

Causes and risk factors of infant mortality in Alaska

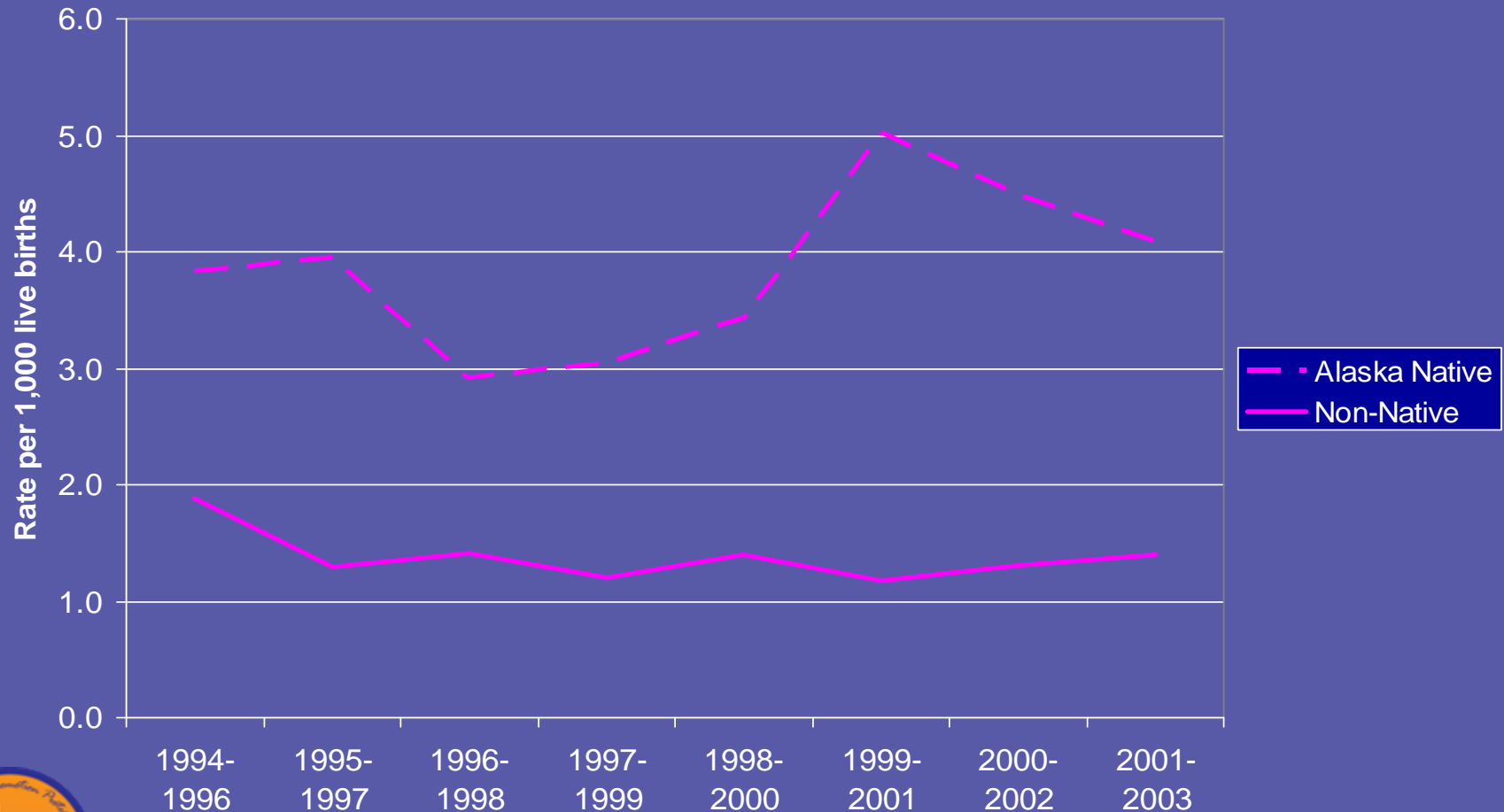
Methods

- Presented causes were determined by MIMR committee consensus decisions
 - Committee of medical and public health experts meets ~10 times per year to review medical records, autopsy reports, and first responder reports for every infant death in Alaska
- Allowed for multiple causes of death per infant



