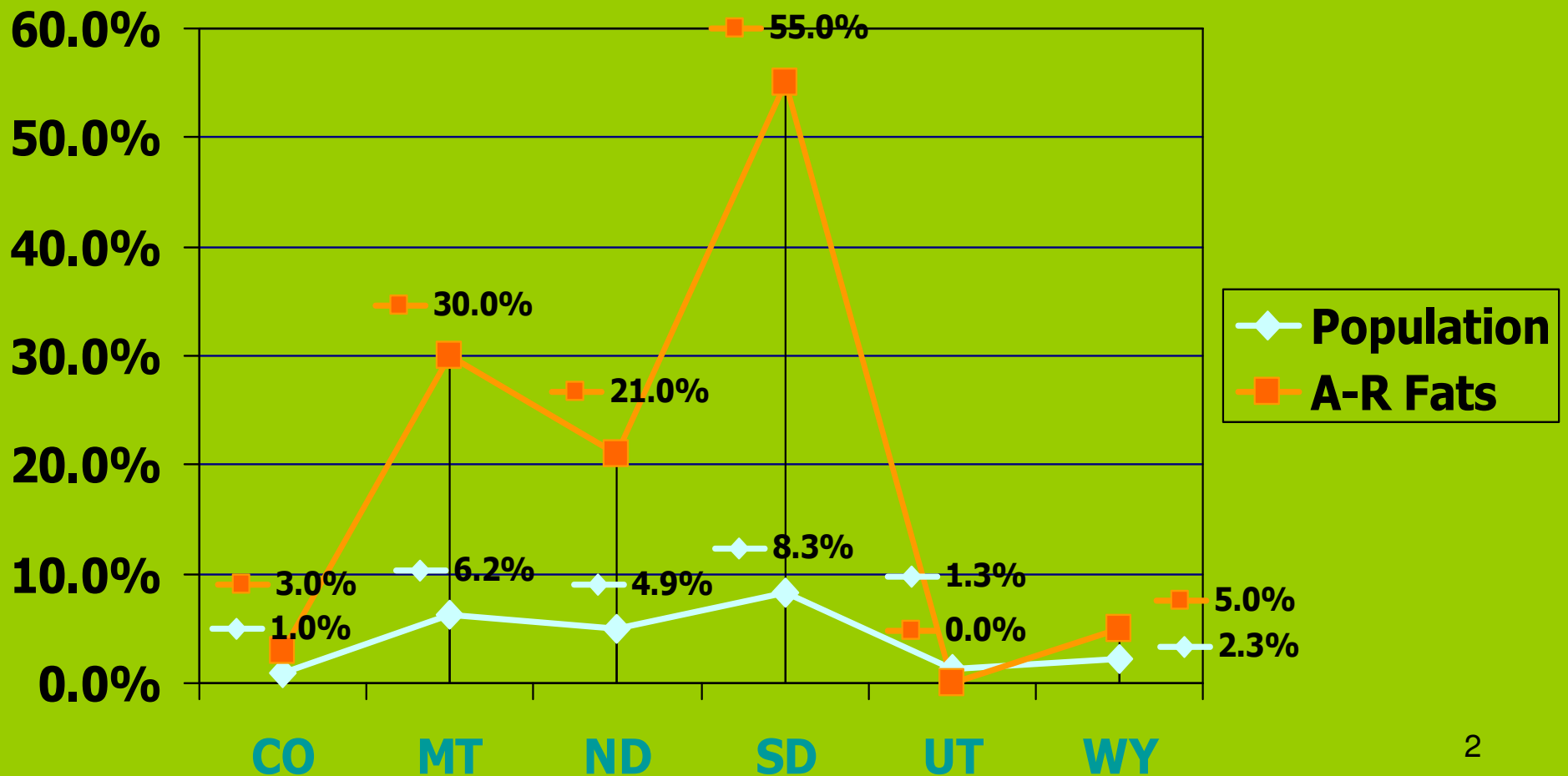


Tribal Safety Conscious Planning

Director Jim Lynch
Montana Department of
Transportation

IMPAIRED DRIVING

Native American Representation



Understand the Demographics of Your Fatality Rates

(Native Americans are Over-represented in Montana Fatality Statistics)



In 2006 Native Americans fatalities were:

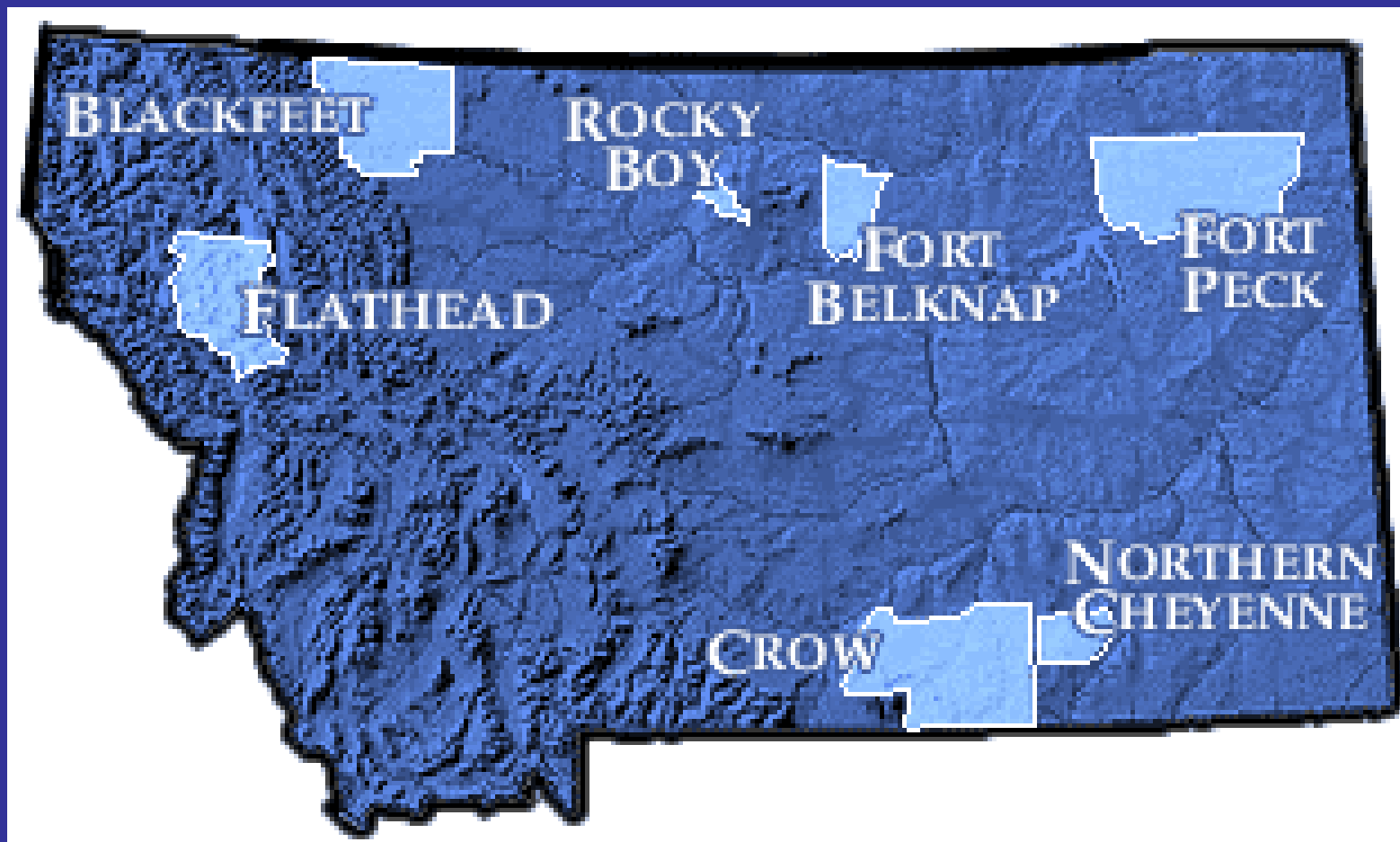
18% of all Montana fatalities

71% of these related to alcohol

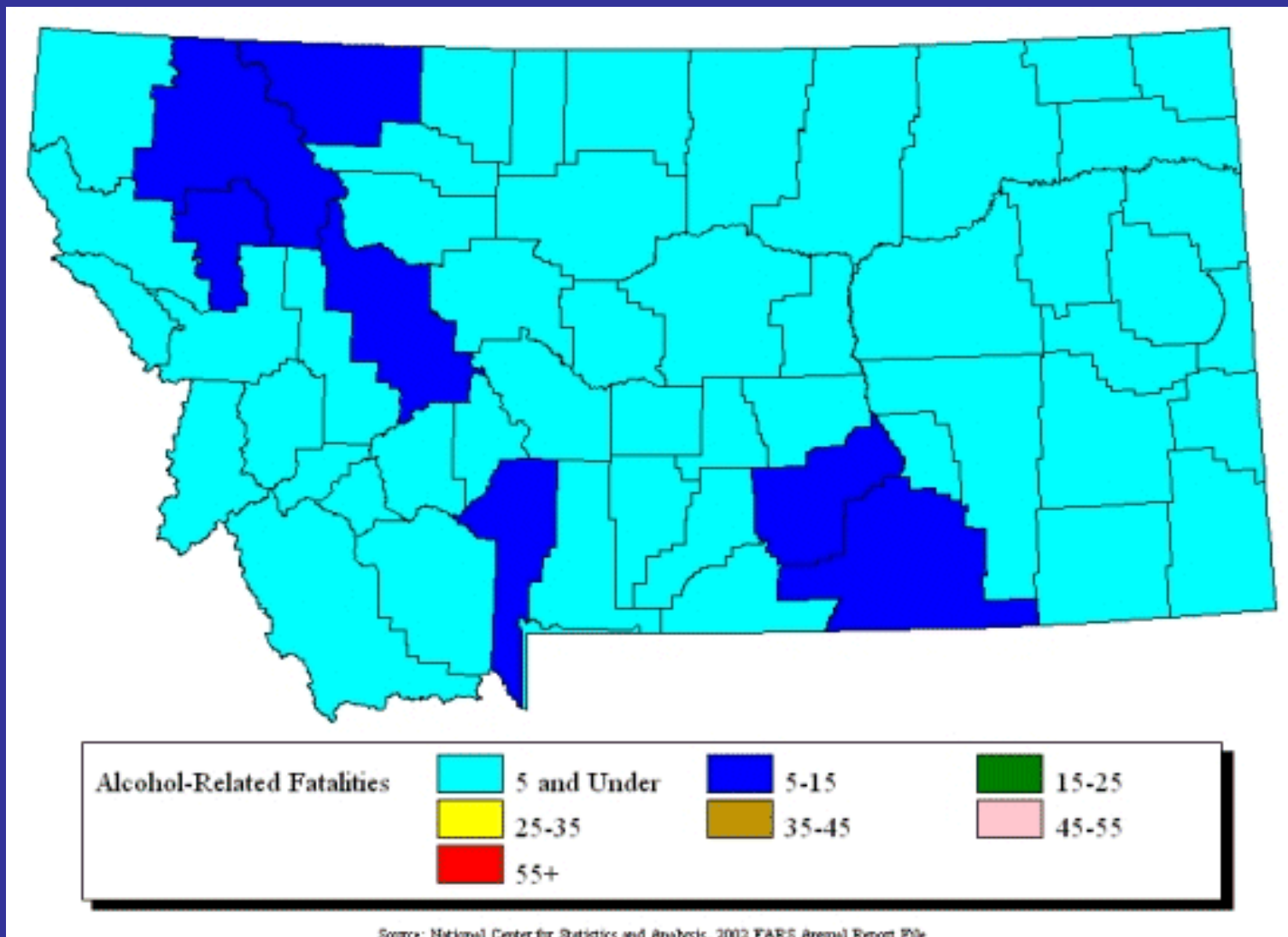
<8% of fatalities wore seat belts

6.2% of Montanans are Native American

Sovereign Tribal Nations within Montana State Borders



Alcohol Related Fatalities by County



Native American Focus

- **June 2005:** Tribal Safety Conscious Planning Forum
- **Oct 2005:** Pilot for tribal crash data collection
- **April 2006:** Governor's Tri-party gathering
- **Ongoing:** Safe On All Roads Program, Continuing involvement in Comprehensive Highway Safety Plan, STEP overtime patrols for tribal law enforcement, equipment and training

“How do we work **TOGETHER** to reduce Native American Fatalities?”

Conclusions

- **Each tribe is a unique sovereign entity**
- **Traffic Codes, Data Sharing, Cross-Deputization – all Variable**
 - Tribal concerns include Sovereignty and Protection of Members
- **Inconsistent Crash Data**
 - Exception: fatal crashes reported by MHP
- **Limited drivers training due to cost**
- **Limited Safety Belt Use**
- **DUI is a major problem**

Principles from June 2005 Forum & CHSP

- **Approach each tribe as a unique entity**
- **Involve the tribes in finding the solutions**
- **Allow each tribe access to resources**
- **Keep working toward consistent data**
- **Common Theme: A Culture of Safety**

SOAR – Safe on All Roads





***Goal: Reduce
Traffic Deaths
& Injuries on
Reservations***

SOAR Activities

- Message Development
- Message Deployment
 - Media
 - Events
- Building a Safety Culture
 - Education
 - Peer Networks

