FOCUS ON TRIBAL MOTOR VEHICLE INJURY PREVENTION

Motor-vehicle related crashes are a leading cause of unintentional injuries and deaths for American Indian/Alaska Natives (AI/AN) ages 1 through 44. AI/AN have death rates two to four times the rates of all U.S. race and ethnic groups. Factors increasing the risk for motor vehicle-related injury and/or death include low use of occupant restraints and alcohol-impaired driving. Trial Injury Prevention Cooperative Agreements Program (TIPCAP) sites conduct observational seatbelt use in support of their work plan, including reporting on the agency’s performance measure. Observational surveys for adult seatbelt use in AI/AN communities by Indian Health Service (IHS) and Tribal Injury Prevention Coordinators report low use, with an average at or about 62 percent, compared with the overall U.S. rate of 81 percent. The IHS Injury Prevention Program provides funding (TIPCAP) to target motor vehicle occupant restraint use in AI/AN communities. Tribal injury prevention efforts for this cycle of TIPCAP focus on a broad range of topics (Figure 1), including elder fall prevention and bullying prevention. As seen in Figure 1, 29 of 33 sites are focusing on motor vehicle injury prevention. TIPCAP is in its fifth program year, and the grantees are continuing to implement successful programs.

Figure 1: The number of sites focusing on injury prevention topics.

TIPCAP Injury Prevention Initiatives

- Bullying Prevention - 1
- Elder Fall Prevention - 22
- Helmet Safety - 3
- Motor Vehicle Injury Prevention - 29
- Suicide Prevention - 5

Greetings to the Tribal Injury Prevention Cooperative Agreement Program Team! We present to you the TIPCAP December 2014 Newsletter. Every quarter, we highlight program successes. This quarter’s newsletter features program wide data from TIPCAP Data Online in addition to an article from the Advisory Committee.
Focus on Tribal Motor Vehicle Injury Prevention continued

TIPCAP Data Online was set up to capture observational occupant restraint data from the 29 AI/AN communities. In collaboration with IHS, the Technical Assistance Team developed TIPCAP Data Online, an online reporting system, to promote program-wide evaluation of motor vehicle injury prevention outcomes. Since officially launching TIPCAP Data Online in June 2014, 19 sites have entered seatbelt data, amounting to 155 records submitted for seatbelt observation. Thank you all for your dedication to improving injury prevention efforts by collecting and entering these crucial data. The following articles will highlight data that were collected.

Greetings TIPCAP Coordinators,

The goal of TIPCAP is to build tribal capacity to prevent severe injuries in tribal communities. TIPCAP has built support tribal capacity in incorporating effective strategies and innovative approaches in injury prevention.

The Year 5 of TIPCAP is very exciting time as we can begin to view the accomplishments over the years. This issue of the TIPCAP newsletter summarizes work accomplished by you all. The feature articles in this newsletter focus on occupant restraint use by TIPCAP sites. The positive results show how your efforts in promoting seatbelt and child safety seat use are making changes. These results will be reflected in future reports in measurable decreases in AI/AN motor vehicle related injuries and fatalities.

Program success with evidence of data is not only important for the program but also support for improvement in policy for the community. The lives saved due to your efforts are commendable.

A brief note about the upcoming holiday season, which as we know brings the risk of alcohol-related fatalities due to motor vehicle crashes. Partnerships in collaborations with law enforcement to support Impaired Driving campaigns are a key strategy for injury prevention.

Your vigilance in promoting traffic safety this holiday season is important for the community, including sober driving, use of seatbelts, proper use of child safety seats, no texting/no drowsy drivers, etc.

Thank you for all your great injury prevention work. I wish you all a happy and safe holiday season!

Ahe hee’
Thank you!!

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Coordinators’ Work: A Positive Impact on Seatbelt Use

According to the number of records submitted to TIPCAP Data Online, Injury Prevention Coordinators and their partners conducted 53,369 observations of drivers in which seatbelt use could be determined. In 2010, there were 451 observations; this increased to 5,485 observations in 2011. There were 9,021 observations submitted for 2012 and 31,890 records for 2013. So far, 6,522 records have been submitted for 2014. However, what is impressive is that the number of drivers reported to be using seatbelts has steadily increased through this cycle of TIPCAP. Figure 2 displays the positive trend in the percentage of drivers using seatbelts.

