



Seat Belt Fact Sheet

Seat Belt usage among African Americans increased from 69 percent in 2000 to 77 percent in 2002, an 8 percentage-point increase in just two years. However, despite this progress, almost one out of every four African Americans still does not buckle up on every trip.

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

- Traffic accidents are the leading cause of death for African Americans?
- Although African Americans and Hispanic male teenagers travel fewer vehicle miles than their white counterparts, they are nearly twice as likely to die in a motor vehicle crash?
- Safety belt usage African Americans rose to 77 percent, increasing to essentially the same level as that of the general population in 2002, from 69 percent in 2000?
- A 1999 study by Meharry Medical College, reported that 100 percent safety belt usage among African Americans could save 1,300 lives and prevent 26,000 injuries each year?
- Of Mississippi's 885 car and truck fatalities in the year 2002, 75 percent were not wearing seat belts; and 74 percent of 173 children and teens killed were not wearing seat belts?
- According to the national study released by the National Safety Council, Mississippi's seat belt usage rate is under 65 percent, one of the lowest seat belt rates in the nation?

