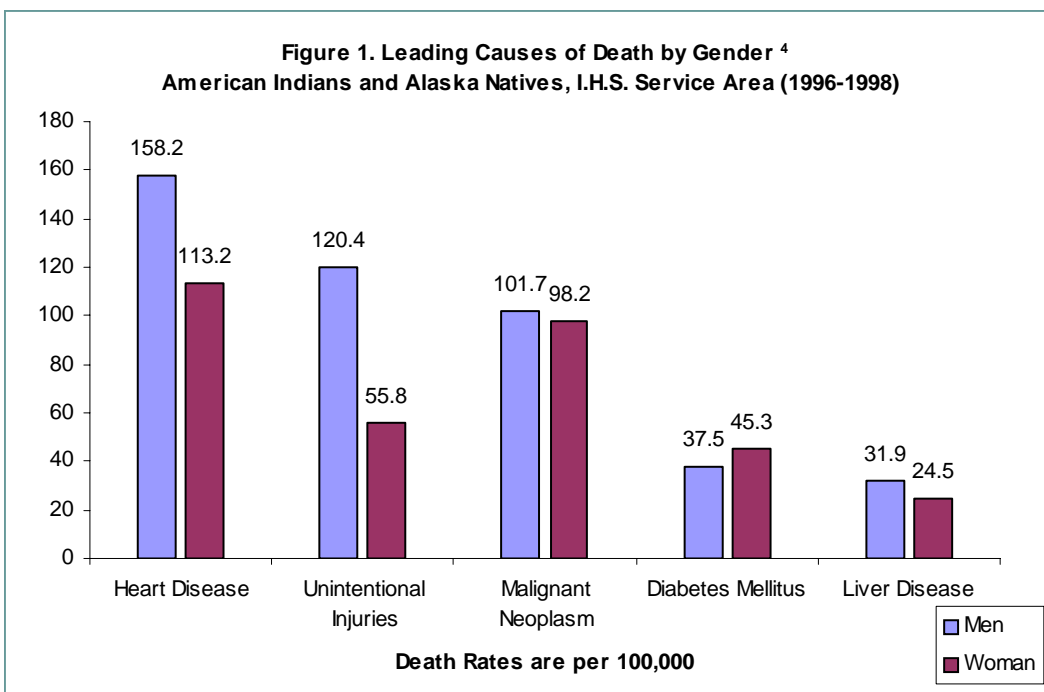




# FACT SHEET: INJURIES AMONG NORTHERN PLAINS AI/AN

**Injuries** are the second leading cause of death in Indian country following heart disease (Figure 1)<sup>1</sup>. Injuries are categorized into two areas: **intentional injuries** and **unintentional injuries**. Intentional injuries are injuries that are done with intent, for example, homicide. On the other hand, unintentional injuries are injuries that are highly preventable, for example, motor vehicle accidents (MVA). For American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN), aged 1-19 years, injuries and violence account for nearly 75% of all deaths<sup>1</sup>. MVAs account for 72% of unintentional injury deaths and the remaining 28% are firearm related, fire related, pedestrian related, and drowning and suffocations.



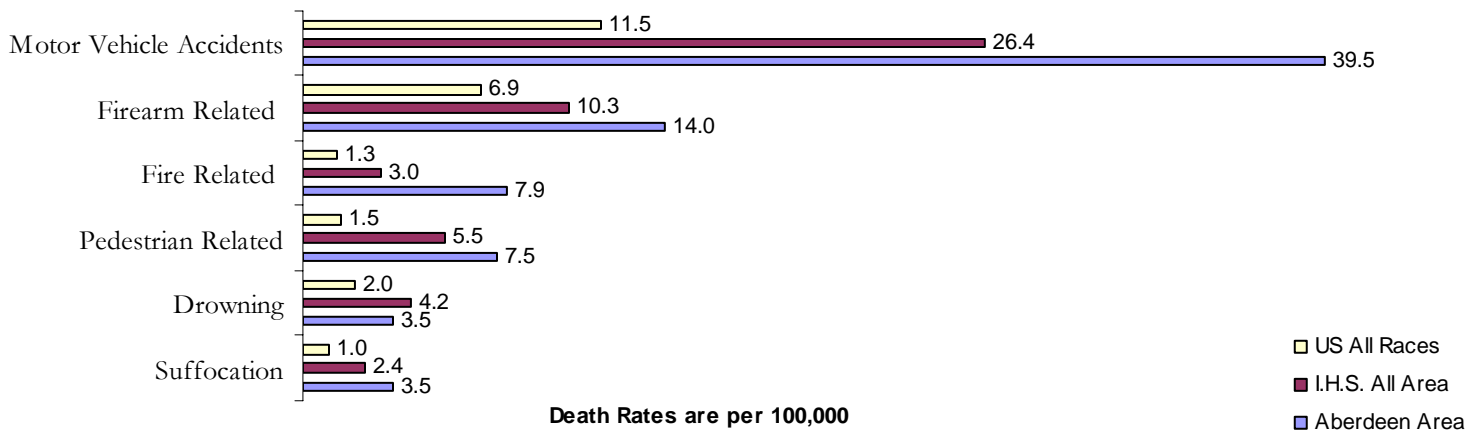
Unintentional injuries account for 120.4 deaths per 100,000 men and 55.8 deaths of 100,000 population of women (Figure 1)<sup>2</sup>. AI/AN men were twice as likely than AI/AN women to die of unintentional injuries. AI/AN men died in MVAs at a rate of 2.5 times the rate of Black or White males<sup>2</sup>. AI/AN woman died at a rate 2.8 times that of Black or White women<sup>2</sup>.

