

## Stomach Cancer among First Nations in Alberta

### Age-standardized stomach cancer incidence rates by First Nations status and sex; 2006-2015

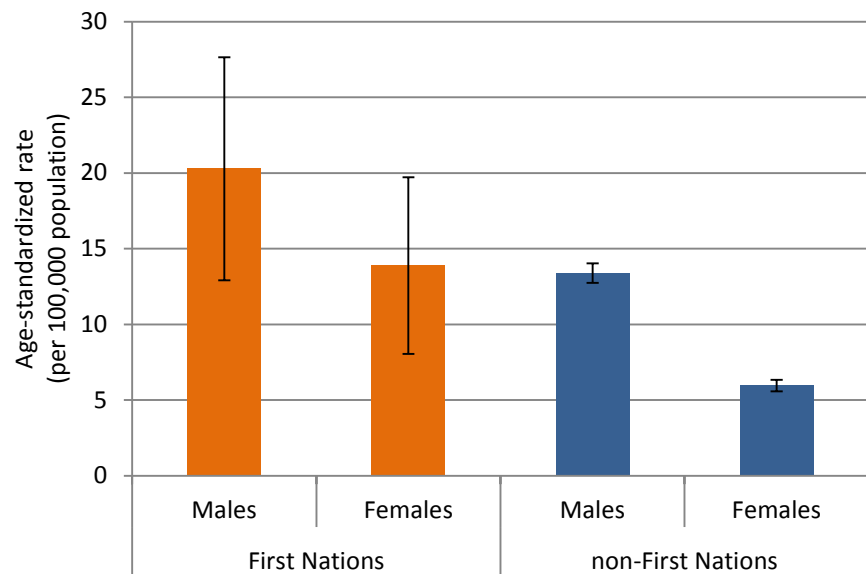
In 2012, there were almost one million estimated new cases of stomach cancer globally, making it the sixth most common cancer diagnosed worldwide.<sup>1</sup> In a previous *First Nations – Health Trends Alberta*<sup>2</sup> we compared the top ten cancer sites diagnosed between 2006 and 2015 among First Nations and non-First Nations people in Alberta. Stomach cancer was one of the cancer types noted to be disproportionately impacting First Nations people in the province. To further describe the extent of this burden, here<sup>3</sup> we estimate stomach cancer age-standardized incidence rates by sex for First Nations and non-First Nations in Alberta separately.

### Stomach cancer incidence rate 1.8 times higher among First Nations compared to non-First Nations people

Between 2006 and 2015, there was an annual average of approximately 281 cases of stomach cancer diagnosed in Alberta (9 among First Nations; 272 among non-First Nations).

Over this time period, the average age-standardized incidence rate for both sexes combined was 1.8 times higher among First Nations compared to their non-First Nations counterparts (16.9 versus 9.4 per 100,000 population, respectively). The difference in rates between First Nations and non-First Nations women was higher than the difference between men across populations: the rate for First Nations women was 2.3 times higher than for non-First Nations women (compared to 1.5 times higher for men).

Risk factors for stomach cancer differ by the area of the stomach where cancer begins: stomach cancers arising in the upper portion of the stomach (cardia) are associated with risk factors like obesity, whereas cancers of the lower portions of the stomach (non-cardia) are associated with lower socioeconomic status and with *Helicobacter pylori* infection. First Nations people in Alberta are disproportionately impacted by both cardia stomach cancers (rate 1.4 times higher than non-First Nations) and non-cardia stomach cancers (1.8 times higher).



1 [http://globocan.iarc.fr/Pages/fact\\_sheets\\_population.aspx](http://globocan.iarc.fr/Pages/fact_sheets_population.aspx)

2 <http://afnigc.ca/main/includes/media/pdf/fnhta/HTAFN-2017-10-31-TopCancerSites.pdf>

3 This is the 26<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).