



Seat Belt Use in 2014—Use Rates in the States and Territories

Highlights: In 2014, seat belt use rates in the United States ranged from a low of 68.9 percent in South Dakota to a high of 97.8 percent in Oregon. Nineteen States, the District of Columbia and the U.S. territories of Guam and Northern Mariana Islands achieved belt use rates of 90 percent or higher. These results are from probability-based observational surveys conducted by 50 States, the District of Columbia, and U.S. Territories.

Background: In 2011, NHTSA established new uniform criteria (23 CFR Part 1340) for observational surveys. In 2014, all the States' and Territories' observational surveys conformed to the new uniform criteria. Compliance with the criteria is verified annually by NHTSA's National Center for Statistics and Analysis.

Results: Seat belt use rates in the States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, other U.S. Territories, and nationwide from 2007-2014 are listed in the table below. Shaded rates indicate jurisdictions with primary seat belt enforcement during the calendar year of the survey. However, the law was not necessarily in effect when the survey was being conducted. The 2014 State and Territory survey results include the following:

- Nineteen States, the District of Columbia, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands achieved belt use rates of 90 percent or higher. These States include, in descending order of belt use rate: Oregon, Georgia, California, Alabama, Minnesota, Washington, Illinois, Nevada, Hawaii, Michigan, Iowa, Maryland, New Mexico, Delaware, Texas, North Carolina, New York, Indiana, and South Carolina.
- 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 rate was 87 percent in 2014 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. 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 individual States and Territories.

Table: Seat Belt Use in the States, U.S. Territories, and Nationwide, 2007–2014

State or U.S. Territory	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2013–2014 Change
Alabama	82.3%	86.1%	90.0%	91.4%	88.0%	89.5%	97.3%	95.7%	-1.6%
Alaska	82.4%	84.9%	86.1%	86.8%	89.3%	88.1%	86.1%	88.4%	2.3%
Arizona	80.9%	79.9%	80.8%	81.8%	82.9%	82.2%	84.7%	87.2%	2.5%
Arkansas	69.9%	70.4%	74.4%	78.3%	78.4%	71.9%	76.7%	74.4%	-2.3%
California	94.6%	95.7%	95.3%	96.2%	96.6%	95.5%	97.4%	97.1%	-0.3%
Colorado	81.1%	81.7%	81.1%	82.9%	82.1%	80.7%	82.1%	82.4%	0.3%
Connecticut	85.8%	88.0%	85.9%	88.2%	88.4%	86.8%	86.6%	85.1%	-1.5%
Delaware	86.6%	91.3%	88.4%	90.7%	90.3%	87.9%	92.2%	91.9%	-0.3%
District of Columbia	87.1%	90.0%	93.0%	92.3%	95.2%	92.4%	87.5%	93.2%	5.7%
Florida	79.1%	81.7%	85.2%	87.4%	88.1%	87.4%	87.2%	88.8%	1.6%
Georgia	89.0%	89.6%	88.9%	89.6%	93.0%	92.0%	95.5%	97.3%	1.8%
Hawaii	97.6%	97.0%	97.9%	97.6%	96.0%	93.4%	94.0%	93.5%	-0.5%
Idaho	78.5%	76.9%	79.2%	77.9%	79.1%	79.0%	81.6%	80.2%	-1.4%
Illinois	90.1%	90.5%	91.7%	92.6%	92.9%	93.6%	93.7%	94.1%	0.4%
Indiana	87.9%	91.2%	92.6%	92.4%	93.2%	93.6%	91.6%	90.2%	-1.4%
Iowa	91.3%	92.9%	93.1%	93.1%	93.5%	92.4%	91.9%	92.8%	0.9%
Kansas	75.0%	77.4%	77.0%	81.8%	82.9%	79.5%	80.7%	85.7%	5.0%
Kentucky	71.8%	73.3%	79.7%	80.3%	82.2%	83.7%	85.0%	86.1%	1.1%

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Table: Seat Belt Use in the States, U.S. Territories, and Nationwide, 2007–2014

