



# Seat Belt Use in 2013—Use Rates in the States and Territories

In 2013, seat belt use in the United States ranged from 68.7 percent in South Dakota to 98.2 percent in Oregon. These results are from probability-based observational surveys conducted by 50 States, the District of Columbia, and U.S. Territories. These surveys are conducted in accordance with criteria established by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to ensure reliable results. Compliance with the criteria is verified annually by NHTSA's National Center for Statistics and Analysis.

In 2011 NHTSA established new uniform criteria (23 CFR Part 1340) for observational surveys. In 2012, 27 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands used surveys that conformed to the new uniform criteria. In 2013 all the State and Territory observational surveys conformed to the new uniform criteria. Seat belt use rates in the States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, other U.S. Territories, and nationwide from 2006 to 2013 are listed in the following table. Rates in jurisdictions with primary seat belt enforcement during the calendar year of the survey are shaded in the table. However, these laws might not have taken effect when the survey was being conducted.

The 2013 State and Territory survey results include the following:

- Nineteen States, Guam, and Northern Mariana Islands achieved belt use rate of 90 percent or higher. These States include, in descending order of belt use rate, Oregon, California, Alabama, Georgia, Minnesota, Nevada, Washington, Hawaii, Illinois, Michigan, Delaware, New Mexico, Iowa, South Carolina, Indiana, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, and Texas.
- Jurisdictions with stronger seat belt enforcement laws continue to exhibit generally higher use rates than those with weaker laws.

### National Seat Belt Use Rate

The nationwide seat belt use was 87 percent in 2013 as measured by NHTSA's National Occupant Protection Use Survey (NOPUS). NOPUS is a national probability-based survey, which is 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, 2006–2013**

State or U.S. Territory	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2012–2013 Change
Alabama*	82.9%	82.3%	86.1%	90.0%	91.4%	88.0%	89.5%	97.3%	7.8%
Alaska	83.2%	82.4%	84.9%	86.1%	86.8%	89.3%	88.1%	86.1%	-2.0%
Arizona*	78.9%	80.9%	79.9%	80.8%	81.8%	82.9%	82.2%	84.7%	2.5%
Arkansas	69.3%	69.9%	70.4%	74.4%	78.3%	78.4%	71.9%	76.7%	4.8%
California	93.4%	94.6%	95.7%	95.3%	96.2%	96.6%	95.5%	97.4%	1.9%
Colorado	80.3%	81.1%	81.7%	81.1%	82.9%	82.1%	80.7%	82.1%	1.4%
Connecticut	83.5%	85.8%	88.0%	85.9%	88.2%	88.4%	86.8%	86.6%	-0.2%
Delaware	86.1%	86.6%	91.3%	88.4%	90.7%	90.3%	87.9%	92.2%	4.3%
Dist. Of Columbia	85.4%	87.1%	90.0%	93.0%	92.3%	95.2%	92.4%	87.5%	-4.9%
Florida	80.7%	79.1%	81.7%	85.2%	87.4%	88.1%	87.4%	87.2%	-0.2%
Georgia*	90.0%	89.0%	89.6%	88.9%	89.6%	93.0%	92.0%	95.5%	3.5%
Hawaii	92.5%	97.6%	97.0%	97.9%	97.6%	96.0%	93.4%	94.0%	0.6%
Idaho*	79.8%	78.5%	76.9%	79.2%	77.9%	79.1%	79.0%	81.6%	2.6%
Illinois*	87.8%	90.1%	90.5%	91.7%	92.6%	92.9%	93.6%	93.7%	0.1%
Indiana*	84.3%	87.9%	91.2%	92.6%	92.4%	93.2%	93.6%	91.6%	-2.0%
Iowa	89.6%	91.3%	92.9%	93.1%	93.1%	93.5%	92.4%	91.9%	-0.5%
Kansas	73.5%	75.0%	77.4%	77.0%	81.8%	82.9%	79.5%	80.7%	1.2%