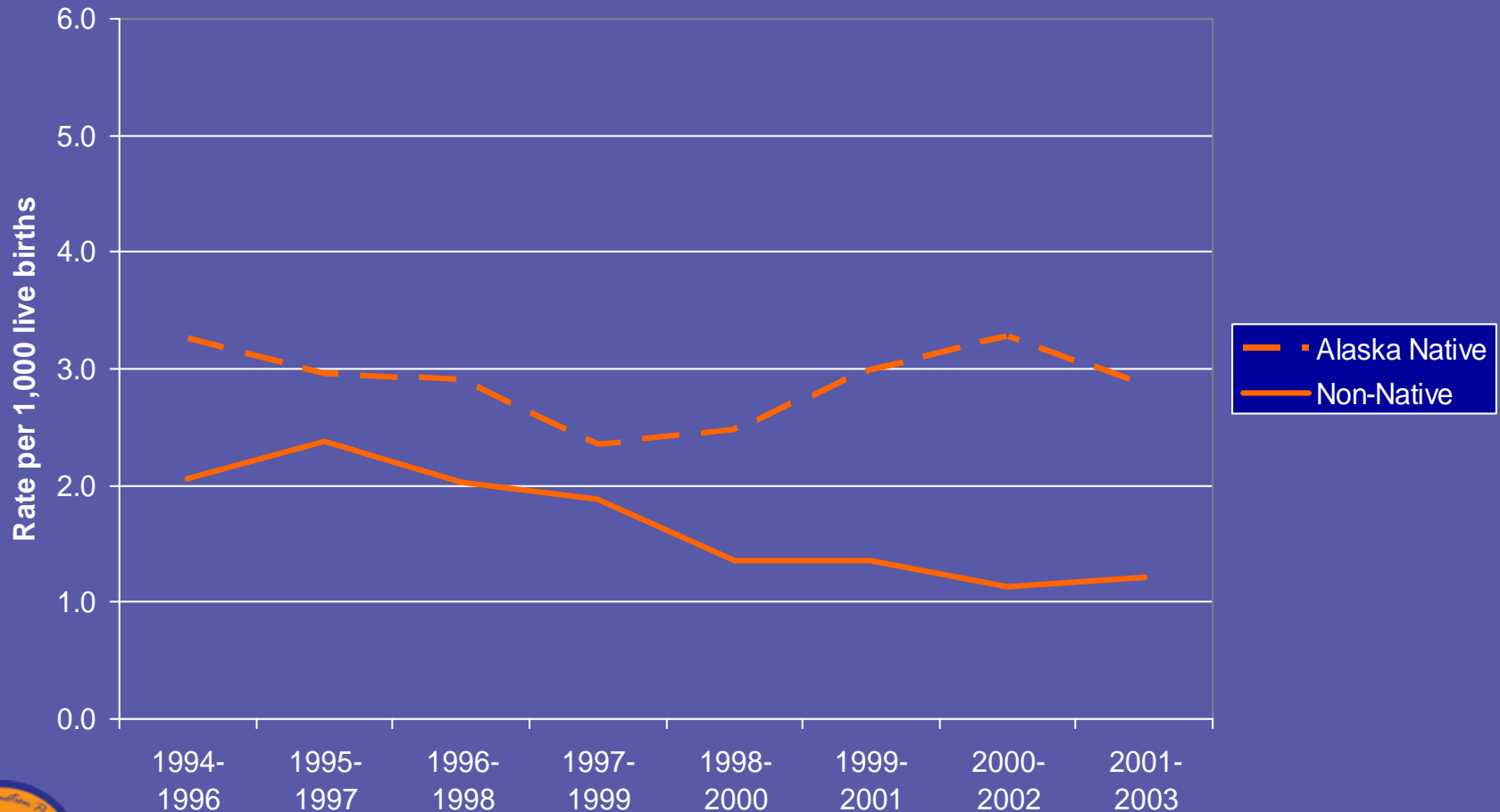
SIDS, SUID, and unexplained asphyxia

Infant mortality trends in Alaska, 3-year moving averages



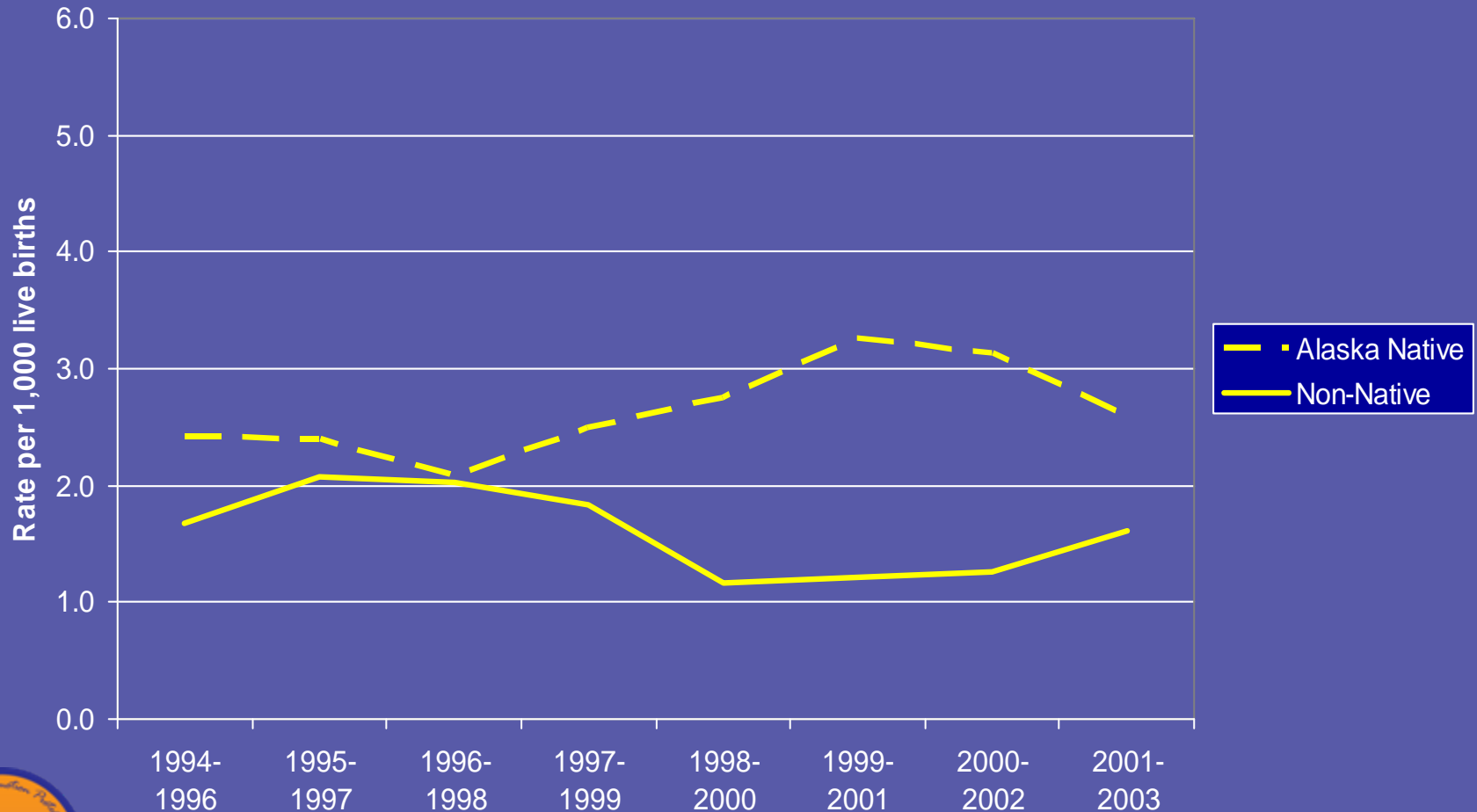
Preterm birth-related

Infant mortality trends in Alaska, 3-year moving averages



