

Introduction

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 report is intended to help health professionals, policy-makers, and researchers identify priorities for action. In addition, the information contained in this publication is relevant to a broader audience. As such, the media, educators, and members of the public with an interest in mortality statistics may also find this report valuable. We hope that these data will be used to improve the health and well-being of Alaska Native people.

This publication provides information about key mortality indicators among Alaska Native people. It includes detailed information on leading causes of death, life expectancy, and other related measures, including years of potential life lost and excess deaths. In addition, some chapters include statistics for causes that are not among the top ten leading causes of death. This information is presented by sex, age group, service region and trends over time. Data for this 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.

For a detailed explanation of the methodology used in creating and analyzing these statistics, please see Appendix A. Data tables are contained in Appendix B. For the International Classification of Diseases-10 (ICD10) code categorization, see Appendix C. Region definitions are available in Appendix D. Population denominators are included in Appendix E.