

# Problem:

## Motor vehicle crash deaths in the US are still too high.

There were more than **32,000** crash deaths in the US in 2013. These deaths cost more than \$380 million in direct medical costs.

### Major risk factors for crash deaths in the US:

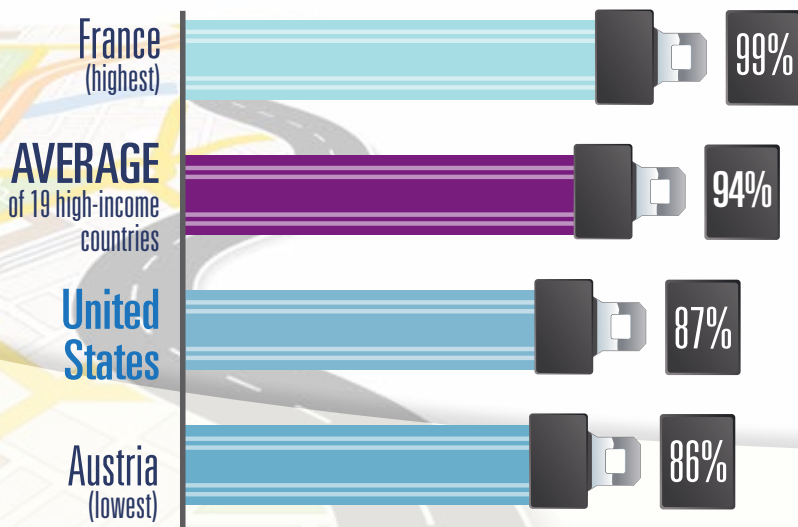
- Not using seat belts, car seats, and booster seats contributed to over 9,500 crash deaths.
- Drunk driving contributed to more than 10,000 crash deaths.
- Speeding contributed to more than 9,500 crash deaths.

Reducing major risk factors could save thousands of lives and hundreds of millions of dollars in direct medical costs each year.

### Seat belts saved over 12,500 lives in the US in 2013, yet:

- The US had lower-than-average front and back seat belt use compared with other high-income countries.
- About half of drivers or passengers who died in crashes in the US weren't buckled up.

## Front seat belt use in the US and selected high-income countries



### Some proven measures of best performing high-income countries.

Even when considering population size, miles traveled, and number of registered vehicles, the US consistently ranked poorly relative to other high-income countries for crash deaths. Some of the best performing countries:

- Have policies in line with best practices, including those that address:
  - ▶ Primary enforcement of seat belt laws that cover everyone in every seat.
    - Police officers can stop a vehicle and write a ticket for anyone not buckled up.
  - ▶ Requirements for car seats and booster seats for child passengers through at least age 8.
  - ▶ Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) levels.
    - US, Canada and the United Kingdom define drunk driving as BAC levels at 0.08% or above; all other comparison countries use lower BAC levels (0.02-0.05%).
- Use advanced engineering and technology, such as:
  - ▶ Ignition interlocks for all people convicted of drunk driving.
    - This device keeps the vehicle from starting unless the driver has a BAC below a pre-set low limit.
  - ▶ Automated enforcement, for example, speed and red light cameras.
  - ▶ Improvements in vehicle safety and transportation infrastructure.
- Implement proven measures, such as:
  - ▶ More use of publicized sobriety checkpoints.
  - ▶ Maintain and enforce the minimum legal drinking age.