

Sleep Safe Fire Safety Program

*“Every Indian Child Goes to Sleep in a Home
Protected by a Smoke Alarm...”*

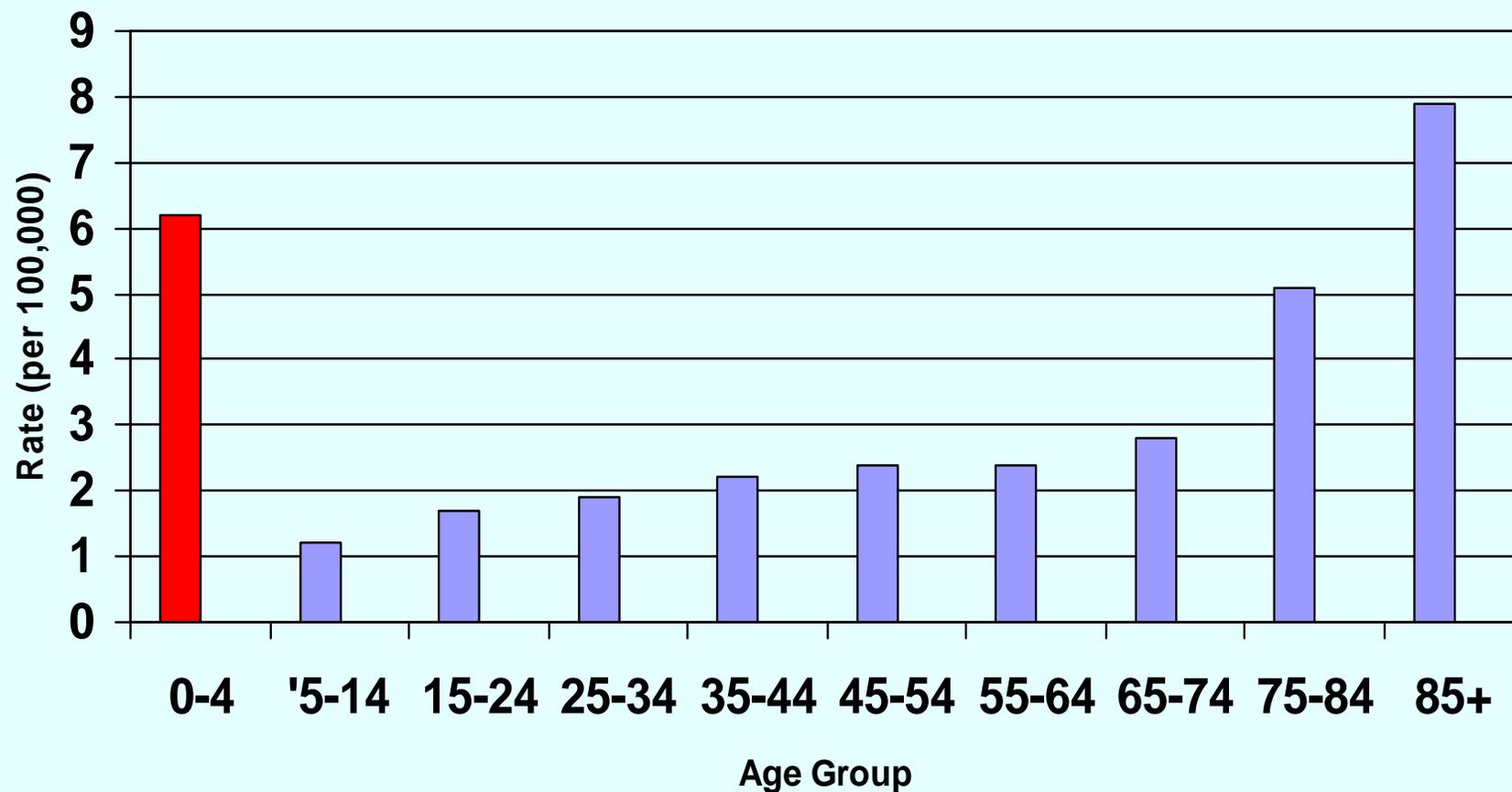
National Partners:

- IHS Injury Prevention Program
- IHS Head Start Program
- US Fire Administration
- Tribal Head Start Grantees



Fire & Burn Mortality in AI/AN Age Groups, 1989-1999

Data Source: CDC WISQARS (<http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars>)



White Earth Home Safety Project Alerts Elder to House Fire

American Indians are at exceedingly high risk of death due to house fires. On the White Earth Reservation in Minnesota, for example, the house fire death rate is more than seven times the National average.

