
Statistics on deaths by suicide in Nunavut
(and other Inuit regions in Canada)
1975 to 2004

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Notes on statistics on deaths by suicide in Nunavut (1 of 3)

- This presentation summarizes statistics on 440 deaths by suicide in Nunavut for the 30-year period January 1, 1975 to December 31, 2004, with much greater detail for the period January 1, 1999 to December 31, 2003.
- Documents released by the Office of the Coroner of the Northwest Territories in the 1970s and 1980s were sometimes contradictory; the statistics contained in this presentation are a 'best effort' to compile accurate historical data.
- For the years 1975 to 1977 we know the number of suicides by region, and for the years 1978 to 1988 we know the number of suicides by community.

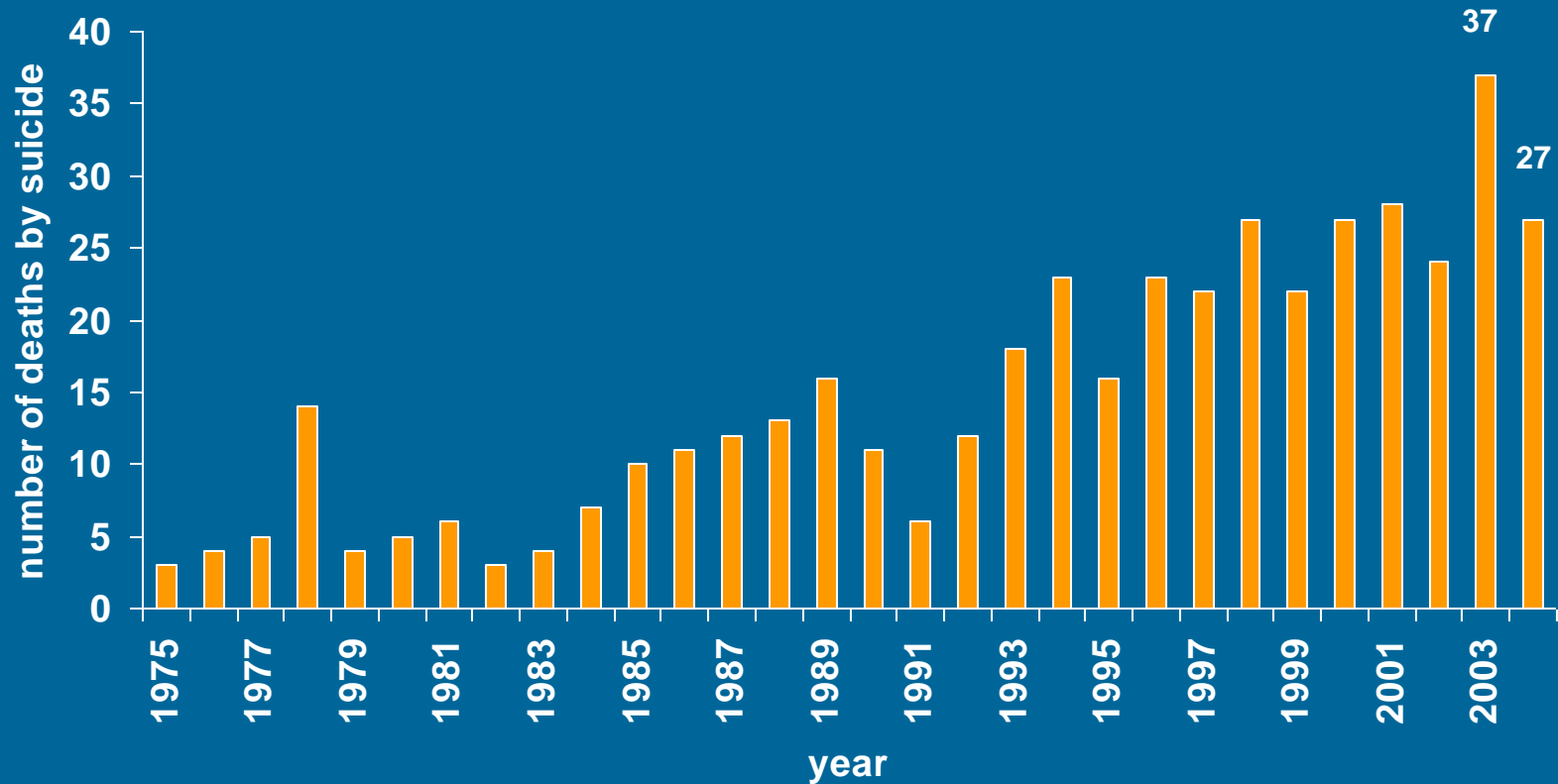
Notes on statistics on deaths by suicide in Nunavut (2 of 3)

- For the years 1989 to 2004 we know the date, community, ethnicity, sex, age and method of each death by suicide.
- These data come from the Office of the Chief Coroner of the Northwest Territories (1989-98) and the Office of the Chief Coroner of Nunavut (1999-2004).
- Only deaths deemed to have been suicides by the Offices of the Chief Coroners are included.
- 27% of all deaths in Nunavut (and 39% of 'reportable deaths') from 1999 to 2003 were suicides.

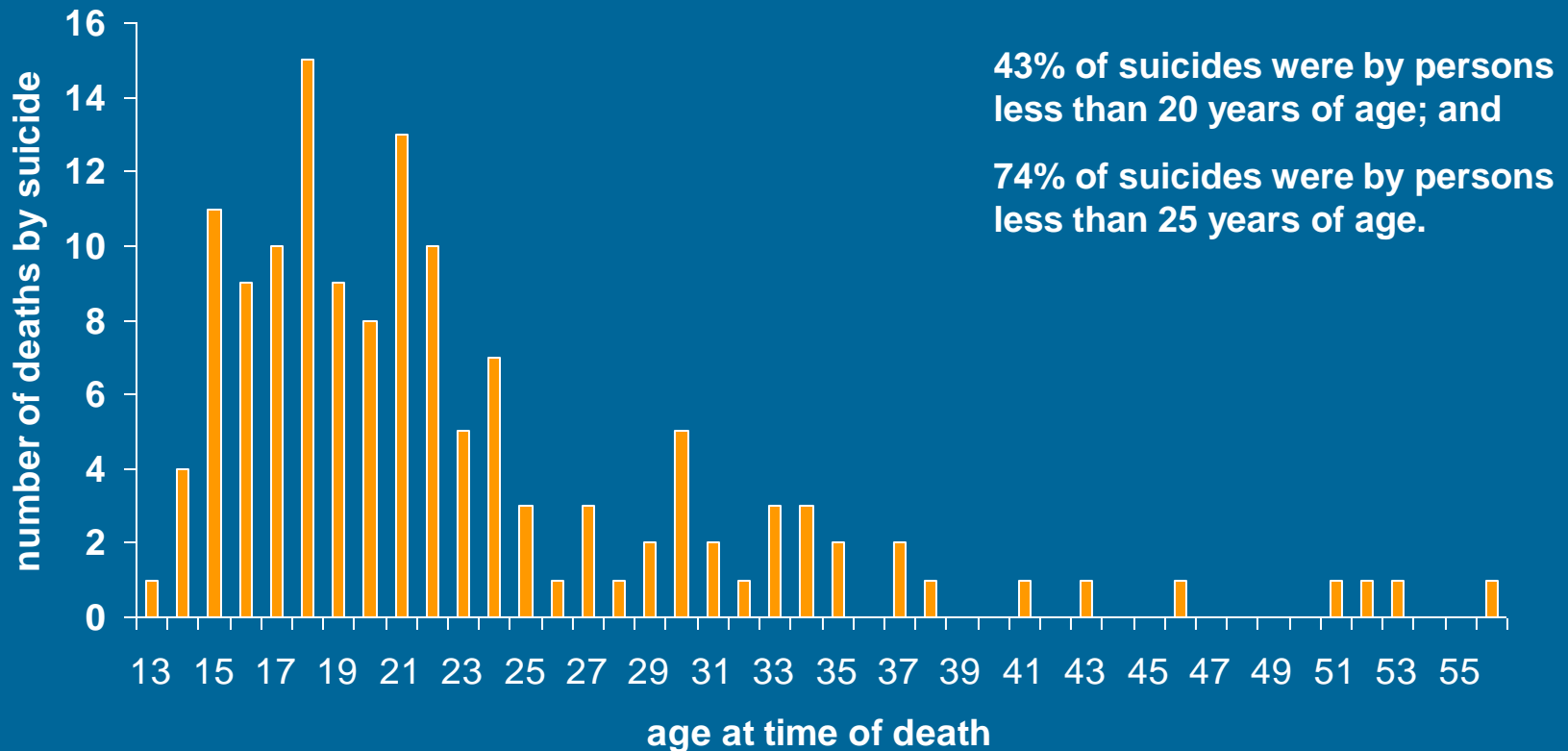
Notes on statistics on deaths by suicide in Nunavut (3 of 3)

- Deaths that occurred outside of Nunavut after individuals were medivaced from their communities after a suicide attempt are included in these records; however deaths by Nunavummiut who committed suicide outside of Nunavut (even if only temporarily absent from Nunavut or incarcerated outside Nunavut at the time of death) are not included.
- The most recent comparative data on rates of death by suicide across the provinces and territories available from Statistics Canada are from 2001.

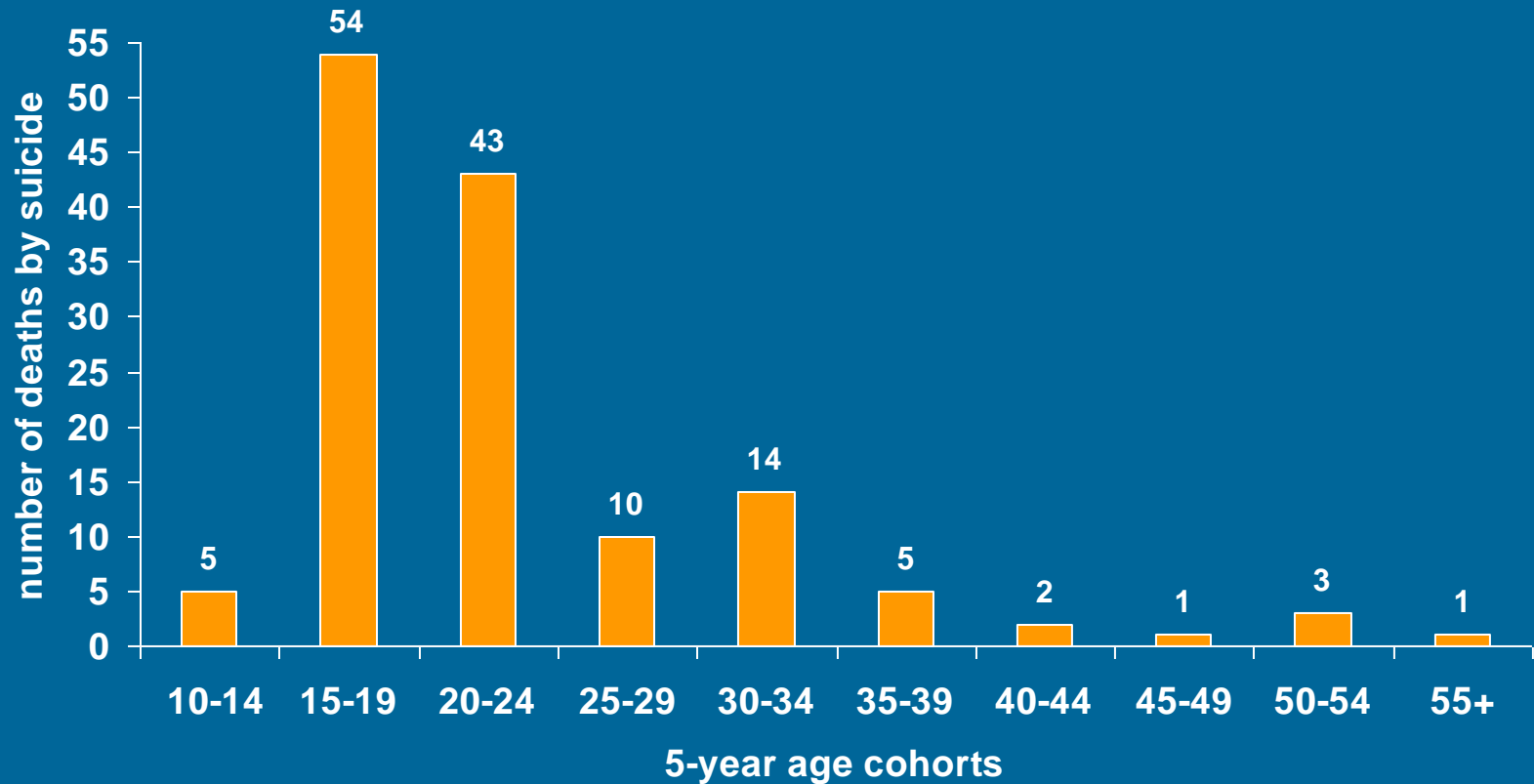
Deaths by suicide in Nunavut, by year, January 1, 1975 to December 31, 2004



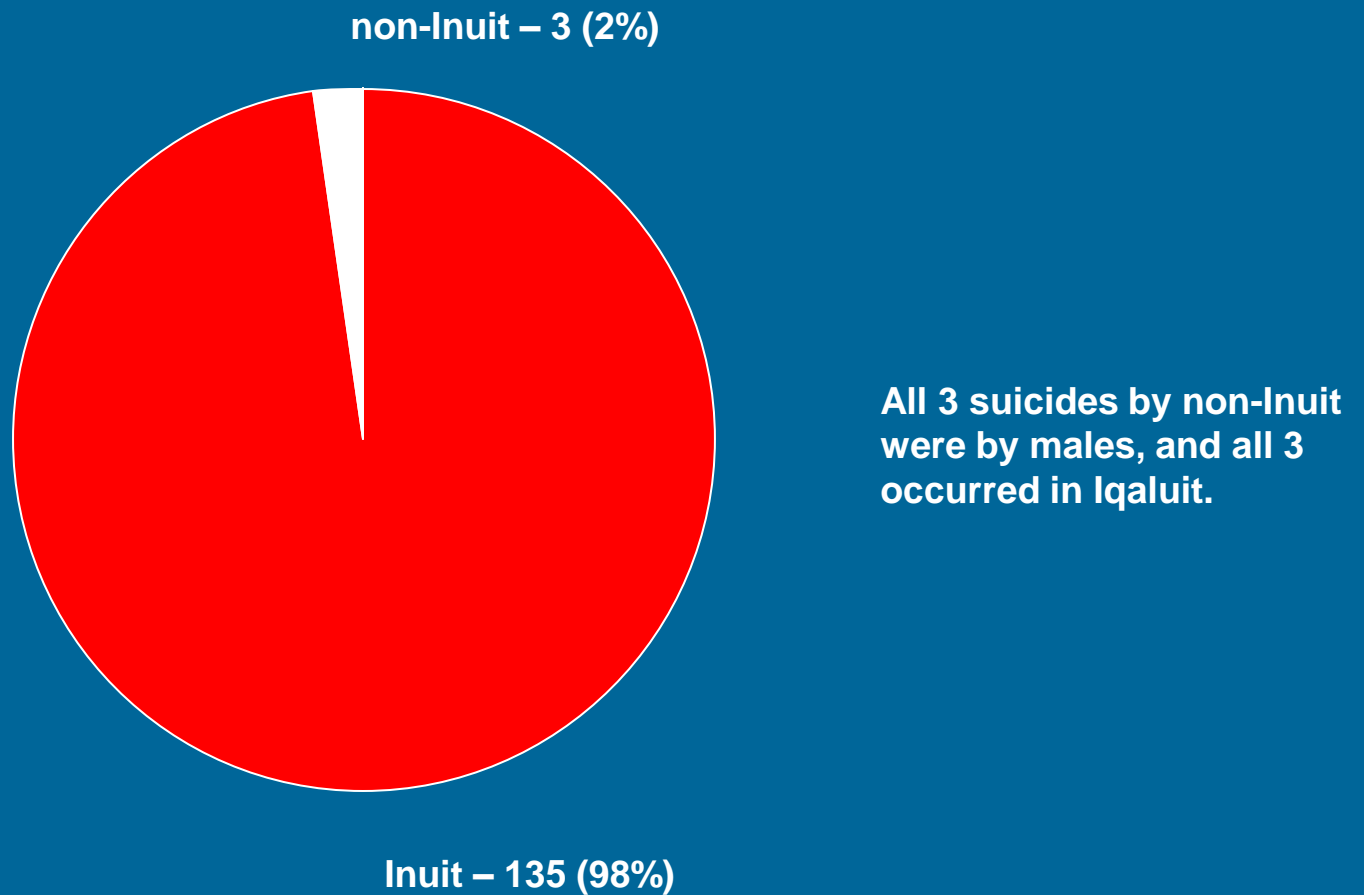
Deaths by suicide in Nunavut, by age, 1999-2003



