Road Safety in Native American Communities

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What We Know

- American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) are disproportionately affected by injuries and deaths caused by motor vehicle crashes (MVC)
  - Rates are more than double those from other races
What We Know

- Native American children are especially vulnerable when riding in vehicles
  - Rates for AI/AN children are more than 4 times higher than Blacks and nearly 7 times higher than Whites
Reported MVC Fatalities in Tribal Areas

Legend
- No Tribal Areas
- Tribal Areas but no identified fatal crashes
Safety Belt Use Estimates, 2012-2016

All U.S. | Tribal Reservations
---|---
2012: 86.1 | 68.8
2013: 86.2 | 69.6
2014: 86.7 | 73.4
2015: 88.5 | 74.3
2016: 90.1 | 77.7
Safety Belt Use Estimate

- **All U.S.:**
  - 2012: 86.1%
  - 2013: 86.2%
  - 2014: 86.7%
  - 2015: 88.5%
  - 2016: 90.1%

- **Tribal Areas:**
  - 2012: 68.8%
  - 2013: 69.6%
  - 2014: 73.4%
  - 2015: 74.3%
  - 2016: 77.7%
Challenges to Rural Road Safety

- Many Native American communities face the same challenges other rural drivers face
- Tribal communities also face some unique challenges
  - Lack of traffic safety legislation
  - Law enforcement staffing
  - Issues related to crash reporting
Domains of Roadway Safety

- Roads
- People
- Vehicles
The CDC Best Practices Guide is based on lessons learned from Tribes funded by several federal agencies. It focuses on:

- Increasing child safety seat use
- Increasing seat belt use
- Decreasing alcohol-impaired driving
Roadway to Safer Tribal Communities Toolkit

- The toolkit contains information on tribal road safety and includes:
  - Fact Sheets
  - Posters
  - A Killer in Indian Country video

Visit CDC’s Tribal Road Safety Website to view and download this toolkit and Best Practices Guide: https://www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/native/index.html
Outside technical assistance is an important component of a successful tribal MVC prevention program.

This project is designed to enhance technical assistance and training to tribes to help them implement proven strategies to increase restraint use.

Project will be based at the Albuquerque Area Indian Health Board.

Three Traffic Safety Specialists were recently hired.
Tribal Transportation Safety Resources

- The tribal transportation safety website is maintained by the Safety Management System (SMS) Committee.
- Site contains resources for related to funding sources, safety planning, and several MVC topic areas.
- You can sign up for the Tribal Transportation Safety mailing list on the homepage.

http://www.tribalsafety.org/
Thank you!

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For more information, contact CDC
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.