Proposing a Primary Seat belt Law* to Reduce Motor Vehicle Crash Injuries

INTRODUCTION
• From 1999-2018, Motor Vehicle Crash (MVC) fatalities were the leading type of fatal unintentional injury among Arizona (AZ) American Indian/Alaska Natives (AI/AN)1
• 56% of AI/AN passenger occupants who die in MVCs were unrestrained at the time of the crash2
• From 2011-2018, MVCs were the leading cause of fatal unintentional injury for all ages on AZ Tribal Reservation.3

METHODS
• Revitalized the Local Injury Prevention Coalition
• Reviewed the Tribal Traffic Code
• Gathered Tribal data
• Conducted community surveys, first responder surveys, and key informant interviews
• Created materials and conducted a radio session on the importance of seat belt use
• Developed a presentation for the Tribal Law & Order Committee

RESULTS
• Primary seat belt law language was accepted.
• The Tribal Law and Order Committee unanimously voted to recommend a primary seat belt law to the Tribal Council.

DISCUSSIONS, IMPACT, & NEXT STEPS
• Overwhelming support from community, first responders, and stakeholders.
• Coalition support played a major role
• Continue outreach to community members via methods below:

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
Thank you to the Public Health Nursing Department, Tribal Law Enforcement Services, Tribal Emergency Medical Services, Tribal Department of Health and Human Services, and Tribal Department of Transportation.

*Primary seat belt law: A law enforcement officer can pull a vehicle over and issue a ticket to the driver if someone in the vehicle is not using a seat belt or car seat.