

TRAFFIC SAFETY FACTS Crash • Stats

DOT HS 811 702

A Brief Statistical Summary

December 2012

Lives Saved in 2011 by Restraint Use and **Minimum Drinking Age Laws**

In 2011, the use of seat belts in passenger vehicles saved an estimated 11,949 lives. Seat belts have saved nearly 66,000 lives during the 5-year period from 2007 to 2011. These annual estimates of lives saved, shown in Table 1, have been produced by NHTSA's National Center for Statistics and Analysis since 1975. The estimates are calculated using the effectiveness of each device or law that is mentioned. More information on the methodology of livessaved estimates is available in two NHTSA publications, Lives Saved FAQs (NHTSA, 2009, DOT HS 811 105), which answers 30 common questions about lives saved and includes references to many other reports on lives saved; and Lives Saved Calculations for Seat Belts and Frontal Air Bags (Glassbrenner & Starnes, 2009, DOT HS 811 206, NHTSA), which describes in detail the methodology of estimating lives saved by seat belts and frontal air bags.

In addition to the 11,949 lives saved in 2011 by seat belts (occupants 5 and older), 2,204 lives were saved by frontal air bags (occupants 13 and older), 1,617 lives were saved by motorcycle helmets, 533 lives were saved by 21-yearold-minimum-drinking-age laws, and 263 lives (4 and younger) were saved by child restraints (child safety seats and lap/shoulder belts). An additional 3,384 lives would have been saved in 2011 if all unrestrained passenger vehicle occupants 5 and older involved in fatal crashes had worn their seat belts; and if all motorcyclists had been helmeted, then an additional 703 lives would have been saved.

Table 1 shows that the number of lives saved by seat belts among occupants 5 and older declined from 12,582 in 2010 to 11,949 in 2011. The number of lives saved by child restraints, frontal air bags, and the minimum legal drinking age also declined from 2010 to 2011. The number of lives saved by motorcycle helmets increased from 1,556 in 2010 to 1,617 in 2011.

	Lives Saved, Age 4 & Younger	Lives Saved, Age 5 & Older	Lives Saved, Age 13 & Older	Lived Saved, All Ages	Lives Saved	Additional Lives That Would Have Been Saved at 100 Percent Use		
Year	Child Restraints	Seat Belts	Frontal Air Bags	Motorcycle Helmets	Minimum Drinking Age Law	Seat Belts	Motorcycle Helmets	
2007	388	15,223	2,800	1,788	831	5,048	805	
2008	286	13,312	2,557	1,836	716	4,171	827	
2009	307	12,763	2,387	1.486	626	3,700	733	
2010	303	12,582	2,315	1,556	552	3,353	708	
2011	263	11,949	2,204	1,617	533	3,384	703	

Table 1: Lives Saved by Restraint Use, and 21-Year-Old-Minimum-Drinking-Age Laws, and Additional Lives That Would Have Been Saved at 100-Percent Seat Belt and Motorcycle Helmet Use, 2007–2011

Source: 2007–2010 FARS Final Files and FARS 2011 Annual Report File

Table 2 shows lives-saved totals in 2011 for all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. The far left column is the lives saved by child restraints, and the next three columns refer respectively to lives saved by seat belts, lives saved by frontal air bags, and lives saved by motor-

cycle helmets. The numbers in the two far right columns represent the additional lives savable at 100-percent seat belt use and 100-percent helmet use, respectively. Due to rounding, the sum of the State totals may not equal the national total.