Deaths by suicide in Nunavut, by age cohort, 1999-2003

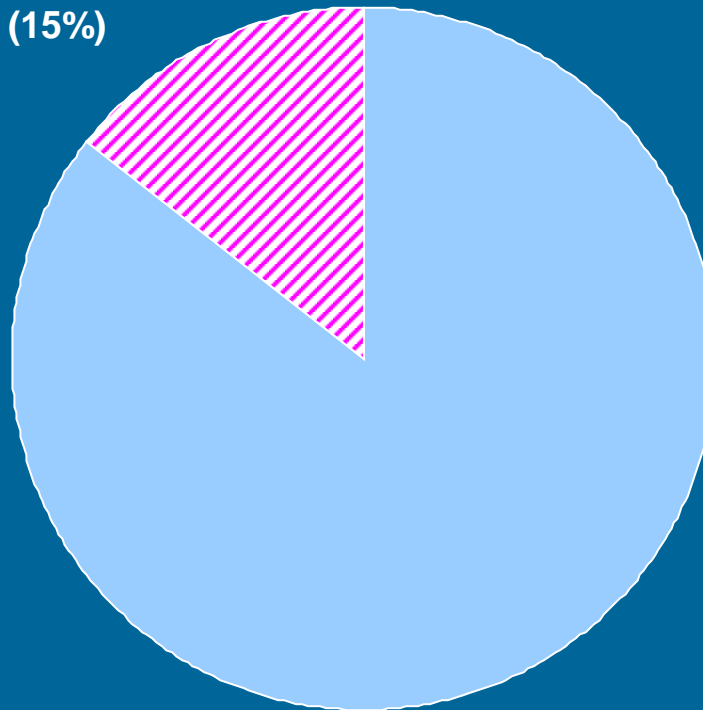


Deaths by suicide in Nunavut, by ethnicity, 1999-2003



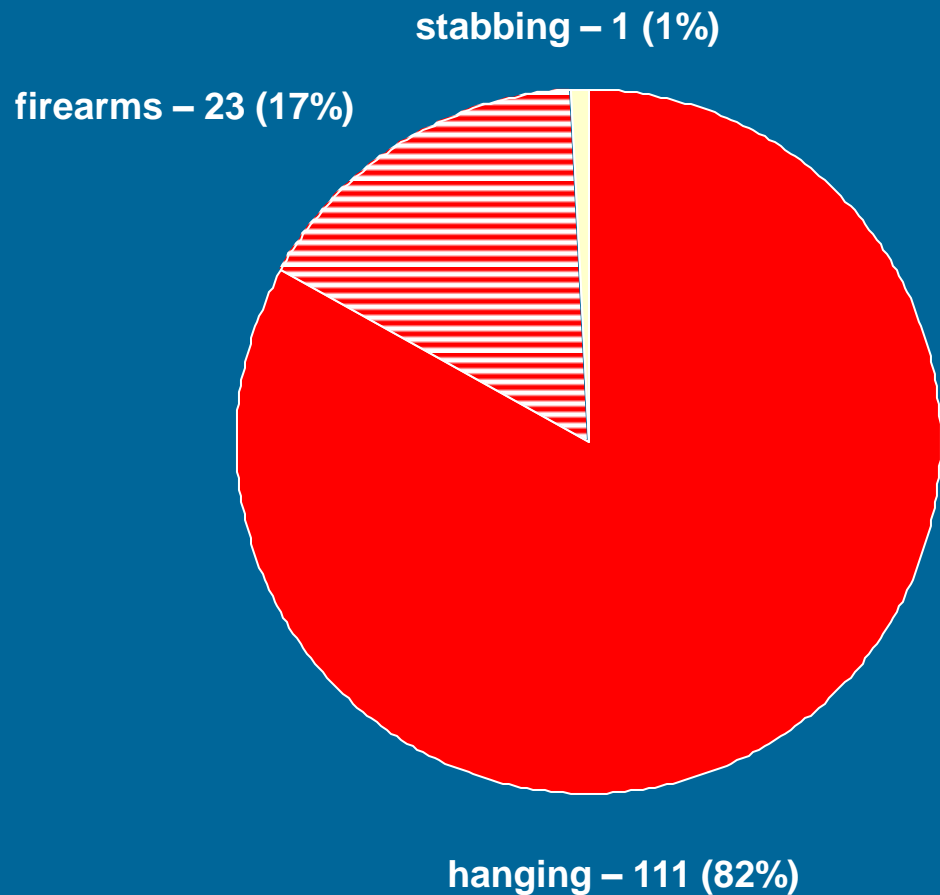
Deaths by suicide in Nunavut, by sex, 1999-2003

females – 20 (15%)



males – 118 (85%)

Deaths by suicide by Inuit in Nunavut, by method, 1999-2003

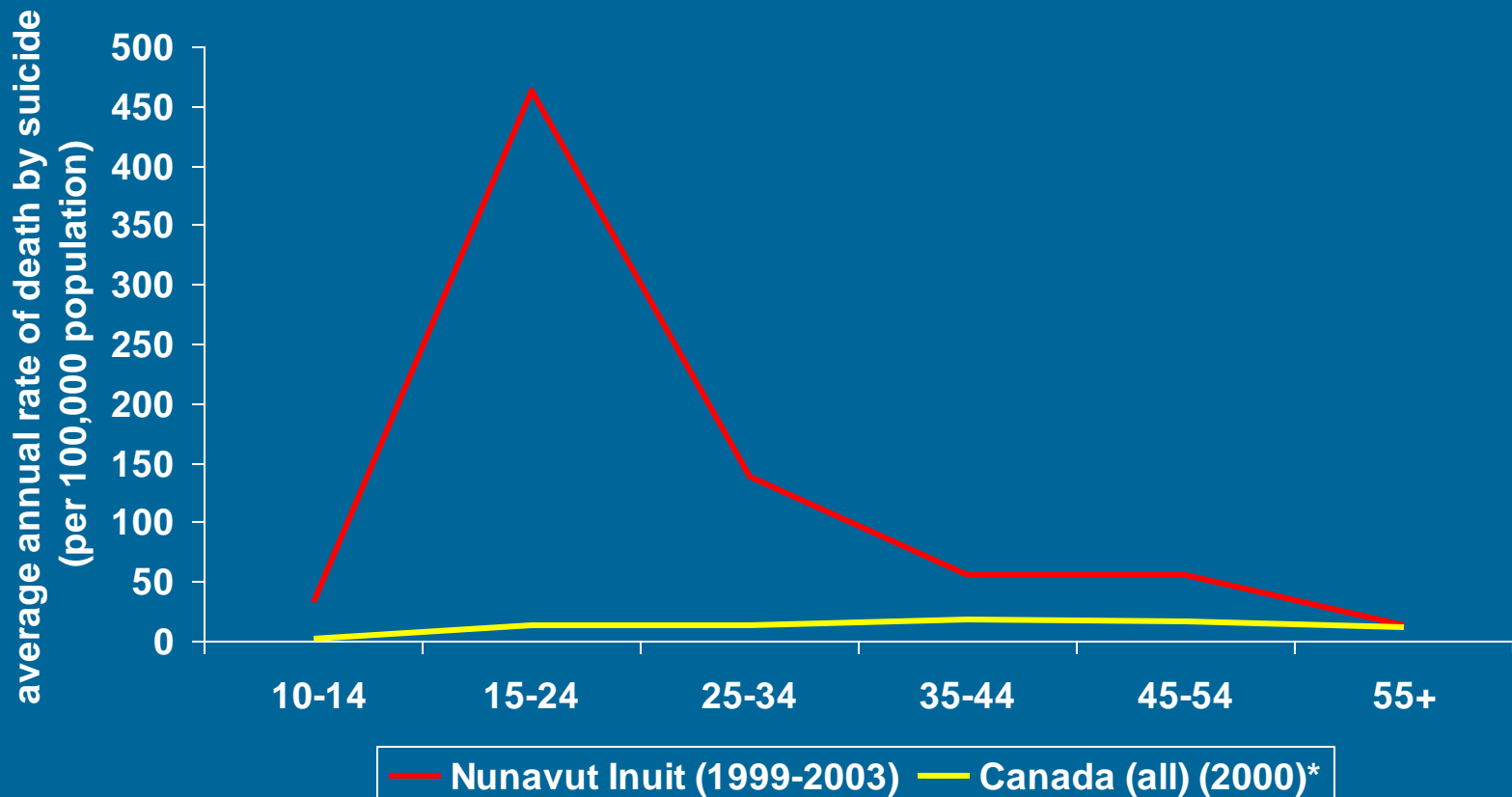


Only two of the suicides by firearms were by females. 10% of female suicides were by firearms, compared to 20% of male suicides.

Nation-wide 39% of male suicides are by hanging, with 22% by firearms and 13% by overdose. For female suicides nation-wide the methods are 34% by hanging, 31% by overdose and 7% by firearms. (Langlois and Morrison 2002)

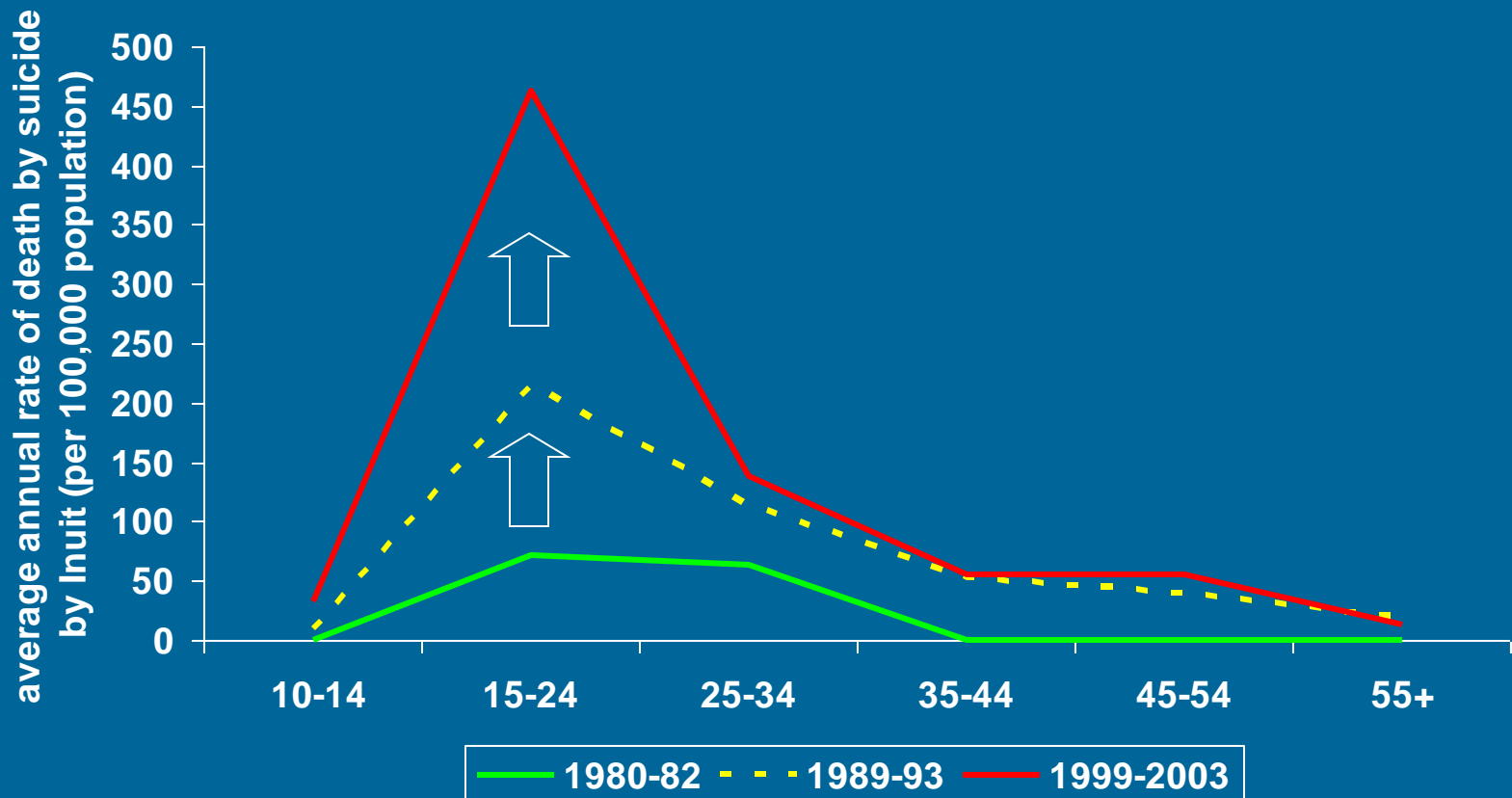
There has not been a suicide by overdose in Nunavut since 1997.

