



# Atlas of Injury Mortality

Among American Indian and Alaska Native Children and Youth,  
1989-1998

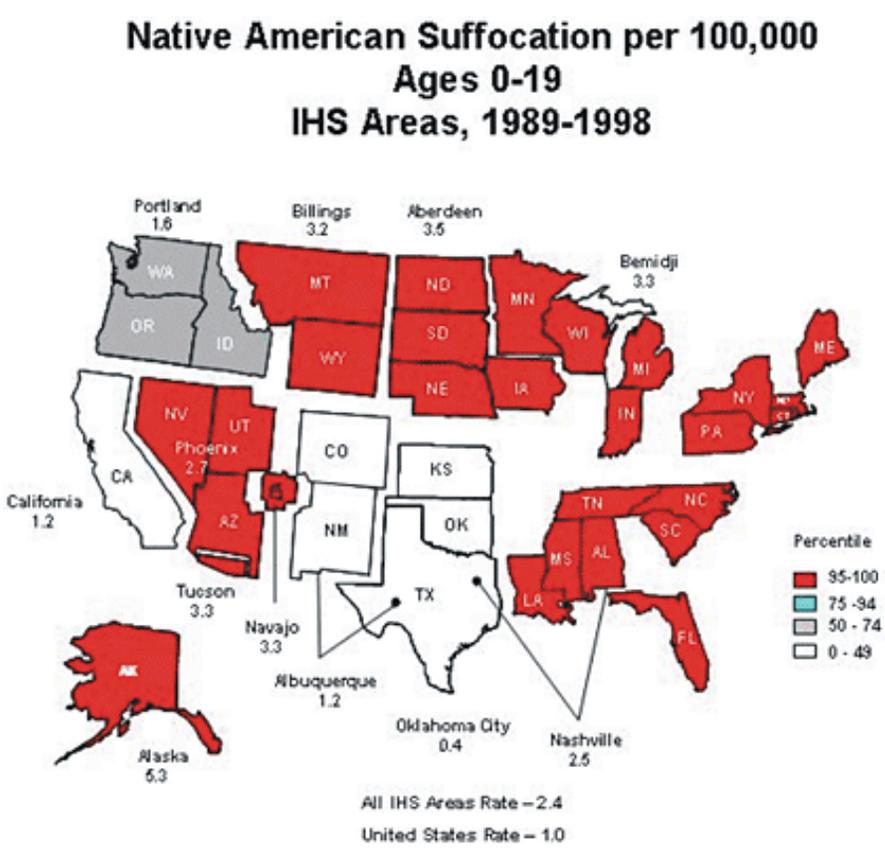
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- [Suicide-Related Deaths](#)
- [Homicide-Related Deaths](#)
- [Drowning-Related Deaths](#)
- [Fire-Related Deaths](#)
- [Suffocation-Related Deaths](#)

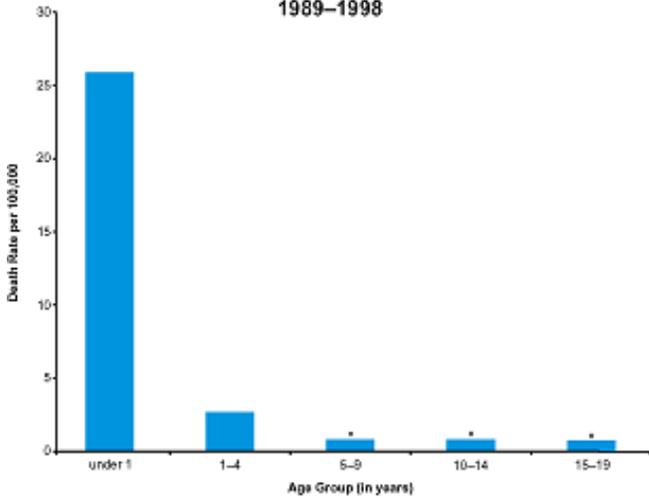
## Native American Suffocation per 100,000, Ages 0-19, IHS Areas, 1989-1998



IHS Area	Death Rate (per 100,000)	Percentile
Aberdeen	3.5	95-100
Alaska	5.3	95-100
Albuquerque	1.2	0-49
Bemidji	3.3	95-100
Billings	3.2	95-100
California	1.2	0-49
Nashville	2.5	95-100
Navajo	3.3	95-100
Oklahoma	0.4	0-49
Phoenix	2.7	95-100
Portland	1.6	50-74
Tucson	3.3	95-100
All IHS Areas Combined	2.4	

United States Rate	1.0	
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**Suffocation Age-Specific Rates 1989-1998**



\* Rates are based on fewer than 20 deaths and should be interpreted with caution.

