

Primary Seat Belt Law

Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes

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Injury Prevention

Importance

- 887 unbelted vehicle occupants are hospitalized after crashes in Montana every year.
- 819 hospital admissions could be prevented annually by seat belt use.
- 71% of people in Montana car crashes die because they were not buckled up at the time of the crash.

Importance

- 58% of crash victims who need hospitalization were not wearing a seat belt.
- \$36.7 million is spent in Montana each year for medical costs directly related to unbelted crashes.
- \$14 million is incurred by people with Medicaid or who do not have insurance.

Importance

- The average belted crash victim stays in the hospital 5.7 days.
- The average unbelted crash victim stays in the hospital 8 days.
- Medical bills of \$36,420 is incurred by the average belted crash victim.
- Medical bills of \$52,993 is incurred by the average unbelted crash victim.

Indian Health Service Costs for Ft. Peck Reservation

- Ambulance transport: \$375
- Emergency Room Visit: \$1000
- ER Doctor Charge: \$200
- X-Ray Reading: \$50
- Ambulance to Airport: \$350
- Stat Air Ambulance: \$7800
- Inpatient Hospital Charges: \$10,000-\$25,000

Indian Health Service Costs (cont.)

- Inpatient Doctor Charges: \$2,500-\$10,000
- Anesthesia Charges: \$2000
- X-Ray Readings: \$350
- Ambulance from Airport to Hospital: \$580
- Total costs: \$25,205-47,705

Highway Safety Statistics

On the Fort Peck Indian Reservation in 2008 there were a total of 50 Crashes resulting serious bodily injury.

Out of the 50 crashes there were a total 4 fatalities.

One being alcohol related.

On the Fort Peck Indian Reservation the current seat belt usage rate ranges from 22-52 percent.

(22 % was in Wolf Point City Limits and the 52 was on US Highway #2 near Poplar, MT)

Sources

Harborview Injury Prevention and Research Center, Montana Highway Patrol, Indian Health Services

