



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**



Traffic Safety Facts

CRASH•STATS

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A Brief Statistical Summary

August 2024

Seat Belt Use in 2023 – Use Rates in the States and Territories

Highlights

In 2023 seat belt use in the United States ranged from 68.2 percent in the U.S. Virgin Islands to 98.4 percent in Hawaii. Twenty-seven States, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Northern Mariana Islands achieved seat belt use rates of 90 percent or higher. These results are from probability-based observational surveys conducted by the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and U.S. Territories.

Background

In 2011 NHTSA established new uniform criteria for observational surveys. States conduct and report out from their annual surveys of seat belt use in accordance with the [Uniform Criteria for State Observational Surveys of Seat Belt Use](#) (per 23 CFR Part 1340). Compliance with the criteria is verified annually by NHTSA's National Center for Statistics and Analysis.

The Uniform Criteria requires States and Territories to re-select their observation sites “no less than once every five years” using an updated State or Territory road segment sampling frame. In 2023 there were 27 States and Territories that re-selected their observation sites, indicated in the table. The remaining 29 States and Territories re-selected their observation sites in 2022.

Results

Seat belt use rates for all jurisdictions from 2016 to 2023 are listed in the table on the next page. Rates in jurisdictions with primary seat belt enforcement during the calendar year of the survey are shaded. However, the law might not have taken effect when the survey was being conducted.

Twenty-seven States, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Northern Mariana Islands achieved belt use rates of 90 percent or higher. Seventy-one percent of States with primary enforcement seat belt laws have seat belt use rates of 90 percent or higher, as opposed to 13 percent among States with secondary enforcement seat belt laws or no seat belt laws for adults.

National Seat Belt Use Rate

The nationwide seat belt use rate was 91.9 percent in 2023 as estimated by NHTSA's National Occupant Protection Use Survey (NOPUS). NOPUS is a national probability-based survey, independent from State belt use surveys. NOPUS provides NHTSA's official measure of nationwide seat belt use in the United States and other related information. Due to a difference in survey methodology, NOPUS provides a different measure of nationwide use than would be obtained by combining the use rates from the States and Territories.

Table: Seat Belt Use in the States, U.S. Territories, and Nationwide, 2016-2023

| State or U.S. Territory | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2022-2023 Change |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------------------|
| Alabama** | 92.0% | 92.9% | 91.8% | 92.3% | NA | 91.3% | 92.7% | 93.4% | 0.7% |
| Alaska | 88.5% | 90.1% | 91.6% | 94.1% | NA | 91.7% | 91.5% | 95.2% | 3.7% |
| Arizona** | 88.0% | 86.1% | 85.9% | 90.6% | NA | 88.8% | 87.0% | 87.8% | 0.8% |
| Arkansas | 75.1% | 81.0% | 78.0% | 81.9% | NA | 84.2% | 79.1% | 79.7% | 0.6% |
| California | 96.5% | 96.2% | 95.9% | 96.0% | NA | 97.2% | 95.3% | 96.2% | 0.9% |
| Colorado | 84.0% | 83.8% | 86.3% | 88.3% | 86.3% | 86.6% | 87.0% | 88.6% | 1.6% |
| Connecticut | 89.4% | 90.3% | 92.1% | 93.7% | NA | 91.5% | 92.1% | 93.5% | 1.4% |
| Delaware | 91.4% | 91.4% | 92.4% | 92.5% | NA | 92.4% | 90.4% | 93.9% | 3.5% |
| Dist. Of Columbia | 94.1% | 93.6% | 95.1% | 95.4% | 95.7% | 95.9% | 95.1% | 94.6% | -0.5% |
| Florida | 89.6% | 90.2% | 90.6% | 89.8% | NA | 90.1% | 88.3% | 89.4% | 1.1% |
| Georgia** | 97.2% | 97.1% | 96.3% | 95.9% | NA | 94.8% | 89.3% | 87.6% | -1.7% |
| Hawaii | 94.5% | 96.9% | 97.8% | 97.1% | NA | 94.3% | 95.9% | 98.4% | 2.5% |
| Idaho** | 82.9% | 81.2% | 85.4% | 85.7% | NA | 82.9% | 87.6% | 87.5% | -0.1% |
| Illinois** | 93.0% | 93.8% | 94.6% | 94.3% | NA | 93.5% | 93.0% | 92.9% | -0.1% |
| Indiana** | 92.4% | 93.0% | 93.4% | 94.9% | NA | 92.9% | 93.0% | 93.2% | 0.2% |
| Iowa | 93.8% | 91.4% | 93.9% | 94.6% | 95.2% | 92.7% | 95.9% | 96.9% | 1.0% |
| Kansas | 87.0% | 82.0% | 84.0% | 84.9% | 85.0% | 85.9% | 87.2% | 85.3% | -1.9% |
| Kentucky** | 86.5% | 86.8% | 89.9% | 89.7% | NA | 89.8% | 86.7% | 89.4% | 2.7% |
| Louisiana | 87.8% | 87.1% | 86.9% | 87.5% | NA | 85.7% | 86.1% | 85.6% | -0.5% |
| Maine | 85.8% | 88.9% | 88.5% | 88.5% | NA | 91.8% | 93.4% | 94.5% | 1.1% |
| Maryland | 90.8% | 92.1% | 90.3% | 90.4% | 89.9% | 91.4% | 92.7% | 92.1% | -0.6% |
| Massachusetts** | 78.2% | 73.7% | 81.6% | 81.6% | NA | 77.5% | 77.0% | 80.4% | 3.4% |
| Michigan** | 94.5% | 94.1% | 93.4% | 94.4% | NA | 92.6% | 92.9% | 92.4% | -0.5% |
| Minnesota | 93.2% | 92.0% | 92.4% | 93.4% | NA | 92.4% | 93.3% | 94.2% | 0.9% |
| Mississippi** | 77.9% | 78.8% | 80.2% | 80.5% | 79.3% | 80.0% | 78.9% | 82.2% | 3.3% |
| Missouri** | 81.4% | 84.0% | 87.1% | 87.7% | 86.1% | 88.0% | 88.9% | 87.0% | -1.9% |
| Montana** | 76.0% | 78.0% | 86.6% | 88.9% | 89.9% | 92.2% | 92.9% | 81.1% | -11.8% |
| Nebraska | 83.3% | 85.9% | 85.5% | 79.7% | 80.6% | 81.2% | 76.3% | 77.3% | 1.0% |
| Nevada | 89.4% | 90.6% | 91.9% | 94.2% | NA | 93.2% | 93.1% | 93.5% | 0.4% |
| New Hampshire** | 70.2% | 67.6% | 76.4% | 70.7% | 72.4% | 75.5% | 75.7% | 77.9% | 2.2% |
| New Jersey | 93.4% | 94.1% | 94.5% | 90.2% | NA | 93.9% | 92.9% | 92.9% | 0.0% |
| New Mexico** | 92.3% | 91.5% | 90.2% | 91.8% | NA | 89.6% | 89.8% | 91.5% | 1.7% |
| New York** | 91.8% | 93.4% | 92.9% | 94.2% | NA | 93.2% | 91.9% | 94.1% | 2.2% |
| North Carolina | 91.7% | 91.4% | 91.3% | 88.4% | 87.1% | 89.6% | 90.9% | 92.2% | 1.3% |
| North Dakota | 82.8% | 79.3% | 82.5% | 83.7% | 83.7% | 81.9% | 80.6% | 78.5% | -2.1% |
| Ohio | 83.8% | 82.8% | 84.9% | 85.9% | NA | 84.1% | 80.8% | 84.8% | 4.0% |
| Oklahoma | 86.6% | 86.9% | 85.6% | 84.7% | NA | 84.4% | 80.0% | 81.2% | 1.2% |
| Oregon** | 96.2% | 96.8% | 95.8% | 95.7% | 94.6% | 94.9% | 96.5% | 97.0% | 0.5% |
| Pennsylvania** | 85.2% | 85.6% | 88.5% | 88.6% | 88.9% | 89.5% | 89.9% | 87.7% | -2.2% |
| Rhode Island** | 87.5% | 88.3% | 88.8% | 88.3% | NA | 89.4% | 87.1% | 89.1% | 2.0% |
| South Carolina** | 93.9% | 92.3% | 89.7% | 90.3% | NA | 90.1% | 90.6% | 93.2% | 2.6% |