The seatbelt observational data show that although there is more work to be done, Injury Prevention Coordinators’ efforts are influencing seatbelt use. TIPCAP program interventions include occupant restraint policy, enforcement of those policies, and educational activities that incorporate best practices. The aforementioned interventions are key to site-specific and program-wide success. Partnerships with key stakeholders are important not only for program implementation but also for program sustainability. Injury Prevention Coordinators work with Tribal leadership and Councils, Tribal law enforcement (including city, State, and county), schools, and other local agencies to promote and enforce seatbelt laws. Policy is another key strategy. Sites have worked with Tribal leadership to write and pass ordinances to promote seatbelt and child safety seat use. Once policy has been enacted, many Injury Prevention Coordinators partner with Tribal police to enforce the law and give citations. Promotion through social media, newspapers, radio and public service announcements (PSAs) have helped Injury Prevention Coordinators increase the reach of tailored educational messages. TIPCAP initiatives are able to reach some of the most rural community events, including rodeos, health fairs, training, and school events.

NOTE: U.S. Seatbelt Use was collected from the following: http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Pubs/811875.pdf.
TIPCAP Data Online allows Injury Prevention Coordinators to submit child safety car seat use and distribution data starting in 2010 until the current program year. Data collection and reporting is ongoing as Injury Prevention Coordinators continue to plan and implement interventions through Year 5. Of the 126 records submitted for child passenger safety in the first quarter of data submission, there were 7 records for 2010, 26 records for 2011, 34 records for 2012, 44 records for 2013, and 15 records for 2014.

In just 4 program years, TIPCAP sites have distributed 5,164 child safety seats to Tribal and community members (Figure 3). This translates into over 5,000 infants and young children who are better protected from injury and fatality as a result of motor vehicle crashes. There is a steady positive trend until 2013 in increasing the number of seats distributed—we expect the number of seats distributed in 2014 to be greater than in 2013 once the calendar year ends and data are prepared for submission using TIPCAP Data Online.

There are also trends in the type of child safety seats distributed. Injury Prevention Coordinators are clearly following best practices. The use of convertible child safety seats are reported as the highest of the distribution. Following convertible seats, both high- and low-back booster seats have been distributed widely (Figure 4). It is also important to note that many TIPCAP sites reported that funds to purchase child safety seats were provided through IHS, State Injury Prevention Programs, Safe Kids Coalitions, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs Indian Highway Safety Program.
Injury Prevention Coordinators become certified in child passenger safety in order to distribute child safety seats. Among the TIPCAP Coordinators, six are instructors. TIPCAP Coordinators are using programs such as SNAP (Safe Native American Passengers) and Ride Safe to educate parents and caregivers, as well as individuals who can become advocates for child passenger safety. Family members and caregivers are not the only ones who receive education; many Coordinators work with children too. TIPCAP sites have worked with schools to have students participate in poster competitions about motor vehicle injury prevention. Injury Prevention Coordinators have many established several partnerships with schools and Head Start Programs and have even started coalitions that help advocate for policy change. In regards to policy, TIPCAP grantees have presented data showing TIPCAP success in order to influence the Tribal Council’s decisions to change occupant restraint policy. For example, some TIPCAP grantees have been able to impact policy so that the fines for lack of child safety seat use are increased and age limits for car seat use are increased (from 4 years to 8 years).
Season's greetings from Sacramento, CA! I would like to share information on recent TIPCAP activities at California Rural Indian Health Board, Inc. (CRIHB). CRIHB had a busy summer teaching the new National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) curriculum. The new curriculum took place over 4 full days, including practice at the fitting station. One piece of advice to new students—ask a lot of questions and spend as much time as possible in the vehicles! By training to become strong technicians who can provide education to families to properly install child safety seats, you will save lives and money through early intervention, serving as an expert in your field and seeking funding to sustain programs to address your community need. You will be able to network with similar agencies and combine resources to increase community outreach. Lastly, if you are a confident technician, you can complete your instructor candidacy and become a community child passenger safety (CPS) instructor. This will allow you the ability to provide continuing education units (CEUs) to other technicians, and you could charge a fee for services for your teaching hours. It is important for Tribal communities to build on relationships within their local communities to ensure sustainability.

