

# Billings Area Injury Prevention Newsletter

Billings Area Indian Health Service

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## IHS, State of Montana, CDC, Tribal Head Start Programs, and Tribal Fire Departments Team Up for Smoke Alarm Projects

The official launch of the Tribal Head Start Smoke Alarm Projects throughout Montana's American Indian Reservations are underway with a host of trainings for staff, parents and care-givers, and installation of smoke alarms in the homes of Head Start children.

The Control and Prevention (CDC) provided a grant to the State of Montana, EMS & Trauma Systems Section to provide smoke alarms targeting the American Indian population in Montana.

and provide Fire Safety education in Head Start Children's homes beginning in June, 2007.

If you reside on a reservation mentioned in this article and have a child enrolled in Head Start, please contact your local Head Start program to find out more about how you can participate!!!



The Tribal Head Start Smoke Alarm Projects cover a wide-area including Northern Cheyenne, Fort Peck, Fort Belknap, Rocky Boy, Blackfeet, and Flathead Indian Reservations.

The Indian Health Service, Injury Prevention Program, coordinated the projects with Tribal Head Start Programs and local Fire Departments. The IHS combined resources with the State of Montana to develop a Power Point presentation containing information on fire-related injuries and deaths in Indian country, types of smoke alarms, and installation methods & maintenance for staff, parents, and care-givers of children.



Darcy Merchant, Assistant Area Injury Prevention Specialist, presents the Ft. Belknap Head Start Smoke Alarm Project to staff and parents.

A combined effort between Tribal, Federal, and State programs are instrumental to the success of the Tribal Head Start Smoke Alarm Projects. The Centers for Disease

Local Tribal Fire Dept. staff will begin installation of smoke alarms

## Billings Area IHS Hosts Injury Prevention Level I Training

The Billings Area Indian Health Service, Injury Prevention Program hosted the Injury Prevention Level I Training recently on April 24-27, 2007 at the Holiday Inn Grand-Billings, MT.

nearly all reservations in Montana and Wyoming.

Training include: Introduction to Injury Prevention, Intermediate Injury Prevention, and Advanced Injury Prevention.

The course introduced participants to various topics in injury prevention including: Injuries as a Public Health Problem, Introduction to Data, Injury Prevention Theory: Public Health Practices and Intervention Models, Case Studies, Coalitions and Collaborations, Action Planning, and Injury Prevention Resources.



Students attending the IHS Injury Prevention Level I Training work on one of several group activities..

Individuals interested in attending an IHS Injury Prevention Training Program can contact their local IHS Injury Prevention Specialist or access the [Environmental Health Support Center](#) website for the most current update on available courses.

Students who participated in the course received a certificate of completion and earned continuing educational units.

Participants included Sanitarians, Head Start, Tribal, and IHS staff who represented

The Indian Health Service has a comprehensive Injury Prevention Training Program that offers a variety of courses for various levels of experience. Three levels of Injury Prevention

[IHS Injury Prevention Training continued on page 5...](#)



**"INJURIES ARE PREVENTABLE!"**

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**Observational Surveys, FY 07, 3rd Q.**

**Seat Belt Survey Results (100 observations):**

**Crow Service Unit**

**10% Driver Usage Rate (May 07')**

**Northern Cheyenne Service Unit**

**12% Driver Usage Rate (May 07')**

**Wind River Service Unit**

**40% Driver Usage Rate (April 07')**

**National Health & Wellness Observance Calendar**

**May 2007**

**National SAFE KIDS Week, May 6-12**

[Safekids.org](http://Safekids.org)

**Buckle Up America! Week, May 21-June 3**

[nhtsa.gov](http://nhtsa.gov)

**June 2007**

**Fireworks Safety Months, (June, July)**

[Preventblindness.org](http://Preventblindness.org)

**Home Safety Month**

[Homesafetycouncil.org](http://Homesafetycouncil.org)

**National Safety Month**

[nsc.org](http://nsc.org)

**July 2007**

**Fireworks Safety Months, (June, July)**

[Preventblindness.org](http://Preventblindness.org)

**Eye Injury Prevention Month**

[aao.org](http://aao.org)

**UV Safety Month**

[Preventblindness.org](http://Preventblindness.org)

**Area Wide News and Events**

**Blackfeet Service Unit**

**March, 2007**– The Billings Area Indian Health Service sponsored a Child Passenger Car Seat Checkpoint and Clinic in Browning, MT this past March 20, 2007. The Blackfeet PHS Indian Hospital and the Browning School District 9 hosted the event at the school's local bus garage.



