

# **PRIMARY SAFETY BELT LAW**

**A presentation of the  
Missouri Coalition for  
Roadway Safety**

*Safety Belts – The Difference between  
Death ...*

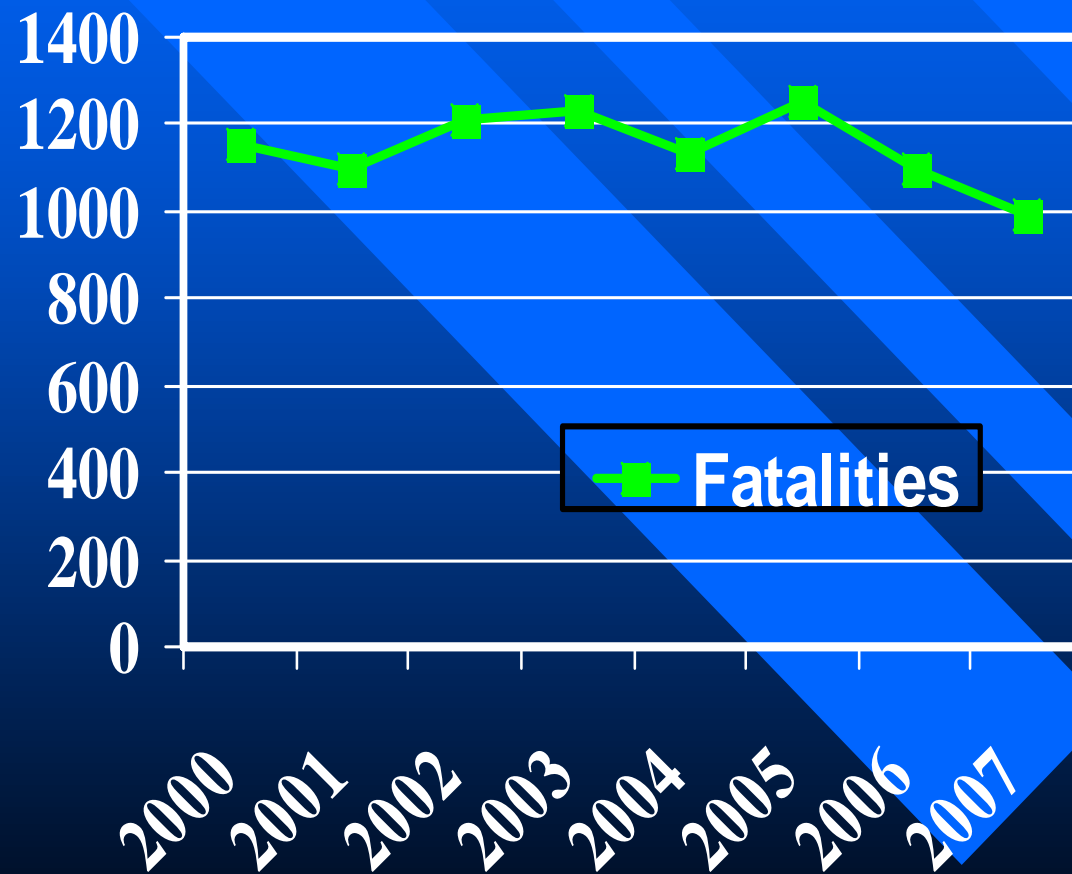


*and Life*



# THE PROBLEM

# 8 Year Fatality Trend



2000 = 1,157

2001 = 1,098

2002 = 1,208

2003 = 1,231

2004 = 1,130

2005 = 1,257

2006 = 1,096

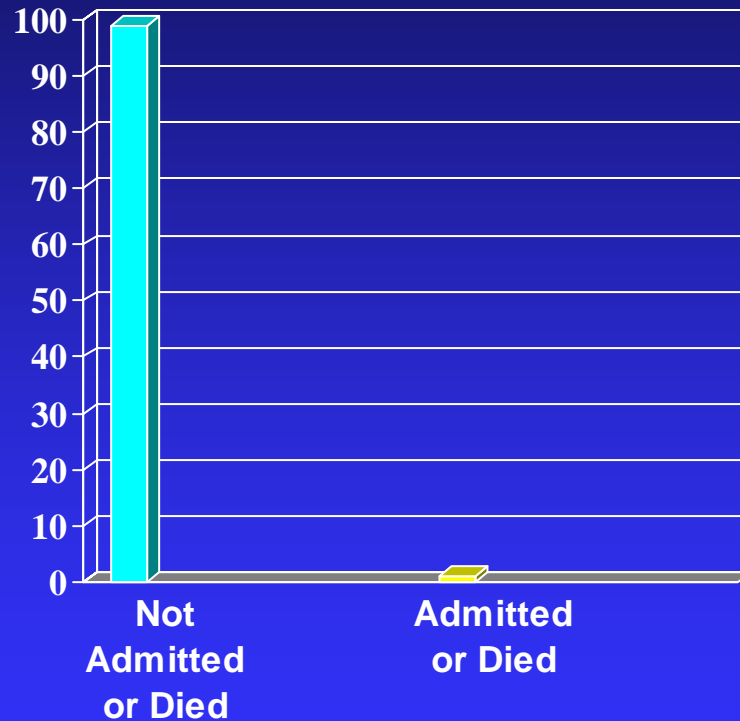
2007 = 992

# *Motor Vehicle Crashes:*

- **Leading cause of death** among those **ages 1-34**
- **70%** who **died** in Missouri crashes were **not wearing a seat belt**

