

The life activity:

what it means to kill and die in the Arctic

Jonathan Lam

What do you believe
happens after death?

How does the way
you think about
death affect the way
you live?

“If you live each day as if it were your last, someday you'll be right. Every morning I looked in the mirror and asked myself: If today were the last day of my life, would I want to do what I do today?”

Steve Jobs

**AN AFRICAN
IN GREENLAND**

TÉTÉ-MICHEL
KPOMASSIE

INTRODUCTION BY
A. ALVAREZ

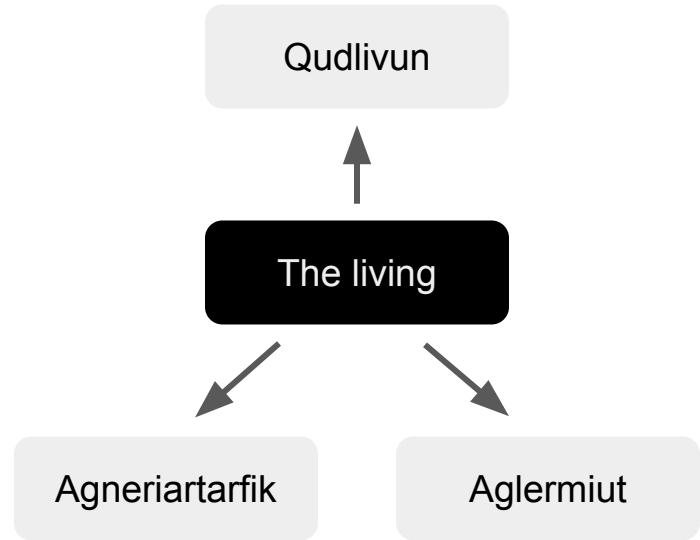
“In the old days, both in Greenland and among the other Eskimos, the old people, so as not to encumber a migration, would elect to remain behind and die slowly in the abandoned igloos. It was a spontaneous, stoic, unforced decision, and one which to them seemed noble.”

Tété-Michel Kpomassie



Afterlives of the Netsilik Inuit

(Walsh and O'Neill)



The “mirror realm” of the Chukchi of Siberia

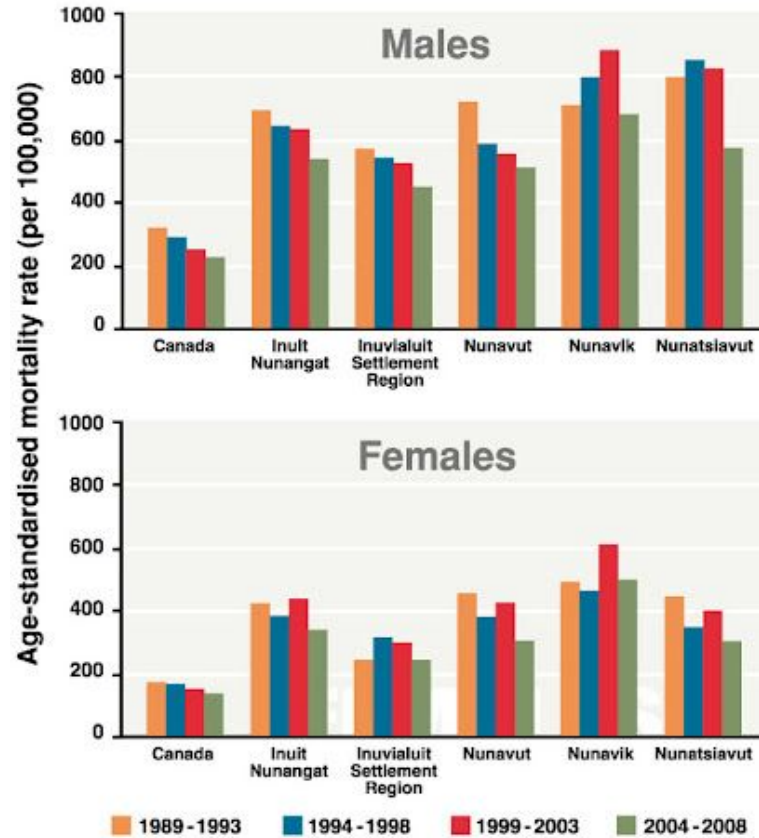
(Willerslev)

