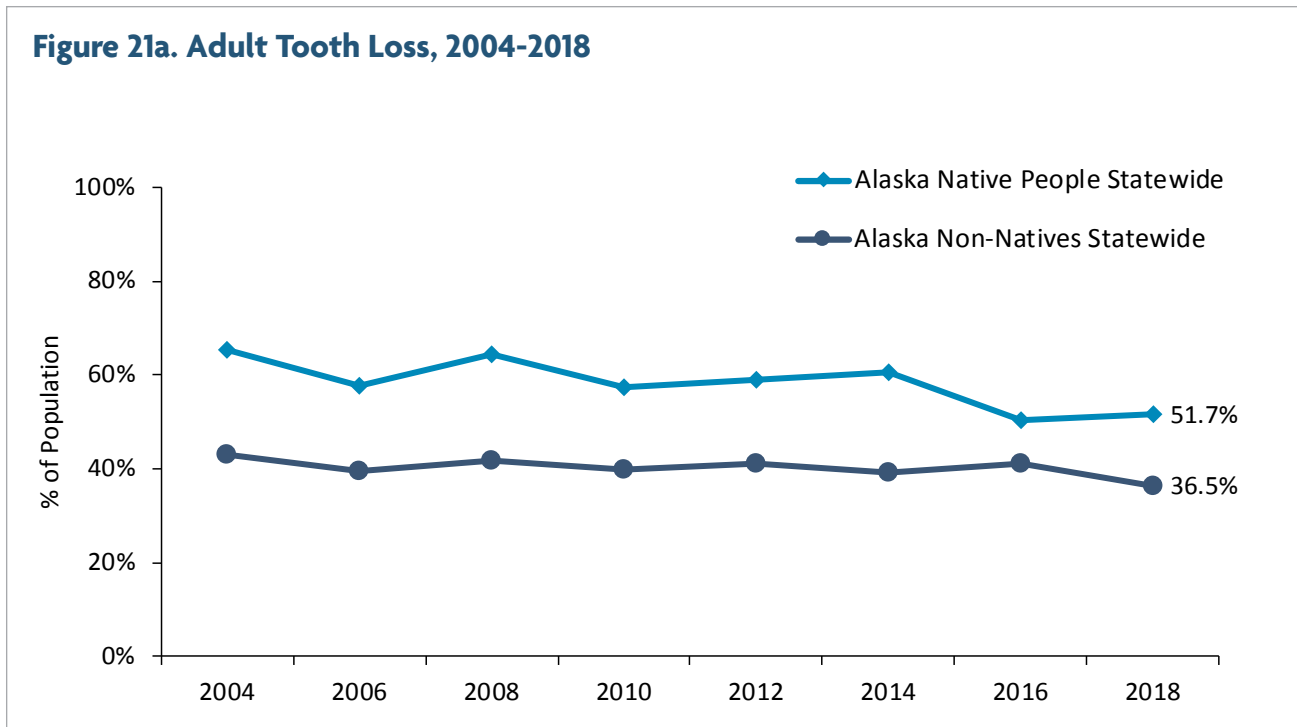
Figure 20c. Unadjusted Alaska Native Gonorrhea Incidence Rate per 100,000 by Tribal Health Region, 2018



Data Source: Alaska Division of Public Health, HIV/STD Program
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Tooth Loss

Figure 21a. Adult Tooth Loss, 2004-2018



Data Source: Alaska Division of Public Health, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System
Appendix Table C-51

