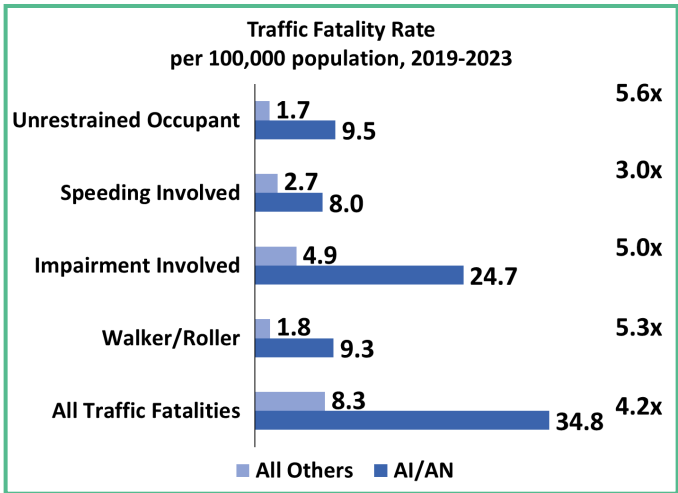
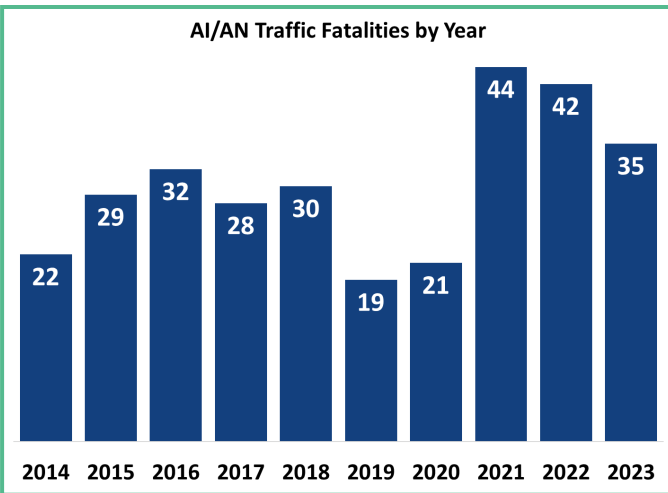




# American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Traffic Safety

Since 2014, there have been 302 AI/AN traffic fatalities in Washington<sup>1</sup>. In 2021, the number of AI/AN traffic fatalities more than doubled, reaching a ten-year high of 44. AI/AN people represent two percent of Washington’s total population. However, the traffic fatality rate per 100,000 population among AI/AN people is consistently three to five times higher than all other race groups.

**I care, because** AI/AN people are disproportionately impacted by traffic fatalities. Although one in fifty Washingtonians are AI/AN, one out of twenty traffic fatalities are AI/AN people.

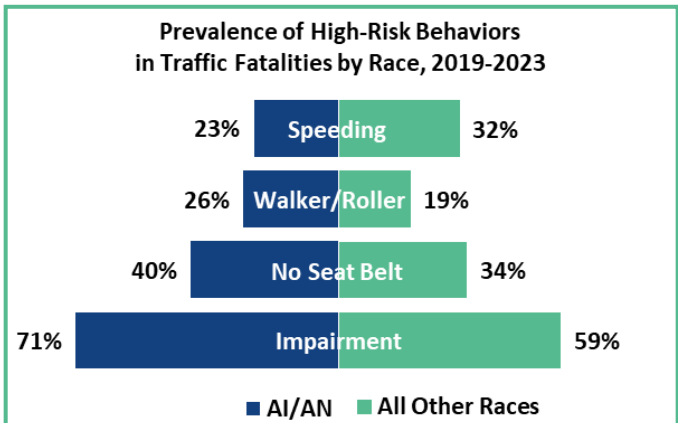


## Did you know?

### From 2019-2023:

- ⇒ There were 161 AI/AN traffic fatalities<sup>1</sup>.
- ⇒ Seven out of ten (n=114, 71%) AI/AN traffic fatalities involved impairment (either driver or pedestrian).
- ⇒ One in four (n=37, 23%) AI/AN traffic fatalities involved a speeding driver.
- ⇒ One in four (n=42, 26%) fatally injured AI/AN people were under the age of 25.
- ⇒ One in four (n=43, 27%) fatally injured AI/AN people were active transportation users (walker or rollers).
- ⇒ Four out of ten (n=44/110, 40%) fatally injured AI/AN motor vehicle occupants were unrestrained.

