



TEXAS

Buckle Up, Texas

► AT-A-GLANCE

► Project Characteristics

Safety Restraint Use Enforcement

► Program Areas

Occupant Protection

► Targeted Populations

Rural and Metropolitan Areas

► Type of Jurisdiction

State

► Jurisdiction Size

20,851,820

► Funding

157 Funds: \$549,040

► Contact

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Problem Identification

Although Texas has had a primary safety belt law since 1985, the state's safety belt use rate was only increasing one percent or less each year. A factor affecting this increase is the lack of a central office working with police departments and sheriff's offices to consistently train law enforcement officers in occupant protection (OP) or provide assistance in developing or using OP enforcement grants. Additionally, the grant reporting process was difficult. Results were delayed while data from hand prepared documents were compiled.

Goals and Objectives

The *Buckle up, Texas* project's goal is to increase law enforcement involvement in enforcing safety restraint use in Texas.

The project's objectives are to:

- Increase occupant protection (OP) law enforcement;
- Improve OP enforcement grants results reporting; and
- Provide a central information point for the diverse law enforcement agencies in the state.

Strategies and Activities

The *Buckle Up, Texas* project implemented the following strategies and related activities to achieve its goals and objectives:

- Developed a web-based reporting system for OP enforcement grants.
- Created *Buckle Up, Texas* website that contains wave program results, child safety information, Texas seat belt laws, and links to OP resources. The website also has a *Buckle Up, Texas* newsletter that is published after each wave enforcement period and contains current events related to occupant safety issues and articles of interest from communities around the state (<http://www.buckleuptexas.com/seatbeltlaws/>).
- Assigned law enforcement liaisons to work specifically with law enforcement agencies and local Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Traffic Safety Specialists on OP issues.
- Hosted an annual summit for local law enforcement officers. Officers met and discussed pertinent issues facing their jurisdictions and received up-to-date OP training.



Results

The *Buckle Up, Texas* project achieved the following results from October 1, 2002 to September 9, 2003:

- Received over 2.5 million visits to the *Buckle Up, Texas* website
- Implemented online reporting for all law enforcement agencies with OP and other traffic safety enforcement grants
- Increased front seat occupant restraint use statewide by 2.7 percent and child passenger restraint use by 1.6 percent
- Held a *Buckle Up, Texas* Summit in San Antonio that was attended by 334 officers, municipal court judges, and personnel
- Offered attendees breakout sessions covering various topics related to traffic safety
- Initiated OP enforcement campaigns attended by over 396 law enforcement agencies (Several agencies used their own funds to participate.)
- Contacted 212 law enforcement agencies to assist with *Buckle Up, Texas* website reporting, to support agencies and districts on traffic safety related issues, and to promote OP safety programs