

Motor Vehicle-Related Injury Prevention: Use of Safety Belts, Primary (vs. Secondary) Enforcement Laws

Task Force Finding

Intervention Definition

Primary enforcement safety belt laws allow a police officer to stop a vehicle solely for an observed belt law violation.

Task Force Finding (October 2000)*

The Task Force strongly recommends these laws over secondary enforcement laws, which allow a police officer to issue a belt law citation only if the vehicle has been stopped for another violation. The strong recommendation is based on the superior effectiveness of primary enforcement safety belt laws in increasing safety belt use and reducing fatal injuries compared with secondary enforcement safety belt laws in the United States. Potential harms and other positive effects considered are similar to those for safety belt laws in general. In addition, although differential enforcement based on race or ethnicity has been reported as a concern, studies that looked for evidence of such differential enforcement found none. No qualifying economic information was identified from the literature.

*From the following publication:

Task Force on Community Preventive Services. Recommendations to reduce injuries to motor vehicle occupants: increasing child safety seat use, increasing safety belt use, and reducing alcohol-impaired driving. *Am J Prev Med* 2001;21(4S):16-22.

Publications

Dinh-Zarr TB, Sleet DA, Shults RA, et al. Reviews of evidence regarding interventions to increase the use of safety belts. *Am J Prev Med* 2001;21(4S): 48-65.

Task Force on Community Preventive Services. Recommendations to reduce injuries to motor vehicle occupants: increasing child safety seat use, increasing safety belt use, and reducing alcohol-impaired driving. *Am J Prev Med* 2001;21(4S):16–22.

Task Force on Community Preventive Services. [Motor-vehicle occupant injury: strategies for increasing use of child safety seats, increasing use of safety belts, and reducing alcohol-impaired driving](#) [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5007a1.htm]. *MMWR Recommendations and Reports* 2001;50(RR07):1-13.

Task Force on Community Preventive Services. Motor vehicle occupant injury. In: Zaza S, Briss PA, Harris KW, eds. *The Guide to Community Preventive Services: What Works to Promote Health?* Atlanta (GA): Oxford University Press;2005:329-84 (Out of Print).

Disclaimer

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