The age distribution of deaths by suicide in Nunavut differs dramatically from the pattern found Canada-wide

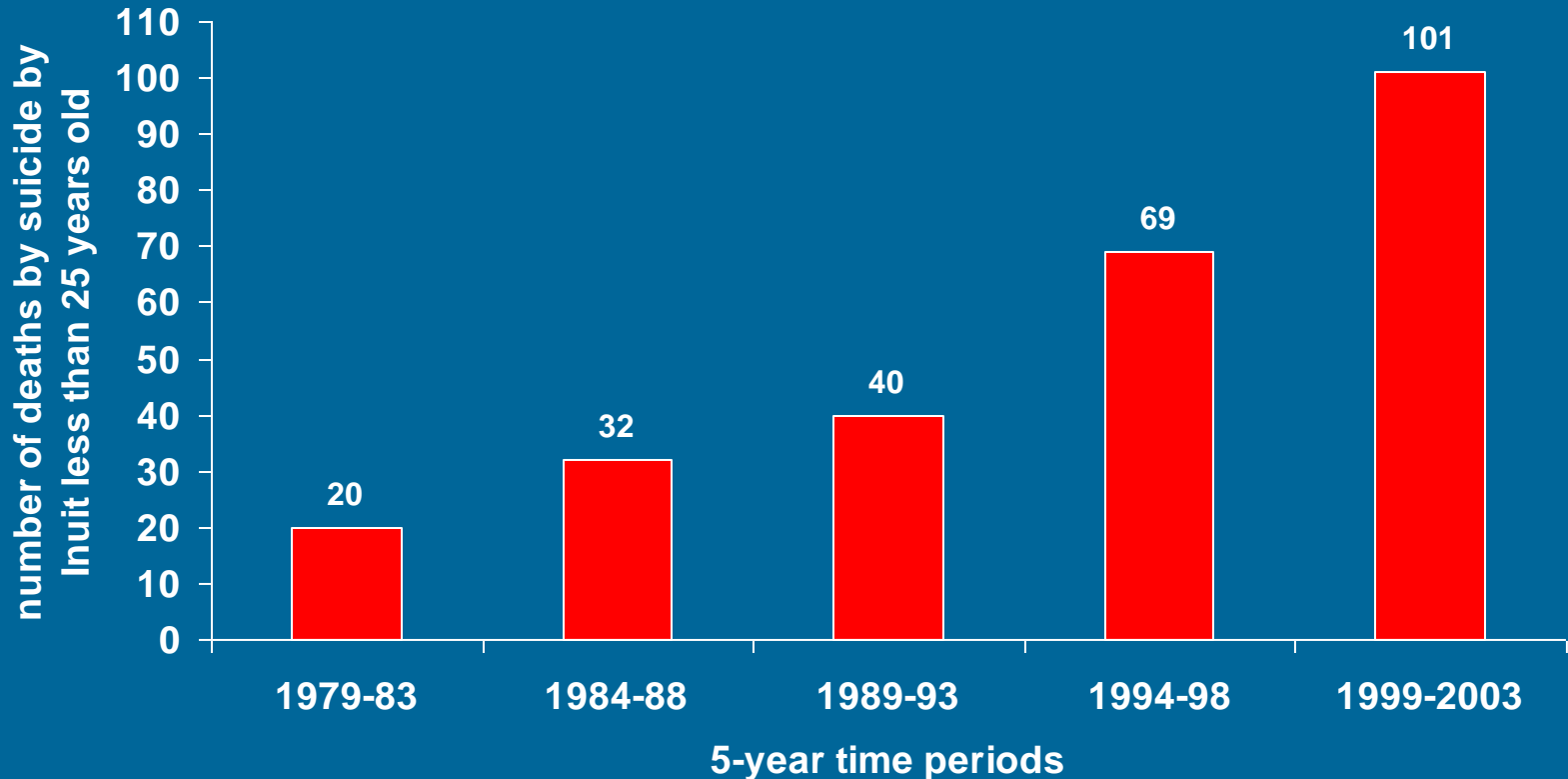


* from: Langlois & Morrison (2002)

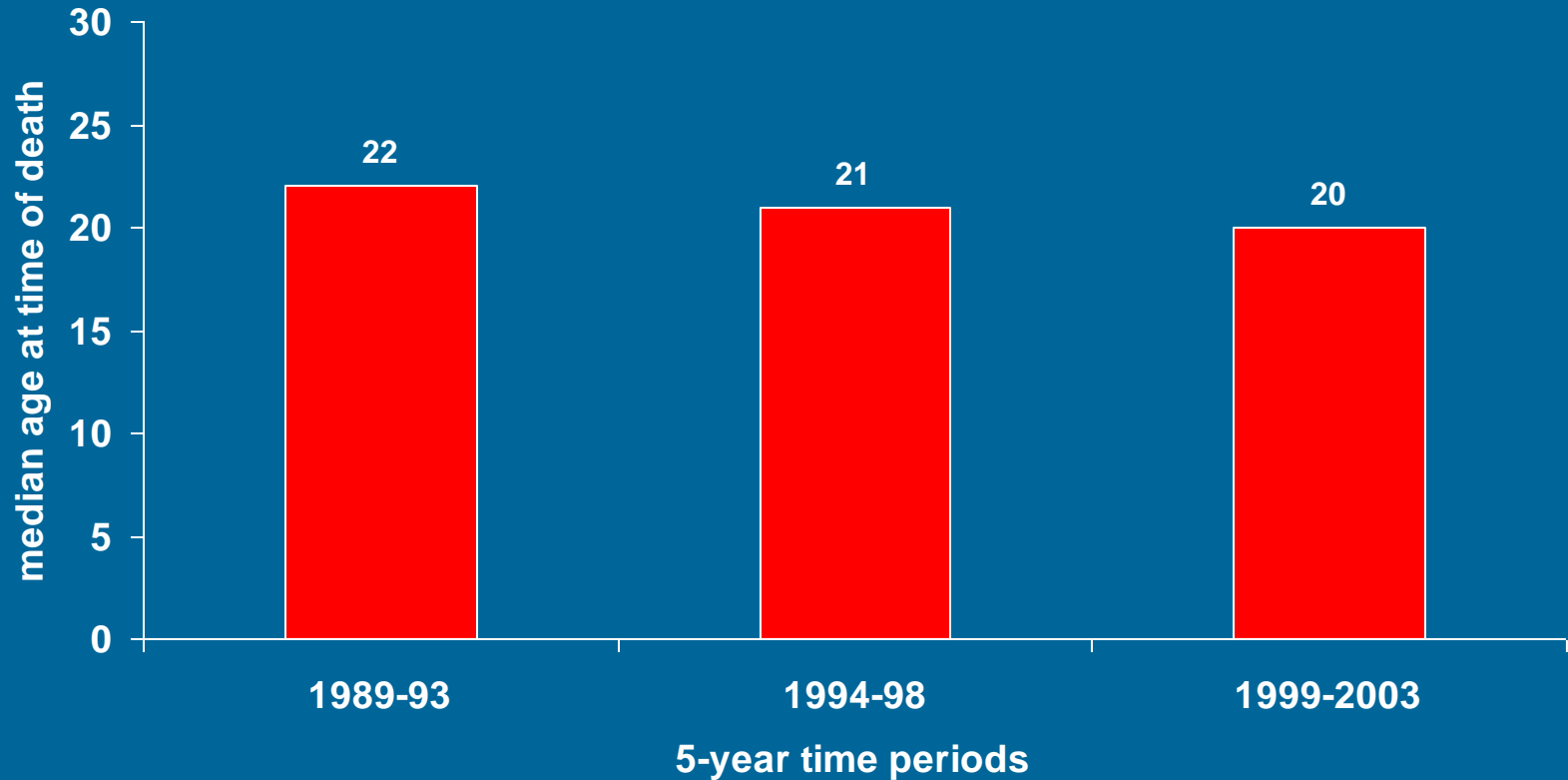
15 to 24 year-olds are the age cohort that has suffered the most significant increase in their rate of death by suicide



Recent years have seen a significant increase in the number of suicides in Nunavut by Inuit less than 25 years of age

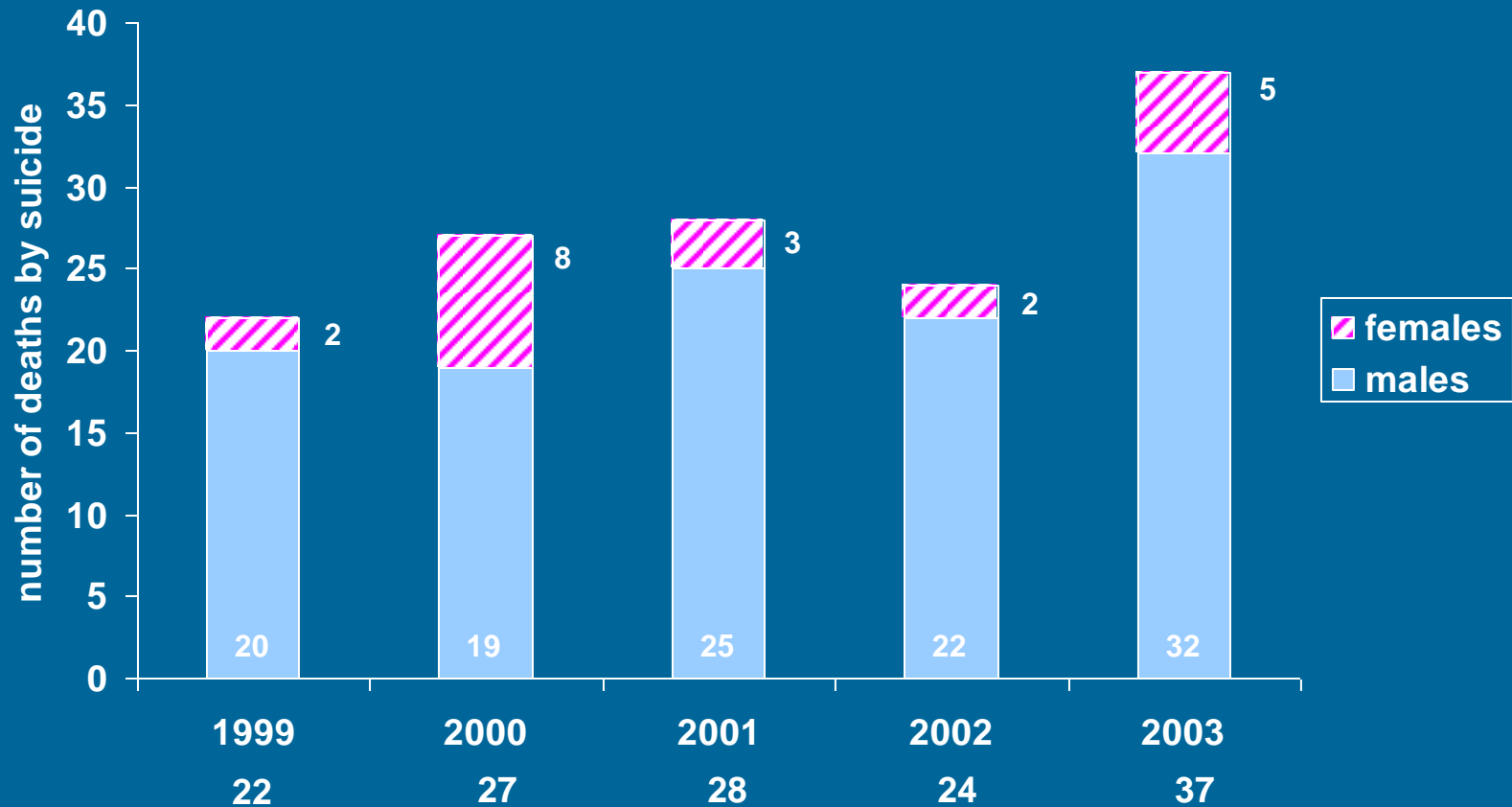


The median age at time of death by suicide by Inuit in Nunavut is becoming younger over time

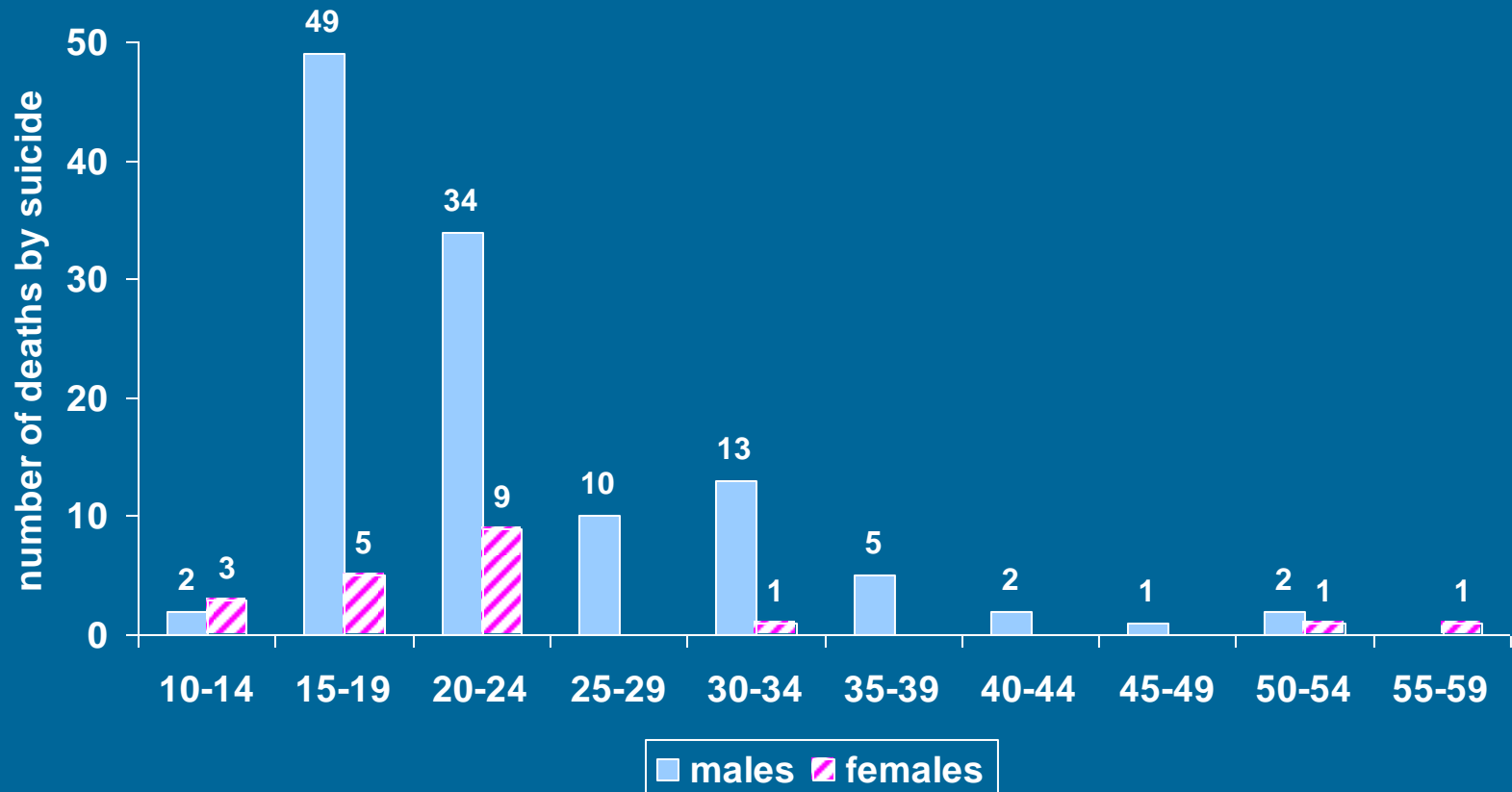


Deaths by suicide in Nunavut, by year and sex, January 1, 1999 to December 31, 2003