Blackfeet Head Start, CPS Technicians, Shane Goss and Wayne Bull Calf, give proper installation instruction and education to a local parent.

Up to 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 Brian Crawford, Environmental Health Specialist; and Darcy Merchant, Assistant Area Injury Prevention Specialist.

A special thank you to newly certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians from the Blackfeet Head Start Program were Shane Goss and Wayne Bull Calf. The two Head Start employees helped install car seats for the event.

The Billings Area Indian Health Service, Injury Prevention Program would also like to



Darcy Merchant, Assistant Area IP Specialist, adjusts seat belt webbing for local parents.

thank Browning School District 9 for use of their bus bay during the event. Also, a thank you to Brian Crawford, Shane Goss, and Wayne Bull Calf for their hard work and dedication to saving lives!!!



**Crow Service Unit**

**April, 2007-**

A Car Seat Clinic & Checkpoint was held at the Crow Head Start Center this past April 13, 2007. The event brought in 30 children from the local area and parents were given hands-on education on how to properly install car seats.



Maudine Stewart, CPS Technician, educated parents on proper car seat installation.

The event was sponsored by the Billings Area Indian Health Service and hosted by the Crow Head Start Program.



Jodee Dennison (standing), IP Specialist, teaches a hands-on demonstration to a local parent.

The Billings Area Indian Health Service, Injury Prevention Program would like to thank Kateri Gust, Crow Head Start; and Maudine Stewart, Child Passenger Safety Technician, for their help in making this event a possibility. They have volunteered time from their busy schedules to help keep local children safe on all roads!!!

**Fort Belknap Service Unit**

**May, 2007**– The Billings Area Injury Prevention Program sponsored a Buckle Bear presentation that was given to the Ft. Belknap Head Start children this past May 3, 2007. Head Start children learned the importance of buckling up when in a vehicle and were given educational materials to share with their friends and family. A local law enforcement officer and the Billings Area IP Specialist were on hand to help with the presentation.

# Safety

## Spotlight:



### “Click It or Ticket” Launched to Boost Seat Belt Use – And to Save Lives

#### FACTS ON SEAT BELT USE

1. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), in 2005, 15,294 passenger vehicle occupants died in traffic crashes between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 5:59 a.m.
2. 59% of those killed were **NOT** wearing their seat belts at the time of the crash.
3. Nationally in 2005, 77 percent of the passenger vehicle occupants who were in a fatal crash and who were buckled up, survived the crash.
4. Regular seat belt use is the single most effective way to protect people and reduce fatalities in motor vehicle crashes.

[Click It or Ticket!](#)



## Area Wide News and Events, continued.

### Fort Peck Service Unit

**March, 2007**– The Fort Peck Injury Prevention Program provided child passenger car seats to young mothers in the Poplar area.



Proper installation and education was the highlight of the event and was given by Injury Prevention Staff and local Tribal Law Enforcement. The event was coordinated by Adrian Spotted Bird of the Fort Peck Injury Prevention Program.



### **March, 2007**–

The Ft. Peck Tribes Highway Safety Department in conjunction with the Law and Justice Uniform Division patrol officers and the Roosevelt County Sheriff's Department

conducted two separate checkpoints in both Wolf Point and Poplar.

In Wolf Point, officers and deputies set up on the four lanes near McDonalds where they randomly selected vehicles to be checked for safety purposes.



Officers checked for seatbelt and car seat usage as well as proof of driver's license, insurance, and registration. Officers also watched for intoxicated drivers. Officers either wrote warning tickets or citations into court for violators.

A total of 12 law enforcement officers participated in the event which was planned out beforehand during a strategy meeting at the Wolf Point Law and Justice Services Center.

Helping plan the checkpoints were Law and Justice Highway Safety Coordinator Louis Peterson and Roosevelt County Sheriff Freedom Crawford.

Fort Peck Tribes Injury Prevention Coordinator Adrian Spotted Bird Jr. assisted with the checkpoint issuing car seats to those in need and also necklace type key chains which were fluorescent green with a

safety message printed on them. Drivers who completed the checkpoint inspection without any warnings or citations were given the key chains as a reward.

The Officers set up in Wolf Point from 6:30-8:00 p.m. before traveling to Poplar where they set up on Highway 2 near Tribal Express.

A large volume of vehicles were inspected in both places but traffic was heavier in Poplar probably due to the prom and other activities taking place.

Future checkpoints are being planned over Memorial Day weekend to help ensure the safety of citizens across the Fort Peck Indian reservation and Roosevelt County.

**April, 2007**– A Car Seat Clinic took place at the 2nd annual Children's Fair in Wolf Point, MT this past April.



-Article submitted by Adrian Spotted Bird, IP Coordinator, Ft. Peck Injury Prevention Program.