StateChild Restra Age 4 and YoAlabama16Alaska4Arizona8Arkansas7California16Colorado0Connecticut0Delaware0District of Columbia0Florida14Georgia15Hawaii0Idaho1Illinois7Indiana6Iowa7Kansas5Kentucky8Louisiana6Maine0Michigan5Minnesota2Missouri4Montana0Nebraska4Nevada1New Hampshire1New Mexico6New York4North Dakota0Ohio55Oklahoma7Oregon1Pennsylvania6Rhode Island0South Carolina5South Dakota0Oregon1Vermont2Virginia6Washington1West Virginia6	d by	Lives Saved by	Lives Saved by	Lives Saved by	Additional Lives Savable At 100-Percent Restraint Use	
Alaska4Arizona8Arkansas7California16Colorado0Connecticut0Delaware0District of Columbia0Florida14Georgia15Hawaii0Idaho1Illinois7Indiana6Iowa7Kansas5Kentucky8Louisiana6Maine0Maryland3Massachusetts0Michigan5Minnesota2Mississippi10Missouri4North Dakota0Ohio5Oklahoma7Oregon1Pennsylvania6Rhode Island0South Dakota0Oregon1Pennsylvania6Rhode Island0Virginia6Washington1	ints,	Seat Belts, Age 5 and Older	Frontal Air Bags, Age 13 and Older	Motorcycle Helmets, All Ages	Seat Belts	Motorcycle Helmets
Arizona8Arkansas7California16Colorado0Connecticut0Delaware0District of Columbia0Florida14Georgia15Hawaii0Idaho1Illinois7Indiana6Iowa7Kansas5Kentucky8Louisiana6Maine0Maryland3Massachusetts0Michigan5Minnesota2Mississippi10Missouri4Nevada1New Hampshire1New Mexico6New York4North Dakota0Ohio55Oklahoma7Oregon1Pennsylvania6Rhode Island0South Carolina5South Dakota0Virginia6Washington1		315	72	51	107	4
Arkansas7California16Colorado0Connecticut0Delaware0District of Columbia0Florida14Georgia15Hawaii0Idaho1Illinois7Indiana6Iowa7Kansas55Kentucky8Louisiana6Maine0Maryland3Massachusetts0Michigan55Minnesota2Mississippi10Missouri4Nevada1New Hampshire1New Mexico6New York4North Carolina55Oklahoma7Oregon1Pennsylvania6Rhode Island0South Dakota0Oregon1Texas31Utah10Vermont2Virginia6Washington1		19	4	5	8	0
California16Colorado0Connecticut0Delaware0District of Columbia0Florida14Georgia15Hawaii0Idaho1Illinois7Indiana6Iowa7Kansas55Kentucky8Louisiana6Maine0Maryland3Massachusetts0Michigan55Minnesota2Mississippi10Missouri4Nevada1New Hampshire1New Mexico6New York4North Carolina55North Dakota0Ohio55Oklahoma7Oregon1Pennsylvania6Rhode Island0South Dakota0Virginia6Washington1		233	44	35	97	29
Colorado0Connecticut0Delaware0District of Columbia0Florida14Georgia15Hawaii0Idaho1Illinois7Indiana6Iowa7Kansas55Kentucky8Louisiana6Maine0Maryland3Massachusetts0Michigan55Minnesota2Mississippi10Missouri4Nortana0Nebraska4New Hampshire1New Hampshire1New Mexico6New York4North Carolina5North Dakota0Ohio55Oklahoma7Oregon1Pennsylvania6Rhode Island0South Carolina5South Dakota0Virginia6Washington1		201	43	15	110	15
Connecticut0Delaware0District of Columbia0Florida14Georgia15Hawaii0Idaho1Illinois7Indiana6Iowa7Kansas5Kentucky8Louisiana6Maine0Maryland3Massachusetts0Michigan5Minnesota2Mississippi10Missouri4Nortana0Nebraska4New Jersey4North Carolina5North Dakota0Ohio5Oklahoma7Oregon1Pennsylvania6Rhode Island0South Dakota0Oregon1Texas31Utah10Vermont2Virginia6Washington1		1,119	140	231	91	8