| State or U.S. Territory | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2022-2023 Change |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------------------|
| South Dakota | 74.2% | 74.8% | 78.9% | 75.2% | 68.3% | 86.9% | 88.1% | 91.0% | 2.9% |
| Tennessee | 88.9% | 88.5% | 90.9% | 91.8% | NA | 90.1% | 90.5% | 91.9% | 1.4% |
| Texas** | 91.6% | 91.9% | 91.3% | 90.9% | NA | 89.8% | 90.4% | 90.6% | 0.2% |
| Utah | 87.9% | 88.8% | 89.0% | 90.2% | NA | 88.2% | 91.8% | 92.4% | 0.6% |
| Vermont** | 80.0% | 84.5% | 89.8% | 89.3% | 88.8% | 89.2% | 90.4% | 88.9% | -1.5% |
| Virginia | 79.0% | 85.3% | 84.1% | 85.4% | NA | 81.7% | 75.6% | 73.2% | -2.4% |
| Washington** | 94.7% | 94.8% | 93.2% | 93.1% | 93.0% | 94.2% | 93.9% | 93.3% | -0.6% |
| West Virginia** | 86.8% | 89.7% | 90.5% | 90.2% | NA | 88.1% | 92.5% | 93.0% | 0.5% |
| Wisconsin** | 88.4% | 89.4% | 89.3% | 90.2% | 89.2% | 88.1% | 87.5% | 92.0% | 4.5% |
| Wyoming | 80.5% | 84.8% | 86.3% | 78.3% | 82.5% | 80.2% | 78.3% | 81.9% | 3.6% |
| Nationwide* | 90.1% | 89.7% | 89.6% | 90.7% | 90.3% | 90.4% | 91.6% | 91.9% | 0.3% |
| Puerto Rico | 93.8% | 87.9% | 85.0% | 88.3% | 84.8% | 88.2% | 91.8% | 90.6% | -1.2% |
| American Samoa** | 82.9% | 84.9% | 93.4% | 83.4% | NA | 93.1% | 84.2% | 84.4% | 0.2% |
| Guam** | 90.1% | 91.0% | 92.2% | 96.9% | NA | 93.9% | 94.2% | 96.8% | 2.6% |
| No. Mariana Islands** | 92.3% | 92.2% | 89.3% | 93.9% | NA | 96.4% | 95.7% | 92.8% | -2.9% |
| U.S. Virgin Islands | 79.1% | NA | NA | 71.1% | 68.2% | 72.3% | 67.0% | 68.2% | 1.2% |

Note: Rates in jurisdictions with primary belt enforcement during the calendar year of the survey are shaded.

NA: No rate reported or no survey conducted

* The “nationwide” rates are from NHTSA’s National Occupant Protection Use Survey (NOPUS).

** Re-selected observation sites in 2023.

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For questions regarding the information presented in this report, please contact NCSARequests@dot.gov. This Crash•Stats and other general information on traffic safety can be found at <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/>.