WASHINGTON Traffic Safety COMMISSION

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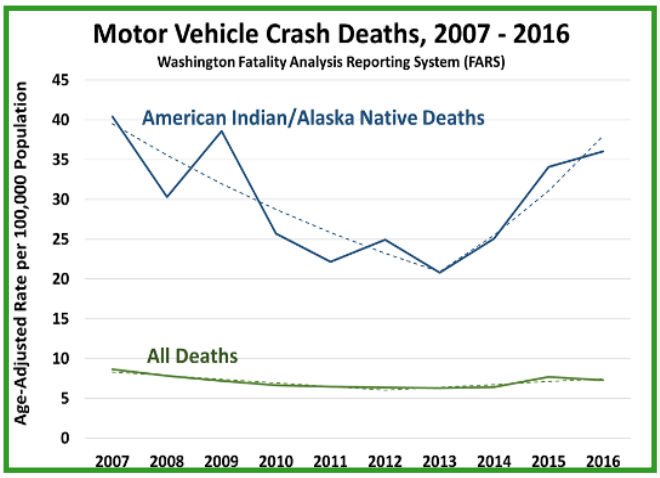
# Motor Vehicle Deaths in the American Indian/Alaska Native Community

**Trends** show that up until 2013 the rate American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) motor-vehicle crash deaths were declining. The rate per 100,000 AI/AN population declined from 40.4 (±<13.5) in 2007 to 20.8 (±<10.0) in 2013. Since then the rate reversed trend and rose to 36.1 (±<13.0) in 2016. The death rate for all deaths in the state remained comparatively flat during the same time frame.




## Did you know?

⇒ AI/ANs in most age groups are more at risk for crash death than the general population.

⇒ Impairment and speeding are in the top three fatal crash factors for AI/ANs as well as for the state. The third highest risk behavior for AI/ANs is unrestrained motor-vehicle use while it is distraction for the general population.

⇒ AI/ANs have higher crash death rates involving high risk factors than the state population:

- Impairment → 2.5 times higher
- Unrestrained → 9.0 times higher
- Speeding → 4.0 times higher
- Distraction → 3.4 times higher
- Pedestrian → 5.0 times higher

**I care, because** 124 AI/AN individuals died in Washington during 2012-2016. AI/AN deaths constituted about 5% of all motor-vehicle deaths. They, however, exhibited the highest age-adjusted crash death rate among all racial/ethnicity groups. AI/ANs had higher age-adjusted death rates relative to the state average; 29.90 (±3.70) per 100,000 AI/AN population vs. 7.08 (±0.20) per 100,000 state population during 2012-2016.

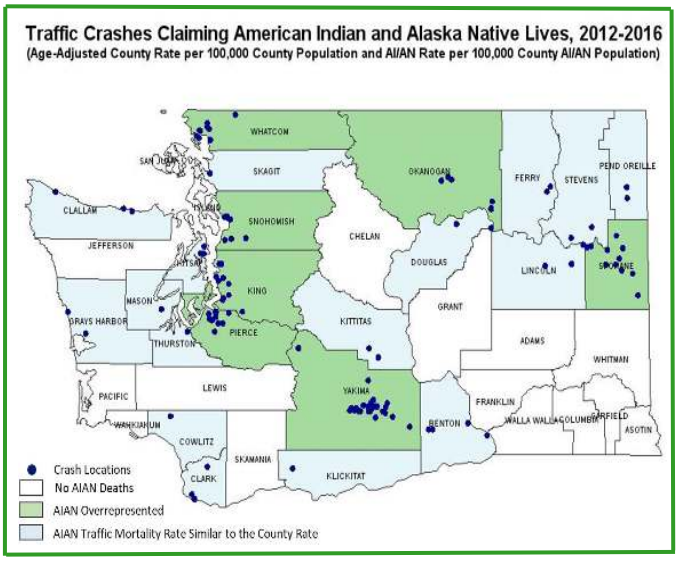
**AI/ANs Are Four Times More at Risk for Dying In a Crash Than the State.**

