



## **TIPCAP Partnerships developed through the National Child Passenger Safety Certification Training – Yellowstone County Safe Kids Coalition provides Tribes with child passenger safety seats**

On average, American Indian children in Montana and Wyoming are more than 4 times more likely to die in a motor vehicle crash than children from other ethnic groups, according to the Epidemiology Data Mart and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The Tribal Injury Prevention Cooperative Agreement Program (TIPCAP) under the Rocky Mountain Tribal Epidemiology Center (RMTEC) previously offered scholarships for Tribal



RMTEC Injury Prevention Epidemiologist Jordan Vandjelovic fitting a child with a new car seat.

members from all Tribes in Montana and Wyoming to attend the National Child Passenger Safety Certification course in June 2016 in Billings, Montana.

Tribes in Montana took advantage of the opportunity and sent a combined total of nine Tribal staff members to the certification course. The nine staff members who attended were affiliated with departments such as Public Safety, the Chairman's Office, Transportation, Tribal Health and Environmental Health.

This program aimed to have at least two certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians at each Tribe, to increase the capacity of each Tribe to keep kids safe on the roads.

The technicians were certified in properly installing car seats, and educating parents and caregivers how to properly use car seats – one of the most critical components to protecting children on the roadways.

**“It’s very important for kids to be safely secured in a vehicle.”  
– Northern Cheyenne Parent**

From the National Child Passenger Safety Training, a partnership between RMTEC – TIPCAP and Safe Kids Yellowstone County Coalition was established to assist in meeting the needs of the Tribes in the area. In the Fall of 2017, the Safe Kids Coalition was awarded funding from GRACO – a child passenger safety seat manufacture – to provide families with car seats.



Through the collaboration between RMTEC – TIPCAP and Safe Kids Coalition, in partnership with the Crow and Northern Cheyenne Environmental Health Service, the coordination and planning of Car Seat Clinics at each Nation was set in motion.

On June 28, 2017 the first Car Seat Clinic was held at the Northern Cheyenne Reservation in collaboration with their Environmental Health team. During this one event, 60 car seats were distributed, with 44 families being reached at the event.

On July 21, 2017 the second Car Seat Clinic was held at the Crow Reservation in collaboration with their Environmental Health team. In Crow 73 car seats were distributed with 49 families served and over 98 parents and caregivers reached.



**“Very informative event.”  
– Crow Grandparent**



Child Passenger Safety technicians checked for secure installation; proper harness adjustment; manufacturer size and weight limits; and recall information of car seats at each event. Technicians also educated families about choosing the appropriate car seat as children grow.

Together, RMTEC-TIPCAP, Safe Kids, and Crow and Northern Cheyenne Environmental Health were able to successfully reach over 140 families and children, distributing 133 car seats to the Crow and Northern Cheyenne Tribal Nations, keeping kids safe on all roads.

**“It’s a good opportunity to get our children in the vehicle right!”  
– Northern Cheyenne Parent**

**“This event is really good for the people of the community.”  
– Crow Parent**



*The events were made possible through the Tribal Injury Prevention Cooperative Agreement Program (TIPCA) of the Indian Health Services’ Division of Environmental Health at the Rocky Mountain Tribal Epidemiology Center (RMTEC); Safe Kids Yellowstone County Coalition; Crow Environmental Health Service; and Northern Cheyenne Environmental Health Service.*