Suicide:
then and now

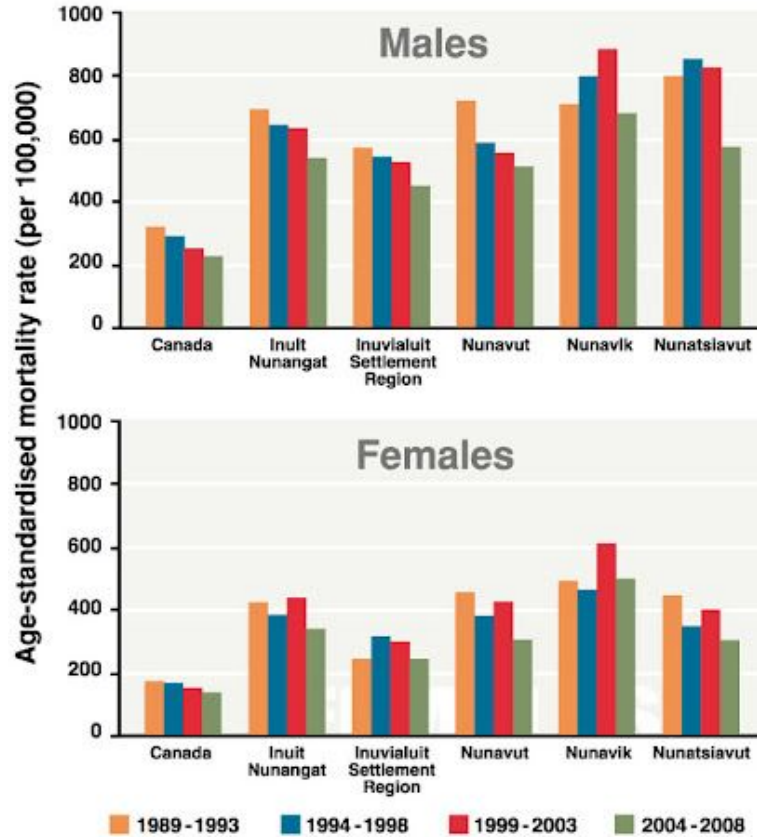
“Today, the old sometimes commit suicide. An old man may be driven to such an extremity when he is *gamapok*, angry. Angry with himself. He goes out and never comes back. Sometimes he tells his family, and they do nothing to stop him. The old man has made up his mind and will not budge! Those who kill themselves in this way have often been great hunters. Diminished by old age and feeling themselves a burden to everyone, they don’t take easily to their changed condition.”

Tété-Michel Kpomassie

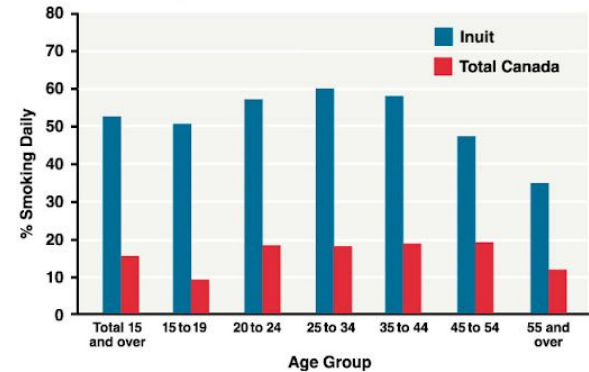
Variations in age-standardized mortality rates for males and females



