# "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

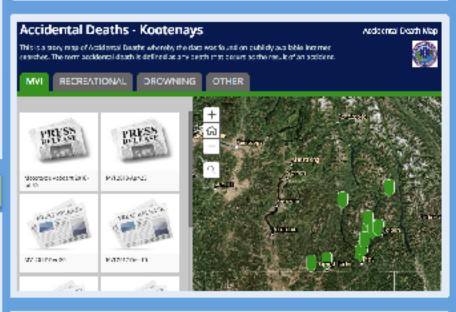
- The Interior Health region has only 15.6% of the total population of BC and yet it has some of the highest rates of accident-related deaths:
  - 33% of MVI
  - 37% of ATV
  - 57% of winter activity
  - 34.5% of drownings
- Similar statistics on the Kootenay Boundary (KB) area are not accessible.
- 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.



"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 accidentrelated deaths in the KB.
- Collecting additional data from emergency services, provincial accident and fatality databases, and different monitoring agencies.

#### Acknowledgements

- KERPA team Dr. Nicholas Sparrow, Dr. Heather Strong, and Jim Kyle
- Field Guide Julia Langham
- Instructors Lori Barkley and Shannon Lancot-Shah

#### Contact Information

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

#### Link to Map

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