## Northern Cheyenne Service Unit

**May 2007-** The Northern Cheyenne Tribal Health Department sponsored an annual Injury Prevention Fair at the PHS Indian Health Center in Lame Deer, MT this past Thursday, May 24, 2007.



The fair comprised of many educational safety booths that provided information on

vehicle restraint use, fire prevention, and other injury prevention topics and safety strategies. Examples of items that were provided free to the public were gun locks, bike helmets, and smoke alarms.



Smoky the Bear and Desiree Harris share a photo opportunity at the annual Injury Prevention Fair in Lame Deer, MT.

## Wind River Service Unit

### Eastern Shoshone Tribe & Northern Arapaho Tribe

**May, 2007-** The Wind River Tribe's Meth Initiative Planning Group held a Voices of Meth campaign to fight against meth use on the reservation. The event was held from May 6-12, 2007 with several presentations to local area schools by former meth users pending trial for a meth-related drug bust. A Walk/Run was held simultaneously during the presentations to bring awareness about the dangers of drug use and over 275 community members took part. In addition, a Community Feast and mini-Powwow for the youth was held in Ethete, WY at St. Michaels Circle, a total of 400 people attended. **Article submitted by Liz Salway, Juvenile Probation Officer.**

## **Montana Receives TBI Implementation Partnership Grant**

The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) received approval for a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Implementation Partnership Grant Application recently, and several of its objectives directly address the significant problem of brain injury incidence in Montana. Many people still don't realize that Montana ranks second in the nation in per capita incidence of brain injury behind our neighboring state of Wyoming which has the highest per capita incidence of brain injury in the entire nation. The DPHHS has contracted with both the Brain Injury Association of Montana (BIAM) and the Montana Center on Disabilities (MCD) to successfully meet the following stated objectives:

1. To create a strong, active and diverse Grant Board to serve for three years, with a membership consisting of the Governor's TBI Advisory Council as a base, but with increased representation from TBI survivors and their families, members of American Indian tribes, Montanans living in medically underserved areas and those serving children and seniors.
2. To strengthen the system of self-sustaining support groups across the state, particularly those with predominantly American Indian membership, as American Indians are among the most underserved population in the state (regarding TBI).
3. Community TBI Councils in a variety of tribal communities will facilitate events and/or meetings targeted at directing local strategic change, community education, professional collaboration, service coordination, and individual and family support. The Community Councils will bring together key stakeholders representing local TBI survivors and their families, community leadership, health and human services professionals, and those with an interest in improving services to American Indians, children, seniors and those in medically underserved areas. Events will be directed by the stakeholders, with emphasis on input from survivors and their families, and may include community meetings, events honoring TBI survivors, professional education programs, participation in health fairs, or coordination with other community events, such as holiday celebrations or traditional observances.
4. To improve state-wide access to the Resource Facilitation Service (RFS) process initiated by the BIAM and to continue to provide individual resource facilitation services to TBI survivors and their families, with a particular emphasis on increasing access to American Indians, children, seniors, and those living in medically underserved areas. RFS services include referral, information and follow-up and will continue to expand and meet the needs of all Montana's TBI survivors and their families.
5. To improve and substantiate existing TBI-related data for the state of Montana, particularly data relevant to the needs and demographics of the American Indian population, a population that has been consistently undercounted in the past.

A Work Plan has been created with assigned time lines for the purpose of meeting all grant project goals in a timely manner. Project Director for this new Montana TBI Grant is James Driggers, Bureau Chief, Community Services Bureau of DPHHS and Senior and Long Term Care. Much of the field work will be initiated by TBI Project Director, Ian Elliot of the MCD at Montana State University – Billings, who is currently assisting with support group start ups on all of Montana's tribal reservations and in several rural towns. Elliot sustained a significant TBI in May 1994 and following several years of intensive recovery, he went on to earn a Masters Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling, served as Past President of the Brain Injury Association of Montana and currently serves as Facilitator of the Billings Brain Injury Support Group in addition to his many other disability services activities. For further information concerning this exciting project, please feel free to contact Ian by phone at: 406-657-2172 or via e-mail at: [ielliot@msubillings.edu](mailto:ielliot@msubillings.edu).

## Events and Schedules

### June

**June, 2007**– The Fort Belknap Tribal Health, Injury Prevention Program is scheduled to host a Car Seat Checkpoint and Clinic on June 6, 2007 from 10am-2pm.

**June, 2007**– The Billings Area IHS, Health Promotion Program is sponsoring a Youth Academy to be held at MSU-Billings, June 10-15, 2007.

