

# 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, low-visibility corridors, and among high-risk demographics such as young drivers and pickup truck occupants.
- Seatbelt enforcement works best with high-visibility, data-driven campaigns (e.g., Click-It-or-Ticket), strong media outreach, but is less effective when sporadic, poorly publicized, low-visibility, reducing deterrence.

### Use in a Safe System Approach

In a Safe System approach, seatbelt enforcement is used to account for inevitable human error by ensuring consistent restraint use, reducing crash severity, and complementing systemic measures to protect all road users, especially in high-risk areas.

### Key Stakeholders

State DOTs, MPOs, law enforcement agencies, driver licensing and training organizations, educational institutions, safety advocacy groups.

### 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

## Targeted Solution



### CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

- Ejection from vehicle



### TARGET CRASH TYPE

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



### ROAD FACILITY TYPE

- N/A



### AREA TYPE

- All

## Safety Linkage



### NCHRP 500 Series

Seatbelt Use



### SAFE SYSTEM APPROACH

Safer Road Users



### AASHTO'S TOWARD ZERO DEATHS

Improved Safety Management

### SAFE SYSTEM ROADWAY DESIGN

TIER 1

TIER 2

TIER 3

TIER 4

N/A

Seatbelt Enforcements. Source: [FHWA](#).

45%

Reduces the risk of fatal injuries for front-seat and light-truck occupants ([NHTSA, 2025](#))

60%

Seatbelts have saved many lives and remain one of the most effective vehicle safety measures ([NHTSA, 2025](#))

### Resources

- [Mobility & Transport - Road Safety](#)
- [High Visibility Enforcement | FHWA](#)
- [Countermeasures That Work, Seat Belts and Child Restraints, NHTSA](#)

