

Billings Area Injury Prevention Newsletter

Billings Area Indian Health Service

February 2007

Volume 1, Issue 3

National Tribal Steering Committee for Injury Prevention

TIPCAP Newsletter, September 2006-

In 2000, the Indian Health Service [National Tribal Steering Committee \(TSC\) for Injury Prevention](#) was established by then program manager Richard Smith III. The committee comprised of one representative and one alternate representative from the 12 I.H.S. service areas and has three main objectives:

1. Raise the awareness and support for injury prevention in American Indian and Alaska Native communities;
2. Enhance the ability of Tribes to address injury problems in their community;
3. Provide advice and guidance to the I.H.S. Injury Prevention Program.

The TSC has a four-person management team (elected to three-year terms), including a chair, vice-chair, secretary, and treasurer. Committee members, appointed to five-year terms, participate in conference calls once per month and meet for face-to-face discussions 2-3 times per year.

Chairpersons, who serve two-year terms, have included Lawrence Garnanez (Navajo, 2000-2002); Helen Andon (Alaska, 2002-2004); and Dennis Renville (Aberdeen, 2004-2006).

[Please See TSC on page 4...](#)

Five Native Americans Certified as Child Passenger Technicians

Five Native Americans were Certified as Child Passenger Safety Technicians this past January 2007. The five technicians are Jodee Dennison, Billings Area Indian Health Service; Adrian Spotted

Bird, Ft. Peck Injury Prevention; Eugene Stump, Ft. Peck Highway Traffic Safety Department; and Shane Goss and Wayne Bull Calf, Blackfeet Head Start Program.

The five technicians will be able

to use their skills to perform Child Passenger Safety Clinics at their respective reservations.

For further info on future CPS trainings please see the Events and Schedules section below.

Events and Schedules

February

February 6, 2007- The Brain Injury Support Group has scheduled a meeting at the Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Lame Deer (7 PM).

February 6-9, 2007- [“4,000 from the Four Directions” Regional Wellness Gatherings](#), Pechanga Resort, CA.

February 8, 2007- The Brain Injury Support Group has scheduled a meeting at the Awe Kualawaache Care Center in Crow Agency (7 PM).

March

March 6-10, 2007- A four day Child Passenger Safety training sponsored by Safe Kids/Safe Communities (SKSC) will be offered in Kalispell, MT. For more information on enrollment, please contact Wendy Olson @ 406-751-4502.

April

April 24-27, 2007- The Billings Area Indian Health Service will be sponsoring an “Introduction to Injury Prevention” training course. The course will be held at the Holiday Inn Grand Montana, Billings, MT.

For further information, please contact CDR Jodee Dennison, Area

Injury Prevention Specialist @ 406-247-7098.

April 24-27, 2007- A four day Child Passenger Safety training sponsored by Safe Kids/Safe Communities will be offered in Great Falls, MT. For more information on enrollment, please contact Mary Kay Burns @ 406-454-6950.

August

August 14-18, 2007 - A four day Child Passenger Safety training sponsored by Safe Kids/Safe Communities will be offered in Missoula, MT. For more information on enrollment, please call Lonie Hutchinson @ 406-258-3880.



“INJURIES ARE NOT ACCIDENTS.”

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Area Wide Seat Belt, FY 07, 2nd Quarter Observational Surveys conducted at the following locations:

Crow Service Unit

Northern Cheyenne Service Unit

Seat Belt Survey Results:

Click on link below to view results.

See the Results

**National Health and
Wellness Observance**

Calendar:

February 2007

**National Child
Passenger Safety
Awareness Week, Feb
11-17, 2007**

<http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov>

**BACCHUS and
GAMMA (Collegiate)
Safe Spring Break
Programming, Late
February and Early
April**

Task Force on Alcohol and
Other Drugs

[http://
www.bacchusgamma.org](http://www.bacchusgamma.org)

March 2007

**National Poison
Prevention Month**

Poison Prevention Council

[http://
www.poisonprevention.org](http://www.poisonprevention.org)
or

American Association of
Poison Control Centers

<http://www.aapcc.org>

**National Poison
Prevention Week,
March 18-24**

[http://
www.poisonprevention.org](http://www.poisonprevention.org)

**National Youth
Violence Prevention
Week, March 26-30**

[http://
www.violencepreventionweek
.org](http://www.violencepreventionweek.org)

Area Wide News and Events

Billings Area Office

April 24-27, 2007– The Billings Area Indian Health Service, Office of Environmental Health & Engineering will be sponsoring an “Introduction to Injury Prevention” training course.