**Traffic fatality rates** reveal substantial disparities in risk leading to traffic fatalities<sup>1,5</sup>. AI/AN active transportation users had a rate 5.3 times greater than all other races. The rate of impairment involved fatalities among AI/AN people is five times greater than all other races. For unrestrained motor vehicle occupant fatalities, the rate is 5.6 times larger among AI/AN people. Seat belt use on Tribal lands is lower on average than the U.S. overall<sup>6</sup>. About one-third (n=51, 32%) of AI/AN traffic fatalities occurred in Yakima County, where the traffic fatality rate was 108 deaths per 100,000 population among AI/AN people — nine times the average rate of all others in Yakima County.

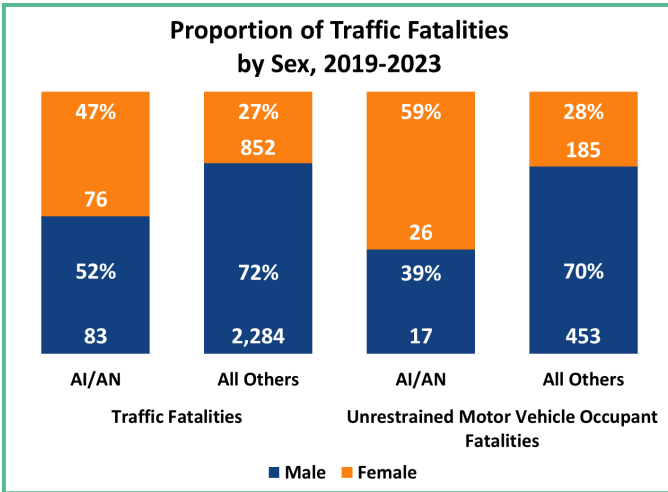




# American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Traffic Safety

**AI/AN females** are disproportionately impacted by traffic fatalities. On average, females account for 30 percent of all traffic fatalities in Washington. However, AI/AN females account for nearly half of AI/AN traffic fatalities. From 2019-2023, three out of five (n=26, 59%) unrestrained AI/AN motor vehicle occupant fatalities were female, compared to 28 percent for all other races<sup>1</sup>. Of the 22 (29%) AI/AN female fatalities that were motor vehicle passengers, only three were restrained.

**High-risk driving behaviors** are commonly observed together. From 2019-2023, out of 44 unrestrained AI/AN motor vehicle occupant fatalities, nearly half (n=20, 45%) involved a speeding driver and four out of five (n=36, 82%) involved an impaired driver<sup>1</sup>. Out of the 37 AI/AN fatalities that involved a speeding driver, four out of five (n=30, 81%) involved an impaired driver.



