

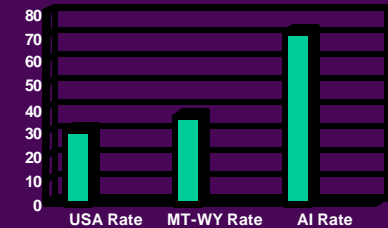
CHARACTERISTICS OF INJURY FATALITIES AMONG AMERICAN INDIAN CHILDREN IN MONTANA AND WYOMING: 1990-1995

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INTRODUCTION

Injury remains the leading cause of death in children (<19 years old) in the United States with a rate of 30/100,000. This rate is higher for children in the states of Montana and Wyoming at 36/100,000 and is twice as high for American Indian children in these states at 71/100,000. The study objective was to document the epidemiology of pediatric injury-related deaths among American Indian (AI) children residing in Montana (MT) and Wyoming (WY).



METHOD

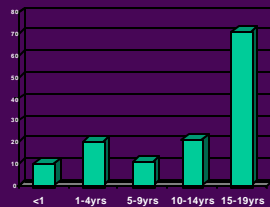
- Archival study of death certificates
- AI deaths (ICD9-E 800-999)
- January 1, 1990 - December 31, 1995
- Ages 0 to 19 years old
- Descriptive analyses (SPSS 10.0)



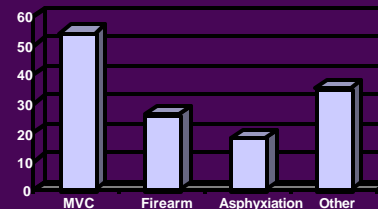
RESULTS

DEMOGRAPHICS OF DECEDENTS

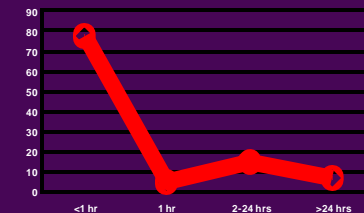
- Gender Distribution
 - 64% Male (n = 85)
 - 36% Female (n = 48)
- Mean Age = 12 yrs
- Median Age = 15 yrs



MECHANISM OF INJURY



TIME FROM INJURY TO DEATH



CONCLUSIONS

Childhood injury death rates are high among AI in both MT and WY. Motor vehicle crashes remain the leading threat to life among this population. By the nature of the geography in these states, motor vehicle crashes tend to be high speed events. These high energy impact events account for the large proportion of children who die at the scene or less than 1 hour post event. Increasing the use of safety restraints and devices at the time of injury may be the primary key to increasing the survivability of injuries during the event. This strategy, in addition to other primary and secondary injury prevention efforts should be increased in each of the reservation communities.