The training course will be in Billings, MT. The date is April 24-27, 2007 and it will be held at the Holiday Inn Grand, Billings, MT.

Blackfeet Service Unit

December, 2006– The Billings Area Indian Health Service sponsored a Child Passenger Car Seat Checkpoint and Clinic in Browning, MT this past December 13, 2006. The Blackfeet PHS Indian Hospital and the Browning School District 9 hosted the event at the school’s local bus garage. Nearly 25-30 children received new car seats ranging from convertibles to high back to backless boosters. Ages ranged from newborn to 8 years of age.

The clinic also allowed parents to bring in their child’s car seat to be checked for proper installation and defects.

I.H.S. staff involved with the clinic were Sharon Wagner, Community Health Educator; Brian Crawford, Environmental

Health Specialist; and Darcy Merchant, Assistant Area Injury Prevention Specialist.

The Billings Area Indian Health Service, Injury Prevention Program would like to thank Browning School District 9 for use of their bus bay during the event. Also, a thank you to Blackfeet PHS Indian Hospital staff Sharon Wagner and Brian Crawford for their participation and hard work!



Sharon Wagner, Blackfeet PHS Indian Hospital representative, babysitting an infant waiting for a new car seat.



Billings Area Indian Health Service, Assistant Area Injury Prevention Specialist, Darcy Merchant, gives proper installation instruction and education to a local parent.

Crow Service Unit

February 2007- “Go For Your Seatbelt” Poster Contest

The Crow Community DUI Task Force is available for area Schools for 2007 with a Child Safety Program featuring Traffic Safety and buckling up as the theme. BIA Traffic Safety Officer, Pernell Brown, Child Safety Seat Installer, Maudine Stewart and IHS Injury Prevention Specialist, Deb

Haines are visiting schools with the one hour safety program and the Safety Belt Poster contest for students from 5th-8th grades.

Local entrants will be judged by the members of the Crow DUI Task Force, date to be announced after the training has been completed.

This Safety Training sponsored by the Crow Community DUI Task Force is a multi-agency and Community non-profit project for the youth in the area. The Task force is visiting business for cooperation for poster winning prizes at this time. Classroom teachers for the 5th-8th grade age group on the Crow Reservation may call 406-638-3474 to arrange for a class room training if they wish to have us visit.

The Boys and Girls Club of Hardin and the St. Xavier Pretty Eagle School have received their training and are working on their posters to date, and the Hardin Cine I Theatre has all ready donated free movie tickets for winners of the contest.

We need the whole Crow Reservation and Big Horn County to get involved and support these kids to continue to buckle up when riding in a vehicle. Buckling up saves lives in traffic crashes we have many local stories testifying the success of good traffic safety habits!

**Article submitted by
Deborah Haines, Crow
Service Unit.**

**Fort Belknap Service
Unit**

Did Not Submit.



Blackfeet PHS Indian Hospital staff representative, Brian Crawford, assists a parent with registration for a new car seat.

Safety

Spotlight:

Child Passenger Safety Week, February 11-17, 2007

February 11-17, 2007

Child Passenger Safety

Tips:

According to the Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (**WISQARS**), between 1999-2004, there were approximately **296 deaths of American Indian/Alaska Natives from 0-14 years of age** in the United States as a result of Motor Vehicle Traffic Crashes!!!!

Below are some Child Passenger Safety tips on how to select the correct Child Passenger Safety Seat for a child:

Infants

Age: Birth to at least 1 year of age.

Weight: Up to 20 pounds.

Type of Seat: Infant only or Rear-Facing Convertible.



Pictured above: Rear-Facing Convertible Car Seat.

[Safety Spotlight Cont. Pg 4.](#)

Area Wide News and Events, continued.

Fort Peck Service Unit

January, 2007– The Fort Peck Tribes Injury Prevention Coalition developed an awareness poster that is to be



distributed throughout the reservation in the new year. The poster comprises of local Tribal law enforcement, the Montana Highway Patrol, Emergency Medical Personnel, local Firefighters, Tribal Health, and other organizations.