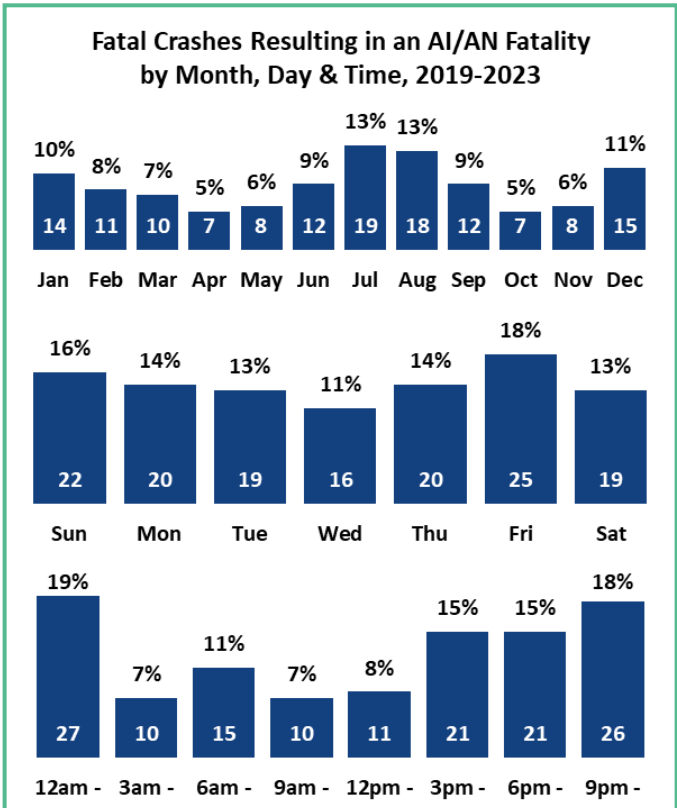
**On average,** females account for one in four driver fatalities. However, AI/AN females accounted for half (n=33, 48%) of all AI/AN driver fatalities<sup>1</sup>. Four out of five (n=26, 79%) female AI/AN driver fatalities and three out of four (n=27, 77%) male AI/AN driver fatalities involved an impaired driver. One in four (n=9, 27%) female AI/AN driver fatalities involved a distracted driver, compared to just five male AI/AN driver fatalities. Speeding was slightly more prevalent among male AI/AN driver fatalities as one in three (n=11, 31%) involved a speeding driver, compared to one in four (n=9, 27%) female AI/AN driver fatalities.

**The traffic fatality rate** among males is generally twice as great as females. However, AI/AN males and females experience a similar traffic fatality rate. From 2018-2022, AI/AN females had a traffic fatality rate of 31 fatalities per 100,000 population while AI/AN males had a traffic fatality rate of 35 fatalities per 100,000 population<sup>3</sup>.

## Did you know?

### From 2019-2023:

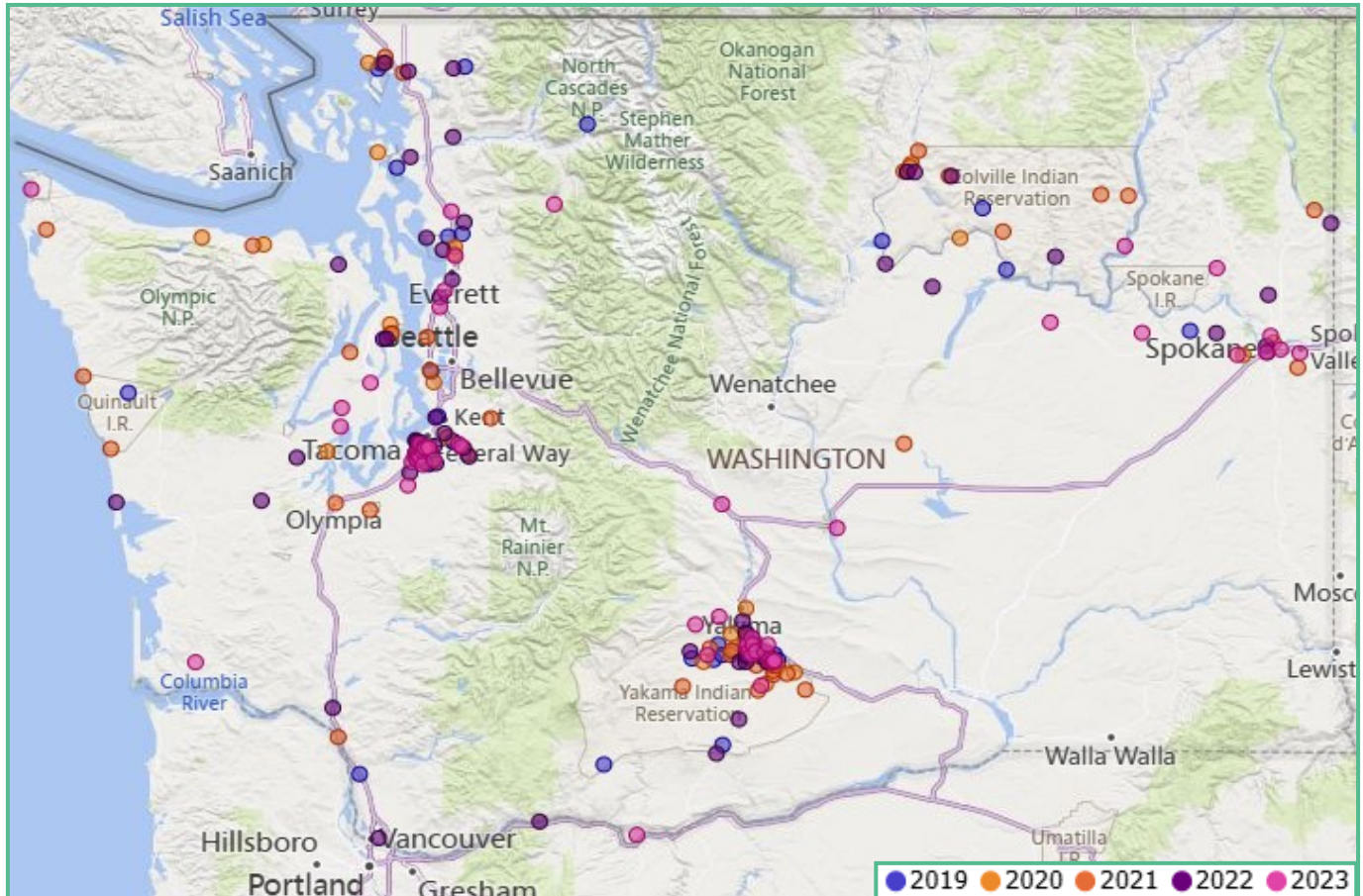
- ⇒ One in four (n=37, 25%) fatal crashes resulting in an AI/AN fatality occurred in July or August.
- ⇒ Nearly one in five (n=25, 18%) fatal crashes resulting in an AI/AN fatality occurred on a Friday.
- ⇒ Two out of five (n=53, 37%) fatal crashes resulting in an AI/AN fatality occurred between 9pm and 3am.





