

**INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE
2022 RICK SMITH INJURY PREVENTION AWARD
MONTE YAZZIE**



Injuries continue to plague Arizonans. From 2016-2020, unintentional injuries were the third leading cause of death for all ages. This issue is even more impactful among the Arizona (AZ) American Indian / Alaskan Native (AI/AN) population where unintentional injuries are leading cause of death for all ages. In fact, when looking at the ages 1-44, all injuries (including unintentional and intentional), were responsible for 53% of the AI/AN deaths from 2016-2020. During this same time period, there was a noticeable disparity between the age-adjusted injury rates of the AZ AI/AN population (165.53) and that of all races combined (86.83). The AI/AN rate is double that of all races combined. When analyzing the causation of the AI/AN injuries, motor-vehicle crashes, falls, and poisonings are consistently the three leaders.

Mr. Monte Yazzie recognized this unacceptable disparity and decided to take action. Monte is the Salt River Pima-Maricopa (SRPMIC) Injury Prevention Coordinator, funded through the IHS Tribal Injury Prevention Cooperative Agreement Program (TIPCAP). He has built a data-driven, comprehensive injury prevention program aimed at addressing the causes of injury in SRPMIC. He not only worked tirelessly to design, develop, and implement effective or best-practice interventions, but he was also mindful of sustainability. He has served in this role for 6 years.

Child Passenger Safety (CPS)

- Through his comprehensive child safety seat distribution and education program, over 350 seats were distributing to the community in 2022. The program's social media posts reached over 15,000 people. The program has trained 26 Nationally Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians to help grow and sustain its operations. Additionally, Mr. Yazzie serves as a lead CPS instructor and is a known Subject Matter Expert in this field.

Poisoning Prevention

- A total of 50 medication lock boxes were installed and supported to help SRPMIC safely store their medication in the home environment. In addition to the boxes, 275 drug deactivation pouches were distributed to assist the community with disposing of their unused, excess, or expired medication in the home. The program's 11 social media posts reached over 11,000 members in the community marketing these harm reduction efforts.

Elder Falls Prevention

- A CDC STEADI supported “Yoga For Falls” prevention program is fully operational in the community. It has a standardized curriculum for culturally appropriate application in tribal communities and has provided critical services to over 120 elders. Three different tribal programs are partnered to deliver these services.

Mr. Yazzie meticulously designed his evaluation plan while developing his interventions. Each intervention includes the tools to collect and analyze baseline data, process information, and impacts where available. Additionally, extensive formative work was done in the community to incorporate the target audience's input to ensure the effectiveness of the programs.

Mr. Yazzie has recognized the need to build lasting partnerships and collaborations to maximize his time as well as the funding received through TIPCAP. He also understands the need to develop sustainable programs and interventions. He has facilitated over 18 internal and external partners. His external partners provide critical resources needed to increase the reach of his programs. His internal partners (tribal programs) are the keys to building a lasting and sustainable program while building the capacity within the community to address the injury issues.