

Intervention: Safety belt laws

Finding: Sufficient evidence for effectiveness

Potential partners to undertake the intervention:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Nonprofits or local coalitions | <input type="checkbox"/> Businesses or labor organizations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Schools or universities | <input type="checkbox"/> Media |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health care providers | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local public health departments |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State public health departments | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policymakers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitals, clinics or managed care organizations | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: All motorists, passengers |

Background on the intervention:

General safety belt laws require motorists and passengers not affected by child safety seat laws to use the belts. Use of safety belts is the single most effective means of reducing fatal and non-fatal injuries in motor vehicle crashes. In all types of crashes, manual lap/shoulder belts are about 45 percent effective in reducing fatalities in passenger cars, and 60 percent effective in reducing fatalities in light trucks.

Findings from the systematic reviews:

Research indicates that safety belt laws, comparing primary enforcement with secondary enforcement, increase observed safety belt use; increase self-reported belt use; and decrease fatal injuries, according to a 2001 review article analyzing seat belt interventions published in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine. Strong evidence was found for the effectiveness of safety belt laws in general. Strong evidence was also found for the effectiveness of enhanced enforcement programs for safety belt laws.

Additional information:

Safety Belt Laws – www.thecommunityguide.org

Primary Enforcement Laws - www.thecommunityguide.org

Enhanced Enforcement - www.thecommunityguide.org

References:

Dinh-Zarr, T., Sleet, D., et al. Reviews of evidence regarding interventions to increase the use of safety belts. Am J Prev Med 2001;21(4S). Available online at: <http://www.thecommunityguide.org/mvoi/mvoi-AJPM-evrev-seat-belts.pdf>