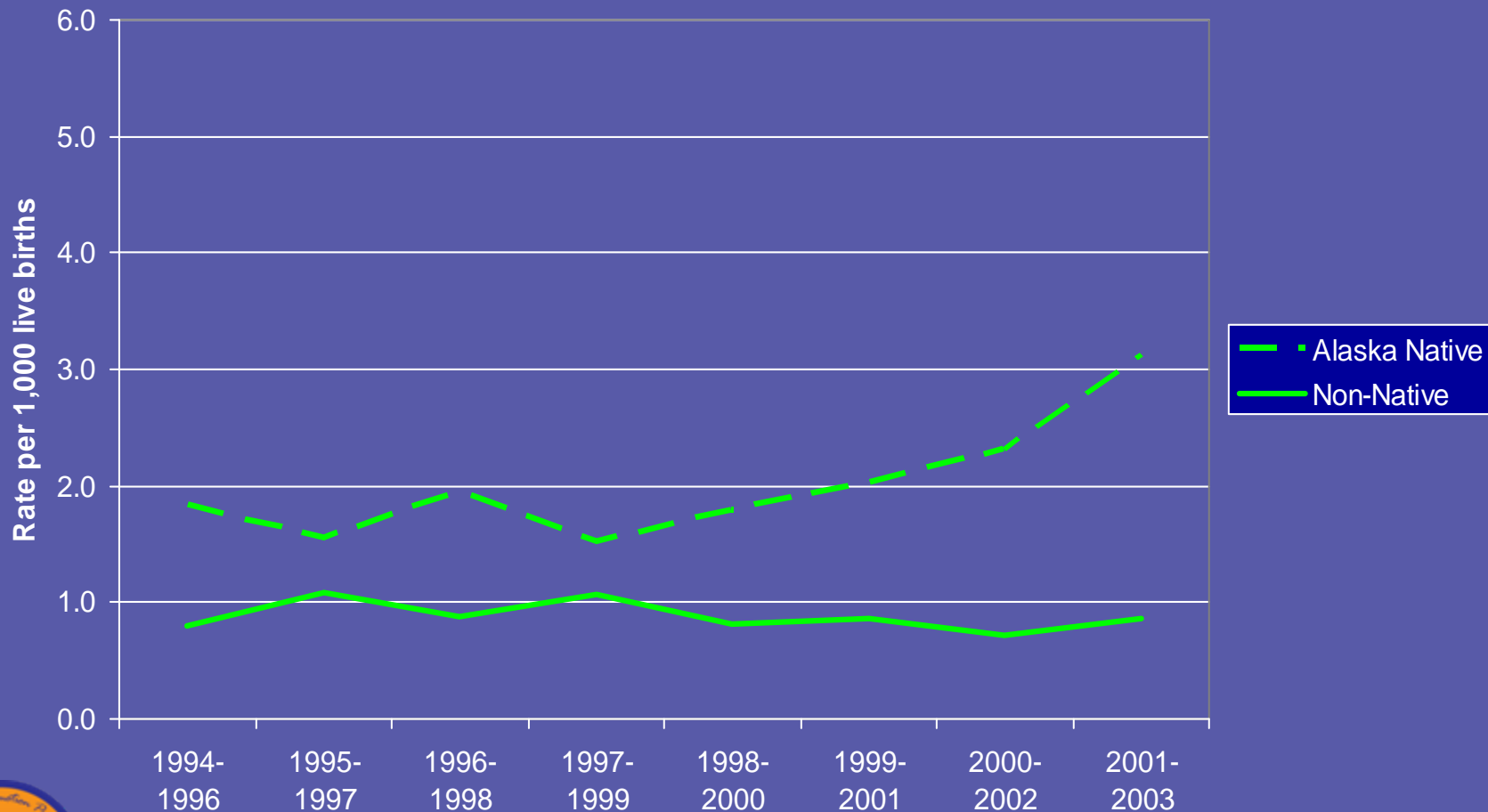
Congenital anomalies

Infant mortality trends in Alaska, 3-year moving averages



Infection-related

Infant mortality trends in Alaska, 3-year moving averages



Bed sharing among births and infant deaths in Alaska

Maternal race	% of live births who always or almost always bed share, PRAMS 1996-2003	% of infant deaths that occurred while bed sharing, MIMR 1992-2002
Alaska Native	55.2%	21.4%
White	29.7%	10.4%
Asian/PI	62.3%	11.4%
Black	39.1%	13.6%