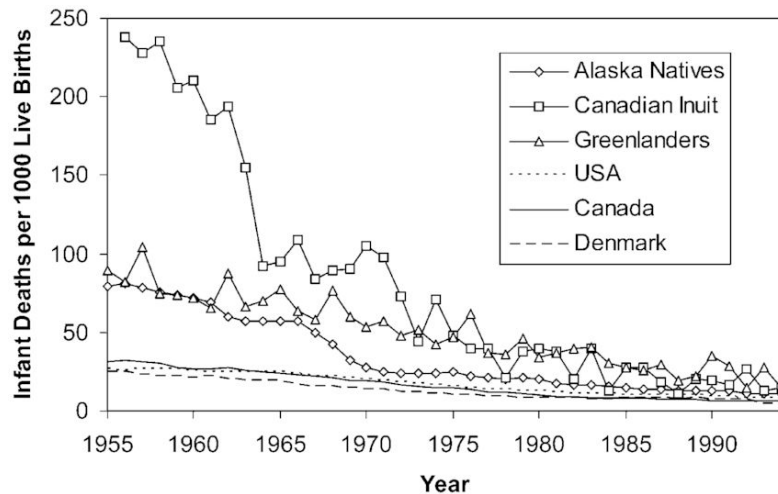
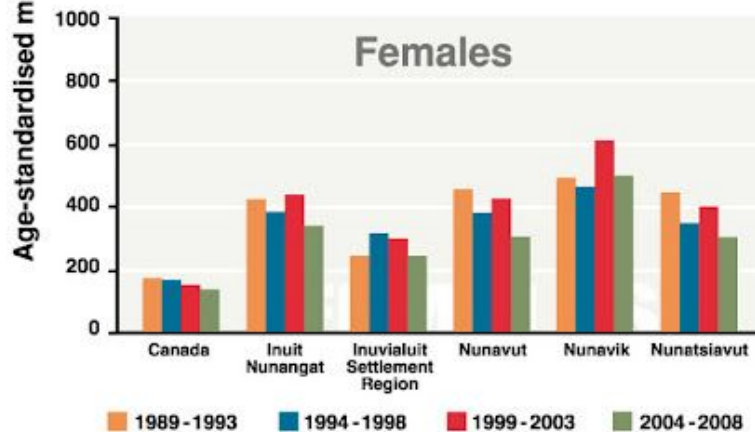
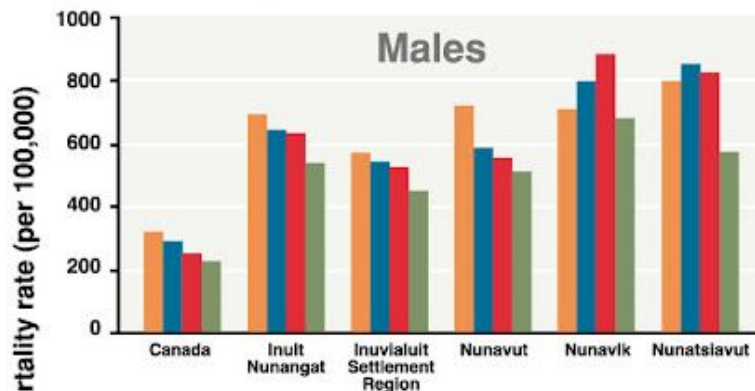
Variations in age-standardized mortality rates for males and females



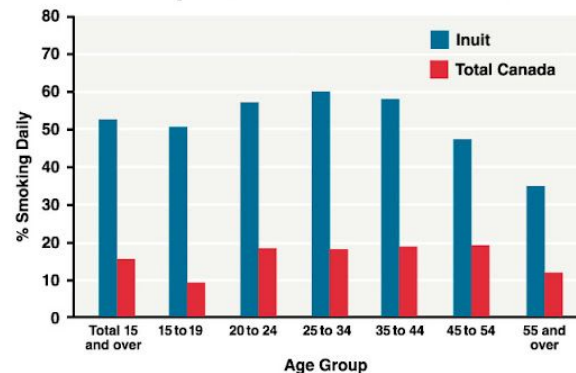
Daily smoking rates of Inuit compared to the rest of Canada