Smoke alarms nearly double the chances of surviving a house fire, yet many reservation homes do not have adequate numbers of working smoke alarms.



Myron Fairbanks sitting next to a picture of himself at the 1993 White Earth Pow-Wow.

Because elders are at high risk of house fire death, the White Earth Health Center's Public Health Nurses and Community Health Representatives, and Tribal Home Health Aides teamed up to survey homes for fire safety and to install photoelectric smoke alarms. Photoelectric alarms were chosen because they are less sensitive to sounding false alarms from cooking, and are less likely to be disconnected. The smoke alarms were furnished by the Bemidji Area IHS Injury Prevention program.

A Success Story

Myron Fairbanks, an 84-year old World War II Veteran and enrolled member of the White Earth Reservation, had a close call involving a fire in his trailer in February 2000. Mr. Fairbanks stated that he had just finished dinner and fell asleep on the couch. Shortly after falling asleep, he was awakened by

A fire had started when a pan of grease left on the stove ignited. Mr. Fairbanks was able to extinguish the fire and save his trailer home. Two hardwired electric smoke alarms in the home never sounded when the fire started.

Smoke alarms save lives – they double your chances of surviving a house fire



Pre- Sleep Safe



- ❖ In fatal home fires, 42% of homes had no alarm and of those with alarms, 63% did not work at the time of the fire
- ❖ Many, typically < 50%, of Native homes didn't have even one working smoke alarm
- ❖ Disconnection due to false alarms from cooking is a big problem
 - Choice and placement of smoke alarms is important





Cost Savings of Smoke Alarms*

- ❖ Cost of purchase, 1 smoke alarm (10 year life span), installation, and maintenance = \$42.90
- ❖ Savings per smoke alarm: \$210 - \$636
 - Medical spending, quality of life gains, and other spending.
 - Cost: Benefit ratio: 1: 5-15

*Miller, TR. and Levy DT, Cost outcome analysis in injury prevention and control: a primer on methods, 1997, Injury Prevention 3:288-293

The Sleep Safe Program: Why Head Start?



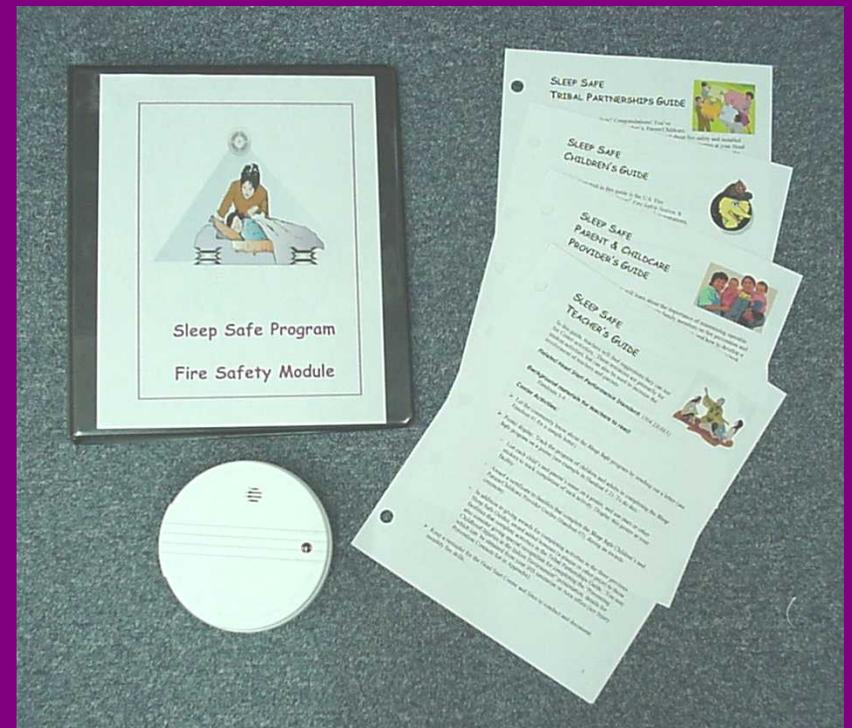
- ❖ High risk age group: 3-5 years
- ❖ Community outreach
- ❖ Central meeting place for AI/AN children and parents
- ❖ Conduct home visits