Delaware0District of Columbia0Florida14Georgia15Hawaii0Idaho1Illinois7Indiana6Iowa7Kansas5Kentucky8Louisiana6Maine0Maryland3Massachusetts0Michigan5Minnesota2Mississippi10Missouri4Nontana0Nebraska4New Jarsey4New Hampshire1New Mexico6New York4North Carolina5North Dakota0Ohio55Oklahoma7Oregon1Pennsylvania6Rhode Island0South Dakota0Oregon11Texas31Utah10Vermont2Virginia6Washington1		144	31	17	70	18
District of Columbia0Florida14Georgia15Hawaii0Idaho1Illinois7Indiana6Iowa7Kansas5Kentucky8Louisiana6Maine0Maryland3Massachusetts0Michigan5Minnesota2Mississippi10Missouri4Montana0Nebraska4New Jersey4New Hampshire1New Mexico6New York4North Carolina5Oklahoma7Oregon1Pennsylvania6Rhode Island0South Carolina5South Dakota0Oregon11Texas31Utah10Vermont2Virginia6Washington1		83	16	6	23	10
Florida14Georgia15Hawaii0Idaho1Illinois7Indiana6Iowa7Kansas5Kentucky8Louisiana6Maine0Maryland3Massachusetts0Michigan5Minnesota2Mississippi10Missouri4Montana0Nebraska44Nevada1New Hampshire1New Mexico6New York4North Carolina5Oklahoma7Oregon1Pennsylvania6Rhode Island0South Carolina5South Dakota0Oregon1Texas31Utah10Vermont2Virginia6Washington1		29	7	3	8	6
Georgia15Hawaii0Idaho1Illinois7Indiana6Iowa7Kansas5Kentucky8Louisiana6Maine0Maryland3Massachusetts0Michigan5Minnesota2Mississippi10Missouri4Montana0Nebraska4Nevada1New Hampshire1New Mexico6New York4North Carolina5Oklahoma7Oregon1Pennsylvania6Rhode Island0South Dakota0Tennessee11Texas31Utah10Vermont2Virginia6Washington1		5	1	2	1	0
Hawaii0Idaho1Illinois7Indiana6Iowa7Kansas5Kentucky8Louisiana6Maine0Maryland3Massachusetts0Michigan5Minnesota2Mississippi10Missouri4Montana0Nebraska4Nevada1New Hampshire1New Mexico6New York4North Carolina5Oklahoma7Oregon1Pennsylvania6Rhode Island0South Dakota0Tennessee11Texas31Utah10Vermont2Virginia6Washington1		682	125	118	208	100
Idaho1Illinois7Indiana6Iowa7Kansas5Kentucky8Louisiana6Maine0Maryland3Massachusetts0Michigan5Minnesota2Mississippi10Missouri4Montana0Nebraska4Nevada1New Hampshire1New Mexico6New York4North Carolina5Oklahoma7Oregon1Pennsylvania6Rhode Island0South Carolina5South Dakota0Oregon11Tennessee11Texas31Utah10Vermont2Virginia6Washington1		493	90	80	96	5
Illinois7Indiana6Iowa7Kansas5Kentucky8Louisiana6Maine0Maryland3Massachusetts0Michigan5Minnesota2Mississippi10Missouri4Montana0Nebraska4New Hampshire1New Hampshire1New Mexico6New York4North Carolina5North Dakota0Ohio55Oklahoma7Oregon1Pennsylvania6Rhode Island0South Carolina5South Dakota0Tennessee11Texas31Utah10Vermont2Virginia6Washington1		25	3	4	3	9
Indiana6Iowa7Kansas5Kentucky8Louisiana6Maine0Maryland3Massachusetts0Michigan5Minnesota2Mississippi10Missouri4Montana0Nebraska4Nevada1New Hampshire1New Jersey4North Carolina5North Dakota0Ohio55Oklahoma7Oregon1Pennsylvania6Rhode Island0South Carolina5South Dakota0Oregon11Texas31Utah10Vermont2Virginia6Washington1		51	12	5	31	3
Iowa7Kansas5Kentucky8Louisiana6Maine0Maryland3Massachusetts0Michigan5Minnesota2Mississippi10Missouri4Montana0Nebraska4Nevada1New Hampshire1New Jersey4North Carolina5North Dakota0Ohio55Oklahoma7Oregon1Pennsylvania6Rhode Island0South Carolina5South Dakota0Tennessee11Texas31Utah10Vermont2Virginia6Washington1		335	60	20	60	42
Iowa7Kansas5Kentucky8Louisiana6Maine0Maryland3Massachusetts0Michigan5Minnesota2Mississippi10Missouri4Montana0Nebraska4Nevada1New Hampshire1New Jersey4North Carolina5North Dakota0Ohio55Oklahoma7Oregon1Pennsylvania6Rhode Island0South Carolina5South Dakota0Tennessee11Texas31Utah10Vermont2Virginia6Washington1		345	53	11	57	37
