National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Updating State Observational Seat Belt Survey Site Selections

Judy Hammond, Regional Operations and Program Delivery

Tim Pickrell, National Center for Statistics and Analysis
Purpose of Today’s Webinar

• Background on the survey
• Information on observation site re-selection for seat belt surveys
• States’ Role and Responsibilities
• NHTSA’s Role and Responsibilities
Background – TEA-21

• Began with TEA-21 – authorized a seat belt incentive grant program based on seat belt use rate
• September 1, 1998 – Interim Final Rule - Uniform Criteria for State Observational Surveys of Seat Belt Use (63 FR 46389)
• March 14, 2000 Final Rule adopting Uniform Criteria
SAFETEA-LU new administrative requirements for Section 402

- Certifications and assurances: States conduct annual seat belt survey according to Uniform Criteria
- Implementing guidance for Section 406: surveys using the Uniform Criteria would serve as basis for performance provision of grant program
Final Rule – April 1, 2011

• April 1, 2011 – Final Rule published amending the regulation establishing uniform criteria for designing and conducting surveys, procedures of obtaining NHTSA approval of designs and new form for reporting use rates
• Revised 1998 Uniform Criteria so that future surveys will give States more accurate data to guide their occupant protection programs
• April 2012 amended final rule to allow for extensions
Background – MAP-21

- MAP-21 – States conduct seat belt surveys as part of Section 402 certification and assurances, and

- Data from survey used to determine the way in which a State applied for Section 405(b) occupant protection grant funds
Background – FAST Act

• Continue to conduct annual belt survey in accordance with the Uniform Criteria

• NCSA verified seat belt use rates from annual survey will be used to determine if a State applies as a high seat belt use rate State or a lower seat belt use rate State
Why re-select observation sites?

• To ensure accurate and representative measurements of seat belt use at the State level.

• To allow all in-scope roads (where the population is driving) to have a chance of inclusion in the State sample.
Uniform Criteria §1340.12

(a) *Re-selection of observation sites.*
States shall re-select observation sites using updated sampling frame data, as described in §1340.5(a), no less than once every five years.

(b) *Re-selection submission deadline.*
States shall submit updated sampling frame data meeting the requirements of §1340.5(a) for NHTSA approval no later than March 1 of the re-selection year.
Timeline – States due for site re-selection in 2017
Timeline – States due for site re-selection in 2018
Best Practices – Statisticians & Design Plan Review

• States must work with statisticians experienced in complex (multi-stage) surveys (see §1340.8(c))

• State statisticians will be responsible for reviewing and understanding their NHTSA-approved seat belt survey design plan
Best Practices – Data for site re-selection

• NHTSA will provide roadway segment data for each State

• List of road segments by county and road-type
Best Practices – Re-selection Protocol

- This is **NOT** a re-design
- States are required to re-select observation sites in the counties where they currently conduct seat belt survey observations
- Identify and apply allowable exclusions (rural local roads in non-MSA counties) to roadway segment data
NHTSA Support

• Provide a Guidance Document
• Set up a SharePoint site with road segment data
• Review/evaluate road segment samples
State Submission Requirements

• Certification that the State applied current design specifications

• List of sampled roadway segments with their associated probabilities of selection

• Earlier submissions are recommended to allow time for review/implementation
NHTSA Review

- Review the re-selected road segment submissions

- Notification from NHTSA’s Office of Regional Operations and Program Delivery
States’ Role and Responsibilities

• States must use a survey statistician to perform their road segment re-selection (See §1340.8(c))

• NHTSA is not able to provide technical support/consulting to the States for their re-selection
Suggested Next Steps

- Formulate a plan to meet the deadline
- Identify a statistician for the project
- Review the current seat belt survey design plan
- Stay tuned for NHTSA Guidance Document