# *Percent of Crash Victims who were Admitted to Hospital or Died, By Safety Belt Use*

Percent



Belt Use -- Yes

# *2008 Safety Belt Use Rates – Missouri & bordering states (secondary vs. primary laws):*

## Secondary Laws

- Arkansas – 70.4%
- Kansas – 77.3%
- **Missouri – 76%**
- Nebraska – 83%

## Primary Laws

- Illinois – 90.5%
- Iowa – 92.9%
- Kentucky – 73%
- Oklahoma – 84.3%
- Tennessee – 81.5%

*Teens – Area of Concern:*

2008 Teen Safety Belt Use

62%

# *Our young people are dying:*

2005-2007 Missouri crashes

**410 teens died**

who were vehicle occupants;  
although they had access to one

**78% didn't bother wearing**

**their safety belt!**

# THE CRASH

# *Crash Dynamics – 3 Progressions*

- 1. Vehicle crashes into an object – stationary or moving**
- 2. Body crashes into whatever is there to stop it**
- 3. Internal organs and brain crash into skeleton or skull**

*Two different scenarios –  
same drastic results*

# *Drive Cam Video*



FG +0.0

SG +0.0

Time -10.00

Rear View

Seat Belt Video Drive Cam

# *Teen Video*



No Seat Belt No Excuse

# *“I’m not hurting anybody but myself” – Wrong!*

- Law enforcement
- Emergency medical workers
- Witnesses
- Trauma Team
- Family
- Friends
- Co-workers
- Neighbors
- Rehab therapists
- . . . and so on

*A primary safety belt law could increase the number of children being buckled in*

- **Drivers buckled up, only 2% of the children weren't buckled**
- **But—when drivers were not buckled up, 30% of children were not buckled either**

Source: 2008 Child Restraint Observational Survey, conducted by the Missouri Safety Center for MoDOT, Highway Safety

# THE COST

# *Missouri Medical Costs*

Average **inpatient charges** for injuries sustained by an **unbelted driver** — more than **41 percent greater than** the average charge for **belted drivers**

# *Employers Pay Big Time*

- **Nationally, crash costs exceed \$200 billion annually**
- **Employers share costs with government, insurers, victims**
- **Employers' portion = 20 percent**
- **Crashes cost Missouri employers more than \$800 million annually = \$310 per employee in the state**

# *Employer Costs*

- 1. Health fringe benefits costs**
- 2. Non-fringe costs**
- 3. Wage premiums**

## *Costs to employers – Restrained versus non-restrained injuries*

	<b>On-the-Job</b>		<b>Off-the-Job</b>	
	Not Restrained	Restrained	Not Restrained	Restrained
<b>Health Fringes</b>	<b>\$7,020</b>	<b>\$1,580</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>	<b>\$450</b>
<b>Non-fringes</b>	<b>\$20,730</b>	<b>\$9,730</b>	<b>\$480</b>	<b>\$150</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$27,750</b>	<b>\$11,310</b>	<b>\$2,980</b>	<b>\$600</b>
<b>Wage-Risk Premiums</b>	<b>\$22,420</b>	<b>\$2,930</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>--</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$50,170</b>	<b>\$14,240</b>	<b>\$2,980</b>	<b>\$600</b>

# THE SAVINGS

# *Financial*

- **Potential savings = \$231 m**
- **Potential income = \$16-20 m  
federal incentive grant**
- **Medicaid savings = \$103 m  
over a 10-year period**

# THE SOLUTION

# *Current Law*

- **Secondary enforcement**
- **Applies to driver & front seat passengers**
- **Infraction; \$10 fine; no court costs; no points**
- **Exempts agricultural vehicles, postal workers, people with medical justification**

## *A primary safety belt law will:*

- **Save 90 lives a year**
- **Prevent 1,000 serious injuries**
- **Save Medicaid costs**
- **Qualify for \$16-20 m grant**

*Despite the strides we've made in convincing people to buckle up, a secondary enforcement law continues to send the message that wearing your safety belt is not as important as fixing your burned-out license plate light.*

*It boils down to this---*

Passing a primary safety belt law will **save more lives and prevent more disabling, life-long injuries** than any other traffic safety law Missouri could pass.

*Can you afford not  
to support this effort?*

For additional information or to  
become a primary safety belt  
partner, go to:  
[saveMOLives.com](http://saveMOLives.com)

**A presentation of the  
Missouri Coalition for  
Roadway Safety**