**Suffocation Age Specific Rates 1989-1998**

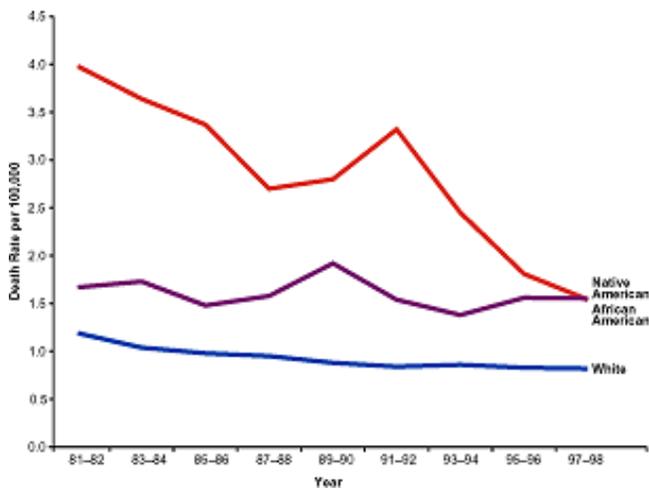
Age Group (years)	Death Rate (per 100,000)
Under 1	25.9
1-4	2.7
5-9	0.8*
10-14	0.8*
15-19	0.7*

\* Rates are based on fewer than 20 deaths and should be interpreted with caution.

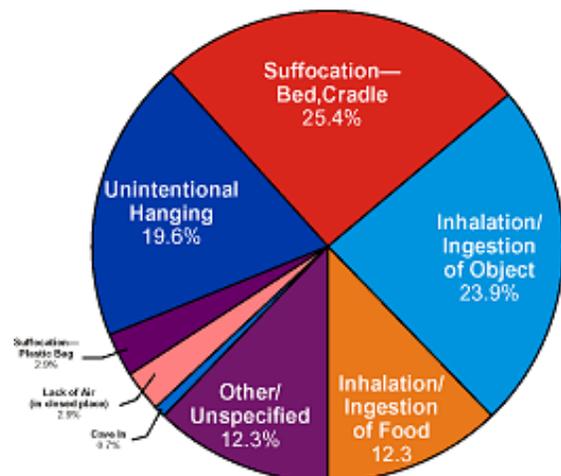
**SUMMARY**

- From 1989 to 1998, 155 Native American children and youth died from unintentional suffocation, choking, or strangulation.
- Suffocation was the leading cause of injury death among Native American infants.
- Inhalation or ingestion of food or other objects accounted for 24% of the choking and suffocation deaths. Twenty-five percent of children suffocated while in a bed or cradle.
- Fifty-eight percent of suffocation deaths occurred among infants. Forty percent of these infants suffocated in a bed or cradle.
- Suffocation rates were highest in the Alaska Area.

**Suffocation Rates per 100,000 Population 1981-1998**



**Type/Location of Suffocation 1989-1998**



**1981-1998**

Year	Native American Rate	Black Rate	White Rate
81-82	3.98	1.67	1.19
83-84	3.64	1.73	1.04
85-86	3.37	1.48	0.98
87-88	2.70	1.58	0.95
89-90	2.80	1.92	0.88
91-92	3.32	1.54	0.84
93-94	2.45	1.38	0.86
95-96	1.81	1.56	0.83
97-98	1.54	1.56	0.82

**Type/Location of Suffocation  
1989-1998**

Method Used	Frequency (%)
Cave In	0.7
Inhalation/Ingestion of food	12.3
Inhalation/Ingestion of an object	23.9
Lack of air (in closed space)	2.9
Suffocation (bed, cradle)	25.4
Suffocation (plastic bag)	2.9
Unintentional hanging	19.6
Other/Unspecified	12.3