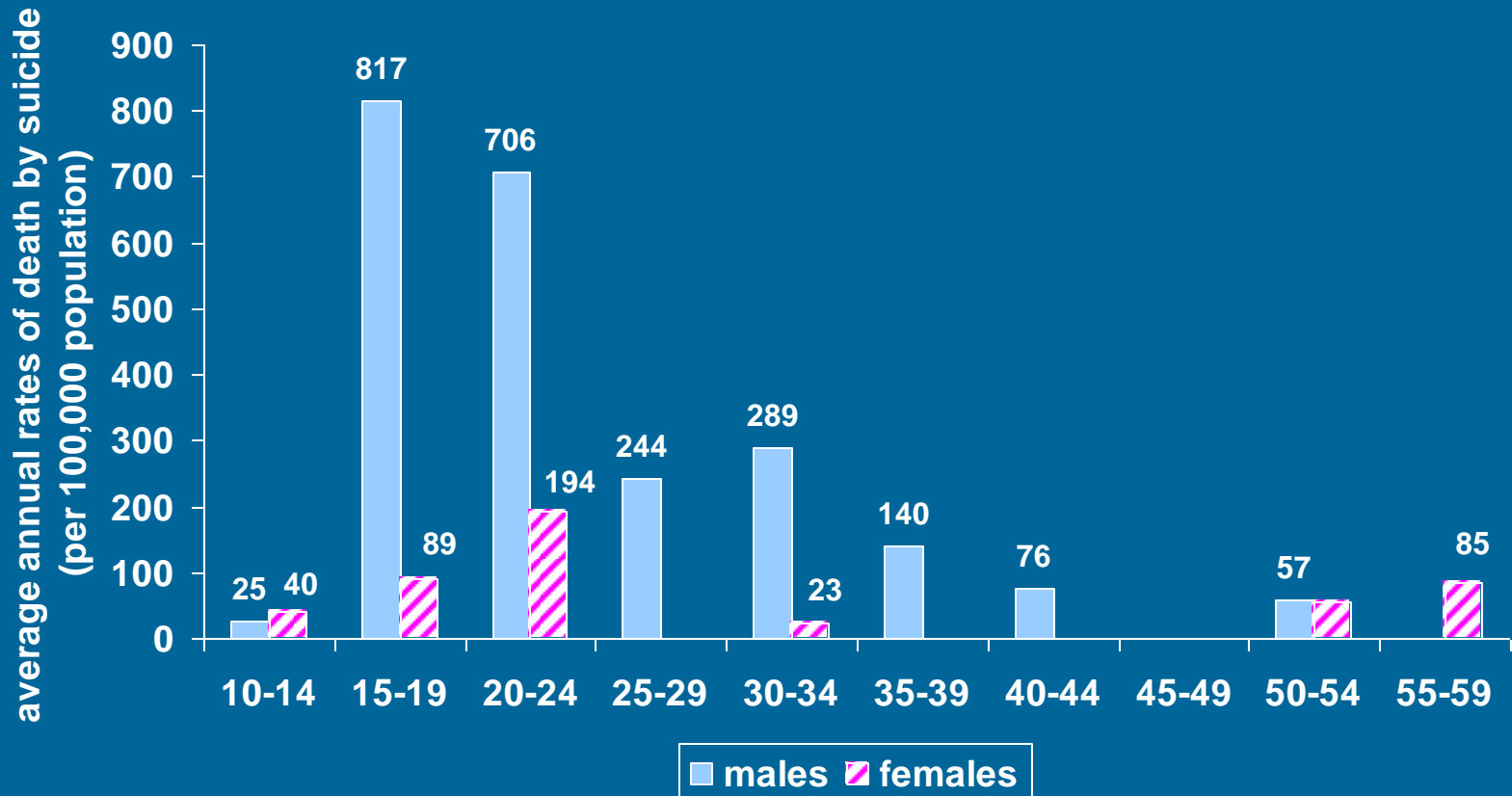
(total = 138)



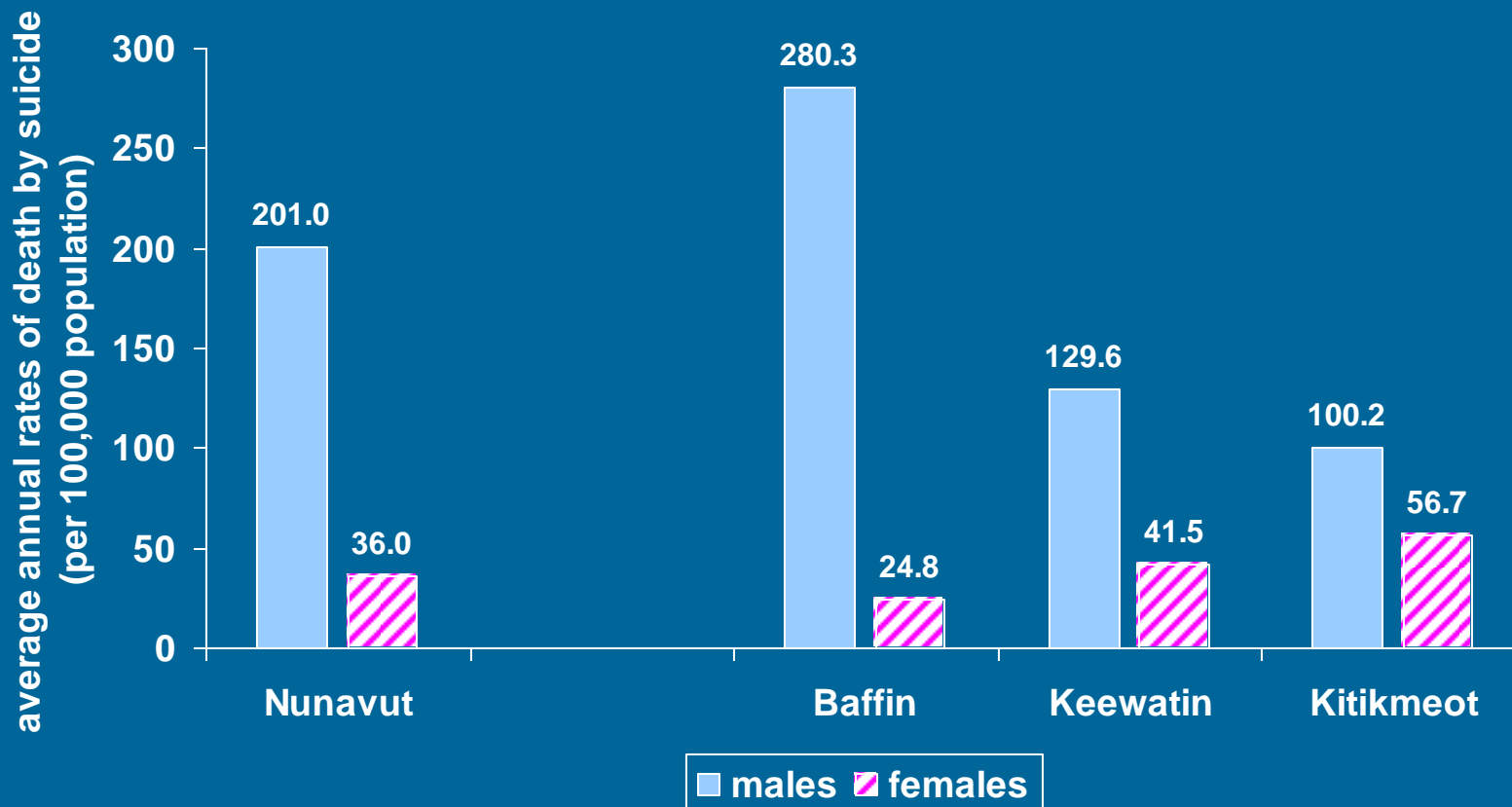
Deaths by suicide in Nunavut, by age cohort and sex, 1999-2003



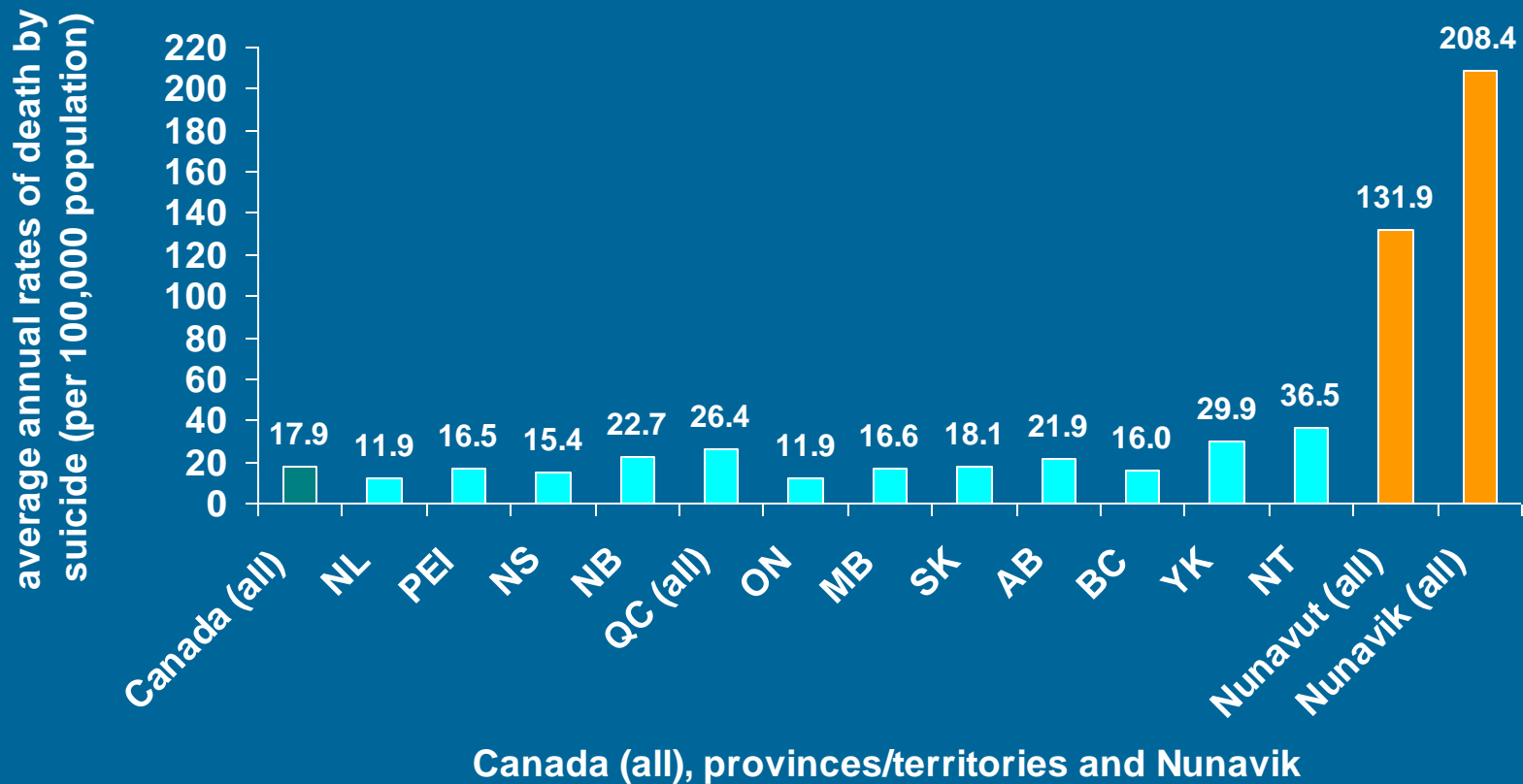
Rates of death by suicide in Nunavut, by age cohort and sex, 1999-2003



Average annual rate of death by suicide by Inuit in Nunavut, by region and sex, 1999-2003

