

Bois Forte Health Center's Child Car Seat Program

Child Car Seats Prevent Injury & Saves Lives

Motor vehicle crashes (MVC's) are the leading cause of death for American Indian children, teens, and adults from 1 – 44 years old. Between 1989-1998, the MVC death rate for Minnesota American Indians was almost three times higher than the Minnesota All-Races rate. Use of child car seats reduces the risk of death riding in cars by 71% for infants and 54% for toddlers. Yet surveys show that car seat usage rates are very low in many Reservation communities.

A Success Story

The Bois Forte Health Center in Minnesota provides parent education and installation of free and reduced-cost child car seats. Child car seats are obtained from Bemidji Area Indian Health Service funds.



*Kathryn Thompson,
CHR Bois Forte
Health Center*



*Lacey Premo and her
son Eugene*

Lacey Premo and her son Eugene received a convertible child car seat from Kathryn Thompson, a Community Health Representative at the Bois Forte Health Center. In January 2002, Lacey and Eugene were in a car crash while driving on Highway 169 north towards Chisholm, Minnesota. Their car spun across the highway, rolled up onto the roof, then rested on the driver's side. Eugene was safely secured in his car seat in the middle of the back seat, the safest seating position for children. Eugene escaped serious injury due to the diligent efforts of his mother in correctly buckling him up before they departed.