

Vehicle Occupant Protection

A Position Statement of the American Association of Health Education (AAHE)

Statement

The appropriate and consistent use of vehicle occupant protection needs to be encouraged and enforced. Through education programs, media campaigns, legislation, and enforcement, the effective use of occupant protection devices can be increased, thereby dramatically reducing the number of deaths to our nation's youth, as well as adults.

Rationale

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has listed unintentional injuries, including motor vehicle accidents, as one of the six causes of premature death and disability in the United States. Motor vehicle accidents are the leading cause of death among Americans ages 1-34. Research has shown that the trauma and premature deaths associated with unintentional motor vehicle accidents can readily be prevented and minimized through the use of available occupant protection devices such as safety belts, properly installed child safety seats, and air bags.

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The mission of American Association of Health Education is to advance the profession by serving health educators and others who strive to promote the health of all people through education and other systematic strategies.