The Role of Environmental Health in Injury Prevention:

The IHS Perspective

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SESSION OBJECTIVES

- Our Mission
- Public health Problem
- Guiding Principles
To raise the physical, mental, social, and spiritual health of American Indians and Alaska Natives to the highest level.
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

- General Env. Health
- Institutional Env. Health
- Injury Prevention
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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

- General Env. Health
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INJURY PREVENTION MISSION

• Decrease the incidence of severe injuries and death to the lowest level possible.

• Increase the ability of tribes to prevent injuries within their communities.
## Leading Causes of Death

**US, All Ages – 1999-2004**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>US, All Races</strong></th>
<th><strong>AI/AN</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Heart Disease</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Cancer</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Stroke</td>
<td>3. <strong>Injuries (all types)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4. Injuries (all types)</strong></td>
<td>4. Diabetes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Respiratory Disease</td>
<td>5. Stroke</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

AI/AN 1-44 Years of Age

- Injury 54%
- All Other 21%
- Liver Disease 6%
- Heart Disease 7%
- Cancer 6%
- HIV 2%
- Diabetes 2%
- Stroke 1%
- Influenza 1%

N=15,382

Source: CDC WISQARS

AI/AN 1-44 Years of Age

- MVC: 45%
- SUICIDE: 19%
- HOMICIDE: 13%
- POISON: 9%
- DROWN: 4%

Source: CDC WISQARS
"If a disease were killing our children in the proportions that injuries are, people would be outraged and demand that this killer be stopped."

C. Everett Koop, MD, Former Surgeon General
U.S. Surgeon General

Vice Admiral Regina M. Benjamin, M.D., M.B.A.
Unintentional Injury Death Rates by Race, 1983-2004

Source: NCHS mortality, CDC WISQARS 2007; www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars/default.htm
Phoenix Area IHS Injury Prevention
GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Reliable Data
- Partnerships
- Capacity Building
- Community Based Interventions
Reliable Data

- Surveillance
- Studies
- Observational Surveys
- Interviews/Focus Groups
Partnerships & Collaborations

- Community
- Regional
- National
Capacity Building

- Training
  - Short Courses
    - Introduction to Injury Prevention
    - Intermediate Injury Prevention
    - Advanced Injury Prevention
  - Fellowship
    - Epidemiology Fellowship
    - Program Development
  - Specialized Courses
    - Area Short Courses
    - Indoor/Outdoor Environment
    - Child Passenger Safety
    - Customized

- Funding
Capacity Building

- Training
- Funding

Tribal IP Cooperative Agreement Program

- Nationally funded
- $50-75K / Year
- Full-time Tribal Position
- IHS Monitoring & Mentoring
Community-Based Intervention Strategies

- Comprehensive Interventions
- Effective Strategies
- Culturally Appropriate

3 E’s Approach
- Education
- Enforcement
- Environment
Community-Based Intervention Strategies

- Comprehensive Interventions
- Effective Strategies
- Culturally Appropriate
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Summary

- Data Collection & Analysis
- Injury Prevention Leadership & Advocacy
- Facilitating Partnership Development
- Planning & Conducting Training Activities
- Evaluating Intervention Programs
Questions?

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