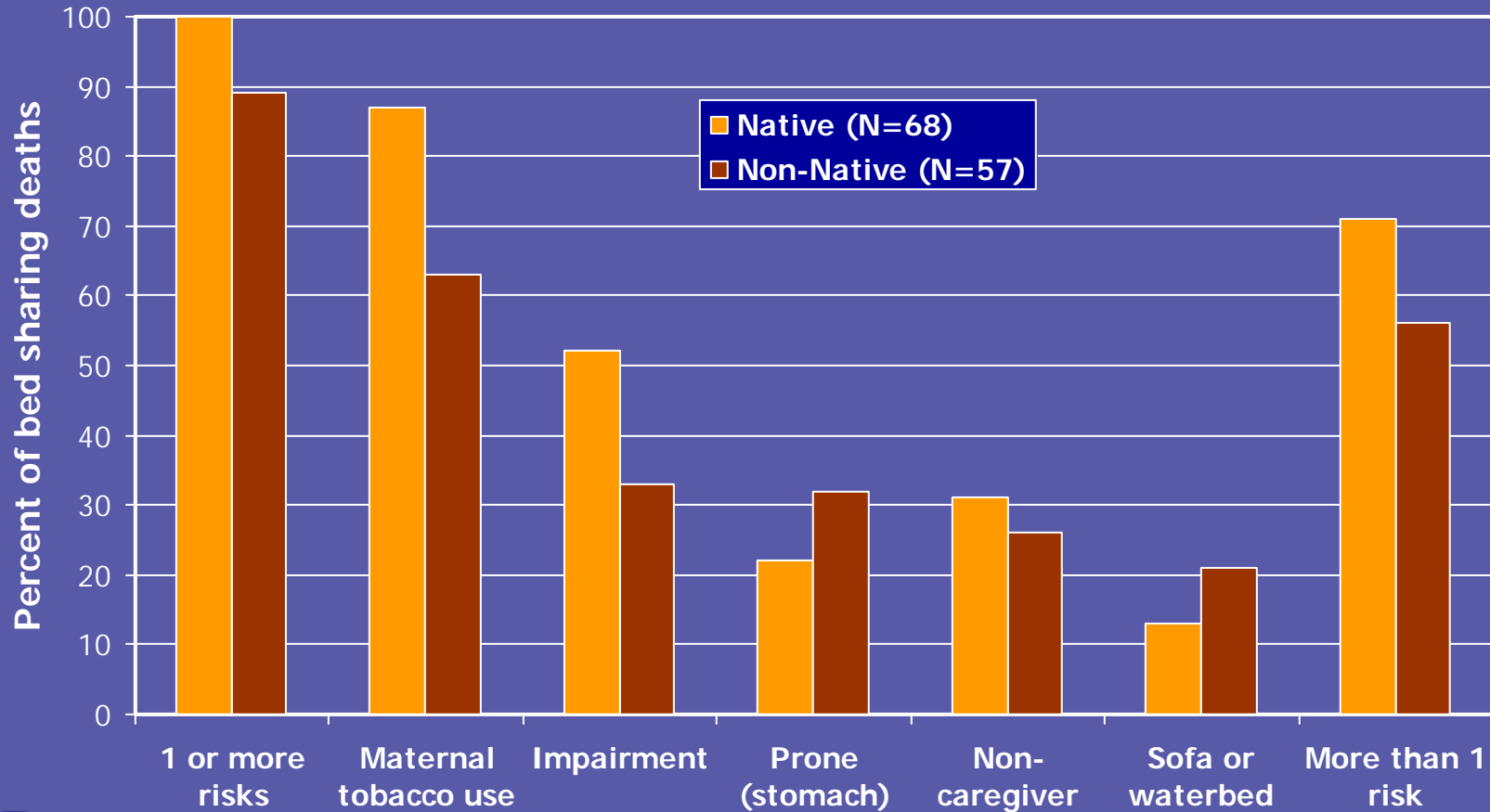


Risky behaviors among mothers of infants who bed share; Alaska PRAMS, 1996-2003

- 64% of Alaska Native moms who said their baby always or almost always bed shared also reported at least one known risk behavior for SIDS/SUID (vs. 29% of non-Native bed sharing moms)
 - known risk behaviors included maternal tobacco use*, marijuana use, currently drinking >6 alcoholic drinks per week, and most often placing infant to sleep in prone position

*tobacco use included smoking during the last 3 months of pregnancy or any chew use reported on PRAMS or reported smoking on the birth certificate

Prevalence of SIDS/SUID risk factors among 126 bed sharing deaths Alaska MIMR, 1992-2004



Conclusions

- Alaska Native infants have had higher mortality rates than non-Natives for all major categories of infant death during all years examined
- The disparity is largest for unexpected deaths due to SIDS and unexplained asphyxia
- Alaska data indicate that bed sharing in the absence of known risk factors does not increase the risk of infant death.
- No data currently available show that bed sharing independently increases risk of death
- High rates of frequent bed sharing and high prevalence of known risk factors among Alaska Native women may explain why Alaska Natives have higher rates of bed sharing deaths compared to non-Natives



Thank you!

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