

# "If you can't measure it, you can't improve it."

## Mapping Accidental Deaths in the Kootenay Boundary

Becky Brohman – 4<sup>th</sup> Year University of Victoria BSN Student  
Idaylia Swanson – 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Selkirk College Rural Pre-Med Student

### Significance

- The Interior Health region has only 15.6% of the total population of BC and yet it has some of the highest rates of accident-related deaths:
  - 33% of MVI
  - 37% of ATV
  - 57% of winter activity
  - 34.5% of drownings
- Similar statistics on the Kootenay Boundary (KB) area are not accessible.
- This map was the first phase of a larger project aimed at improving public safety by gathering statistics and identifying trends and dangerous areas in the KB.

### Methods

- Searched internet to find news stories of accident-related deaths in the KB since 2012
- Cataloged and categorized findings, input data on to map
- Conducted literature reviews to support the project
- Sourced contact information for Phase II

### The Map

- We created a publicly accessible Geographical Information Systems (GIS) map of the Kootenay Boundary, plotting accident-related deaths with links to the corresponding news stories.
- We intend that this map will:
  - Spread awareness of project and gain public support.
  - Start to identify any trends or dangerous areas, to begin determining modifiable risk factors.

#### Accidental Deaths - Kootenays

This is a proxy map of accidental deaths whereby the data was found on publicly accessible internet websites. The term accidental death is defined as any death that occurs as the result of an accident.

MVI RECREATIONAL DROWNING OTHER



*"At the very heart of this project is a desire to save lives, help critically ill and injured patients, and support the emergency services."* – KERPA Geomap Project Mandate

### Moving Forward

- Adding data from the past 20 years to our original map.
- Phase II of the project will be a private GIS map, for research purposes with all accident-related deaths in the KB.
- Collecting additional data from emergency services, provincial accident and fatality databases, and different monitoring agencies.

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#### Contact Information

- idayliaswanson@edu.selkirk.ca
- rbrohman@uvic.ca

#### Link to Map

- <http://kerpa.org/index.php/geomap-project/>