Program Goals



- ❖ Reduce residential fire/burn injuries in Native Head Start children
- ❖ Provide comprehensive educational curriculum to staff, parents, & children



Program Goals



❖ Correct installation of photoelectric smoke alarms (one per student)

- Distance from stove
- Distance from bathroom
- 10 year battery



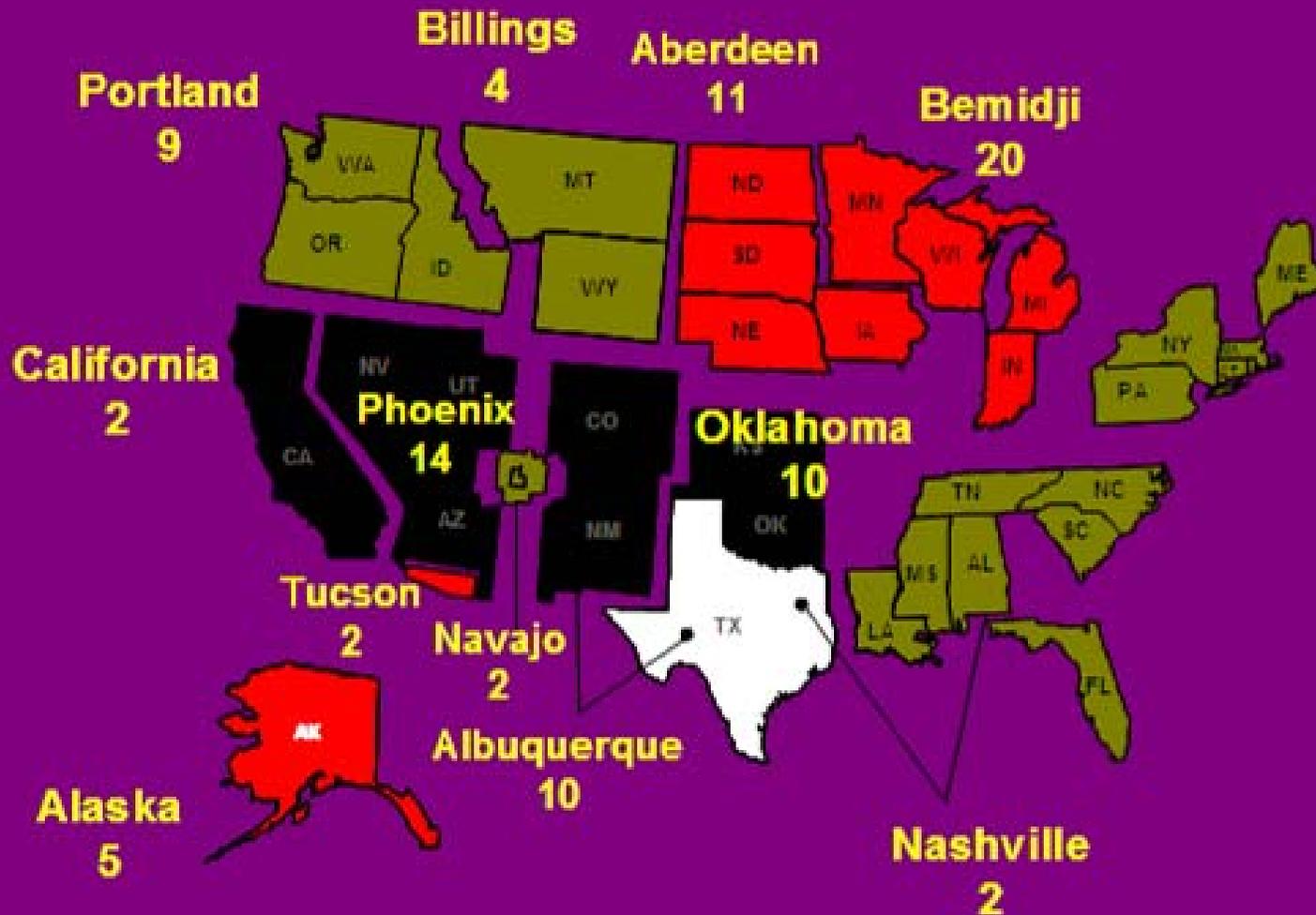
Program Goals

- ❖ Promote data collection
- ❖ Promote community coalitions, partnerships, and advocacy
- ❖ Annual 2-day Sleep Safe Coordinator's Workshop

