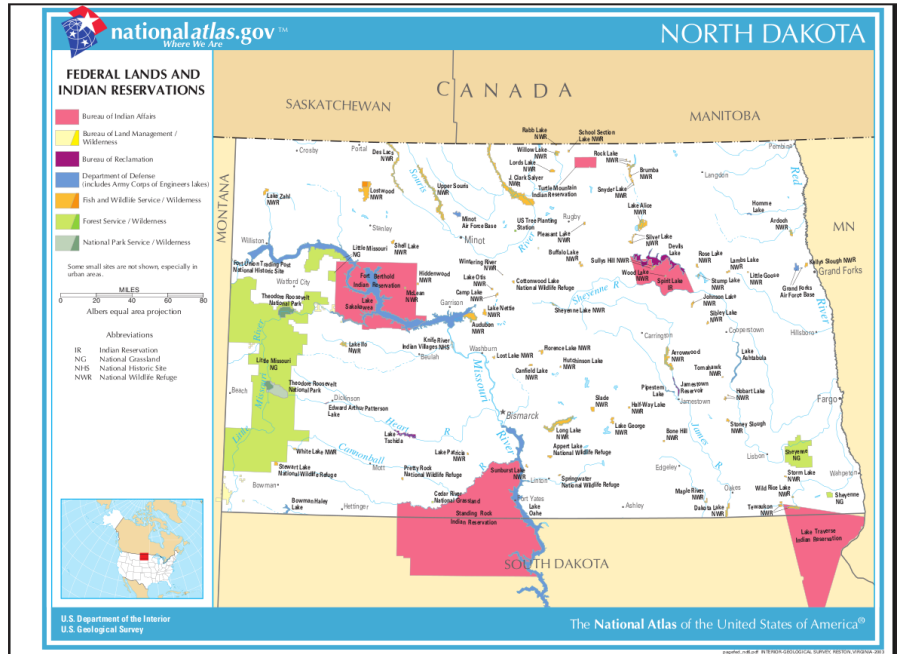


# MOUNTAIN-PLAINS CONSORTIUM

RESEARCH BRIEF | MPC 20-414 (project 518) | APRIL 2020

## Encouraging Tribal Community Crash Reporting



### the **ISSUE**

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, motor vehicle (MV) crashes are the leading cause of unintentional injury among Native Americans for ages 1 to 44 (CDC). A majority of these Native American populations lacks the fundamental data needed to understand these crash events and identify effective countermeasures. There is a need to fill this information void as a first step toward preventing motor vehicle crashes.

### the **RESEARCH**

This cross-case study sets a framework for exploring Indian Nations' crash reporting systems. This project's goals were to collaborate with tribes in North Dakota to understand how crash reporting can be practically and systematically implemented and to pilot this system. Geospatial, descriptive statistical and interview research methods were used in a case study analysis of the current status of crash data and collection processes. Geospatial analysis was used to segregate the Indian lands' crashes within the state crash database. Descriptive analysis was conducted to gain insight into traffic safety issues, revisiting the initial strategic highway safety plan emphasis exercise.



A University Transportation Center sponsored by the U.S. Department of Transportation serving the Mountain-Plains Region. Consortium members:

Colorado State University  
North Dakota State University  
South Dakota State University

University of Colorado Denver  
University of Denver  
University of Utah

Utah State University  
University of Wyoming



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## Project Title

Tribal Crash Reporting in ND:  
Practices, Perceptions, and  
Systematic Implementation

## Sponsors | Partners

Tribal Communities and their  
safety partners

USDOT, Research and  
Innovative Technology  
Administration

## the FINDINGS

It was evident that tribes are interested in crash data. A simplified, minimum core standard set for data fields, with no personally identifiable information, was successfully defined and used to engage tribes in crash data improvement. The institutional capital and community willingness to invest time in high-quality crash data will require ongoing commitment from traffic safety partners in working with Indian Nations.

## the IMPACT

The approach did allow for detailed investigation with a larger number of stakeholders. Others may use findings as they strive to establish or improve processes for systematic reporting for high-quality crash data by Indian Nations. An inventory process and experience gained in working with four tribes produced a pragmatic approach that tribes can refine based on objectives related to accountability, sovereignty, and system integrity. Enormous traffic safety benefits can be derived from a crash reporting system that holds essential, non-personally identifiable information. The study shows that electronically documenting MV crash event data is plausible with commitment from tribes and support from other stakeholders.

For more information on this project, download the Main report at <https://www.ugpti.org/resources/reports/details.php?id=1060>

For more information or additional copies, visit the Web site at [www.mountain-plains.org](http://www.mountain-plains.org), call (701) 231-7767 or write to Mountain-Plains Consortium, Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute, North Dakota State University, Dept. 2880, PO Box 6050, Fargo, ND 58108-6050.



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