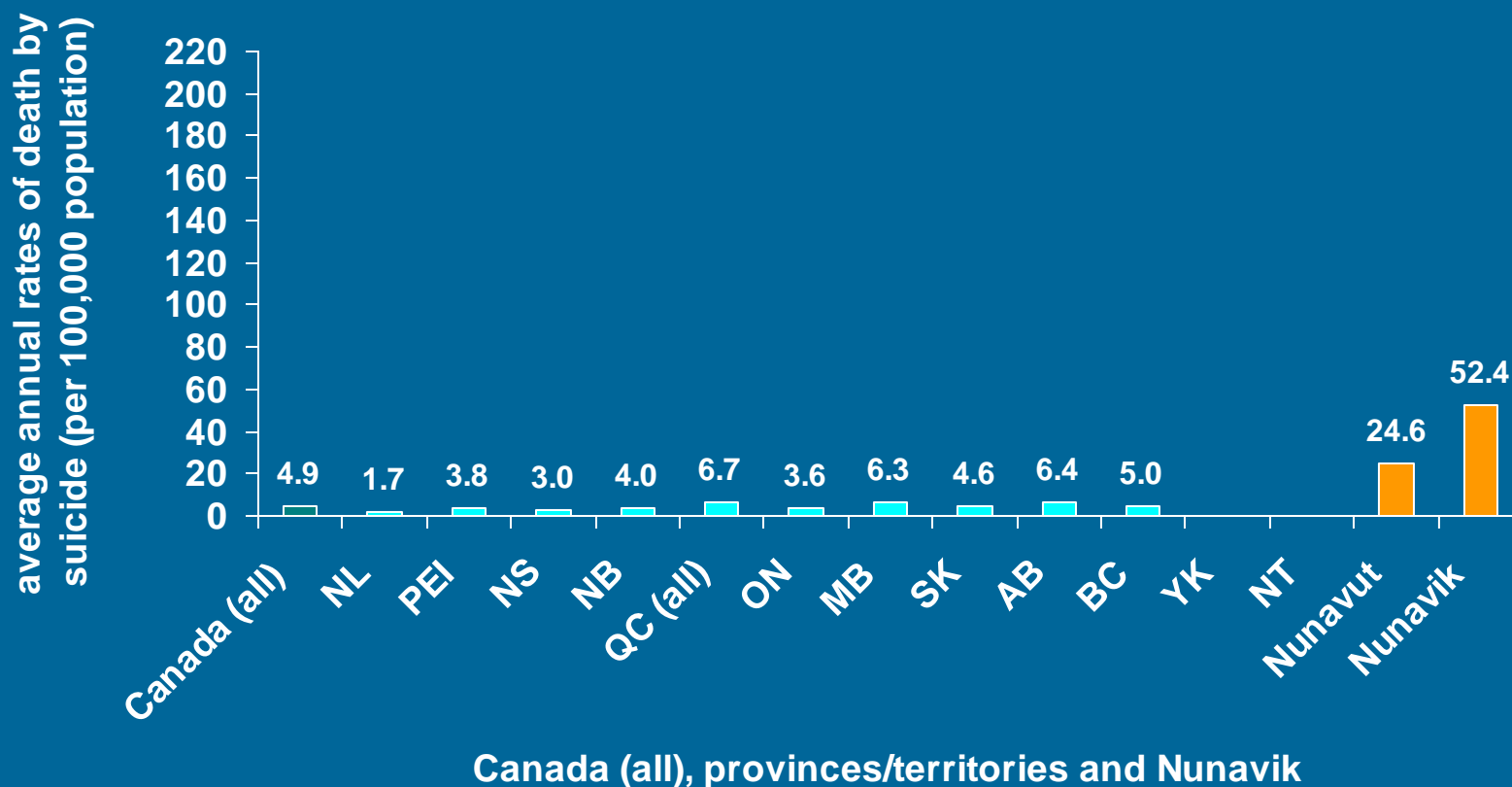


Age-standardized suicide rates for males in Canada, 2001



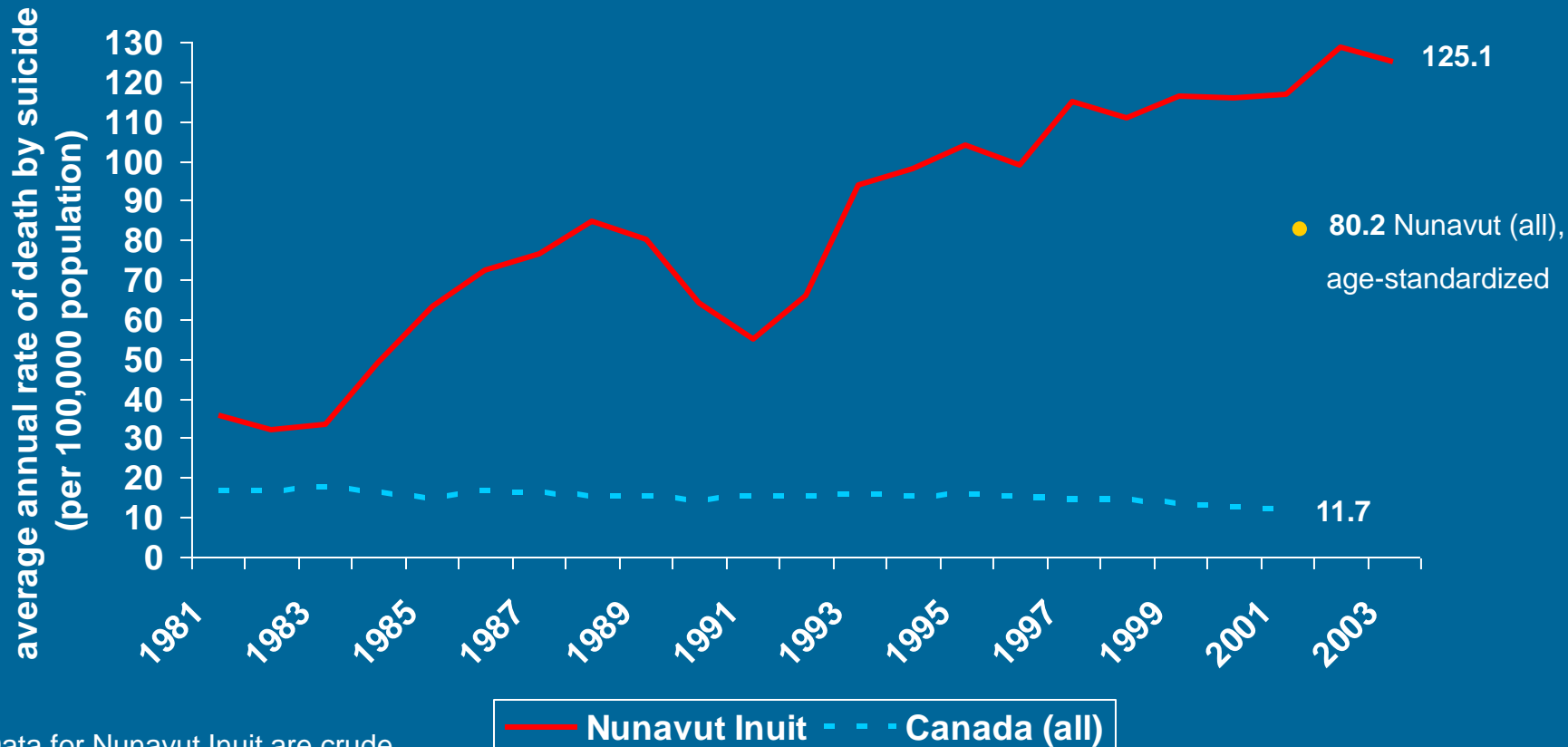
NOTE: 3-year averages

Age-standardized suicide rates for females in Canada, 2001



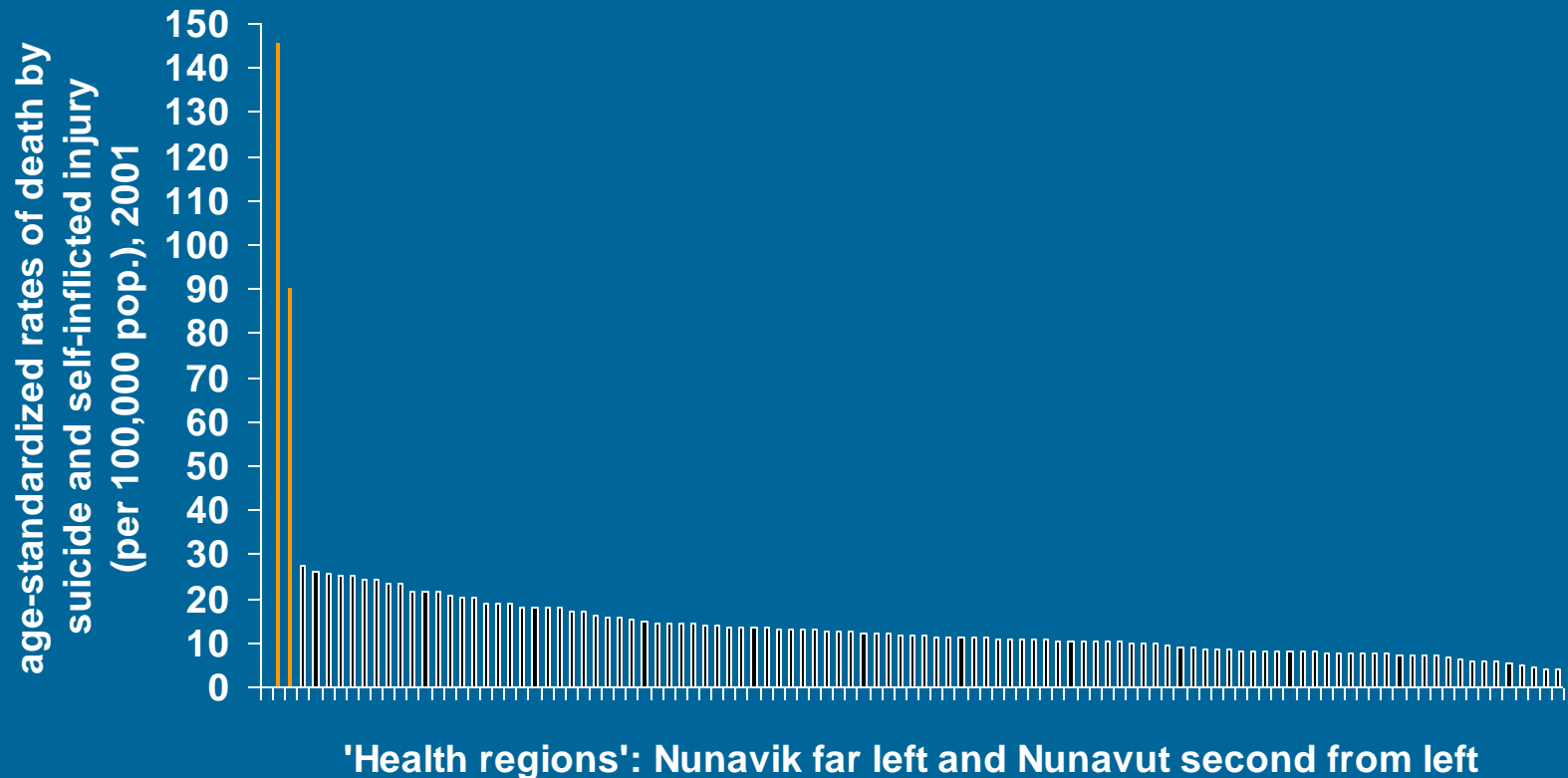
NOTE: 3-year averages

The rate of death by suicide by Inuit in Nunavut is high, and has risen significantly over the last 20 years compared to the national average

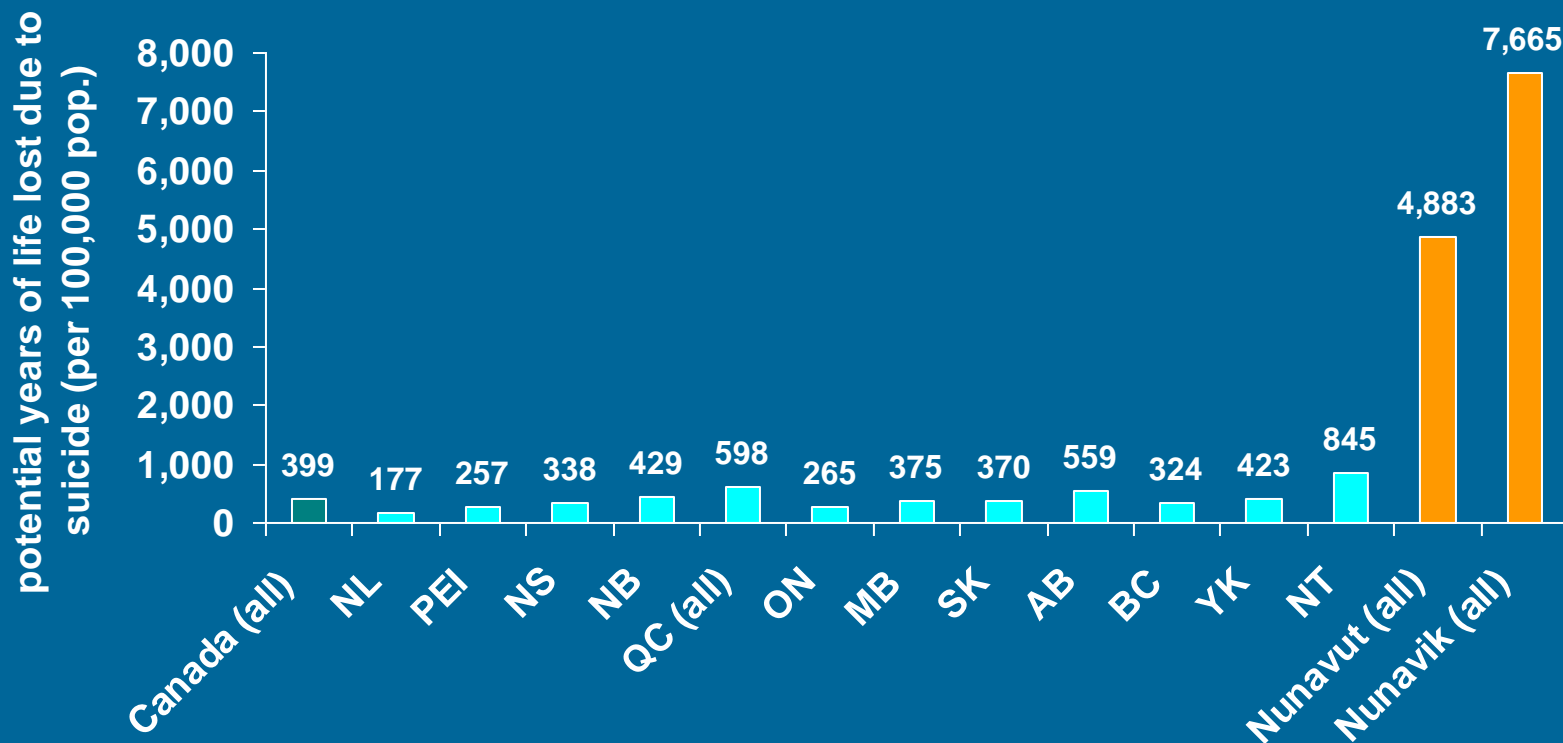


NOTE: Data for Nunavut Inuit are crude 3-year rolling averages, whereas data for Canada are age-standardized annual rates.

No other 'health region' in Canada has a suicide rate even approaching those of Nunavik and Nunavut



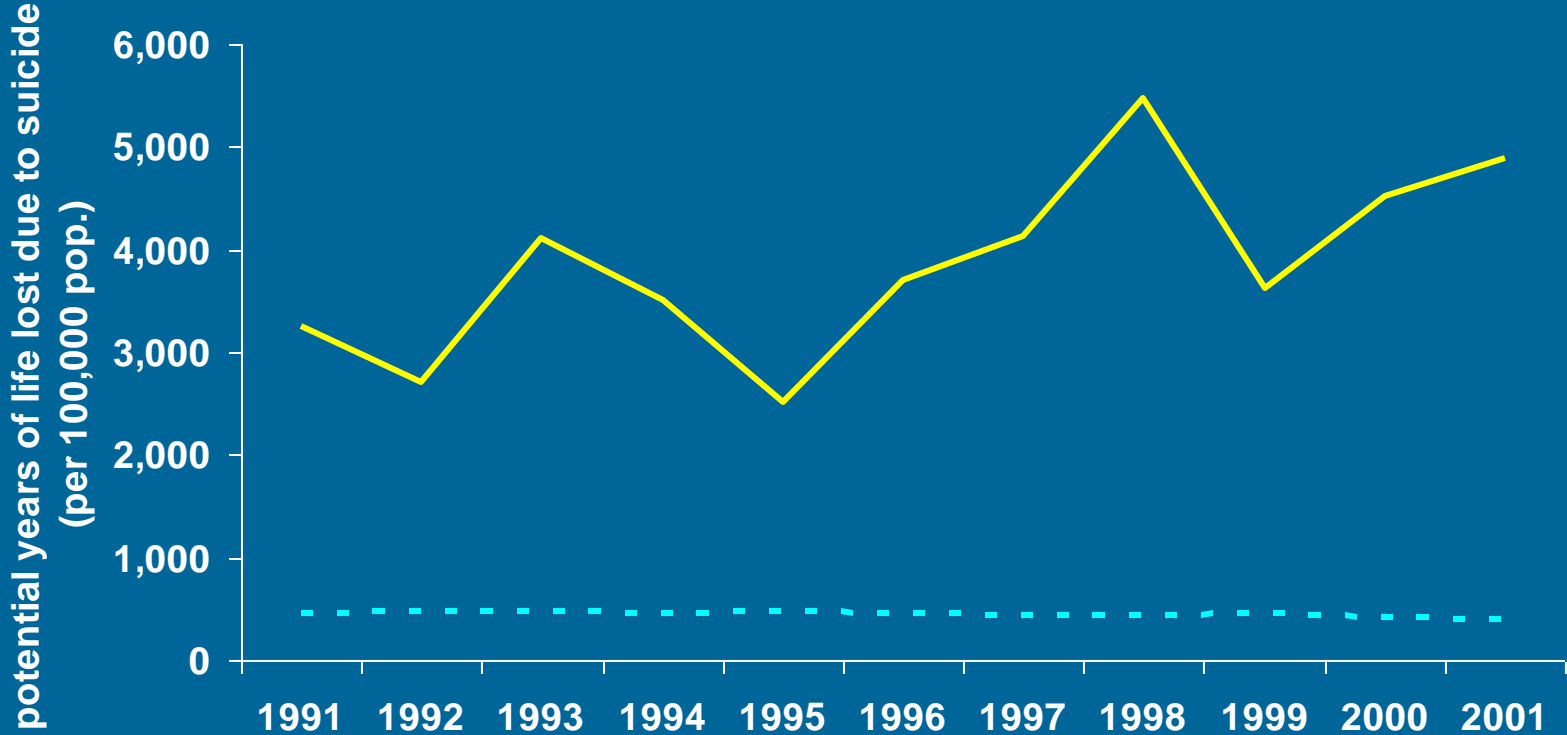
The gap is even more striking when viewed in terms of potential years of life lost*, 2001 (due to the relatively young age of most Inuit suicides)



Canada (all), provinces/territories and Nunavik

* Potential years of life lost (PYLL) is the number of years of potential life not lived when a person dies “prematurely”, defined here as before 75