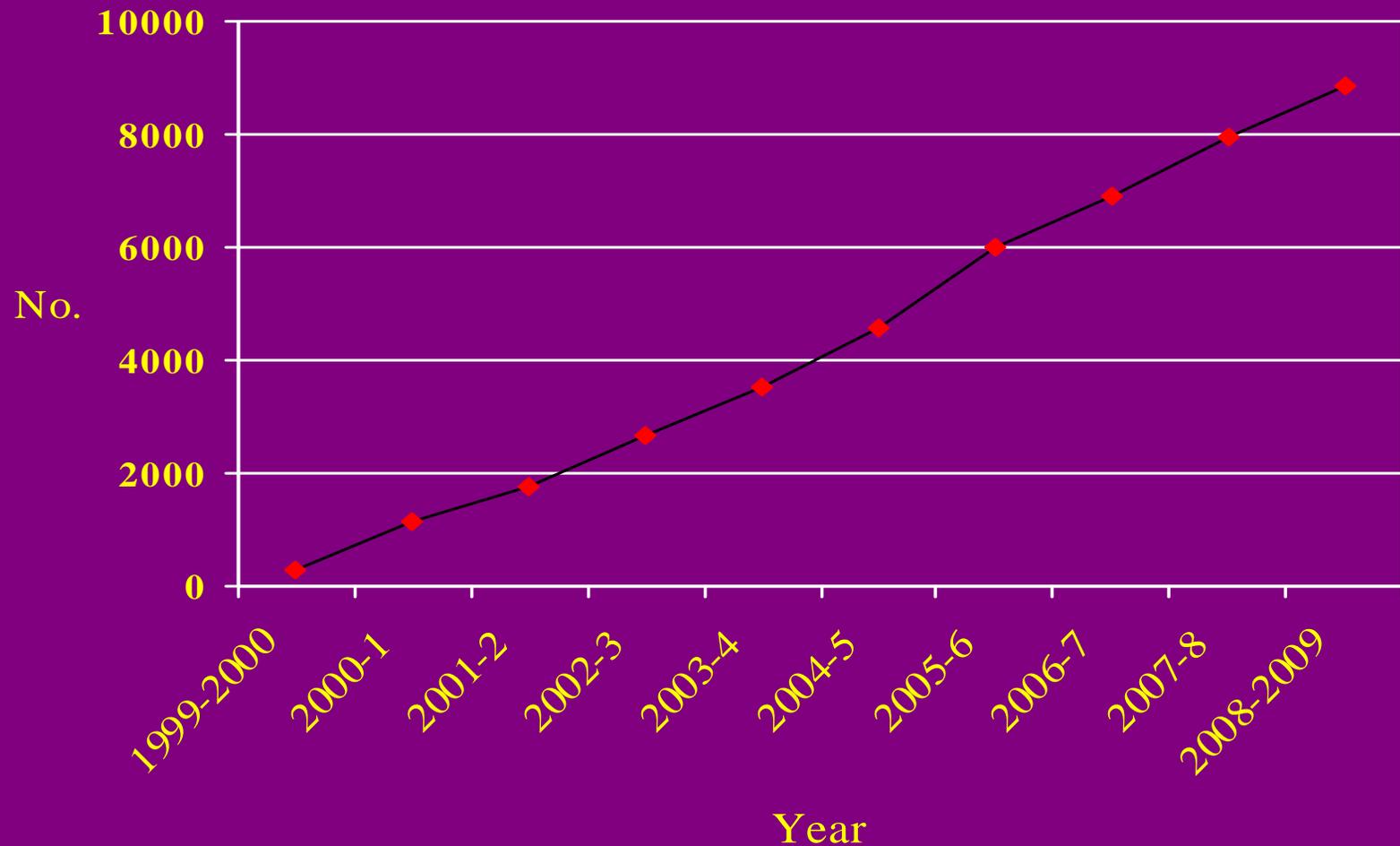


Program Results, FY 1999-2009

