

## **Occupant Protection (OP)**

### **(OP-01) Advances & Challenges in Tribal Motor Vehicle Occupant Safety**

Native Americans experience higher rates of motor vehicle occupant mortality compared to other race/ethnic groups. Current funding opportunities are available for tribes to develop and implement road safety improvement plans. Learn about approaches to address challenges including risky occupant behaviors; environmental roadway design; data issues; post-crash care; legislative and policy issues that adhere to established best practices while respecting tribal cultural practices.

### **(OP-02) Youth-led Mentorship - How to Engage College/University & High School Students in Traffic Safety Education with Younger Audiences**

Traffic crashes are the leading cause of unintentional, preventable death for teens in the U.S. The SADD team comprised of staff and students will share why schools and communities should encourage youth to be "traffic safety advocates/mentors" for their younger peers. Through curated and youth created content, youth mentors can lead younger audiences through interactive learning and discussions. Come away with ideas and resources to engage young people to implement these strategies and curriculum in your community.

### **(OP-03) Occupant Protection for Vulnerable Populations Throughout Their Lifespan**

Traffic crashes have a disproportionate effect on special populations of our communities. Learn about emerging issues and life-saving countermeasures regarding occupant protection, specifically for pregnant women, older adults, and wheelchair users. Highlights include innovative educational programs and community opportunities to decrease these fatality rates.

### **(OP-04) Occupant Protection & the Safe System Approach**

What is a Safe System and how might it relate to occupant protection? How could your occupant protection Highway Safety Plan incorporate the Safe System Approach? Learn about practical tools to incorporate the Safe System Approach into occupant protection programming and planning.

### **(OP-05) We're All in This Together. Coalition Building & Effective Communications Strategies for Occupant Protection**

Seat belt safety requires a comprehensive approach to save lives through a combination of awareness and education initiatives. Coalition building that encompasses programs including awareness campaigns, educational programs, and community engagement will be highlighted. Learn how to build these relationships to increase compliance, reduce injury, and save lives.

### **(OP-06) From the Mountain High to the Valley Low - Your Guide to Rural Seat Belt Programs**

Gain real world insight on addressing the seat belt problem in rural areas from experienced traffic safety practitioners and researchers. Experience wide-ranging perspectives to rural seat belt programs starting with a high-level program guide continuing with on-the-ground program legwork, then witness the work in action. Hear an overview of a usable guide to rural seat belt programs including problem ID, program selection, implementation, and evaluation to implement in your community. Gain valuable insight through a first-hand look at two rural seat belt programs in action. Seeing the results of our work on the big screen is rewarding, and you will have a look into NHTSA's process for developing national campaign materials.

**(OP-07) The Role of Policy & Enforcement in Traffic Safety Outcomes**

Policy and enforcement catalyzed several advances that contributed to a multi-decade decline in motor vehicle occupant mortality. Occupant mortality reached its lowest rate in 2019 before beginning to rise again during the COVID-19 era. Policy and enforcement complexities accompanying the reversal of these trends will be highlighted. Explore approaches, tools, and countermeasures for achieving equity in community safety while regaining lost ground in motor vehicle occupant mortality.