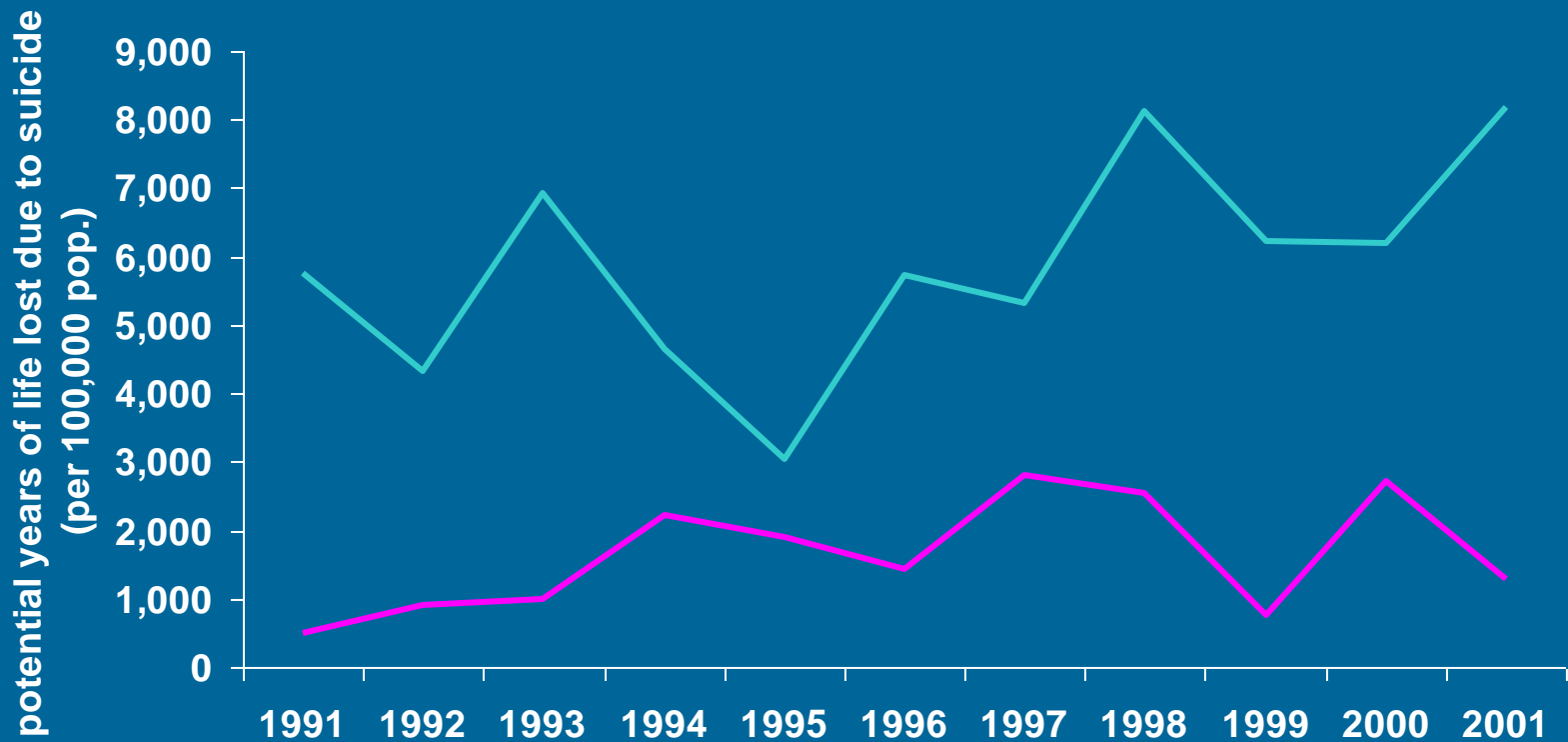
Potential years of life lost* due to suicide, Canada and Nunavut, 1991-2001



* Potential years of life lost (PYLL) is the number of years of potential life not lived when a person dies “prematurely”, defined here as before 75

- - - Canada — Nunavut

Potential years of life lost* due to suicide in Nunavut, by sex, 1991-2001

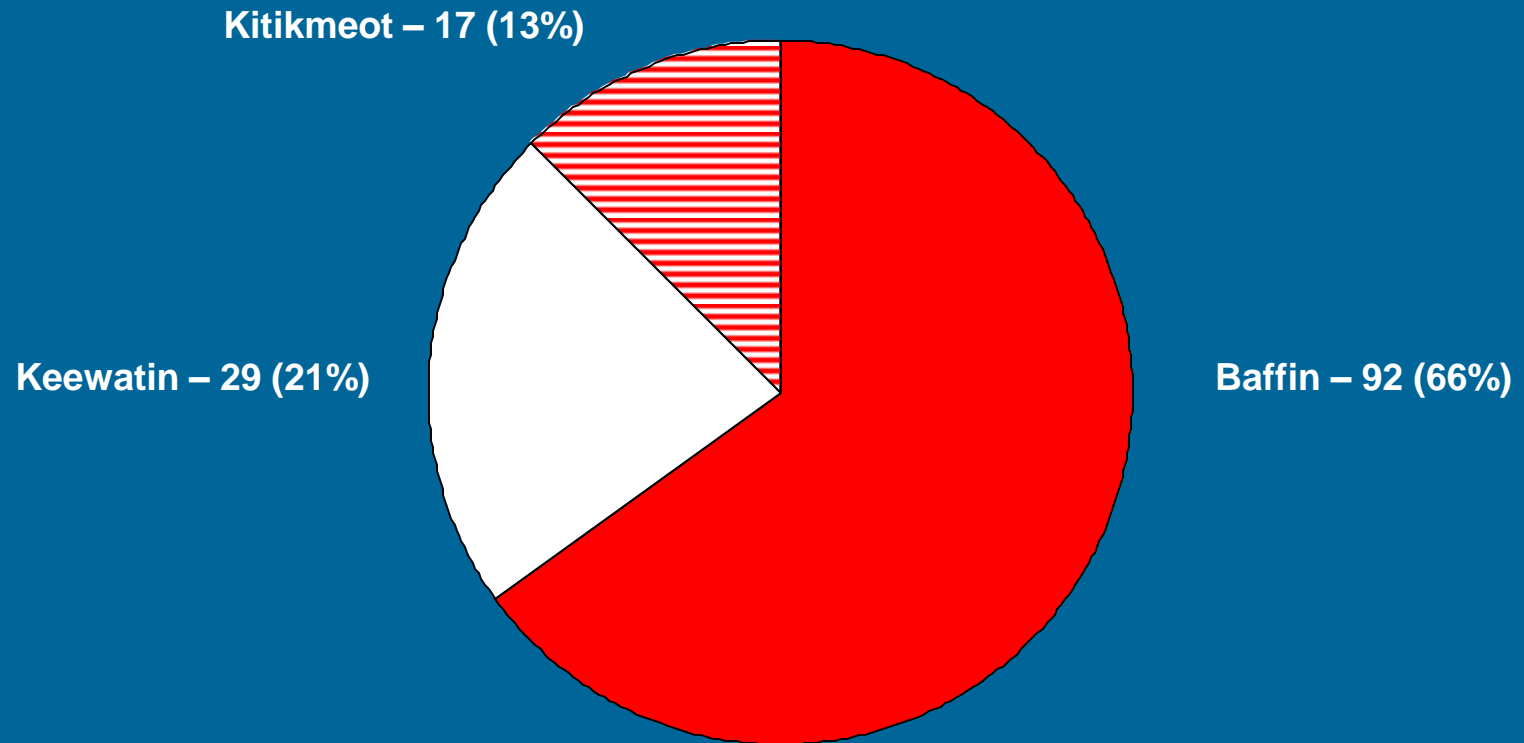


* Potential years of life lost (PYLL) is the number of years of potential life not lived when a person dies “prematurely”, defined here as before 75

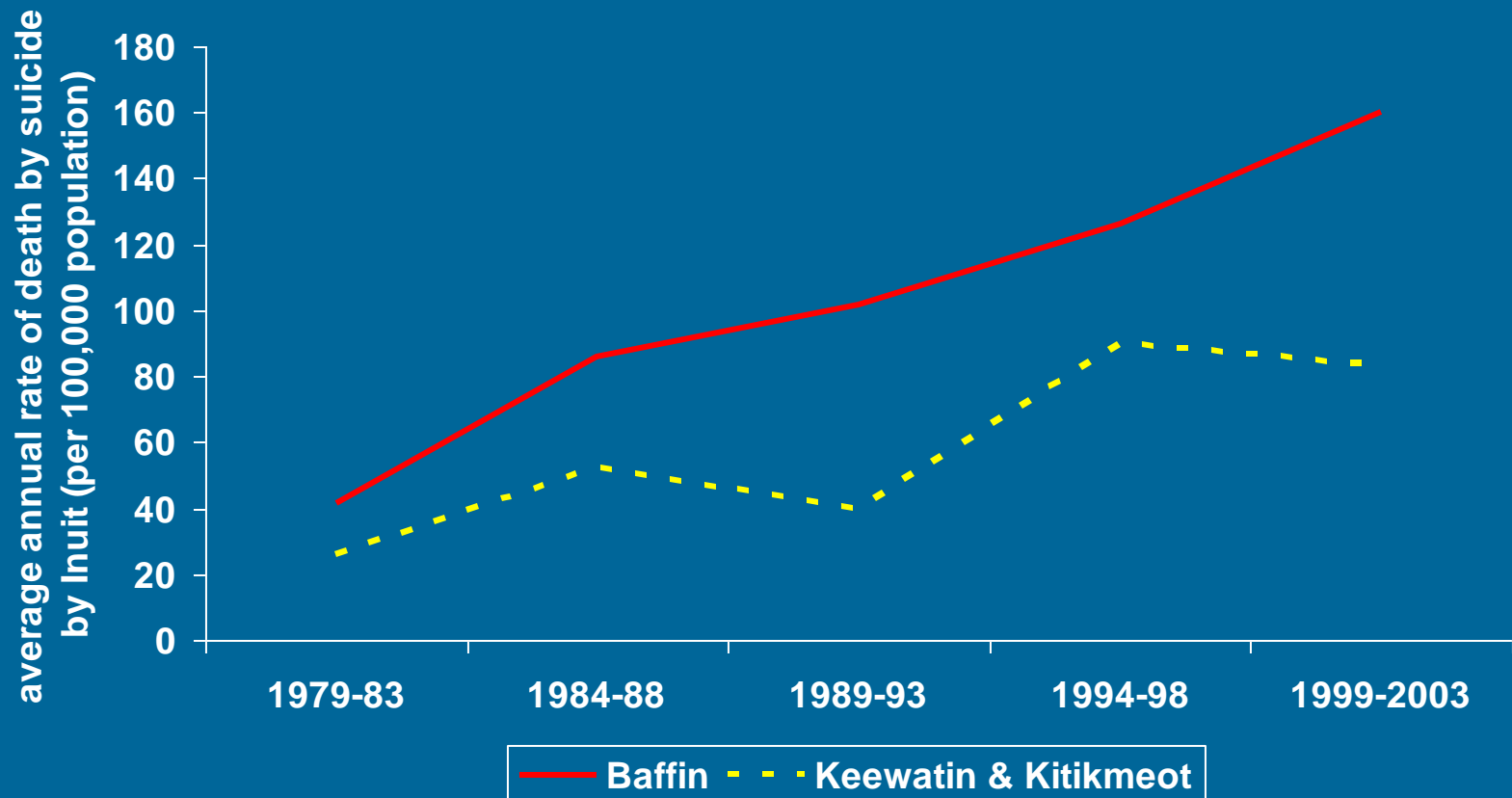
— males — females

source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM II tables 102-0110 and 102-0311

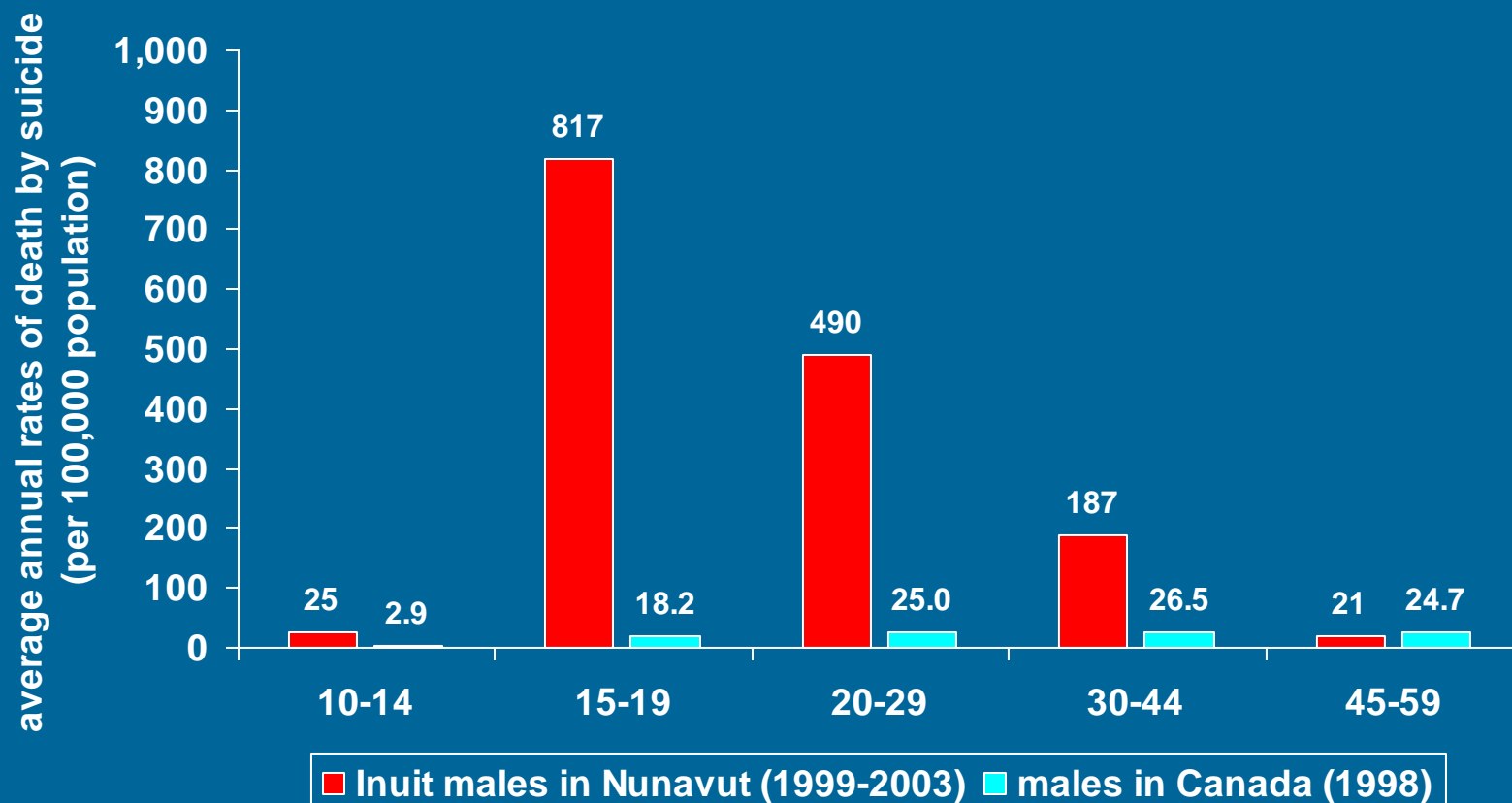
Deaths by suicide by Inuit in Nunavut, by region, 1999-2003



The rate of death by suicide has increased more rapidly in the Baffin region than in the Keewatin and Kitikmeot regions