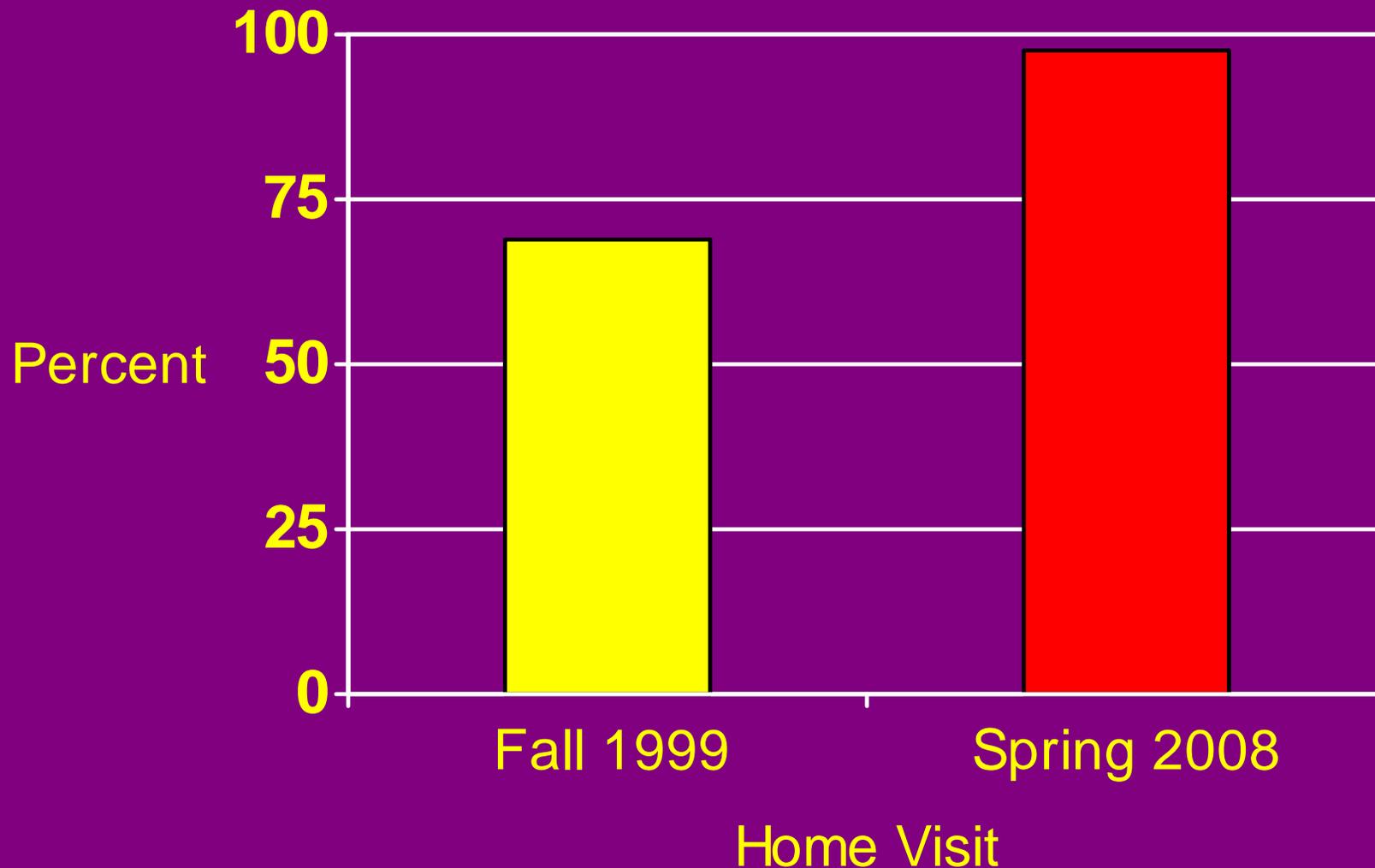
91 Tribes/Corporations installed over 30,000 smoke alarms