Variations in age-standardized mortality rates for males and females



Daily smoking rates of Inuit compared to the rest of Canada



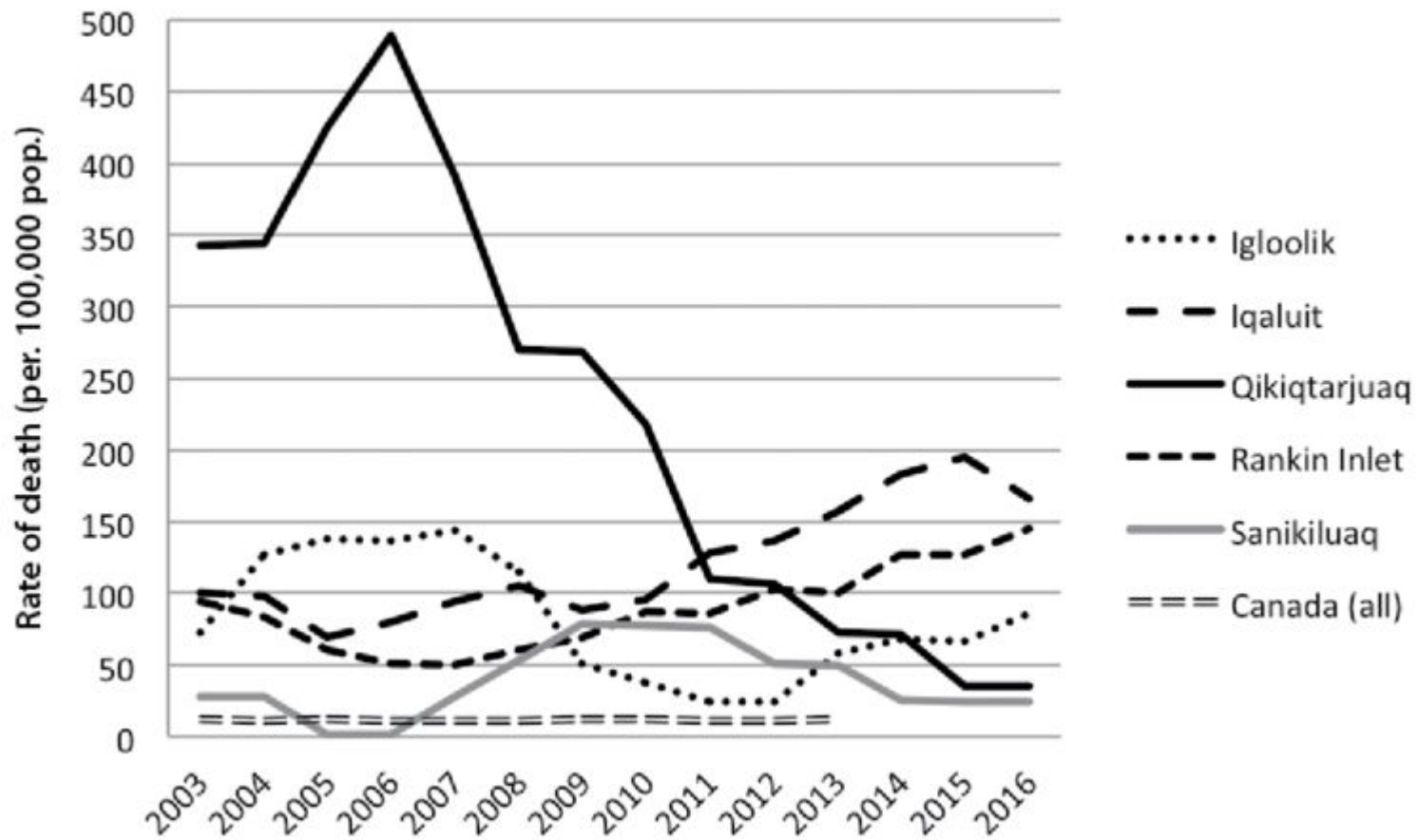
INUIT SUICIDE RATE, 2009-2013

Per 100,000 population

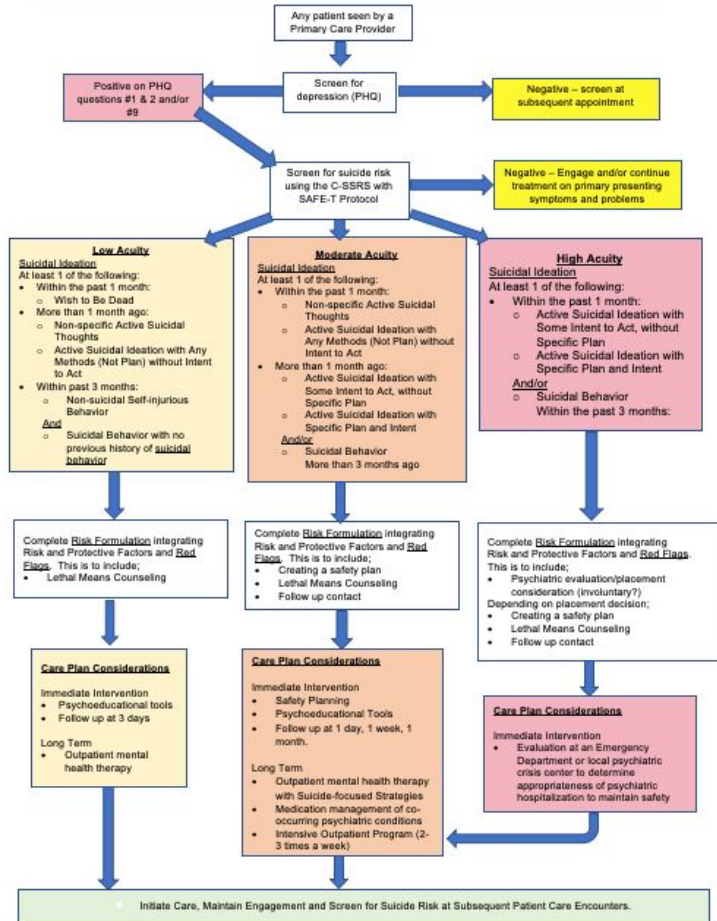


Note: Rates for all populations are crude. Total Canada rate is for 2011.

