

BLACK HISTORY MONTH PLANNER FACT SHEET & TALKING POINTS African-Americans are at Risk!

Did you know? ...

- Seat belt use among African-Americans increased from 69 percent in 2000 to 80 percent in 2004 – an 11 percentage-point increase in just four years. While this trend is certainly positive, approximately one out of five African-Americans still does not buckle up on every trip.
- In 2002, motor vehicle crashes were the leading cause of death for African-Americans age 3 and ages 5 to 14, and the second leading cause of death for African-Americans age 2 and ages 15 to 29.
- Lap/shoulder belts reduce the risk of fatal injury to front-seat passenger car occupants by 45 percent, and the risk of moderate-to-critical injury by 50 percent. Child safety seats – when used correctly – reduce fatal injury by 71 percent for infants (younger than 1 year old) and by 54 percent for toddlers (1-to 4-years-old) in passenger cars. For infants and toddlers in light trucks, the corresponding reductions are 58 percent and 59 percent, respectively.
- Parents are role models. When the driver is unbuckled, child restraint use is 36 percentage points lower than when the driver is wearing his/her seat belt.
- By encouraging your family, friends and loved ones to wear their seat belts, and making sure that all children are properly restrained in the back seat in the correct child safety seat for their age, weight and height on every trip, we can save lives and prevent injuries in the African-American community! Buckle up every trip, every time! For more information, log onto www.nhtsa.dot.gov or www.BoosterSeat.gov.