



# Primary Seat Belt Enforcement

## What you need to know...

Missouri's safety belt use rate remains consistently lower than the national average						
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
U.S.	71%	73%	75%	79%	80%	82%
Missouri	68%	68%	69%	73%	76%	77%



- States changing from secondary to primary seat belt laws average an 11% increase in their usage rate
- An 11% increase would save about 90 lives in Missouri each year and prevent about 1,067 serious injuries.
- Safety belts can reduce fatalities to front-seat occupants of passenger cars by 45% and of light trucks by 60%.<sup>1</sup>
- Illinois & Iowa—neighboring states with primary laws—each had a considerably lower motor vehicle death rate (deaths per 100 million miles of travel) in 2004 (1.36 and 1.42, respectively) versus Missouri (1.7).

<sup>1</sup> Crash Stats 2004, Restraint Use Among Fatally Injured Passenger Vehicle Occupants by Vehicle Type, US DOT, NHTSA, NCSA, Report DOT HS 809 819, November 2004.

# STATE SAVINGS - - -

## Traffic Crash Deaths & Injuries

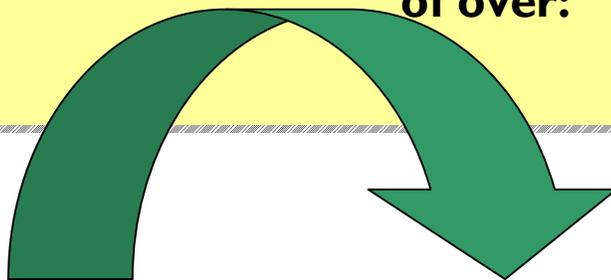


In 2004, a Primary Safety Belt law  
could have saved Missouri  
**\$231 million**



Anticipated Medicaid savings of  
**\$103 million**  
over a 10-year period<sup>2</sup>

The federal **SAFETEA-LU** legislation includes incentives for states that enact primary seat belt laws. Under the provisions of this bill, for passing a **Primary Seat Belt Law**, Missouri would receive incentive funds of over:



**\$16 Million**

<sup>2</sup> *Impact of a Primary Seat Belt Law on Missouri's State Medicaid Expenses*, Preusser Research Group, Inc; Chaudhary, Neil and Preusser, David, March 2, 2004