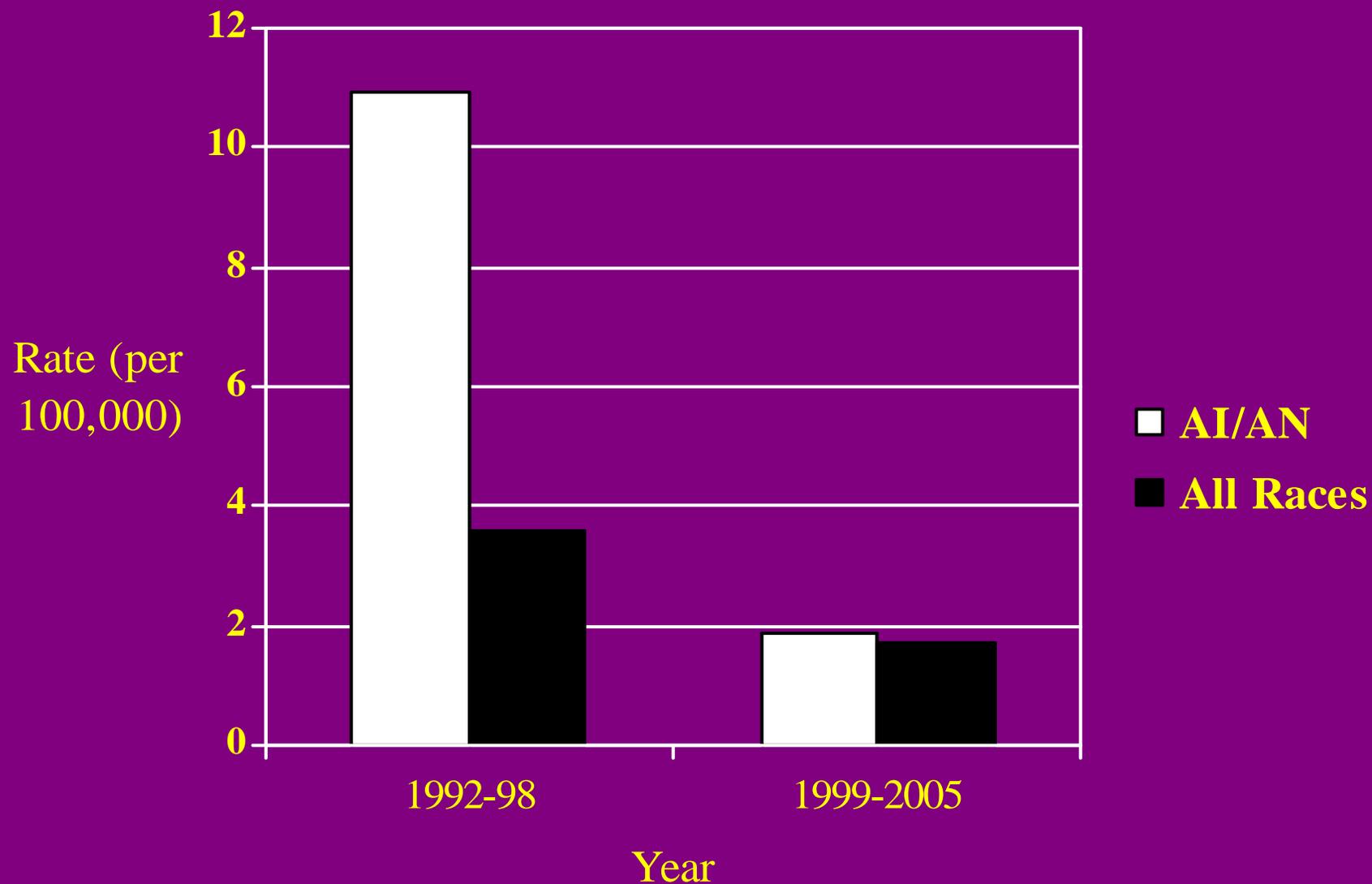
Cumulative Number of Smoke Alarms Installed by BAIHS Sleep Safe Programs, 1999-2009