Kentucky8Louisiana6Maine0Maryland3Massachusetts0Michigan5Minnesota2Mississippi10Missouri4Montana0Nebraska4Nevada1New Hampshire1New Mexico6New York4North Carolina5North Dakota0Ohio55Oklahoma7Oregon1Pennsylvania6Rhode Island0South Carolina55South Dakota0Tennessee11Texas31Utah10Vermont2Virginia6Washington1		150	29	1	24	13
Kentucky8Louisiana6Maine0Maryland3Massachusetts0Michigan5Minnesota2Mississippi10Missouri4Montana0Nebraska4Nevada1New Hampshire1New Mexico6New York4North Carolina5North Dakota0Ohio55Oklahoma7Oregon1Pennsylvania6Rhode Island0South Carolina55South Dakota0Tennessee11Texas31Utah10Vermont2Virginia6Washington1		155	32	8	68	12
Louisiana6Maine0Maryland3Massachusetts0Michigan5Minnesota2Mississippi10Missouri4Montana0Nebraska4Nevada1New Hampshire1New Jersey4New Mexico6New York4North Carolina5North Dakota0Ohio55Oklahoma7Oregon1Pennsylvania6Rhode Island0South Carolina55South Dakota0Tennessee11Texas31Utah10Vermont2Virginia6Washington1		280	59	17	126	16
Maine0Maryland3Massachusetts0Michigan5Minnesota2Mississippi10Missouri4Montana0Nebraska4Nevada1New Hampshire1New Jersey4New Mexico6New York4North Carolina5Oklahoma7Oregon1Pennsylvania6Rhode Island0South Dakota0Tennessee11Texas31Utah10Vermont2Virginia6Washington1		222	53	41	124	4
Maryland3Massachusetts0Michigan5Minnesota2Mississippi10Missouri4Montana0Nebraska4Nevada1New Hampshire1New Jersey4New Mexico6New York4North Carolina5Oklahoma7Oregon1Pennsylvania6Rhode Island0South Carolina5South Dakota0Tennessee11Texas31Utah10Vermont2Virginia6Washington1		52	12	2	23	4
Massachusetts0Michigan5Minnesota2Mississippi10Missouri4Montana0Nebraska4Nevada1New Hampshire1New Jersey4New Mexico6New York4North Carolina5North Dakota0Ohio55Oklahoma7Oregon1Pennsylvania6Rhode Island0South Carolina5South Dakota0Tennessee11Texas31Utah10Vermont2Virginia6Washington1		156	30	38	26	4
Michigan5Minnesota2Mississippi10Missouri4Montana0Nebraska4Nevada1New Hampshire1New Jersey4New Mexico6New York4North Carolina5North Dakota0Ohio55Oklahoma7Oregon1Pennsylvania6Rhode Island0South Carolina5South Dakota0Tennessee11Texas31Utah10Vermont2Virginia6Washington1		102	27	19	66	1
Minnesota2Mississippi10Missouri4Montana0Nebraska4Nevada1New Hampshire1New Hampshire1New Jersey4New Mexico6New York4North Carolina5North Dakota0Ohio55Oklahoma7Oregon1Pennsylvania6Rhode Island0South Carolina55South Dakota0Tennessee11Texas31Utah10Vermont2Virginia6Washington1		413	60	63	50	4
Mississippi10Missouri4Montana0Nebraska4Nevada1New Hampshire1New Hampshire1New Jersey4New Mexico6New York4North Carolina5North Dakota0Ohio5Oklahoma7Oregon1Pennsylvania6Rhode Island0South Carolina5South Dakota0Tennessee11Texas31Utah10Vermont2Virginia6Washington1		168	27	10	29	10
Missouri4Montana0Nebraska4Nevada1New Hampshire1New Hampshire1New Jersey4New Mexico6New York4North Carolina5North Dakota0Ohio5Oklahoma7Oregon1Pennsylvania6Rhode Island0South Carolina5South Dakota0Tennessee11Texas31Utah10Vermont2Virginia6Washington1		233	52	31	119	2
Montana0Nebraska4Nevada1New Hampshire1New Hampshire1New Jersey4New Mexico6New Mexico6New York4North Carolina5North Dakota0Ohio55Oklahoma7Oregon1Pennsylvania6Rhode Island0South Carolina5South Dakota0Tennessee11Texas31Utah10Vermont2Virginia6Washington1		227	64	43	139	3