One of CRIHB’s injury prevention goals is to help our member programs achieve sustainability and find ways to increase their capacity to deal with injury prevention issues. I partnered with Tule River Indian Health Council’s newly certified CPS instructor, Adrianna Gibson; Safe Kids Sacramento instructors; Graton Rancheria; and the IHS area office to make the course a success.

The August course was a great success, and Indian Health Council, Inc.’s new Injury Prevention Coordinator, Rick Romero, is now a certified CPS Technician, along with Yvonne Blank from American Indian Health Project in Bakersfield, CA; Ramona Najera and Nichole Redmond from Fresno American Indian Health Project; Peggy Frank from Graton Rancheria Tribal TANF; Melissa Nesvald from CRIHB Tribal Head Start; and, last but not least, Sherry Caldwell, Kristi Lozinto, and James Le Beaux from Sonoma County Indian Health Project. Of the 15 students, 9 were from Tribal health programs across California.

I will keep everyone posted on the next CPS course to be held by CRIHB, in case you want to visit California!
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Injury Center and the Federal Highway Administration Office of Technical Services (FHWA–OTS) have formed a partnership to enhance Tribal transportation safety services at three of seven Tribal Technical Assistance Program (TTAP) centers. Traditionally focused on road improvements, the TTAP centers will expand technical assistance to Tribes to include preventing impaired driving, increasing seatbelt use, and increasing child safety seat use. Focus areas include partnership building, training, data collection, evaluation, and the 4E’s of prevention.

CDC will fund three modified safety circuit rider (SCR) positions to work with Tribal programs and coordinators in implementing evidence-based countermeasures at the following TTAP centers:

• Western TTAP Center, located at the National Indian Justice Center in Santa Rosa, CA, provides service to 139 Tribes in California and Nevada. http://www.nijc.org/ttap.html.

• Southern Plains TTAP, located at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, OK, provides services to 44 Tribes in Kansas, Southern Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas. http://ttap.okstate.edu/.

• Northern Plains TTAP, located at United Tribes Technical College in Bismarck, ND, serves 24 Tribes in Montana, Northern Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming. http://www.uttc.edu/about/forum/ttap/.

TIPCAP programs in the above TTAP service areas are encouraged to utilize this new resource for technical assistance. The modified SCR Program will begin in mid-December 2014. For questions about this program, contact Holly Billie, CDC Injury Prevention Specialist, at hdb3@cdc.gov.

Holly Billie, MPH
CAPT, US Public Health Service
Injury Prevention Specialist
The Advisory Committee serves a very important role in building capacity and strengthening networks among TIPCAP Injury Prevention Coordinators across the TIPCAP sites. As TIPCAP Year 5 is well underway, the Advisory Committee wants to remind all TIPCAP Injury Prevention Coordinators they are available for guidance to share ideas, concerns, and resource needs. At the Advisory Committee meetings, the members share information for a successful injury prevention program. The following are recommendations from the Advisory Committee:

1. **Be creative concerning data collection!**
   Advisory Committee members understand that there are many factors that may lead to slippages in collecting outcome and impact data, but do not be discouraged. Many TIPCAP Injury Prevention Coordinators are collecting extremely useful data. For example, many people have sign-in sheets at events such as health fairs. By counting the number of names on a sign-in sheet, you can show program reach! If there are gaps in collecting seatbelt or child safety seat data, develop written surveys that look at knowledge of car restraint policies (if applicable) and self-reported use of occupant restraint use. Make sure you follow appropriate approvals for Tribal community surveys if applicable.