*Table continues on next page*

**Table: Seat Belt Use in the States, U.S. Territories, and Nationwide, 2006–2013**

State or U.S. Territory	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2012–2013 Change
Kentucky*	67.2%	71.8%	73.3%	79.7%	80.3%	82.2%	83.7%	85.0%	1.3%
Louisiana	74.8%	75.2%	75.5%	74.5%	75.9%	77.7%	79.3%	82.5%	3.2%
Maine	77.2%	79.8%	83.0%	82.6%	82.0%	81.6%	84.4%	83.0%	-1.4%
Maryland	91.1%	93.1%	93.3%	94.0%	94.7%	94.2%	91.1%	90.7%	-0.4%
Massachusetts*	66.9%	68.7%	66.8%	73.6%	73.7%	73.2%	72.7%	74.8%	2.1%
Michigan*	94.3%	93.7%	97.2%	98.0%	95.2%	94.5%	93.6%	93.0%	-0.6%
Minnesota	83.3%	87.8%	86.7%	90.2%	92.3%	92.7%	93.6%	94.8%	1.2%
Mississippi*	73.6%	71.8%	71.3%	76.0%	81.0%	81.9%	83.2%	74.4%	-8.8%
Missouri*	75.2%	77.2%	75.8%	77.2%	76.0%	79.0%	79.4%	80.1%	0.7%
Montana*	79.0%	79.6%	79.3%	79.2%	78.9%	76.9%	76.3%	74.0%	-2.3%
Nebraska	76.0%	78.7%	82.6%	84.8%	84.1%	84.2%	78.6%	79.1%	0.5%
Nevada	91.2%	92.2%	90.9%	91.0%	93.2%	94.1%	90.5%	94.8%	4.3%
New Hampshire*	63.5%	63.8%	69.2%	68.9%	72.2%	75.0%	68.6%	73.0%	4.4%
New Jersey	90.0%	91.4%	91.8%	92.7%	93.7%	94.5%	88.3%	91.0%	2.7%
New Mexico*	89.6%	91.5%	91.1%	90.1%	89.8%	90.5%	91.4%	92.0%	0.6%
New York*	83.0%	83.5%	89.1%	88.0%	89.8%	90.5%	90.4%	91.1%	0.7%
North Carolina	88.5%	88.8%	89.8%	89.5%	89.7%	89.5%	87.5%	88.6%	1.1%
North Dakota	79.0%	82.2%	81.6%	81.5%	74.8%	76.7%	80.9%	77.7%	-3.2%
Ohio	81.7%	81.6%	82.7%	83.6%	83.8%	84.1%	82.0%	84.5%	2.5%
Oklahoma	83.7%	83.1%	84.3%	84.2%	85.9%	85.9%	83.8%	83.6%	-0.2%
Oregon*	94.1%	95.3%	96.3%	96.6%	97.0%	96.6%	96.8%	98.2%	1.4%
Pennsylvania*	86.3%	86.7%	85.1%	87.9%	86.0%	83.8%	83.5%	84.0%	0.5%
Rhode Island*	74.0%	79.1%	72.0%	74.7%	78.0%	80.4%	77.5%	85.6%	8.1%
South Carolina*	72.5%	74.5%	79.0%	81.5%	85.4%	86.0%	90.5%	91.7%	1.2%
South Dakota	71.3%	73.0%	71.8%	72.1%	74.5%	73.4%	66.5%	68.7%	2.2%
Tennessee	78.6%	80.2%	81.5%	80.6%	87.1%	87.4%	83.7%	84.8%	1.1%
Texas*	90.4%	91.8%	91.2%	92.9%	93.8%	93.7%	94.0%	90.3%	-3.7%
Utah	88.6%	86.8%	86.0%	86.1%	89.0%	89.2%	81.9%	82.4%	0.5%
Vermont*	82.4%	87.1%	87.3%	85.3%	85.2%	84.7%	84.2%	84.9%	0.7%
Virginia	78.7%	79.9%	80.6%	82.3%	80.5%	81.8%	78.4%	79.7%	1.3%
Washington	96.3%	96.4%	96.5%	96.4%	97.6%	97.5%	96.9%	94.5%	-2.4%
West Virginia*	88.5%	89.6%	89.5%	87.0%	82.1%	84.9%	84.0%	82.2%	-1.8%
Wisconsin*	75.4%	75.3%	74.2%	73.8%	79.2%	79.0%	79.9%	82.4%	2.5%
Wyoming	63.5%	72.2%	68.6%	67.6%	78.9%	82.6%	77.0%	81.9%	4.9%
<b>Nationwide**</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>86.0%</b>	<b>87.0%</b>	<b>1.0%</b>
Puerto Rico	92.7%	92.1%	92.8%	92.3%	NA	91.9%	90.2%	89.7%	-0.5%
American Samoa*	NA	NA	55.7%	60.0%	73.0%	77.0%	75.0%	74.9%	-0.1%
Guam*	NA	81%	85.0%	80.0%	85.0%	81.0%	81.4%	93.8%	12.4%
N. Mariana Islands*	NA	80%	89.8%	84.6%	80.9%	93.7%	NA	90.5%	NA
U.S. Virgin Islands	80.2%	NA	82.3%	85.6%	86.4%	85.6%	77.9%	76.8%	-1.1%

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

NA: No rate reported.

\*Rates in jurisdictions are based on surveys with new criteria for the first time in 2013.

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

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