

Seatbelt Enforcement

It involves visible law enforcement actions to increase compliance with seatbelt laws, targeting high-risk groups to reduce crash-related injuries and fatalities.

Implementation Strategy

How and Where to Apply

- Implement through high-visibility patrols and checkpoints in areas with historically low seatbelt usage or elevated crash rates involving unrestrained occupants.
- Target enforcement efforts on rural roads, nighttime corridors, and among high-risk demographics such as young drivers and pickup truck occupants.
- The **NHTSA** identifies high-visibility enforcement (HVE) as an evidence-based strategy to increase compliance with seatbelt use laws and reduce traffic fatalities.

Use in a Safe System Approach

Promotes safer road users and reduces crash severity. Recognizing that human errors are inevitable, consistent and visible enforcement ensures that more occupants are properly restrained. It complements systemic efforts to protect all users, especially in high-risk environments.

Key Stakeholders

State legislators, law enforcement agencies, public health and safety officials, local government and municipal officials.

Proactive Implementation

Proactive seatbelt enforcement targets low-compliance areas and high-risk groups before crash patterns emerge. It uses data-driven site selection, mobile checkpoints, and seasonal campaigns. Efforts are strengthened through public health partnerships and alignment with national campaigns like *Click It or Ticket*.

Countermeasure Overview

Objective: Maximize use of occupant restraints by all vehicle occupants

Strategy: Encourage the enactment of local laws that will permit standard enforcement of restraint laws

Selected Related Countermeasures

- CM1** High-Visibility Enforcement (HVE)
- CM2** Seatbelt Laws
- CM3** Vehicle-Integrated Seatbelt Technologies

Cost: Low

Service Life: N/A

Benefit-Cost Ratio: 6:1

Targeted Solution



CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

- Ejection from vehicle



TARGET CRASH TYPE

- Single Vehicle
- Head-on
- Run-off-road



ROAD FACILITY TYPE

- All



AREA TYPE

- All

Safety Linkage



NCHRP 500 Series

Seatbelt Use

SAFE SYSTEM APPROACH

Safer Road Users

SAFE SYSTEM ROADWAY DESIGN



AASHTO'S TOWARD ZERO DEATHS

Improved Safety Management

TIER 1
TIER 2
TIER 3
TIER 4

N/A

Source: Seatbelt Enforcement



Boosts compliance with seatbelt laws, lowering serious injury and fatality rates.

Resources

- [Mobility & Transport - Road Safety](#)
- [High Visibility Enforcement | FHWA](#)
- [1https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jsr.2005.03.004](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jsr.2005.03.004)