2. **Be an advocate!**
   As TIPCAP Injury Prevention Coordinators who oversee the many duties and tasks of the injury prevention program, you have a voice that can influence policy. Ask to present at Tribal leadership meetings or Council or Health Board meetings. TIPCAP Injury Prevention Coordinators also have strong and broad networks with various coalitions, Tribal fire and police departments, and even Head Start Programs to create a group that will become advocates as well.

3. **Be visible!**
   Instead of only relying on fliers or email, attend community events (e.g., pow-wows, Tribal fairs). Present at other coalition and/or work groups to share how they can be involved in IP. Other ways to increase visibility could involve using Tribal newspaper and social media.
The Advisory Committee meets every third Monday of the month. Please do not hesitate to contact your Advisory Committee representatives to ask questions of TIPCAP events and activities or advice!

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**TRIBAL INJURY PREVENTION COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT PROGRAM (TIPCAP)**
The following new resources are available from the TIPCAP Technical Assistance Team:

**TOOLS**

**ARTICLES**

**REPORTS**

**EVENTS**
- February: American Heart Disease Awareness Month, American Heart Association. For more information, visit: [http://www.heart.org/HEARTORG/](http://www.heart.org/HEARTORG/).
- March: National Nutrition Month, Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. For more information, visit: [http://www.eatright.org/nnm/#.VFEvOBZ77Uw](http://www.eatright.org/nnm/#.VFEvOBZ77Uw).

**DEADLINES**

If you would like a copy of an aforementioned resource, please contact Ciara Zachary at czachary@econometricainc.com or Doyin Idowu at oidowu@econometricainc.com.
NEW FACES AT TIPCAP

Meet Sarah Crumbley, New IP Coordinator, Maniilaq Association

Sarah Kay “Nasaluk” Crumbley was born and raised in Kotzebue, AK, and has a precious 6-year-old daughter named Brianna. She graduated from Kotzebue Middle/High School in 2005, has taken classes at the local Chukchi College, and also attended the University of Alaska Anchorage for 2 semesters and Charter College for several quarters. She says, “I am still unsure as to what I want to be when I grow up, but I know I want it to be in the medical field! I have been part of the Maniilaq family for about 8 years altogether now, in different parts of the hospital, and a Certified Pharmacy Technician for 3 of those years. I am very excited to see what God has in store for the future of our people and our entities.”

Meet Yvette Zotigh, New IP Coordinator, Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma

Yvette Zotigh of Hobart, OK, is a full-blood Kiowa and is honored to have the opportunity to work for the Kiowa Tribe as the Injury Prevention Program Coordinator. Yvette is a mother of five boys, three in college and one serving in the U.S. Navy. Her focus is to achieve the goals of TIPCAP in motor vehicle safety and elder fall prevention. With 18 years of business management in customer relations and “servant leadership” experience, her hope is to create an engaged and passionate recourse for the children and elders in her Tribe. Her ultimate mission is to promote living longer lives for elders in a safer environment, as they are very much needed and valued in Native American communities, both local and national. She appreciates the opportunity to be a positive instrument for creating a safer and healthier environment for her Tribe!
Bundle of Joy!

Gina Yellow Eagle, Injury Prevention Coordinator at the Great Plains Tribal Chairmen’s Health Board TIPCAP site had a little girl. Adrina Marie Bad Wound, born 10-14-14, 6.4 lbs, 19 inches long.

TIPCAP Webinars

The winter webinar is tentatively scheduled for January/February 2015 and will focus on Child Passenger Safety. The spring webinar will focus on elder fall prevention.

TIPCAP Data Online

The TIPCAP Data Online team is happy to fulfill requests for site-specific data and TIPCAP summary data. To request a meeting to discuss your program’s data and how TIPCAP Data Online can help, please send an email to tipcapdataonline@econometricainc.com!
# TIPCAP CONTACT LIST

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## Other Areas

- **Tribal Injury Prevention Cooperative Agreement Program (TIPCAP)**
- **TRIBAL INJURY PREVENTION COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT PROGRAM (TIPCAP)**
Do you have a newsletter article that you would like to submit?

Please send your article and pictures to Ciara Zachary at czachary@econometricainc.com.