**Geographic Distribution** of AI/AN crash deaths showed some variation during the years 2012-2016:

⇒ No AI/AN crash deaths occurred in 16 counties that tend to have a small AI/AN community: *Jefferson, Asotin, San Juan, Chelan, Adams, Whitman, Columbia, Skamania, Wahkiakum, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Island, Lewis, Pacific, and Walla Walla.*

⇒ Seven counties shown with green had significantly higher AI/AN crash death rates than the overall county. These tend to be the counties that have either large urban AI/AN populations or large tribal areas: *Whatcom, Okanogan, Spokane, Snohomish, King, Pierce, and Yakima.*

⇒ Sixteen counties shown in light blue had motor-vehicle crashes claiming AI/AN lives, but the risk of AI/AN crash death was similar to the county as a whole: *Benton, Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Douglas, Ferry, Grays Harbor, Kitsap, Kittitas, Klickitat, Lincoln, Mason, Pend Oreille, Skagit, Stevens, and Thurston.*




***For more information,*** *please contact Washington Traffic Safety Commission, Research and Data Division at (360) 725-9860.*

# Characteristics of American Indian/Alaska Native Traffic Deaths, 2012-2016

| | American Indian/Alaska Native | | All State | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number of Deaths | Age-Adjusted Mortality Rate per 100,000 Population (95% CI) | Number of Deaths | Age-Adjusted Death Rate per 100,000 Population (95% CI) |
| **Overall Rate*** | | | | |
| | 268 | 29.90 (±3.70) | 4,918 | 7.08 (±0.20) |
| **Age (Years)*** | | | | |
| **0-14^** | 2 | 2.05 (±1.35) | 73 | 1.10 (±0.28) |
| **15-24** | 27 | 37.35 (±16.97) | 506 | 10.93 (±1.00) |
| **25-34** | 24 | 38.12 (±18.60) | 371 | 7.66 (±0.82) |
| **35-44** | 26 | 42.98 (±20.01) | 334 | 7.33 (±0.83) |
| **45-54** | 23 | 36.01 (±18.02) | 352 | 7.38 (±0.81) |
| **55-64** | 11 | 20.54 (±16.21) | 324 | 7.10 (±0.82) |
| **65+** | 11 | 26.02 (±20.57) | 461 | 9.37 (±0.90) |
| **Gender*** | | | | |
| **Male** | 80 | 118.80 (±26.89) | 1,704 | 16.49 (±0.79) |
| **Female** | 44 | 64.23 (±19.96) | 715 | 7.02 (±0.52) |
| **Impairment Involvement+** | | | | |
| | 80 | 18.34 (±0.09) | 2,562 | 7.39 (±0.29) |
| **Unrestrained Occupant+** | | | | |
| | 62 | 14.39 (± 3.69) | 567 | 1.6 (± 0.14) |
| **Speeding Involvement+** | | | | |
| | 42 | 9.48 (± 2.93) | 817 | 2.38 (± 0.16) |
| **Distraction Involvement+** | | | | |
| | 26 | 6.56 (± 2.69) | 697 | 1.94 (± 0.15) |
| **Pedestrian Deaths+** | | | | |
| | 25 | 5.15 (± 2.04) | 378 | 1.04 (± 0.11) |

+ Denominator is overall state population.

^ Rates based on 5 or less events should be interpreted with caution.

* Both the numerators (events) and denominators (exposures) are specific to the demographic sub-group under study to calculate the risk for that specific

***Data Sources***

***Washington Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS),*** *Washington Traffic Safety Commission,*
***Washington Population Estimates for Counties****, The Office of Financial Management*

**Fatal crash data for American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) :** This data is captured using the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS). FARS receives the race and ethnicity information for motor-vehicle crash fatalities from state death certificates.