**June, 2007**– The Ft. Peck Injury Prevention Program is sponsoring a Bike Rodeo during Wild West Days on Saturday, June 16, 2007 in Poplar, MT from 10am-2pm.

**June, 2007**– The Billings Area IHS, Injury Prevention Program is sponsoring a Car Seat Clinic at the Fort Washakie Fire Hall on Thursday, June 21, 2007 from 11am-3pm, in Fort Washakie, WY.

**June, 2007**– The Billings Area IHS, Injury Prevention Program is sponsoring a Bike Rodeo (12:30pm-3pm) and Car Seat Clinic (3pm-6pm) in Browning, MT.

**June, 2007**– The Northern Cheyenne Tribe has set a tentative date of June 19, 2007 for a Community Block Party to identify Tribal resources for community members. Time is to be determined.

### July

**July, 2007**– The BAO-IHS, IP Program is hosting a Injury Prevention Coalition meeting on July 18, 2007 at the Holiday Inn Grand– Billings, MT, Lewis & Clark Room. The meeting is scheduled for 9am-3pm.

## IHS Injury Prevention Training continued...

A total of eight students completed the course and their names are listed as following: Avis Spencer, Craig Chandler, Sr., Alwayne Laroque, Jr., Patricia Dust, Myra Lefthand, Shawn Walks Over Ice, Cheryl Werk, and Lila Snell.

Instructors and Area IP Specialists for the training were Jodee Dennison, Injury Prevention Specialist, Billings Area IHS; Don Williams, Injury Prevention Specialist, Tucson Area IHS; Jerry Lee, Injury Prevention Specialist, Albuquerque Area IHS; Darcy Merchant, Assistant Area Injury Prevention Specialist, Billings Area IHS; Lee Ann Johnson, Health Promotion Specialist, Billings Area IHS; Bobbi Perkins, Injury Prevention Coordinator, State of MT, DPHHS; and special keynote presenter, Richard Malone, Senior Medical Examiner, Gallup, NM.



Participants and Instructors Pictured Above (front, l-r) Alwayne Laroque, Jr., Jodee Dennison, Avis Spencer, and Lila Snell. Pictured (back, l-r) Don Williams, Shawn Walks Over Ice, Craig Chandler, Sr., Cheryl Werk, Patricia Dust, Myra Lefthand, and Jerry Lee.

### More Pictures From Training:



## First Annual Statewide Injury Prevention Forum Held in Helena, MT

Many communities throughout Montana participate and implement injury prevention programs for families and individuals both young and old. Many of these community prevention programs are worth sharing with other communities in MT, identifying a need for better collaboration amongst injury prevention specialists throughout the state.

On May 1<sup>st</sup> 2007 the first Statewide Injury Prevention Forum meeting was held in Helena, MT. Participants shared their community injury prevention programs that are currently being implemented and the resources that are being used to support these programs. Montana injury and mortality data sources were reviewed to determine the leading causes for death and injury. This information provided a perspective of what additional data is needed to help identify causes and direct our focus in order to provide awareness at the community level.

From this meeting, the participants developed three focus areas for future meetings:

1.) Resource sharing; 2.) Developing data sources; 3.) Education: Injury Prevention Conference, Program Evaluation Tools, Coalition building, and Funding.

To learn more and become involved, please contact Bobbi Perkins 406-444-4126 or [bperkins@mt.gov](mailto:bperkins@mt.gov)

**Article Submitted Bobbi Perkins, IP Coordinator, DPHHS, EMS & Trauma Systems**

## 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.**

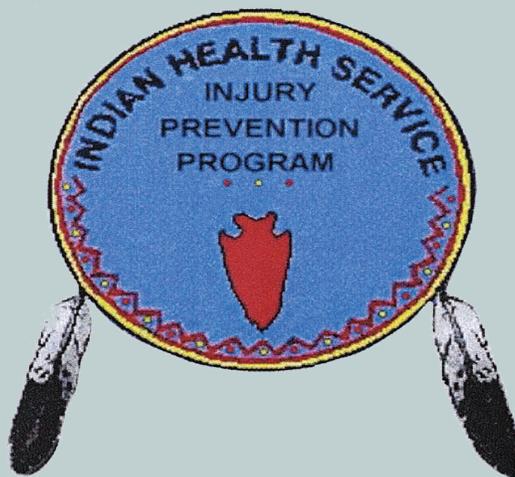
**THE GOAL TO ASSURE THAT COMPREHENSIVE, CULTURALLY ACCEPTABLE PERSONAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE AND ACCESSIBLE TO AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE PEOPLE.**

**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.



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