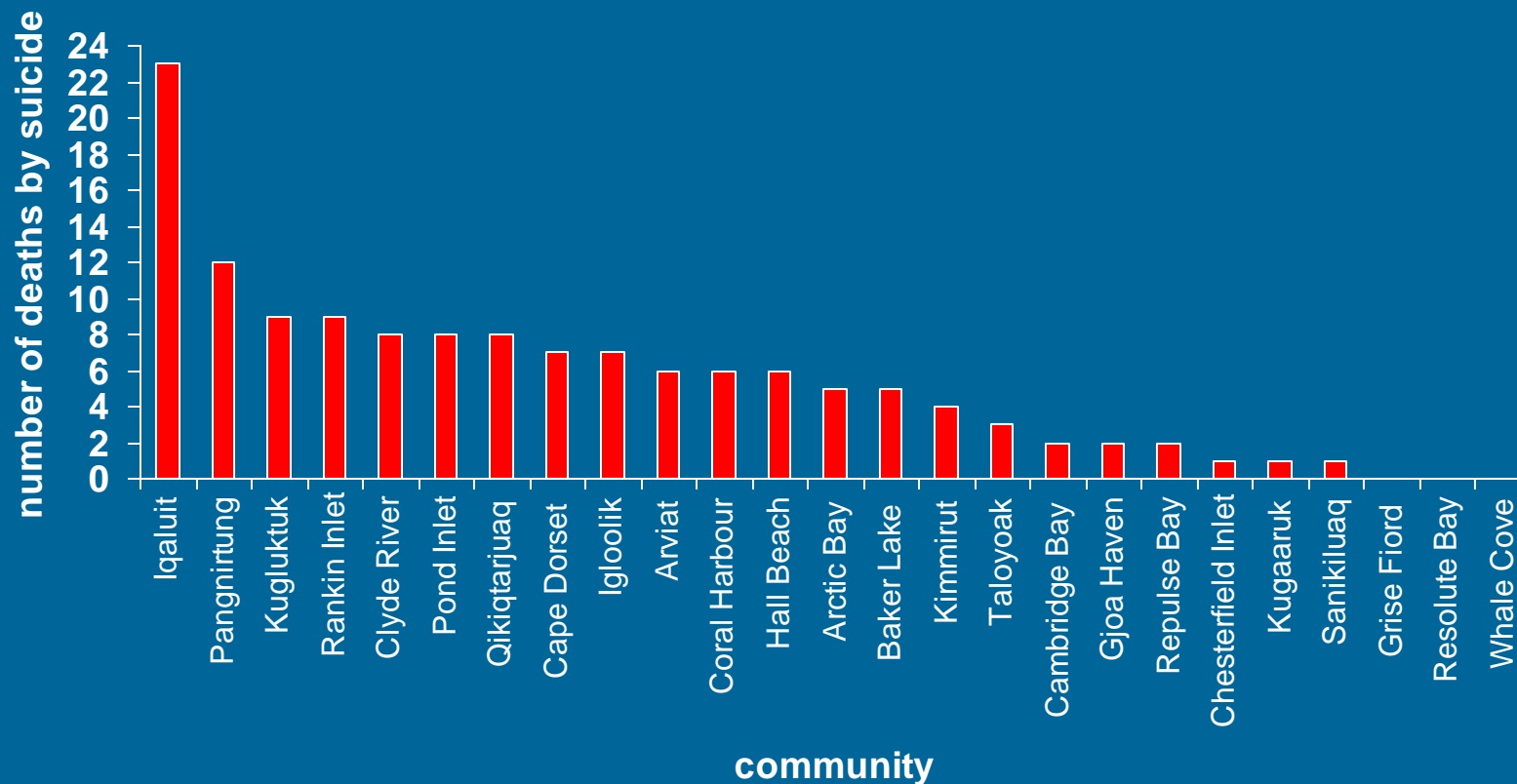


Age-specific rates of death by suicide, Inuit males in Nunavut 1999-2003 and all males in Canada 1998*

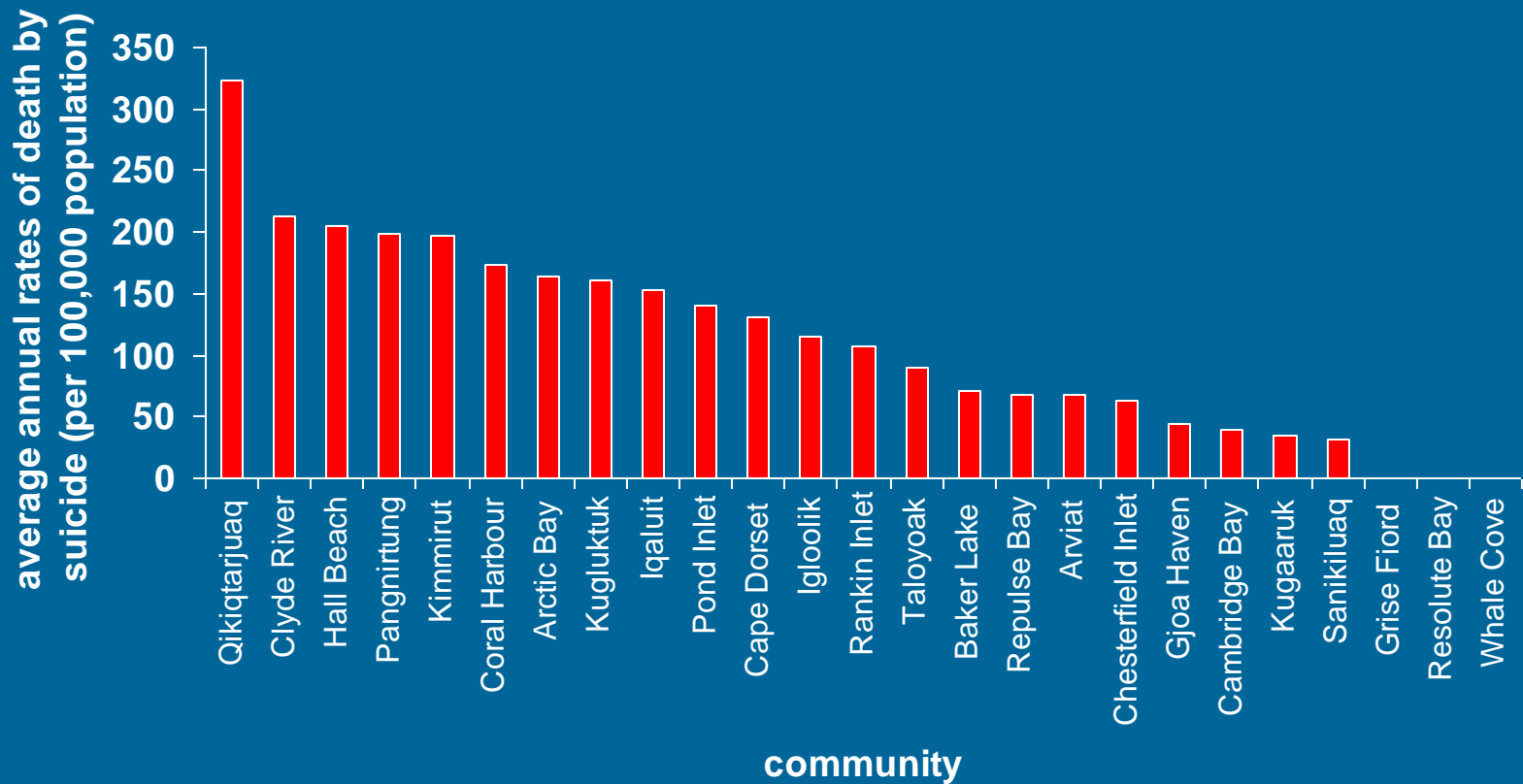


* from: Langlois & Morrison (2002)

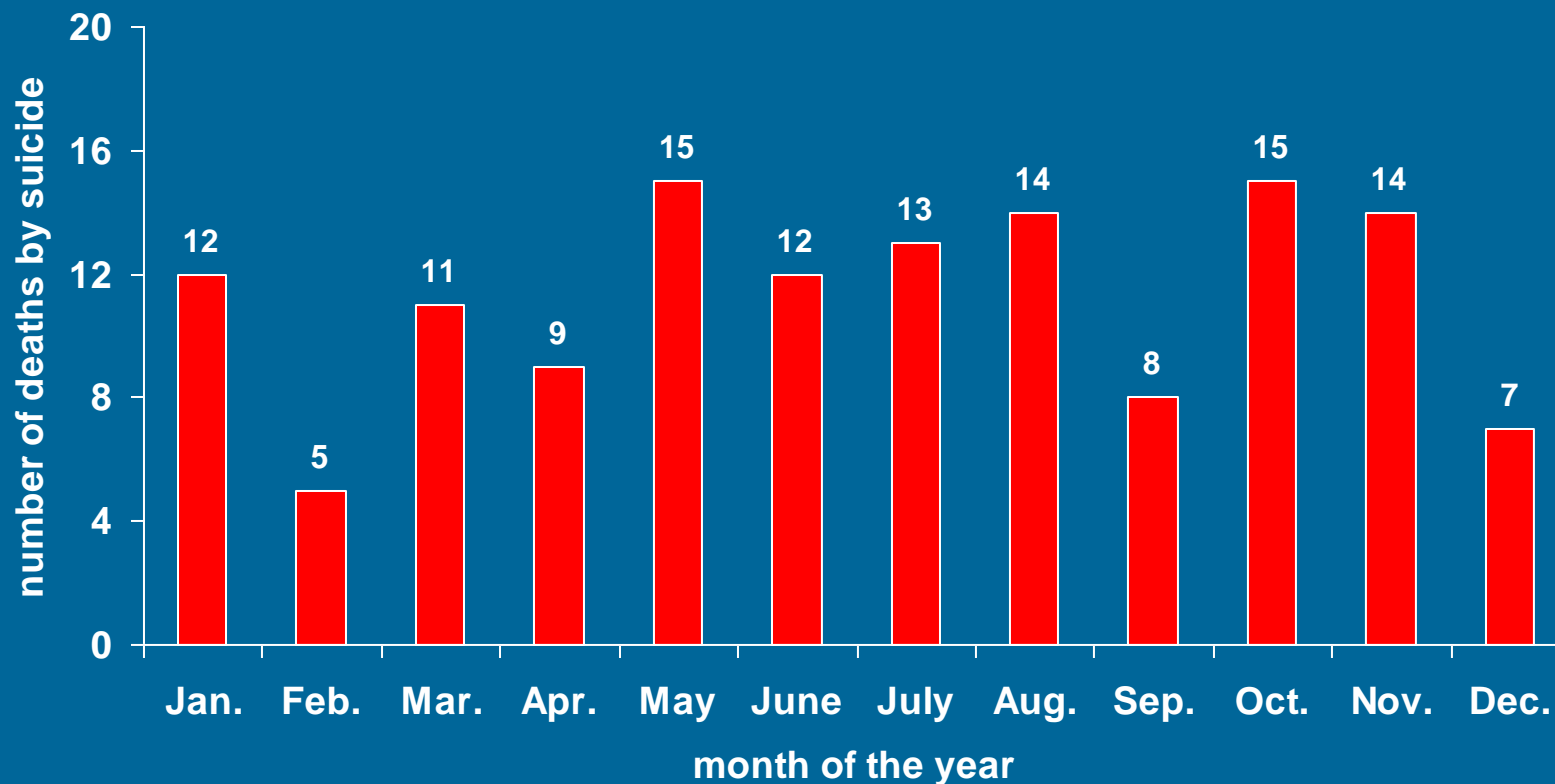
Deaths by suicide by Inuit in Nunavut, by community, 1999-2003



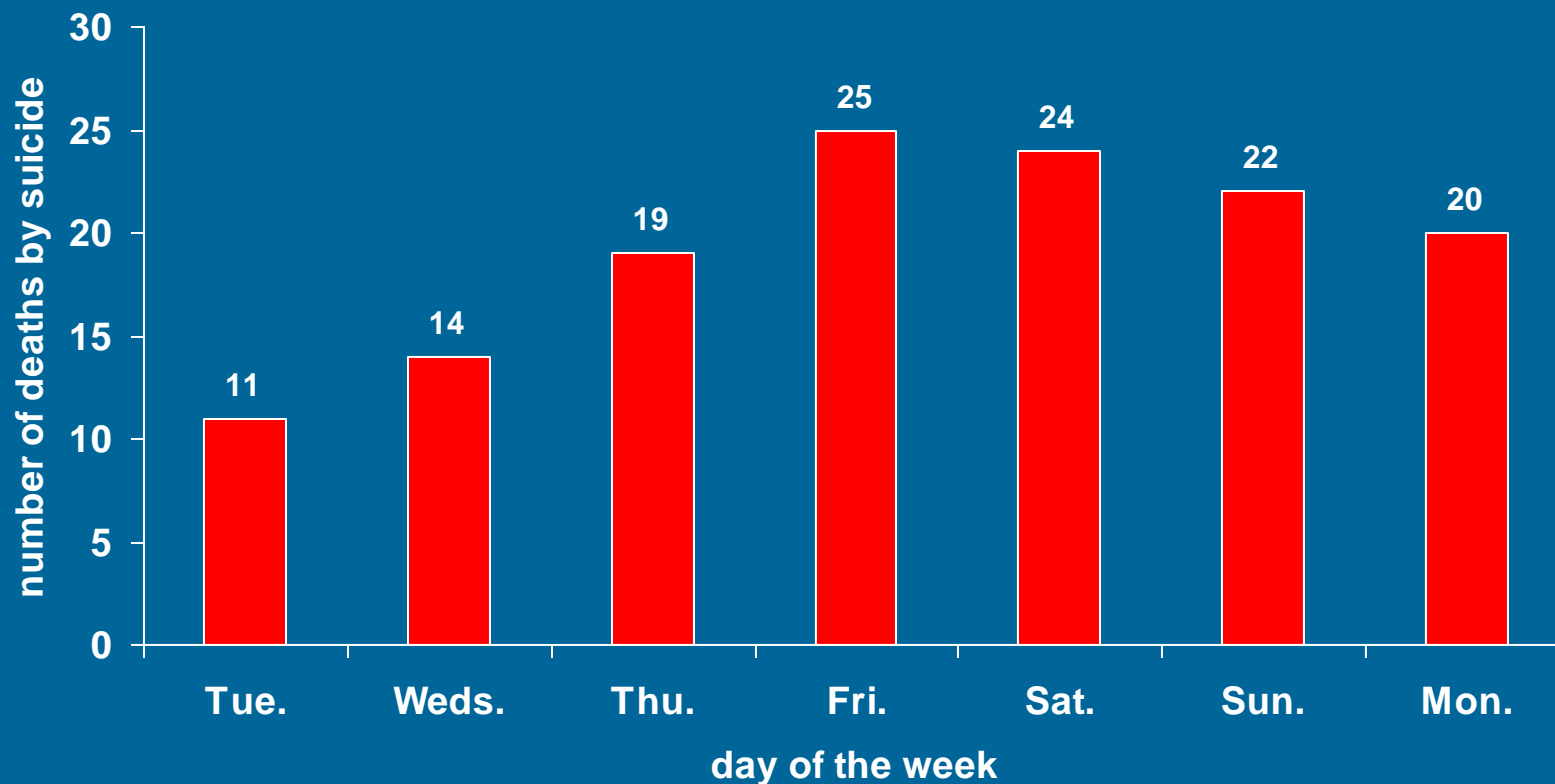
Average annual rates of death by suicide by Inuit in Nunavut, by community, 1999-2003