Definition

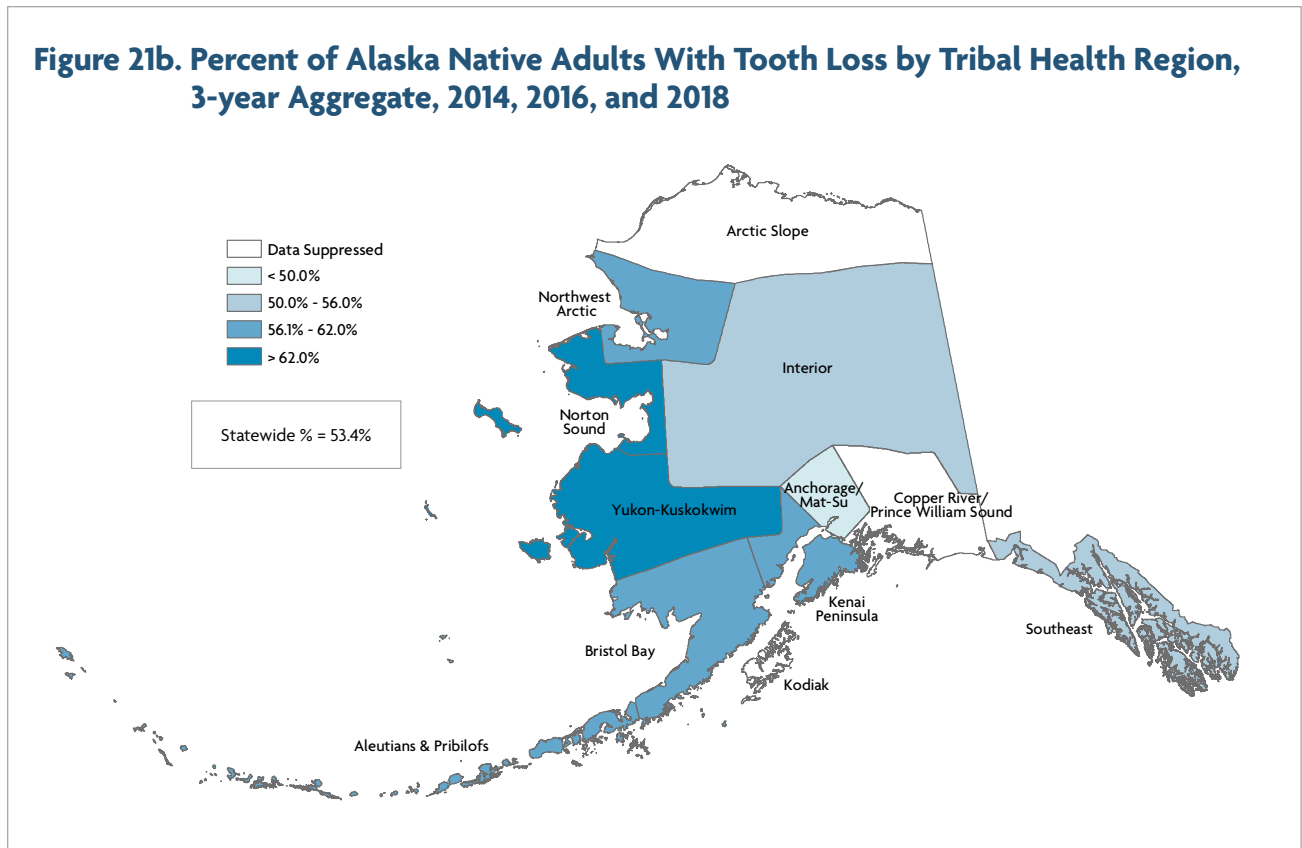
Tooth loss is measured as adults who report having one or more of their permanent teeth removed due to tooth decay or gum disease. Tooth loss is an important indicator of overall oral health and access to dental care. Tooth loss due to tooth decay or gum disease can be prevented by good oral hygiene and regular preventive services by a dentist. Good oral health is critical for an individual’s overall health and well-being.⁸

Summary

- » Slightly more than half (51.7%) of Alaska Native adults statewide reported tooth loss in 2018. This was significantly higher than among Alaska non-Native adults (36.5%).
- » Tooth loss among Alaska Native adults has significantly decreased since 2004.
- » During 2014-2018, the percent of Alaska Native adults who experienced tooth loss varied by Tribal health region, ranging from 40.4% to 67.4% of Alaska Native adults.

Tooth Loss

Figure 21b. Percent of Alaska Native Adults With Tooth Loss by Tribal Health Region, 3-year Aggregate, 2014, 2016, and 2018



Data Source: Alaska Division of Public Health, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System
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