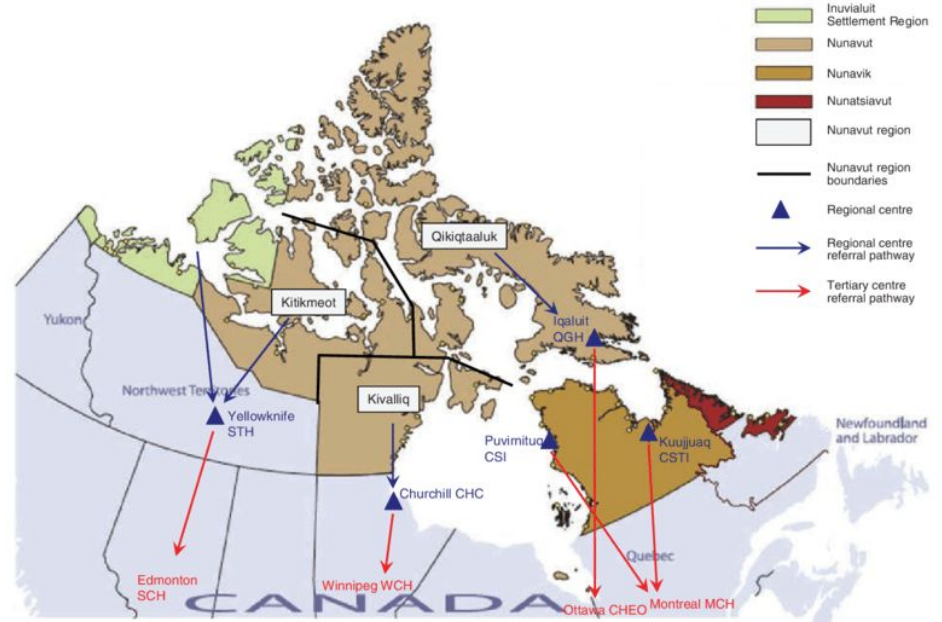
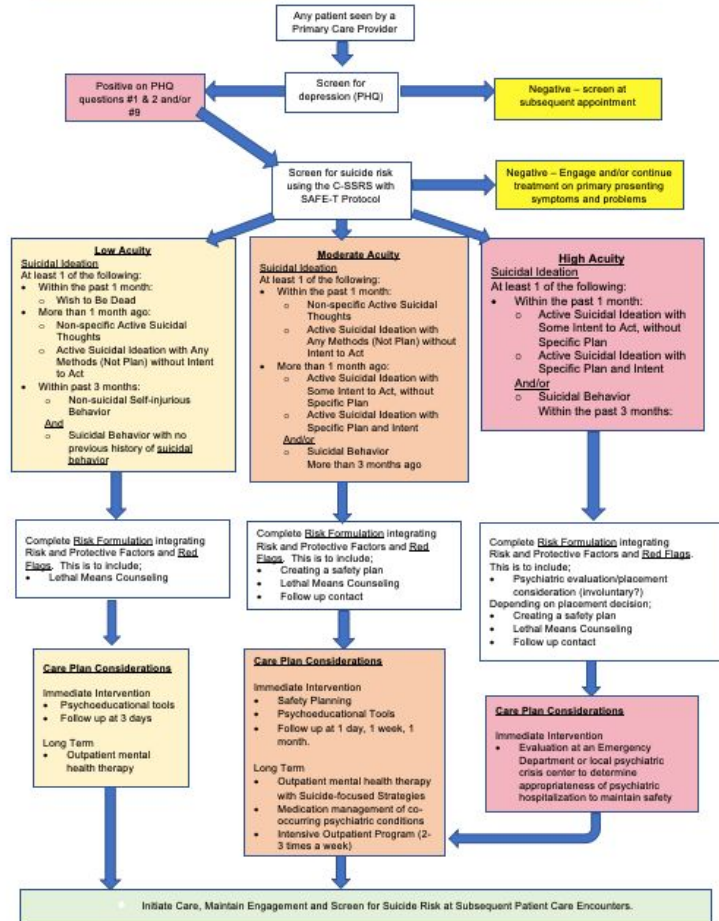
SOURCE: ITK BY J. HICKS; STATISTICS CANADA, CANSIM 102-0552



CLINICAL PATHWAY FOR PATIENTS AT RISK FOR SUICIDE



CLINICAL PATHWAY FOR PATIENTS AT RISK FOR SUICIDE



“If we let suicide remain a wound rather than a problem to be solved through cooperation, we can experience the suicidal imagination, its desires and its negations, rather than circumscribe it with meaning.”

Lisa Stevenson