SOAR Mechanics

Structure

- **Interns Hired with Standing in Community**
- **Approx. 20 Hr/Wk**
- **Work with Tribal Colleges to Develop and Deploy Messages**
- **Local Media and Events Focused**

Events

- **Veteran's Powwows**
- **Round Dances**
- **Holiday Powwows**
- **Basketball Games**
- **College semester orientation/registration**
- **Rodeos**



Blackfeet Medicine Wheel -- the Community Seeks a Culture Of Safety



Soar Booth at Wadopana Powwow

- Pledge Cards for Sober Driving
- Manned by Interns & Volunteers



Sobering Stone Placement Ceremony – Fort Peck Reservation, Wolf Point HS

A Community Commitment to Fight DUI





Buckle Up Because **YOU** Love **ME.**



Respect your family.
Respect your life.
Use your Seat Belt.



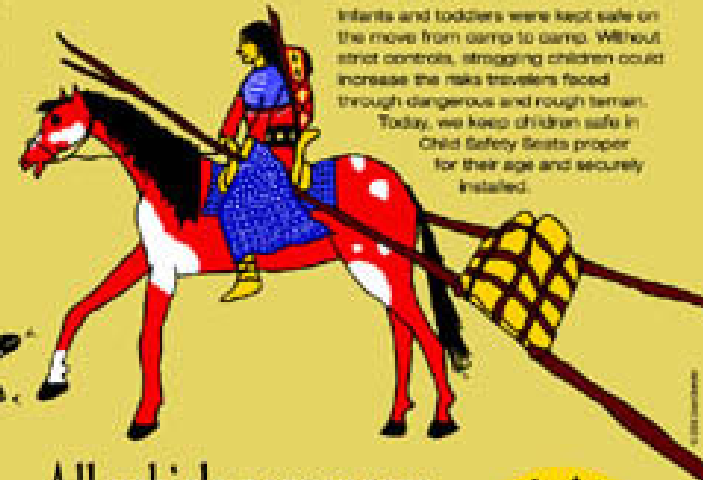
The single most effective action to save
lives and prevent disabling injuries.

Safe Travel AND Protection ARE Traditional

IN PLAINS INDIAN CULTURE



Like the warrior's shield, a seat belt is designed to prevent injury. A seat belt can only shield you if you wear it. Be a role model — buckle up. If you're not safe, the family isn't safe.



Infants and toddlers were kept safe on the move from camp to camp. Without strict controls, straggling children could increase the risks travelers faced through dangerous and rough terrain. Today, we keep children safe in Child Safety Seats proper for their age and securely installed.

All vehicle passengers must be safely buckled up!





Native Pride Needs a Sober Ride
Please Don't Drink and Drive

Some Results

- Alcohol Related Crashes on Some Reservations down
- Seat Belt Usage on SOAR Reservations May be Increasing
- Sobriety Culture Expanding
- Message Recognition Strong and Positive

Racial Profiling Prevention

- History:
 - Attempts to pass Primary Seat Belt Law marred by suggestions of racial profiling
 - MDT received racial profiling prevention grants for 2006/2007
 - Current MT bill will not qualify state for additional Section 1906 funding
 - ***Goal of current grants: begin a new dialogue with Native Americans and work to stop racial profiling in all enforcement activities.***

Racial Profiling Prevention Plan

- **Started with a session where MDT listened to Native Americans and Law Enforcement on Racial Profiling**
- **From this we learned:**
 - **There are significant current efforts and laws on the books prohibiting it**
 - **Perceptions of racial profiling sometimes based on decades old events**
 - **No amount of data will dispel perceptions**

MDT's Four 4 Track Approach to Racial Profile Prevention

I. COMMUNITY AND COMMUNICATIONS

- Liaison to facilitate “town hall” meetings to change the dialogue

III. SURVEYS & TRACKING

- Collect data on public perceptions and track data on implemented programs

II. TRAINING & EDUCATION

- Deliver cultural awareness course to officers that have not received it

IV. DATA COLLECTION

- develop consistent data collection and analysis capabilities regarding racial profiling

Racial Profiling Prevention

Current Status

- November 23, MDT hired a liaison to begin the town hall meetings on racial profiling prevention
 - Supported by:
 - Montana Sheriffs & Peace Officers Association
 - Montana Highway Patrol
 - Montana Law Enforcement Academy
 - Montana Department of Justice
- First “town hall” meetings will begin this year --- top priority: law enforcement agencies located near reservations

Other Native American Action Strategies

- Overtime for Tribal Law Enforcement
- Equipment Purchases
- Crash Data

Discussion and Comment

