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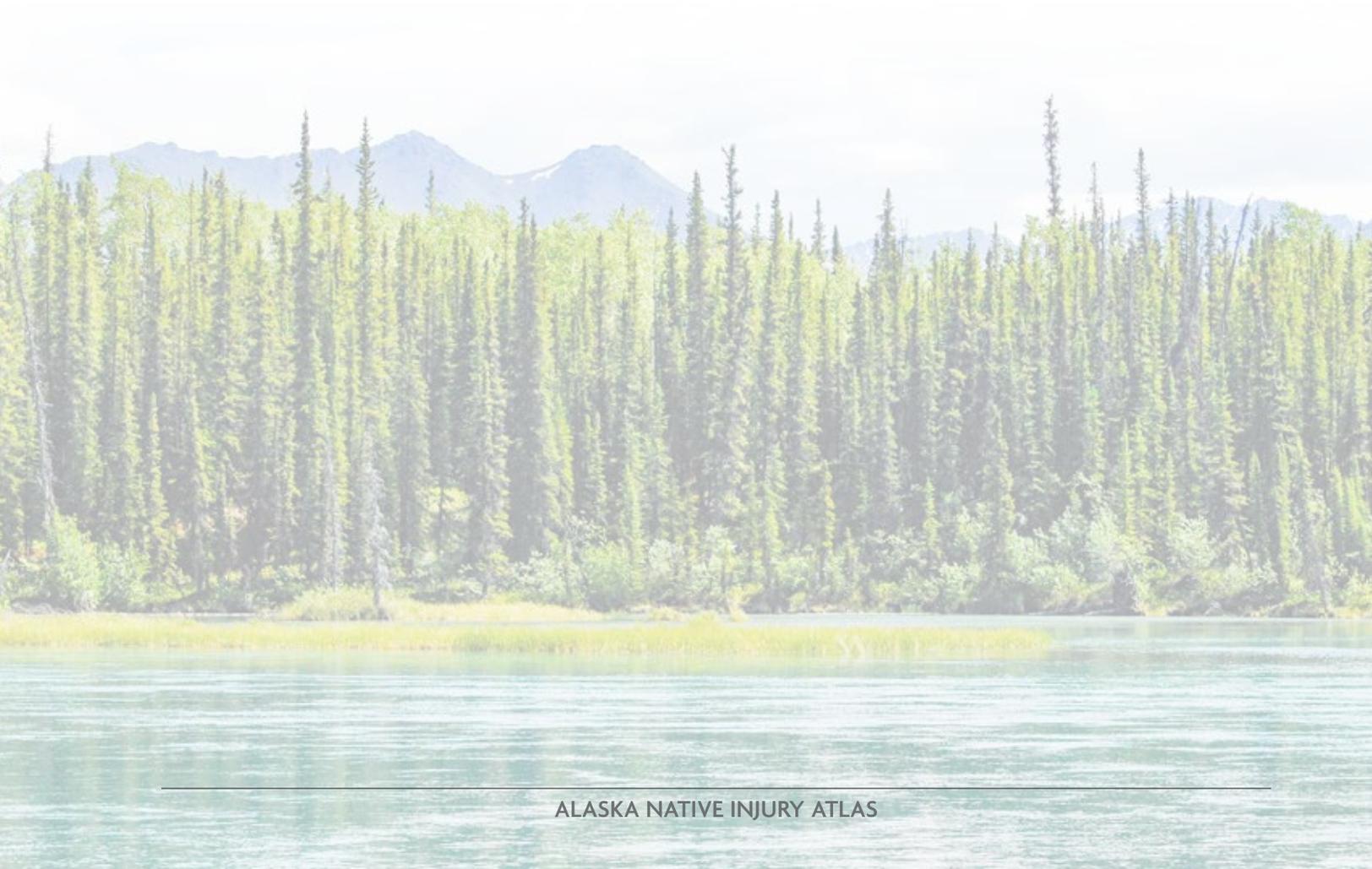
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Introduction

This report provides an update of injury among Alaska Native and American Indian (AN/AI) people reported in State of Alaska data sets. It describes the leading causes of injury-related death and hospitalization statewide and within each region. It presents stories about successes in Tribal injury prevention (IP), and describes some challenges to IP efforts in Alaska. Monitoring injuries over time can help identify which injury prevention efforts are successful and which may need to be improved. In addition, this surveillance can identify disparities and trends to help prioritize injury prevention efforts.

