

ADULT & PEDIATRIC TRAUMA INJURY PREVENTION

Advocacy Organizations	
What are some Local organizations that do advocacy work?	Central Mass Chapter of National Safety Council
What are some State level organizations that do advocacy work?	Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
What are some National level organizations that do advocacy work?	Air Bag & Seat Belt Safety Campaign, National Safety Council
What are some International organizations that do advocacy work?	World Health Organization
Advocacy Issue	
Looking at the State, National, and/or International level, at the websites or information from the organizations above, what is a major area of advocacy at this time? <i>Try to choose an advocacy issue that will in some way affect the local community.</i> Advocacy specifically refers to promoting legislation, policies or specific budgetary appropriations that positively affect a health issue. This may occur through decreasing barriers to accessing health services, providing an infrastructure conducive to effective health promotion programs, or directly increasing the resources and infrastructure of the public health system.	National Coalition for School Bus Safety – this organization wants to compel states to enact laws that require seat belt installations on school buses.
What specific law, policy or appropriation is being advocated for?	Primary safety belt laws. Estimated 45% fatality rate reduction in compliant passengers in passenger cars (60% in light trucks). It was found that states that switched to primary safety seat laws (can be pulled over specifically for not wearing a seat belt) from secondary safety belt laws (can be cited for not wearing a seat belt only if another citation is applicable) experienced a drop in number of people not wearing seat belts (on average about 10%). This demonstrates that the primary law acts as a good deterrent of non-compliance (1).
Who is doing the advocating? (Which organizations?)	School boards, private citizens, National PTA, American Academy of Pediatrics (3)
Who is being lobbied?	State senators/governors

Whom will this issue affect?	Victims, their families, healthcare costs, car manufacturers
Were they or will they (in your opinion) be successful?	They have been successful in the past – in Massachusetts, they successfully passed the primary seat belt law into effect. Also, the “Click it or Ticket” Campaign was shown to successfully drive-up seat belt use by 11% from 2002 to 2003 when it began (2).
Why or why not? What do they need to be more successful?	They had lots support which brought a lot of funding sponsoring advertisements in the form of billboards, commercials, and radio broadcasts. Also, there is a deterrent factor in the form of a fine.
What are the consequences if they are not successful?	Continued preventable deaths and serious injuries; unnecessary toll on the healthcare system
If they are not successful, what other strategies can be used to achieve the same goal?	Community volunteers, as well as medical and nursing students can give a presentation to an incoming freshman class during their high school orientation. This would include: video clips, pictures, alarming statistics, and guest speakers with personal experiences.
How can physicians and/or nurses be involved in this advocacy issue?	Making it common practice for healthcare professionals to include seat belt questions during assessment (not just at primary care offices) and offer education and instruction.

1. Houston David, Safety Belt Use and the Switch to Primary Enforcement, 1991-2003, American Journal of Public Health 2006; 96 (11), p1949-54
2. www.nhtsa.dot.gov
3. <http://life.familyeducation.com/school/safety/36260.html>, <http://www.ncsbs.org/>