Nighttime Safety Belt Use

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The Problem

- In 2002, 26% of traffic related fatalities* occurred between the hours of 10pm and 3:39am.
- This window of time represents 25% of the day.
- BUT less than 10% of daily traffic occurs during this time.
The Problem

% Belted among fatally injured front seat occupants of passenger vehicles

Source: FARS 2002, 2003
Problem

- Belt use rates are **daytime use rates**
- Belt use at night is generally “unknown”
Evaluation/Enforcement Difficulties

- Nighttime belt observations

View of typical night belt
Evaluation/Enforcement Difficulties

- Move to lighted locations?
  - What about rural areas?
  - Move daytime locations also?
New Nightvision

GEN 3
Statewide Night Belt

- Statewide “157 compliant” night belt use observation surrounding CIOT
  - Sites: same as day (usually) with NV goggles
    - Even w/NV some sites impossible to view
  - Weighting based on traffic counts
    - Day time use 24-hour traffic counts
    - Relative traffic density by functional class changes at night
    - Must use counts for night hours only
Night Observations
Night Observations
* The Statewide survey submitted to NHTSA for CT was weighted using older traffic counts and therefore differs from the percentage reported here by a small amount.
CT Statewide Nighttime Belt Use

Unweighted Values

Pre

Post

Percent Belted

Day

Night

67%

79%

74%

81%
CT Statewide Nighttime Belt Use

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Night</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Observed</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FARS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Observed</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Limitations

- One state
- One time
- Limited number of survey sites
Questions?