Nebraska4Nevada1New Hampshire1New Jersey4New Mexico6New Mexico6New York4North Carolina5North Dakota0Ohio5Oklahoma7Oregon1Pennsylvania6Rhode Island0South Carolina5South Dakota0Tennessee11Texas31Utah10Vermont2Virginia6Washington1		63	17	6	43	4
Nevada1New Hampshire1New Jersey4New Mexico6New York4North Carolina5North Dakota0Ohio55Oklahoma7Oregon1Pennsylvania6Rhode Island0South Carolina5South Dakota0Tennessee11Texas31Utah10Vermont2Virginia6Washington1		56	15	12	28	1
New Hampshire1New Jersey4New Mexico6New York4North Carolina5North Dakota0Ohio5Oklahoma7Oregon1Pennsylvania6Rhode Island0South Carolina5South Dakota0Tennessee11Texas31Utah10Vermont2Virginia6Washington1		74	15	21	13	2
New Jersey4New Mexico6New York4North Carolina5North Dakota0Ohio5Oklahoma7Oregon1Pennsylvania6Rhode Island0South Carolina5South Dakota0Tennessee11Texas31Utah10Vermont2Virginia6Washington1		12	9	1	15	5
New Mexico6New York4North Carolina5North Dakota0Ohio5Oklahoma7Oregon1Pennsylvania6Rhode Island0South Carolina5South Dakota0Tennessee11Texas31Utah10Vermont2Virginia6Washington1		224	38	51	28	2
New York4North Carolina5North Dakota0Ohio5Oklahoma7Oregon1Pennsylvania6Rhode Island0South Carolina5South Dakota0Tennessee11Texas31Utah10Vermont2Virginia6Washington1		158	23		36	15
North Carolina5North Dakota0Ohio5Oklahoma7Oregon1Pennsylvania6Rhode Island0South Carolina5South Dakota0Tennessee11Texas31Utah10Vermont2Virginia6Washington1		444	62	<u>3</u> 93	83	4
North Dakota0Ohio5Oklahoma7Oregon1Pennsylvania6Rhode Island0South Carolina5South Dakota0Tennessee11Texas31Utah10Vermont2Virginia6Washington1					122	-
Ohio5Oklahoma7Oregon1Pennsylvania6Rhode Island0South Carolina5South Dakota0Tennessee11Texas31Utah10Vermont2Virginia6Washington1		509 45	85 12	93	32	4
Oklahoma7Oregon1Pennsylvania6Rhode Island0South Carolina5South Dakota0Tennessee11Texas31Utah10Vermont2Virginia6Washington1				26		4
Oregon1Pennsylvania6Rhode Island0South Carolina5South Dakota0Tennessee11Texas31Utah10Vermont2Virginia6Washington1		340	76 56		138	45
Pennsylvania6Rhode Island0South Carolina5South Dakota0Tennessee11Texas31Utah10Vermont2Virginia6Washington1		244		11	94	30
Rhode Island0South Carolina5South Dakota0Tennessee11Texas31Utah10Vermont2Virginia6Washington1		168	19	21	14	2
South Carolina5South Dakota0Tennessee11Texas31Utah10Vermont2Virginia6Washington1		340	99	60	163	37
South Dakota0Tennessee11Texas31Utah10Vermont2Virginia6Washington1		15	4	4	8	3
Tennessee11Texas31Utah10Vermont2Virginia6Washington1		313	56	16	106	38
Texas31Utah10Vermont2Virginia6Washington1		27	9	2	24	4
Utah10Vermont2Virginia6Washington1		345	71	62	122	3
Vermont2Virginia6Washington1		1,325	207	127	200	96
Virginia 6 Washington 1		92	17	6	24	7
Washington 1		28	4	5	9	0
		288	54	55	130	0
West Virginia 1		209	27	42	13	0
		127	26	12	52	2
Wisconsin 5		220	45	5	102	30
Wyoming 1		45	9	2	23	5
National*263Puerto Rico0		11,949 66	2,204 16	1,617 10	3,384 14	703 13

Table 2: Lives Saved in 2011 by Child Restraints, Seat Belts, Frontal Air Bags, and Motorcycle Helmets

*Estimates for States may not add up to national total due to independent rounding.