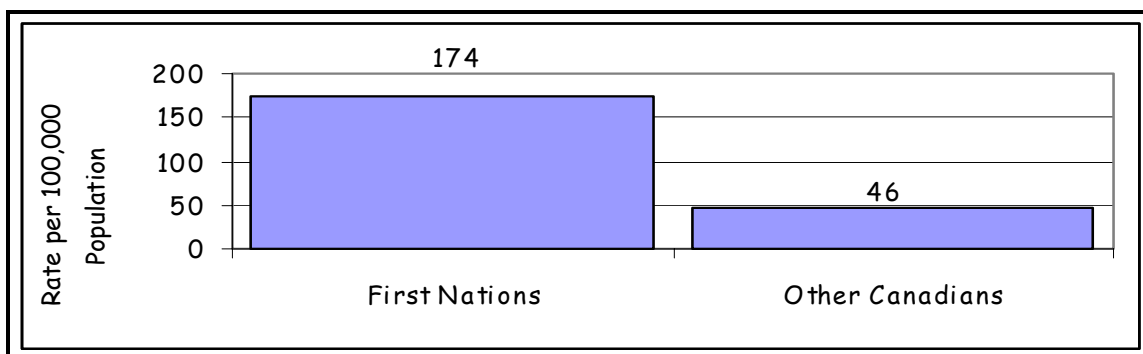


The facts about First Nations injuries in Canada and Alberta

In Canada

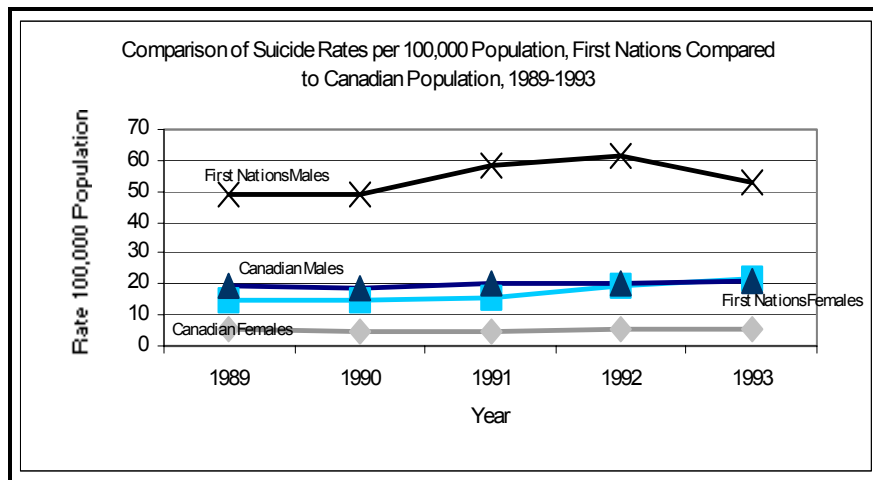
- First Nations people as defined by the Indian Register* make up 1.9% of the Canadian population.¹
- Injury and poisoning** is the leading cause of death in the First Nations population accounting for more than half of all deaths.¹
- Injury and poisoning is one of the leading causes of potential years of life lost among First Nations people. In 1993, more than 26,000 potential years of life were lost.¹
- Between 1991 and 1993, the injury and poisoning death rate was nearly four times higher among First Nations peoples than other Canadians.¹



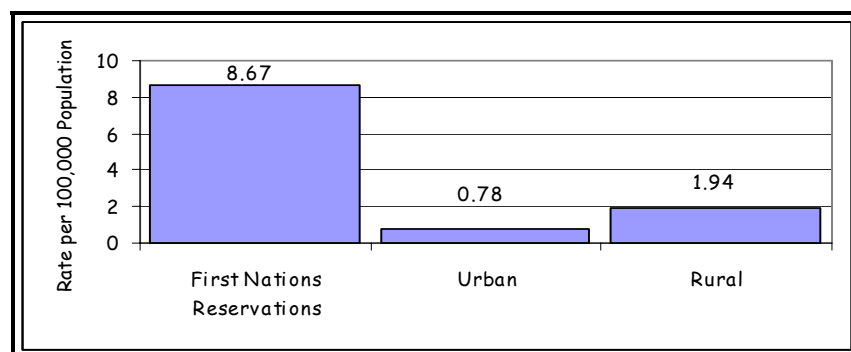
In Alberta between 1983 and 1996

- Four out of 10 First Nations deaths were due to injury and poisoning.²
- Injury and poisoning was the leading cause of death for First Nations, far exceeding the second leading cause, circulatory disease, which was responsible for 787 deaths.²
- Injury and poisoning accounted for 1762 deaths among First Nations people.²
- Motor vehicle related deaths were the leading cause of injury death (29%) followed by suicide (21%).²
- There were 494 motor vehicle related deaths among First Nations people in Alberta. One-third of these deaths were young people less than 20 years old.²
- Suicide resulted in 365 lives lost.² Hanging was the method most commonly used in suicides (40.5%), followed by firearms (33.5%).²
- Nationally, death due to suicide is one of the greatest disparities between First Nations peoples and other Canadians.¹

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- In 1996, there were 10 homicides among First Nations people in Alberta. This accounted for nearly 20% of all homicides among Albertans that year.²
- Between 1989 and 1998, there were 44 deaths, 64 injuries, and more than 25 million dollars in property losses due to 954 fires on First Nations reservations.³
- The death rate from fires on First Nations reservations is 8.67 per 100,000 population. This rate is considerably higher than the non-reservation death rate for fires.³
- Nearly 7 out of every 10 homes that had fires on First Nations reservations did not have smoke alarms installed.³



*Persons who are registered as Indians under the terms of the *Indian Act* and whose names appear in the Indian Register maintained by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development

**Includes intentional and unintentional

1. Trends in First Nations Mortality, 1979-1993; Health Canada, 1996
2. The Aboriginal Injury Problem: Are you part of the solution?, Wadieh Yacoub, Medical Services Branch, Health Canada, 2nd Annual Aboriginal Conference Presentation, May 1999
3. Fires in First Nations Communities in Alberta, Mahendra Wijayasinghe, Fire Commissioner's Office, Alberta Municipal Affairs, 2nd Annual Aboriginal Conference Presentation, May 1999

A partnership between ACICR, Health Canada Medical Services Branch and Alberta Municipal Affairs.

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