EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

All-Cause Mortality

- The Alaska Native people all-cause mortality rate, both genders combined, during the period 2009-2013, was 51% higher than the U.S. White rate (2009-2013).

- Alaska Native people, both genders combined, had significantly higher rates than U.S. Whites for nine of the ten leading causes of death (i.e., cancer, heart disease, unintentional injuries, suicide, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, cerebrovascular disease, chronic liver disease, pneumonia and influenza, and alcohol abuse).

- Rate ratios of Alaska Native people compared to U.S. Whites were highest for alcohol abuse (7.1), suicide (2.9), unintentional injury (2.6), and chronic liver disease (2.4).

- Age-specific mortality rates for all causes combined showed significantly higher mortality rates among Alaska Native people than among U.S. Whites for all age categories except those 75 years and older. Disparities between the two populations were highest under 45 years of age, and appeared to decline progressively in both genders as age increased. The decrease in rate ratios with increasing age occurred in both males and females separately. Age-specific rates were significantly higher among males than females for all ages.

- All-cause mortality rates were significantly higher for the Norton Sound service region as compared to all other service regions combined. All-cause rates were significantly lower for the Aleutian and Pribilof service region than all other service regions combined.

- The all-cause mortality rate for Alaska Native people declined significantly (13%) between 1980-1983 and 2009-2013; similar to the significant 25% decline among U.S. Whites during this period.

- After a number of periods of declining mortality rates, the Alaska Native all-cause mortality rate increased 4% since the last five year period.
Excess Mortality

- The three leading causes of excess mortality among Alaska Native people, both genders combined, were unintentional injury (22.2%), cancer (16.1%), and suicide (11.3%).
- Among Alaska Native men, unintentional injury (38.3%), suicide (34.9%), and homicide (7.9%) were the leading causes of excess mortality.
- Among Alaska Native women, unintentional injury (19.8%), cancer (12.3%), and chronic liver disease (7.9%) were the leading causes of excess mortality.

Years of Potential Life Lost

- Alaska Native people experienced an average of 27.1 years of potential life lost before age 75 from all-causes during the 2009-2013 time period.
- Unintentional injury (YPLL=19,349) caused the greatest number of years of potential life lost among Alaska Native people, both genders combined, and among men (YPLL=12,310) and women (YPLL=7,005), separately.

First Leading Cause of Death - Cancer

- Cancer was the leading cause of death among Alaska Native people, for males, females, and both genders combined, for the time period 2009-2013.
- The cancer mortality rate for Alaska Native people, both genders combined, was significantly higher than for U.S. Whites (RR=1.4).
- Among Alaska Native people, both genders combined, cancer was the leading cause of death for all age groups 45 and older.
- There was a significant increase (5%) in Alaska Native cancer mortality rates between 1980-1983 and 2009-2013. U.S. White rates did not change significantly during this period.

Second Leading Cause of Death - Heart Disease

- For the first time, heart disease mortality rates for Alaska Native people, both genders combined, were significantly higher than U.S. White rates (RR=1.1).
The rates for Alaska Native males were significantly higher than those of U.S. White males (RR=1.2). Alaska Native females had a slightly lower heart disease mortality rate than U.S. White females, but the difference was not significant.


Third Leading Cause of Death - Unintentional Injury

Unintentional injury was the third leading cause of death for Alaska Native people, both genders combined. It ranked third among causes of death for both Alaska Native males and females.

For Alaska Native people, both genders combined, unintentional injury mortality rates were 2.6 times the U.S. White rate. Rates for Alaska Native males were 2.3 times the U.S. White male rate. Rates for Alaska Native females were 3.0 times those for U.S. White females.

Unintentional injury deaths resulted in an average of 37.5 years of potential life lost.

Unintentional injury mortality rates declined 43% for Alaska Native people, both genders combined, between 1980-1983 and 2009-2013. U.S. Whites experienced a 4% decline during this period.

Fourth Leading Cause of Death - Suicide

Suicide was the fourth leading cause of death among Alaska Native people, both genders combined. It ranked fourth among Alaska Native males and seventh among Alaska Native females.

The suicide rate for Alaska Native people, both genders combined, was 2.9 times the U.S. White rates. The rate ratios were 2.9 for both Alaska Native males and females compared to U.S. White males and females.
• There has been a significant decrease of 3% in suicide mortality rates among Alaska Native people between 1980-1983 and 2009-2013. U.S. Whites experienced a significant 5% increase during this period.

Fifth Leading Cause of Death – COPD
• Alaska Native people, both genders combined, experienced an COPD mortality rate 1.5 times the U.S. White rate. The mortality rate for Alaska Native males was 1.5 times the U.S. White male rate. The mortality rate for Alaska Native females was 1.4 times the U.S. White female rate.
• Alaska Native COPD mortality rates increased 150% between 1980-1983 and 2009-2013. COPD mortality rates increased 47% among U.S. Whites during this period.

Sixth Leading Cause of Death - Cerebrovascular Disease
• Alaska Native people, both genders combined, experienced cerebrovascular disease mortality rates 1.5 times the U.S. White rate. The mortality rate for Alaska Native females was a significant 1.7 times the rate for U.S. White females.
• Alaska Native cerebrovascular disease mortality rates decreased 15% between the 1980-1983 and 2009-2013. Cerebrovascular disease mortality rates decreased 57% among U.S. Whites during this period.

Seventh Leading Cause of Death – Chronic Liver Disease
• The chronic liver disease and cirrhosis mortality rate for Alaska Native people, both genders combined, was a significant 2.4 times the U.S. White rate. Rates for Alaska Native males were a significant 1.5 times the U.S. White male rate, and Alaska Native females were a significant 4.1 times the U.S. White female rate.
• Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis mortality rates for Alaska Native people declined significantly (15%) between 1980-1983 and 2009-2013. Rates declined 21% among U.S. Whites during this period.
Eighth Leading Cause of Death - Pneumonia and Influenza

- Mortality rates for Alaska Native people, both genders combined, were 1.7 times the U.S. White rate. Rates for Alaska Native males were 1.4 times those for U.S. White males. Rates for Alaska Native females, however, were 1.9 times the U.S. White female rate.

- There was a 50% decline in pneumonia and influenza mortality rates for Alaska Native people, both genders combined, between 1980-1983 and 2009-2013. U.S. Whites experienced a significant 47% decline during this period.

Ninth Leading Cause of Death – Diabetes Mellitus

- This is the first time period where diabetes is in the top ten leading causes of death among Alaska Native people.

- Diabetes mellitus mortality rates among Alaska Native people, both genders combined, were 1.1 times the U.S. White rate, though this difference was not significant. Alaska Native males compared to U.S. White males had 10% lower mortality rates, and Alaska Native females compared to U.S. White females had 30% higher rates.

- Alaska Native people experienced a 302% increase in diabetes mortality rates between 1980-1983 and 2009-2013. Among U.S. Whites there was a 3% increase during this period.

Tenth Leading Cause of Death – Alcohol Abuse

- Alcohol abuse mortality rates for Alaska Native people, both genders combined, were 7.1 times the U.S. White rate. Alaska Native males had rates 4.7 times the U.S. White male rate. Rates for Alaska Native females were 15.7 times the rate for U.S. White females.

Life Expectancy

- Life expectancy for Alaska Native people born between 2009-2013 is estimated to be 70.7 years.
- For Alaska Native people, both genders combined, life expectancy was 8.4 years shorter than U.S. Whites. In males, Alaska Native life expectancy was 68.5 years (8.2 years shorter than U.S. White males) and in females, life expectancy was 72.9 years (8.5 years shorter than U.S. White females).