

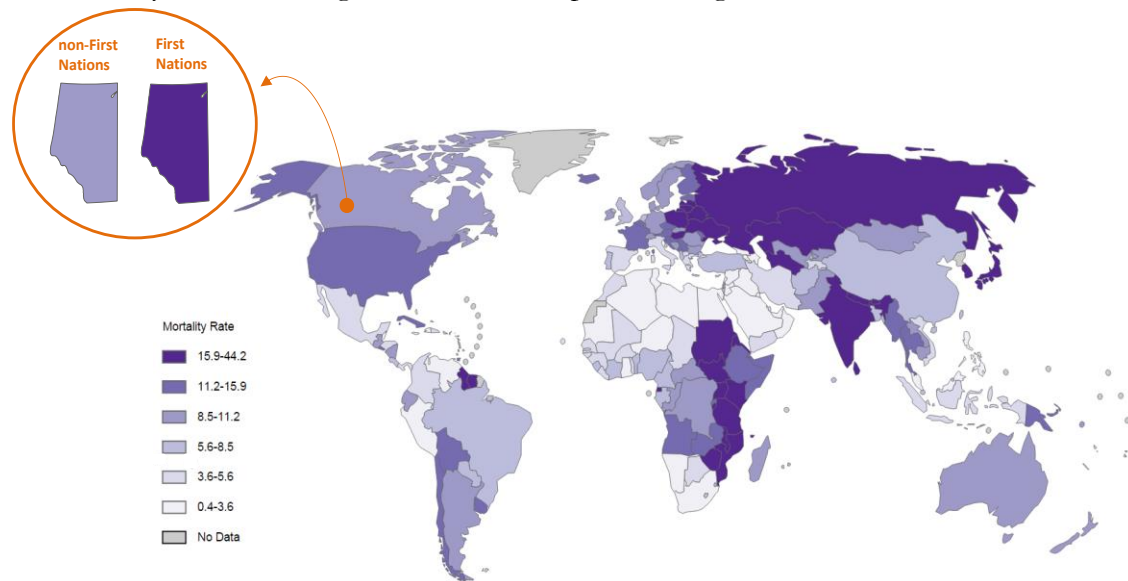
## Suicide Rates among First Nations people in Alberta

### Age-standardized suicide rates by country and First Nations status (Alberta, Canada), 2012

In this edition of *First Nations – Health Trends Alberta*<sup>1</sup> age-standardized mortality rates (ASMRs)<sup>2</sup> for intentional injury (suicide) in both males and females combined are presented for 172 countries and for non-First Nations and First Nations in Alberta separately.

Country-specific ASMRs for suicide were reported by the World Health Organization.<sup>3</sup> In 2012, reported suicide rates ranged from 0.4 per 100,000 population in Saudi Arabia to 44.2 per 100,000 in Guyana. According to the WHO, 75 per cent of global suicide in 2012 occurred in low- and middle-income countries; however, they note that data limitations across countries persist such as under-reporting and misclassification of cases, particularly in countries where suicide is illegal.<sup>4</sup>

Amongst the 172 countries reported, Canada was ranked 60<sup>th</sup> in 2012 with a suicide rate of 9.8 per 100,000 population.



### Suicide rate for First Nations is triple that for non-First Nations

In Alberta in 2012, there were 484 total deaths due to suicide: 364 in males and 120 in females (49 total in First Nations; 29 in males and 20 in females). The majority of suicides in First

Nations (57.1 per cent) occurred in those between the ages of 15 and 29 (23.7 per cent aged 15-29 in non-First Nations). To compare across populations, age-standardized rates were also estimated: the ASMR for suicide in non-First Nations in 2012 was 10.4 per 100,000 population. This ASMR was comparable to countries such as Argentina and Australia. For First Nations in the province, however, the ASMR was triple that of non-First Nations: 29.0 per 100,000 population. Countries with ASMRs similar to First Nations in Alberta included Sri Lanka and the Republic of Korea (South Korea).

1 This is the 6<sup>th</sup> in a series of First Nations-specific Health Trends compiled in collaboration by Alberta Health and the Alberta First Nations Information Governance Centre (AFNIGC). To suggest future topics, please contact the AFNIGC ([communications@afnigc.ca](mailto:communications@afnigc.ca); 403-539-5775).

2 All mortality rates reported here were standardized using the WHO World Standard Population (<http://www.who.int/healthinfo/paper31.pdf?ua=1>).

3 World Health Organization. Global Health Observatory data repository. Accessed online May 31, 2016 (<http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main.MHSUICIDE?lang=en/>).

4 World Health Organization. Suicide—Fact Sheet. Accessed online May 31, 2016 (<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs398/en/>).

Note: The world map was created using M<sup>3</sup>D<sup>3</sup> (CC-BY-SA Morten Ervik) and modified to include Alberta maps.