Northern Cheyenne Service Unit

January, 2007- The Northern Cheyenne Injury Prevention Coalition held a meeting at the Charging Horse Casino on January 31, 2007.

Wind River Service Unit

Eastern Shoshone Tribe & Northern Arapaho Tribe

January, 2007- The Billings Area Indian Health Service, Injury Prevention Program sponsored a Child Passenger



Car Seat Checkpoint and Clinic

at the Fort Washakie Fire Hall on January 18, 2007. The



IHS representatives, Darcy Merchant, Jodee Dennison, Russell Savage, Myrtle Quiver, and Ft Washakie Fire Department staff member Naomi Chavis line up for a quick snapshot before the event.

event was hosted by the Indian Health Service, Office of Environmental Health and Engineering and the Fort Washakie Fire Department.

Children ages ranged from newborn to 8 years old. Parents were given hands-on education for properly installing their child's car seat.

A special thank you to Fort Washakie Fire Department for allowing the Indian Health Service to use their facility for the event.

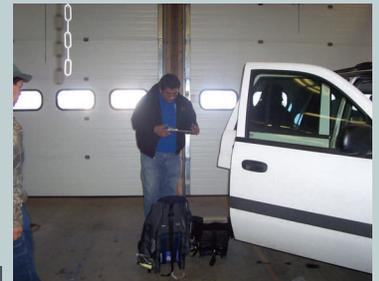
The Billings Area Indian Health Service, Injury Prevention Program would also like to thank Russell Savage, Dalco Whiteman, Charles Aragon, Kathryn Noisy Hawk, and Myrtle Quiver for their participation.

Pictured below are more photos from the event:



An infant and his father waiting for a new car seat.

A total of 17 car seats were distributed to local children of the Fort Washakie Indian reservation.



Darcy Merchant, Assistant Area Injury Prevention Specialist, helps adjust a seatbelt strap for a participating youth.



Toddlers

Age: Over 1 year old.

Weight: Over 20 lbs. to 40 lbs.

Type of Seat: Convertible/ Forward-Facing High Back Booster.



Pictured above: Forward-Facing High Back Booster with harness straps.

Young Child

Age: About 5-8 years old.

Weight: Over 30 lbs. up to about 80 lbs.

Type of Seat: Forward-Facing High Back Booster or a Belt Positioning Booster Seat.



Pictured above: Forward-Facing High Back belt positioning Booster.

Older Child

Age: 8 years old and up.

Weight: 80 lbs and up.

Child can use a seat belt only

IF: Child's back is flush against seat AND knees bend over edge of seat comfortably.

TSC continued from page 1.

If you are from an area listed with a current committee member vacancy, please contact Angie Maloney at (928) 283-2855 or by email at Angie.Maloney@ihs.gov.

I.H.S. Area	Representative/Alternate Representative
Aberdeen	Dennis Renville/ Mona Zuffante (Alternate)
Alaska	Anita Bailor, TSC Secretary/ Kathy O'Gara (Alternate)
Bemidji	Jennifer Falck, TSC Vice-Chair/ Vacant (Alternate)
Albuquerque	Leola Eriacho-Leekety/ Vacant (Alternate)
Billings	Adrian Spotted Bird, Jr./ Vacant (Alternate)
California	Vacant (Representative)/ Barbara Hart (Alternate)
Nashville	Eldon Espling/ Vacant (Alternate)
Navajo	Angie Maloney, (Chair)/ Beverly Becenti-Pigman (Alternate)
Oklahoma	Bonnie Stephenson/ Vacant (Alternate)
Portland	Luella Azule/ Clarice Hudson (Alternate)
Phoenix	Christine Reede/ Vacant (Alternate)
Tucson	Michelle Begay, TSC Treasurer/ Vacant (Alternate)

Brain Injury Support Group Meetings Arranged for Crow Agency and Lame Deer

An open invitation is extended for all interested parties to attend Brain Injury Support Group meetings scheduled for Tuesday evening, February 6th at the Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Lame Deer (7 PM) and Thursday evening, February 8th at Awe Kualawaache Care Center in Crow Agency (7 PM). Refreshments will be provided. This is a cost-free opportunity and all are welcome. Future monthly Brain Injury Support Group meetings will be held every second Tuesday at Lame Deer and every second Thursday at Crow Agency from 7 PM – 9 PM at the designated location.