BAIHS Sleep Safe Sites: Percent of Homes with at Least One Working Smoke Alarm



Residential Fire Mortality Rate, AI/AN and All Races, BAIHS, Ages 0-<5, 1998-2005



BAIHS Results



- ❖ Coalitions and Partnerships developed:
Head Start,
Environmental Health,
Fire Departments,
Community Health
Representatives, etc.



BAIHS Results



- ❖ Expansion -- prevention of other causes of childhood injury





White Earth CPS Coalition

❖ Funding:

- IHS Ride Safe Program
- Part 2 Injury Prevention Cooperative Agreement

❖ Partners:

- White Earth Head Start
- White Earth Health Education
- White Earth Public Health Nursing
- White Earth Police Department
- Bemidji Area IHS Environmental Health

White Earth Seat Belt Law

Reservation makes seat belts a primary offense

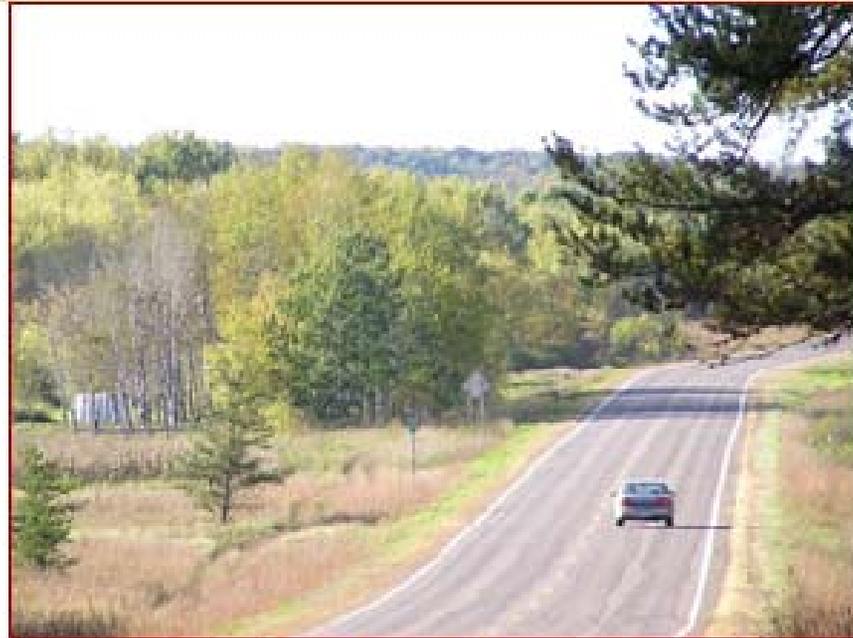
by Minnesota News Network,
MNN
July 24, 2008

St. Paul, Minn. — Minnesota does not have a primary seat belt law, but one part of the state now does. The White Earth Indian Reservation has approved a law allowing police to pull over unbelted motorists.

The law applies to reservation residents only. State Public Safety Commissioner, Michael Campion, is praising the action.

"Primarily of course is to increase the compliance rate and save lives and people who experience life-altering actions on the reservation. We applaud their leadership and their vision and their understanding of the issue. It's wonderful to see," Campion said.

Attempts to pass a primary seat belt law in the Minnesota legislature have repeatedly failed. Current state law allows police to issue seat belt citations only after pulling over a motorist for another moving violation.



Current state law allows police to issue seat belt citations only after pulling over a motorist for another moving violation. (MPR Photo/Tim Fast)



Lessons Learned

- ❖ Install vs. hand out smoke alarms
- ❖ Random QA on smoke alarm installations
 - Standardize staff training—installation, data reporting & parent education
- ❖ Improve data collection
- ❖ Importance of partnering between local Environmental Health or Injury Prevention Specialist and Sleep Safe site
- ❖ Train the Trainer approach