

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY





Motor Vehicle Crashes

Motor vehicle crashes (MVC's) are one of the leading causes of death in the USA and account for 43% of all unintentional injury deaths among American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities.

Common Causes of MVC Include:

- Distracted Driving
- Drunk Driving
- Speeding
- Running Red Lights or Stop Signs
- Reckless Driving
- Aggressive Driving
- Fatigue
- Weather and Road Conditions

Source:

[Injepijournal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s40621-021-00361-7](https://www.injepijournal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s40621-021-00361-7)



MVC STATISTICS

- Motor vehicle traffic crash death rates among AI/AN children and youth age 0-19 years were about 2 to 5 times higher than those of other racial and ethnic groups.
- Rates of motor vehicle traffic deaths among AI/AN adults age 20 years or older are more than twice that of other demographics.



MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY

Buckle Up

Seat belts reduce the risk of getting hurt or killed in a car crash by about half. Use your seat belt properly and make sure everyone is buckled up on every trip, short or long.

Do Not Drive Drunk

Alcohol impairs brain function resulting in poor judgment, reduced reaction time and loss of balance/motor skills.

Obey Traffic Laws

Drive the speed limit and stop at all stop signs and red lights. Routinely check that your vehicle's brake lights and turn signals work as they should.

Do Not Be Distracted

Avoid talking or texting on your phone, eating and drinking, talking to people in your vehicle or fiddling with the radio, entertainment or navigation system. More than 3,000 people were killed by distracted drivers in 2020.

Ensure Children Are Secured

All Children 12 and younger should ride securely in the back seat. Depending on weight/height children might require rear facing car seat, forward facing car seat, booster seat or seat belt.

Do Not Drive Drowsy or Upset

Be alert and avoid situations of road rage.

- Overall rate of seat belt use among AI/AN, 76% compared to overall seat belt use of 90%
- Overall rate of child safety seat use among AI/AN children age 7 and under, 23% to 79% compared to overall child safety seat use at 63% to 87%
- AI/AN have the highest alcohol-impaired driving death rates among all racial & ethnic groups. Alcohol impaired driving death rates among AI/AN are 2 to 17 times higher than other racial and ethnic groups.

Source: [cdc.gov/transportationsafety/native/factsheet.html](https://www.cdc.gov/transportationsafety/native/factsheet.html)

IHS INJURY PREVENTION

Our Mission

Raise the health status of American Indians and Alaska 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.

About IHS Injury Prevention

We are the lead IHS program to address the injury disparities in AI/AN communities. Our widely-recognized program works with tribes and partners to reduce the disproportionate impact of injuries on Indian people.



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For more information about motor vehicle safety, visit our website at www.ihs.gov/injuryprevention/ or scan the QR code.