# American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Traffic Safety

Locations of Fatal Crashes Resulting in an AI/AN Fatality in Washington, 2019-2023



## Did you know?

### From 2019-2023:

- ⇒ There were 141 fatal crashes resulting in an AI/AN fatality in Washington<sup>2</sup>.
- ⇒ About two out of five (n=53, 38%) fatal crashes resulting in an AI/AN fatality occurred on Tribal land — one in four (n=35, 25%) were on the Yakama Indian Reservation.
- ⇒ Most fatal crashes resulting in an AI/AN fatality occurred in rural a setting (n=75, 53%).
- ⇒ One-third (n=48, 34%) of fatal crashes resulting in an AI/AN fatality occurred on county roads followed by one in four on state routes (n=40, 28%).
- ⇒ The majority (n=88, 62%) of fatal crashes resulting in an AI/AN fatality were single-vehicle crashes.

## Data Sources

- <sup>1</sup>Fatalities Dashboard, <https://wtsc.wa.gov/dashboards/fatalities-dashboard/>
- <sup>2</sup>American Indian/Alaska Native and Tribal Land Dashboard, <https://wtsc.wa.gov/research-data/ai-an-tribal-dashboard/>
- <sup>3</sup>Traffic Fatality Rates Dashboard, <https://wtsc.wa.gov/dashboards/traffic-fatality-rates-dashboard/>
- <sup>4</sup>Statewide Survey Dashboard, <https://wtsc.wa.gov/statewide-survey-dashboard/>
- <sup>5</sup>Washington Population Estimates, Washington State Office of Financial Management, <https://ofm.wa.gov/washington-data-research/population-demographics>
- <sup>6</sup>Bureau of Indian Affairs, Indian Highway Safety Program, FY2022 Annual Report

**For more information**, please visit the WTSC Data Dashboards <https://wtsc.wa.gov/dashboards/>, or contact the WTSC Research and Data Division (360) 725-9860.