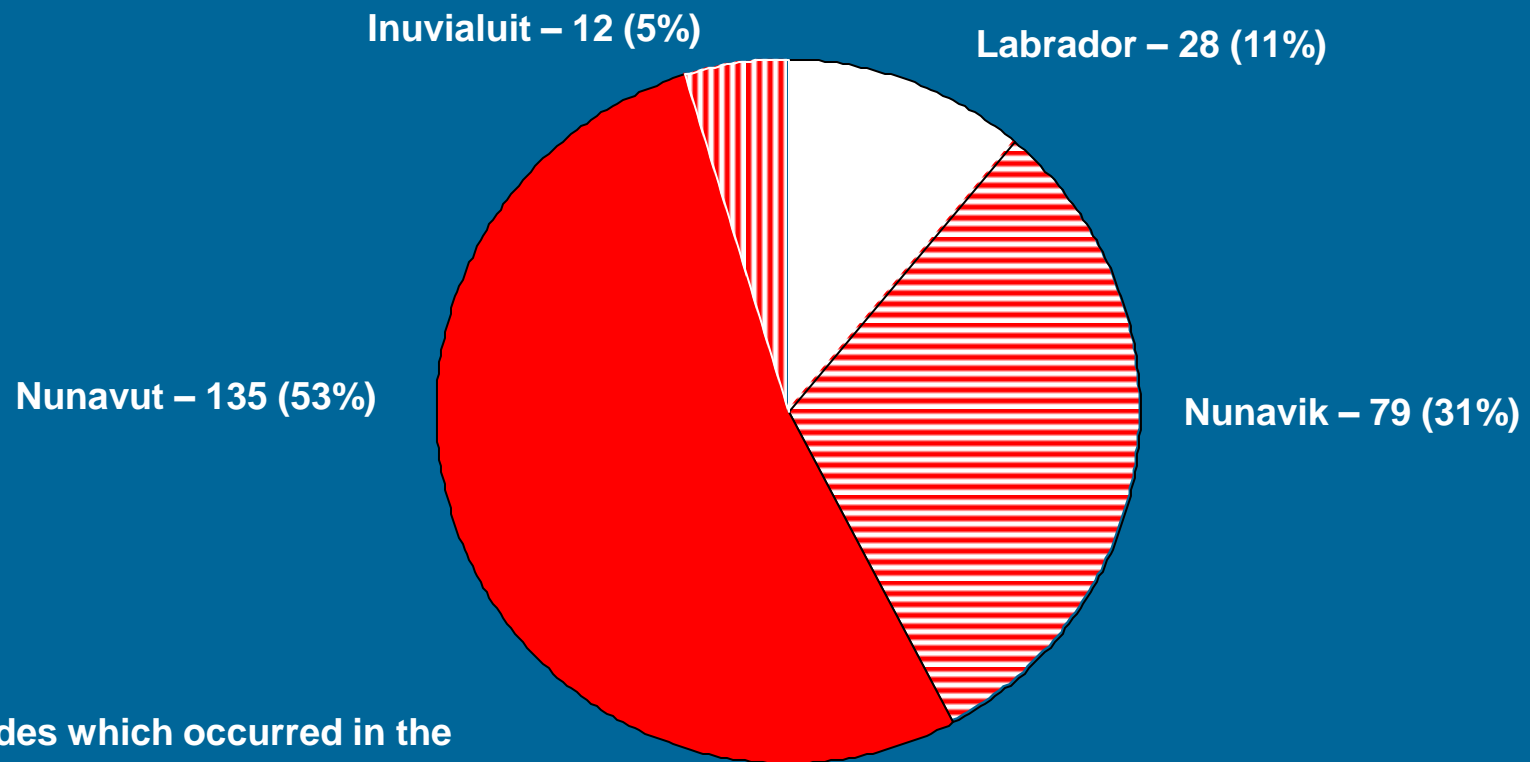
Deaths by suicide by Inuit in Nunavut, by month, 1999-2003



Deaths by suicide by Inuit in Nunavut, by day of the week, 1999-2003

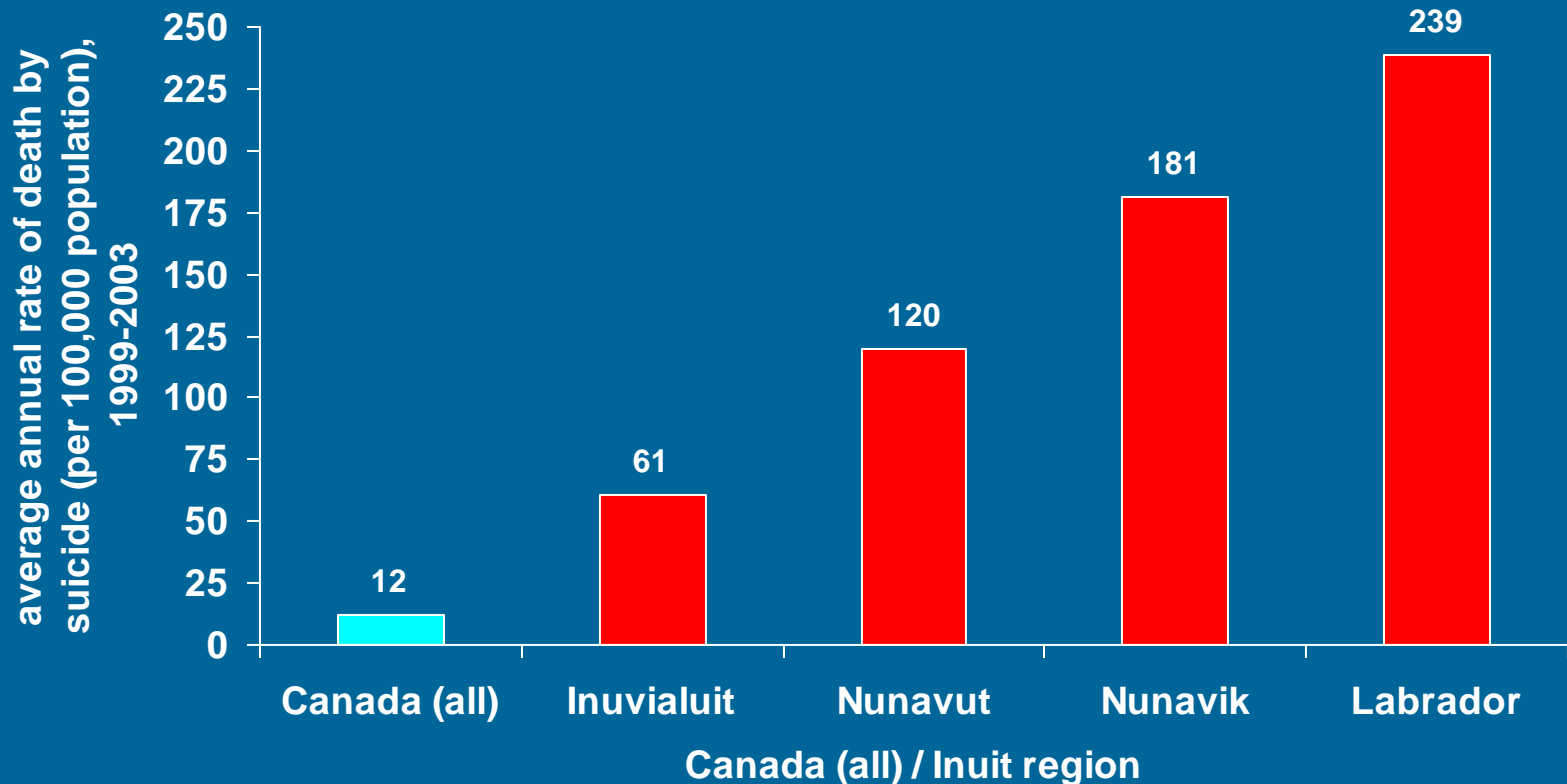


Deaths by suicide by Inuit in Canada* by 'Inuit region', 1999-2003



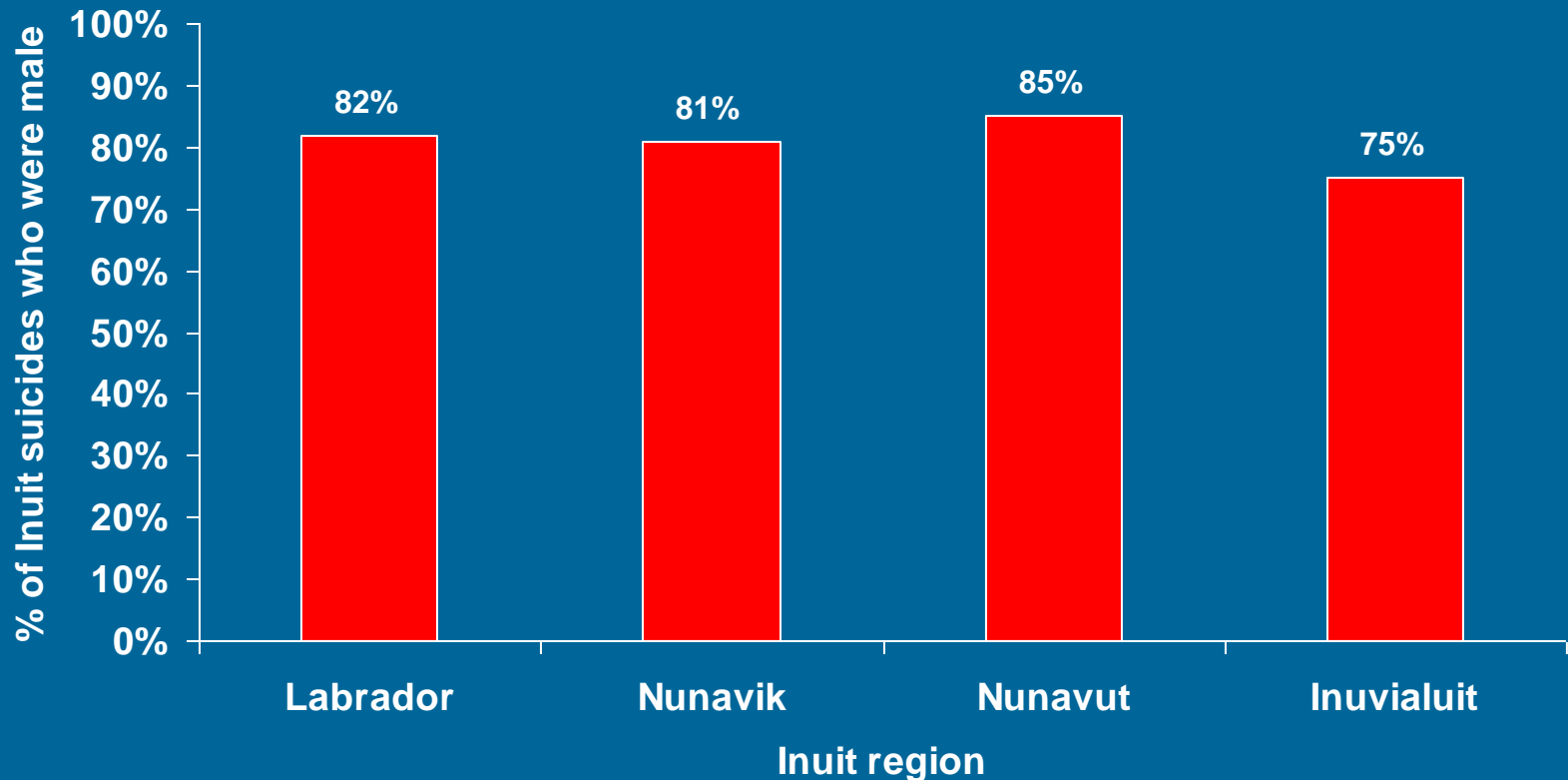
* Suicides which occurred in the 'Inuit regions' only. Total number of deaths by suicide by Inuit in the Inuit regions from Jan. 1, 1999 to Dec. 31, 2003 = 254.

The Inuit of Labrador and Nunavik have higher rates of death by suicide* than the Inuit of Nunavut



* Suicides which occurred in the 'Inuit regions' only.

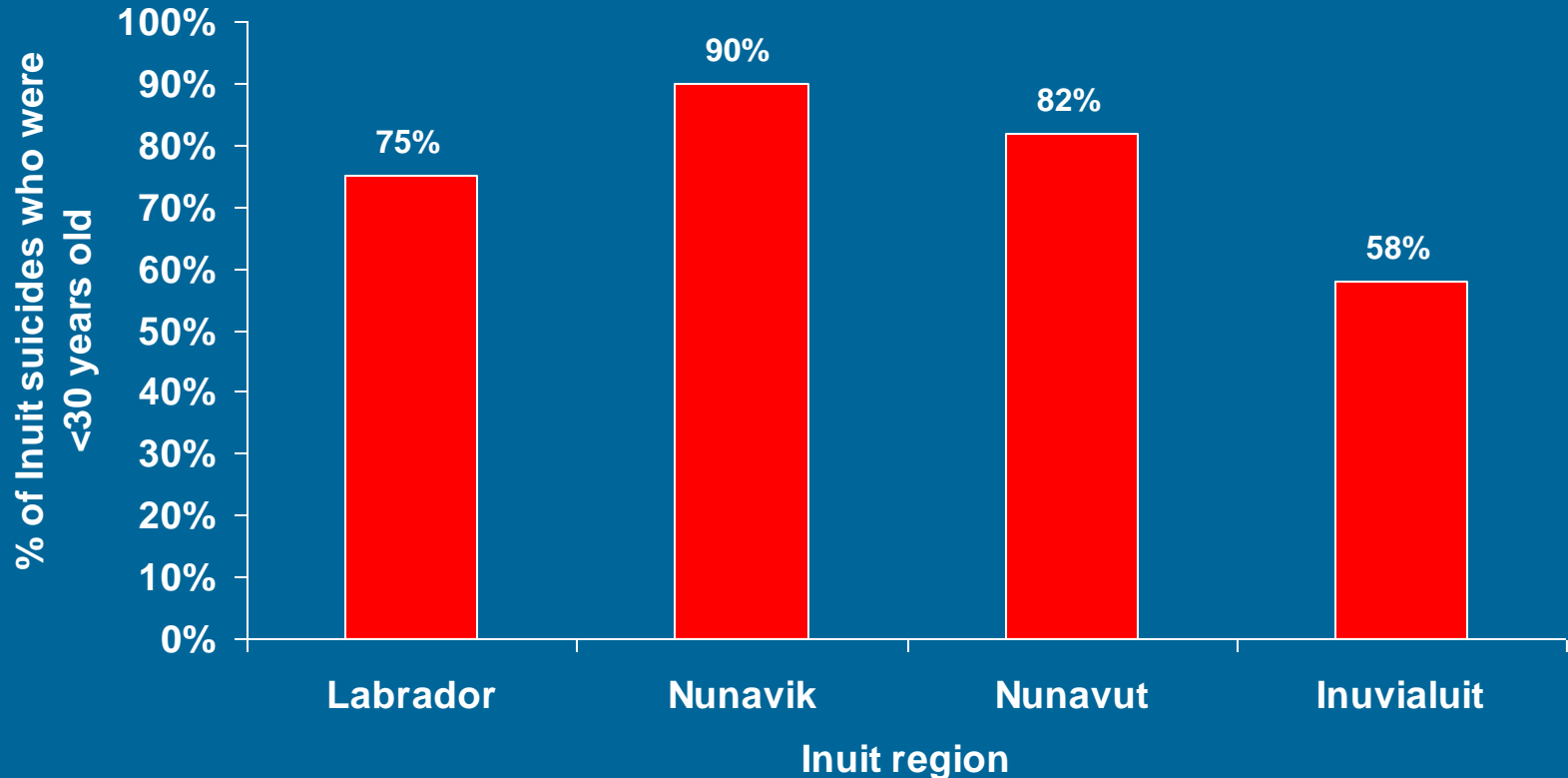
83% of Inuit deaths by suicide* by from 1999 to 2003 were by males



* Suicides which occurred in the
'Inuit regions' only.

source: Ellen Bobet, Confluence Research (2004)

83% of Inuit deaths by suicide* from 1999 to 2003 were by persons <30 years old



* Suicides which occurred in the 'Inuit regions' only.