

# Cluster Suicide in Northern Ontario

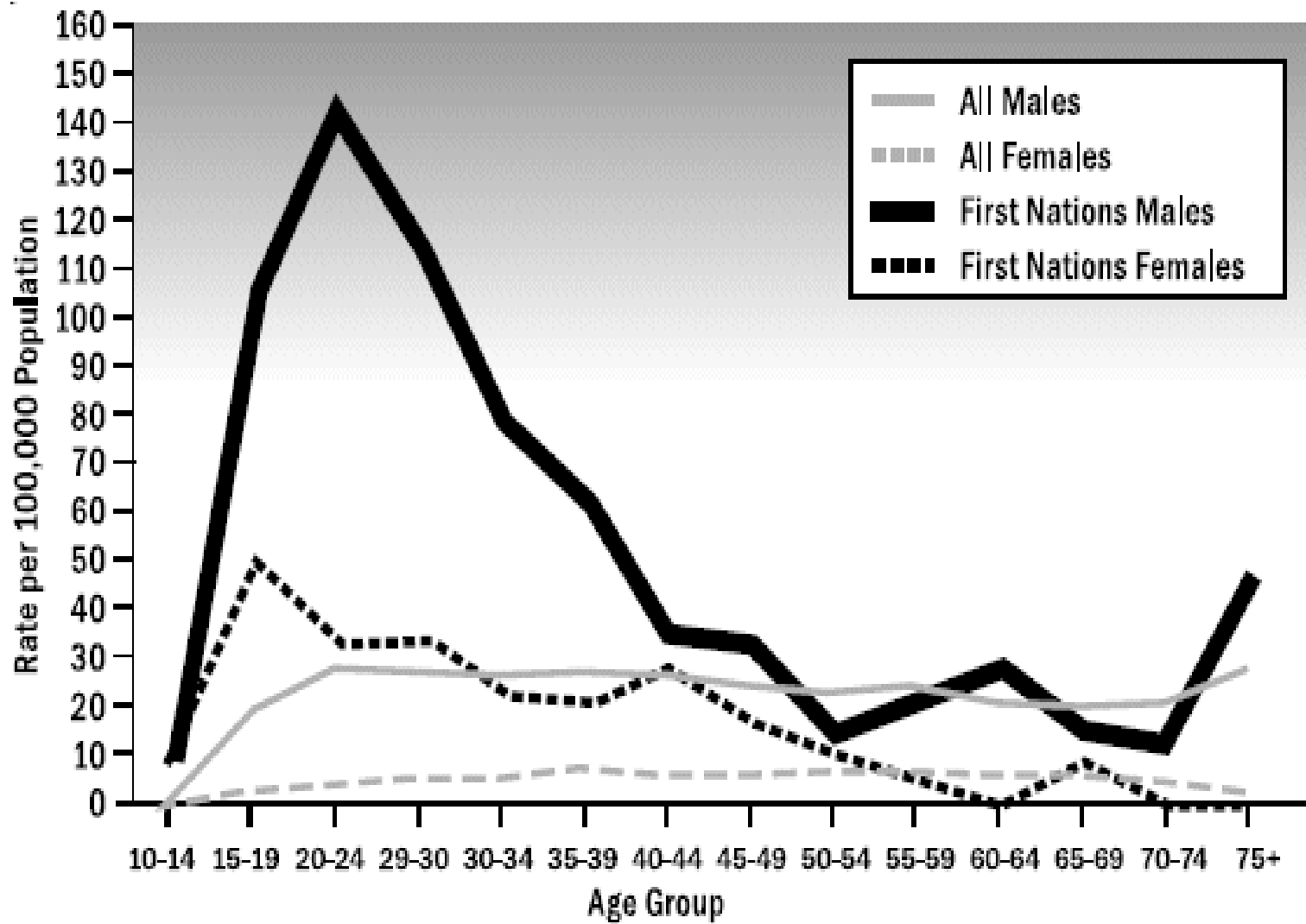
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# March 1995

12F	suicide risk
13M	hanging attempt
15 M	hanging attempt
12M	hanging attempt

# April 1995

17M	hanging attempt
18F	hanging attempt
14F	hanging attempt
15F	acetaminophen OD

# May 1995

16F	acetaminophen OD
19M	suicide risk
14F	suicide risk
18M	hanging attempt
17M	suicide risk
20F	suicide risk
13F	glyburide OD
13F	glyburide OD
14F	mixed OD
17F	hanging attempt
23M	self-inflicted gunshot

Six deaths



# Clustering (CDC)

3 or more linked suicidal events in a continuous space and time frame

Described in literature

Canadian (1977) example first – Ward and Fox,  
Canadian Journal of Psychiatry

In US clustering accounts for 5 % of all adolescent suicide

In Canada FN and Inuit communities –

unknown

# Hypothesis

Suicide in Northern Ontario FN communities occurs in clusters

Presence of mental illness is less important than the relationships between people who commit suicide

# Method

- Structured retrospective review of 15 years of death investigation files from the Coroner's Office
- Comparison to control group

# Rationale



# NOSM as potential home

- Northern Ontario focus
- Social accountability mandate
- Opportunity for multiple units at NOSM to get involved
- Build a relationship with Coroner's Office for future projects
- Possible beginning for more focussed work on prevention

# Let's talk

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