



# Lives Saved in 2013 by Restraint Use and Minimum Drinking Age Laws

**Findings:** In 2013, the use of seat belts in passenger vehicles saved an estimated 12,584 lives (occupants 5 and older), and an estimated 2,388 lives (occupants 13 and older) were saved by frontal air bags. An estimated 263 lives (child occupants 4 and younger) were saved by the use of child restraints, and 1,630 lives were saved by the use of motorcycle helmets. An additional 2,800 lives would have been saved in 2013 if all unrestrained passenger vehicle occupants 5 and older involved in fatal crashes had worn their seat belts. If all motorcyclists had been helmeted, then an additional 715 lives would have been saved. An estimated 504 lives were saved due to minimum-drinking-age laws.

**Introduction:** The annual estimates of lives saved, as 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 lives-saved estimates is available in two NHTSA publications, *Lives Saved FAQs* (NHTSA, 2009, Report No. 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, Report No. DOT HS 811 206), which describes in detail the methodology of estimating lives saved by seat belts and frontal air bags.

**Results:** Table 1 shows that the number of lives saved by seat belts among occupants 5 and older increased from 12,386 in 2012 to 12,584 in 2013. The number of lives saved by child restraints, frontal air bags, motorcycle helmets and the minimum-drinking-age laws all decreased from 2012 to 2013.

**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, 2009–2013**

Year	Lives Saved, Age 4 & Younger	Lives Saved, Age 5 & Older	Lives Saved, Age 13 & Older	Lives Saved, All Ages	Lives Saved	Additional Lives That Would Have Been Saved at 100 Percent Use	
	Child Restraints	Seat Belts	Frontal Air Bags	Motorcycle Helmets	Minimum Drinking Age Law	Seat Belts	Motorcycle Helmets
2009†	307	12,757	2,481	1,486	636	3,690	733
2010†	303	12,670	2,403	1,551	560	3,356	711
2011†	262	12,071	2,341	1,622	543	3,396	707
2012†	285	12,386	2,422	1,715	537	3,051	782
2013	263	12,584	2,388	1,630	504	2,800	715

Source: 2009–2012 FARS Final Files and FARS 2013 Annual Report File

†2009–2012 estimates differ from previously published estimates due to a computational correction. Previous estimates did not properly account for 2010 through 2013 model year passenger vehicles.

Table 2 shows lives-saved totals in 2013 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.

**Table 2: Lives Saved in 2013 by Child Restraints, Seat Belts, Frontal Air Bags, and Motorcycle Helmets**

State	Lives Saved by Child Restraints, Age 4 and Younger	Lives Saved by Seat Belts, Age 5 and Older	Lives Saved by Frontal Air Bags, Age 13 and Older	Lives Saved by Motorcycle Helmets, All Ages	Additional Lives Savable At 100-Percent Restraint Use	
					Seat Belts	Motorcycle Helmets
Alabama	16	331	77	47	22	0
Alaska	0	17	2	4	5	1
Arizona	2	241	49	38	74	32
Arkansas	5	190	40	12	84	15
California	17	1,164	159	248	60	13
Colorado	8	160	35	19	62	21
Connecticut	5	104	21	16	24	10
Delaware	0	31	6	8	4	3
District of Columbia	0	7	1	2	0	0
Florida	8	750	141	144	179	90
Georgia	16	454	91	66	38	2
Hawaii	1	21	5	6	3	7
Idaho	1	66	16	7	29	5
Illinois	7	377	77	22	45	43
Indiana	8	378	61	12	52	35
Iowa	1	145	27	6	23	12
Kansas	1	137	29	9	56	7
Kentucky	1	261	54	17	76	22
Louisiana	5	258	57	40	88	7
Maine	1	72	14	1	22	5
Maryland	5	177	32	34	29	2
Massachusetts	0	94	27	20	48	2
Michigan	8	462	67	40	53	26
Minnesota	4	193	29	12	17	15
Mississippi	4	259	57	22	135	1
Missouri	1	250	67	40	111	3
Montana	1	66	16	7	41	8
Nebraska	1	62	19	8	35	0
Nevada	2	74	13	30	7	3
New Hampshire	0	46	12	4	24	6
New Jersey	7	202	39	32	34	1
New Mexico	1	98	19	9	16	9
New York	11	435	72	91	65	6
North Carolina	19	562	96	102	112	6
North Dakota	3	42	13	3	25	1
Ohio	6	361	86	26	110	33
Oklahoma	9	251	53	9	84	29
Oregon	0	175	23	19	6	1
Pennsylvania	15	367	98	52	126	35
Rhode Island	0	19	4	3	5	2
South Carolina	4	282	58	26	44	39
South Dakota	0	45	11	4	32	6
Tennessee	9	377	85	75	117	4
Texas	27	1,549	244	118	273	109
Utah	3	92	14	7	30	7
Vermont	0	33	6	3	9	1
Virginia	2	284	63	45	115	1
Washington	3	203	26	42	18	1
West Virginia	3	131	28	9	48	3
Wisconsin	3	202	44	13	72	23
Wyoming	5	25	8	2	12	2
<b>National*</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>12,584</b>	<b>2,388</b>	<b>1,630</b>	<b>2,800</b>	<b>715</b>
Puerto Rico	0	74	19	10	16	9

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

These figures and recent trends can also be found in the State Traffic Safety Information Web site at [www.nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/departments/nrd-30/nrsa/STSI/USA%20WEB%20REPORT.HTM](http://www.nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/departments/nrd-30/nrsa/STSI/USA%20WEB%20REPORT.HTM)