The purpose of these support groups is to help people with brain injuries and their family members cope with this significant injury by providing a confidential setting for discussion, socialization, recreation, and information exchange. Both support groups will give people with brain injuries and their family members a chance to share experiences, participate in educational opportunities, and get emotional support. Montana ranks second in the nation in the number of per capita incidence of traumatic brain injuries (TBI), with motor vehicle accidents being a leading cause. Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show that American Indians and Alaska Natives together have a higher death rate due to traumatic brain injuries than any other race.

Facilitator for the Lame Deer Area Support Group is Quintin Kingfisher 406-477-6215 ext. 109 and Facilitator for the Crow Agency Area Support Group is Dean Bird – 406-665-1634.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT: Nell Eby, Montana State TBI Coordinator (406-655-7636), Dean Bird (406-655-1634) or Quintin Kingfisher of Chief Dull Knife College (406-477-6215 ex. 109).

Mission of the Indian Health Service

THE MISSION OF THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE IS TO RAISE THE PHYSICAL, MENTAL, SOCIAL, AND SPIRITUAL HEALTH OF AMERICAN INDIANS AND ALASKA NATIVES TO THE HIGHEST LEVEL.

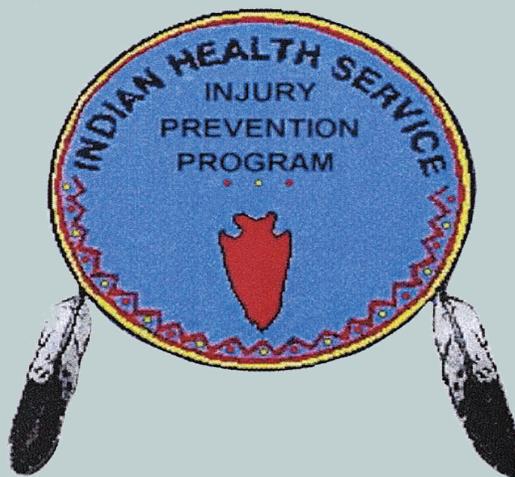
THE GOAL TO ASSURE THAT COMPREHENSIVE, CULTURALLY ACCEPTABLE PERSONAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE AND ACCESSIBLE TO AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE PEOPLE.

OUR FOUNDATION. TO UPHOLD THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S OBLIGATION TO PROMOTE HEALTH FOR AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE PEOPLE, COMMUNITIES, AND CULTURES AND TO HONOR AND PROTECT THE INHERENT SOVEREIGN RIGHTS OF TRIBES.

Injury Prevention Program

OUR MISSION:

TO RAISE THE HEALTH STATUS OF AMERICAN INDIANS AND ALASKAN NATIVES TO THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE LEVEL BY DECREASING THE INCIDENCE OF SEVERE INJURIES AND DEATH TO THE LOWEST POSSIBLE LEVEL AND INCREASING THE ABILITY OF TRIBES TO ADDRESS THEIR INJURY PROBLEMS.



Billings Area Injury Prevention
Newsletter is developed and
maintained by Darcy Merchant.



Billings Area Indian Health Service

**Office of Environmental
Health and Engineering**

Injury Prevention Program

**2900 4th Avenue North
P.O. Box 36600
Billings, MT 59107**

Contacts:

CDR Jodee Dennison, MPH

Area Injury Prevention Specialist
Billings Area Indian Health Service
Office of Environmental Health
and Engineering
Injury Prevention Program
2900 4th Avenue North
Billings, MT 59107
Tel: 406-247-7098
Fax: 406-247-7229
E-mail: Jodee.Dennison@ihs.gov

Darcy Merchant

Asst. Area Injury Prevention
Specialist
Billings Area Indian Health Service
Office of Environmental Health
and Engineering
Injury Prevention Program
2900 4th Avenue North
Billings, MT 59107
Tel: 406-247-7097
Fax: 406-247-7229
E-mail: Darcy.Merchant@ihs.gov

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Health Service**