Injuries are broadly classified into two major categories: intentional and unintentional. Intentional injuries are purposeful or deliberate harm caused by one person to themselves or another person, such as homicide, assault, suicide and suicide attempt. Unintentional injuries are those where the harmful outcome was not intended, such as some poisonings, drowning, or motor vehicle crashes. **Intentional and unintentional injuries combined were the second leading cause of death for AN/AI people during 2007-2016.**

“Alaska Native people are the healthiest people in the world.”

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium’s Vision

Statewide data summaries use the most recent decade of data available, 2007 through 2016, for both deaths and hospitalizations. Regional trends are reported for thirteen regions. In the past, the Anchorage Municipality and Matanuska-Susitna regions were combined. In this edition these two regions are reported separately. For the more populated regions, the Regional Injury Profiles include data from 2007 through 2016. For regions with smaller numbers of people, data from 1997 to 2016 were analyzed.

Data and information gained from its interpretation contribute to the decision-making process. We hope that this information can guide advocacy, policy making, strategic and program planning, and program evaluation, and help create an environment where “Alaska Native people are the healthiest people in the world”.



Executive Summary

Injury Deaths 2007-2016

- 1,966 Alaska Native/American Indian (AN/AI) people died from injuries: 1,194 (60.7%) due to unintentional injuries, 675 (34.4%) due to intentional injuries, and 97 (4.9%) with undetermined intent. The three leading causes of injury death among AN/AI people were suicide, poisoning, and drowning. These three causes comprised 56.0% of all injury deaths.
- Between 1992-1996 and 2012-2016, there was a significant decrease in the rates of AN/AI people death due to drowning (34.7%) and motor vehicle crashes (44.5%).
- The drowning death rate of AN/AI people was 5.1 times that of non-Native people statewide.
- AN/AI people aged 20-29 years had the highest intentional injury death rate of any age group (131.7 per 100,000), with suicide as the most frequent cause. Those aged 70 and older had the highest unintentional injury death rate of any age group (237.5 per 100,000), with falls as the most frequent cause.

Injury Hospitalizations 2007-2016

- There were 13,527 hospitalizations for injury among AN/AI people: 9,667 (71.5%) due to unintentional injuries, 3,752 (27.7%) due to intentional injuries, and 108 (0.8%) with undetermined intent. The three leading causes of injury hospitalizations among AN/AI people were falls, suicide attempts, and assaults. These three caused 61.4% of all injury hospitalizations.
- Between 1992-1996 and 2012-2016, there was a significant decrease in the rates of falls (13.7%), assault (34.7%), and snowmachine-related (59.7%) injury hospitalizations among AN/AI people.
- Between 1992-1996 and 2012-2016, there was a significant increase in the rate of suicide attempt hospitalizations among AN/AI people (29.1%). This did not include hospitalization for intentional self-poisoning.
- The assault hospitalization rate of AN/AI people was 7.6 times that of non-Native people and the snowmachine-related injury rate of AN/AI people was 6.4 times that of non-Native people.
- AN/AI people aged 20-29 years had the highest intentional injury hospitalization rate of any age group (65.2 per 10,000), with assault as the most frequent cause. Those aged 70 and older had the highest unintentional injury hospitalization rate of any age group (270.4 per 10,000), with falls as the most frequent cause.
- Alcohol was documented as being associated with 55.9% of all intentional injury hospitalizations and 28.0% of all unintentional injury hospitalizations among AN/AI people, based on blood alcohol, breathalyzer tests or other notes in the patient's medical record.