State or U.S. Territory	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2013–2014 Change
Louisiana	75.2%	75.5%	74.5%	75.9%	77.7%	79.3%	82.5%	84.1%	1.6%
Maine	79.8%	83.0%	82.6%	82.0%	81.6%	84.4%	83.0%	85.0%	2.0%
Maryland	93.1%	93.3%	94.0%	94.7%	94.2%	91.1%	90.7%	92.1%	1.4%
Massachusetts	68.7%	66.8%	73.6%	73.7%	73.2%	72.7%	74.8%	76.6%	1.8%
Michigan	93.7%	97.2%	98.0%	95.2%	94.5%	93.6%	93.0%	93.3%	0.3%
Minnesota	87.8%	86.7%	90.2%	92.3%	92.7%	93.6%	94.8%	94.7%	-0.1%
Mississippi	71.8%	71.3%	76.0%	81.0%	81.9%	83.2%	74.4%	78.3%	3.9%
Missouri	77.2%	75.8%	77.2%	76.0%	79.0%	79.4%	80.1%	78.8%	-1.3%
Montana	79.6%	79.3%	79.2%	78.9%	76.9%	76.3%	74.0%	74.0%	0.0%
Nebraska	78.7%	82.6%	84.8%	84.1%	84.2%	78.6%	79.1%	79.0%	-0.1%
Nevada	92.2%	90.9%	91.0%	93.2%	94.1%	90.5%	94.8%	94.0%	-0.8%
New Hampshire	63.8%	69.2%	68.9%	72.2%	75.0%	68.6%	73.0%	70.4%	-2.6%
New Jersey	91.4%	91.8%	92.7%	93.7%	94.5%	88.3%	91.0%	87.6%	-3.4%
New Mexico	91.5%	91.1%	90.1%	89.8%	90.5%	91.4%	92.0%	92.1%	0.1%
New York	83.5%	89.1%	88.0%	89.8%	90.5%	90.4%	91.1%	90.6%	-0.5%
North Carolina	88.8%	89.8%	89.5%	89.7%	89.5%	87.5%	88.6%	90.6%	2.0%
North Dakota	82.2%	81.6%	81.5%	74.8%	76.7%	80.9%	77.7%	81.0%	3.3%
Ohio	81.6%	82.7%	83.6%	83.8%	84.1%	82.0%	84.5%	85.0%	0.5%
Oklahoma	83.1%	84.3%	84.2%	85.9%	85.9%	83.8%	83.6%	86.3%	2.7%
Oregon	95.3%	96.3%	96.6%	97.0%	96.6%	96.8%	98.2%	97.8%	-0.4%
Pennsylvania	86.7%	85.1%	87.9%	86.0%	83.8%	83.5%	84.0%	83.6%	-0.4%
Rhode Island	79.1%	72.0%	74.7%	78.0%	80.4%	77.5%	85.6%	87.4%	1.8%
South Carolina	74.5%	79.0%	81.5%	85.4%	86.0%	90.5%	91.7%	90.0%	-1.7%
South Dakota	73.0%	71.8%	72.1%	74.5%	73.4%	66.5%	68.7%	68.9%	0.2%
Tennessee	80.2%	81.5%	80.6%	87.1%	87.4%	83.7%	84.8%	87.7%	2.9%
Texas	91.8%	91.2%	92.9%	93.8%	93.7%	94.0%	90.3%	90.7%	0.4%
Utah	86.8%	86.0%	86.1%	89.0%	89.2%	81.9%	82.4%	83.4%	1.0%
Vermont	87.1%	87.3%	85.3%	85.2%	84.7%	84.2%	84.9%	84.1%	-0.8%
Virginia	79.9%	80.6%	82.3%	80.5%	81.8%	78.4%	79.7%	77.3%	-2.4%
Washington	96.4%	96.5%	96.4%	97.6%	97.5%	96.9%	94.5%	94.5%	0%
West Virginia**	89.6%	89.5%	87.0%	82.1%	84.9%	84.0%	82.2%	87.8%	5.6%
Wisconsin	75.3%	74.2%	73.8%	79.2%	79.0%	79.9%	82.4%	84.7%	2.3%
Wyoming	72.2%	68.6%	67.6%	78.9%	82.6%	77.0%	81.9%	79.2%	-2.7%
Nationwide*	82%	83%	84%	85%	84%	86.0%	87.0%	87.0%	0%
Puerto Rico	92.1%	92.8%	92.3%	NA	91.9%	90.2%	89.7%	89.5%	-0.2%
American Samoa	NA	55.7%	60.0%	73.0%	77.0%	75.0%	74.9%	76.3%	1.4%
Guam	81%	85.0%	80.0%	85.0%	81.0%	81.4%	93.8%	90.1%	-3.7%
N. Mariana Islands	80%	89.8%	84.6%	80.9%	93.7%	NA	90.5%	91.4%	0.9%
U.S. Virgin Islands	NA	82.3%	85.6%	86.4%	85.6%	77.9%	76.8%	66.1%	-10.7%

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

NA: No rate reported.

*The "nationwide" rates are from NHTSA's National Occupant Protection Use Survey (NOPUS).

**The primary seat belt law in West Virginia took effect on July 9, 2013.

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