Healthy People 2010 (HP2010) is an initiative that identifies health objectives for the Nation to achieve over the first decade of the new century<sup>3</sup>. Table 1 shows AI/AN and US All Races rates nationally for various indicators in 1998 and the goal for 2010. In 1998, the MVA death rate for US All Races was 15.6 compared to 30.4 for AI/AN (Table 1)<sup>5</sup>. The goal of the HP2010 for MVAs is for AI/AN and US All Races to be at 7.8 deaths per 100,000. In 1998, the Firearm related death rate for both the US All Races and AI/AN was 11.3 deaths per 100,000<sup>5</sup>. The goal of the HP 2010 Firearm related category is for AI/AN and US All Races to be at 4.1 deaths per 100,000.

**Table 1. Healthy People 2010**  
(rates per 100,000)(www.healthypeople.gov)<sup>3</sup>

Unintentional Injuries	Baseline (1998)		2010 Target for all races, including AI/AN
	AI/AN	U.S. All Races	
Motor Vehicle Accidents	30.4	15.6	7.8
Firearm Related	11.3	11.3	4.1
Fire Related	2.1	1.2	0.2
Drowning	3.1	1.6	0.9
Suffocation	7.6	4.1	3.0

**Figure 2. Leading Unintentional Injury Deaths in the Aberdeen Area 1996-1998 and US All Races 1997<sup>2</sup>**



**Motor Vehicle Accident Prevention<sup>6</sup>**

The most effective ways to prevent MVAs are seat belt enforcement and public awareness. Most tribes have additional powers to introduce driving privileges for younger drivers, create sobriety checks, and curfews.

**Unintentional Injury in the Aberdeen Area**  
(North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, and Nebraska)

The data in Figure 2 shows the leading causes of unintentional injury deaths in the Aberdeen Area, 1996-1998. MVAs are the leading cause of unintentional injury death in the Aberdeen Area. **Risk factors for MVAs are identified as seat belt usage, driver experience and education, alcohol consumption and substance abuse, and road and weather conditions.**<sup>6</sup> In addition to being the most prevalent in the Aberdeen Area, MVAs are the most costly<sup>6</sup>. MVAs can cost a person an average of \$9,062 over a life time and \$352,042 if a person is fatality injured during an accident<sup>6</sup>.

**Table 2. General mortality per 100,000 population by age for IHS all areas and U.S. all races<sup>4</sup>**

Causes of Death	1-4 years		5-14 years		15-24 years	
	AI/AN (1996-1998)	U.S. All Races (1997)	AI/AN (1996-1998)	U.S. All Races (1997)	AI/AN (1996-1998)	U.S. All Races (1997)
All Causes	78.1	35.8	35.3	20.8	193.4	86.2
Unintentional Injury	38.7	13.1	20.5	8.7	106.3	36.5
<b>Motor Vehicle Accidents</b>	<b>19.8</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>11.3</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>82.9</b>	<b>27.9</b>
Congenital Anomalies	7.2	3.8	0.5	1.2	1.8	1.1
Homicide	4.7	2.4	2.3	1.2	21.3	16.8
Malignant Neoplasm	4.2	2.9	2.0	2.7	5.1	4.5
Heart Disease	3.0	1.4	0.9	0.8	4.1	3.0
Suicide	-	-	2.1	0.8	37.4	11.4

**Leading Causes of Death by Age Group**

MVA death rates impact children disproportionately. Among children aged 1 to 4 years, the leading causes of death include unintentional injuries, MVAs, congenital anomalies, and homicide. The MVA death rate is 19.8 per 100,000 population compared to 5.0 per 100,000 for US All Races; four times higher (Table 2)<sup>4</sup>. Among those aged 5 to 14 years, the MVA death rate is 11.3 per 100,000 population compared to 5.1 per 100,000 for US All Races; two times higher<sup>4</sup>. Among those aged 15 to 24 years, the MVA death rate is 82.9 per 100,000 population compared to 27.9 per 100,000 for US All Races; three times higher<sup>4</sup>.

1 Center for Disease Control, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control website: (<http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/factsheets/nativeamericans.htm>)  
 2 Center for Disease Control National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Website (<http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/pub-res/atlas-summary/default.htm>)  
 3 Healthy People 2010 Website ([http://www.healthypeople.gov/Document/HTML/Volume2/15Injury.htm#\\_Toc490549391](http://www.healthypeople.gov/Document/HTML/Volume2/15Injury.htm#_Toc490549391))  
 4 Trends in Indian Health 2000-2001 Edition, Part 4, pgs 50-75.  
 5 Healthy People 2010 website (<http://www.healthypeople.gov/About/whatis.htm>)  
 6 Center for Disease Control, Cost of Injury in the United States, A report to congress ([http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/pub-res/cost\\_of\\_injury/intro-ch1.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/pub-res/cost_of_injury/intro-ch1.pdf))