



National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Native American Highway Safety Program

Federal Partnerships and How They Improve Traffic Safety Programs in Indian Country



Introduction



- 2,447,989 population of Native Americans/Alaska Natives (AN/NA) based on 2000 census
- 564 federally recognized Tribes in the United States
 - Tribal reservations and lands in 37 states
 - 304 Reservations
 - Over 56,000 road miles
 - All federally recognized Tribes eligible to participate in the 402 program

Scope of the Problem

2006 - 2008

Top 7 States for overall motor vehicle related fatalities to Native Americans/Alaska Natives

- Arizona – 394
- Oklahoma – 216
- New Mexico – 213
- Montana - 113
- Michigan – 106
- South Dakota – 86
- Washington – 89
- Total nation wide – 1,842

Scope of the Problem

2006 – 2008

Nationally 33% of all reported NA/AN motor vehicle related fatalities occurred on Tribal Reservations

Top 7 States for NA/AN motor vehicle related fatalities on reservations

- Arizona - 66% occurred on reservations
- Idaho – 56% occurred on reservations
- Montana – 67% occurred on reservations
- North Dakota – 61% occurred on reservations
- South Dakota – 77% occurred on reservations
- Wyoming – 55% occurred on reservations
- New Mexico – 44% occurred on reservations
- Total nationwide - 614

Program Priorities

- BIA Program Priorities
 - Alcohol
 - 48% of NA/AN motor vehicle fatalities reported occur in alcohol impaired crashes
 - Seat Belts
 - 75% of NA/AN passenger vehicle occupant fatalities reported are unbelted
 - Speed
 - 35% of NA/AN motor vehicle fatalities reported occur in speed related crashes
 - Traffic Records
 - Collection challenges
 - Multiple systems – no universal collection system; no requirement to report

Program Funding


- SAFETEA-LU
 - Increased funding for the tribal highway safety program
 - Funding increased from \$1.2 million to \$4.5 million
 - Administrative drawn down 5% (approximately \$230K per year)

Assistance from NHTSA

- Congress provides \$4.5 million in Section 402 funds each year to the Secretary of Interior. The BIA administers the national highway safety program with Native American Tribes
- NHTSA works with the BIA to help build highway safety program infrastructure with the federally recognized Tribes
- Program efforts focus primarily on enacting and enforcing tribal impaired driving and occupant protection laws and educating tribal members about dangers of risk taking while driving

- NHTSA recently collaborated with the BIA to transfer responsibility of the Native American highway safety program within the BIA to help strengthen program administration and liaison with the Tribes
- NHTSA and the BIA recently provided 4 Breath Alcohol Testing mobile vehicles for use on reservations to support impaired driving enforcement activities in three different enforcement districts (New Mexico, Montana and Oklahoma)
 - Each of these enforcement districts are over represented in motor vehicle fatalities for Native Americans

- NHTSA work with the Federal Partnership Group to help upgrade the Seat Belt Protocol that all Tribes will be using effective FY11
- NHTSA worked with the BIA to help streamline its application process for FY12
- NHTSA in collaboration with the BIA is testing a model application and development of a Comprehensive Impaired Driving Program (pilot sites pending)
- NHTSA in collaboration with IHS is working to ensure there are CPS technicians in Indian Country



- NHTSA provides training and training opportunities for Tribes thru the BIA IHSP
- NHTSA provides overall program coordination and oversight and encourages the BIA IHSP to work with other partners to further their mission to improve traffic safety in Tribal Communities



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