



Seat Belt Use in 2015—Use Rates in the States and Territories

Highlights: In 2015 seat belt use in the United States ranged from 69.5 percent in New Hampshire to 97.3 percent in California and Georgia. Nineteen States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, 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 2015 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 2008 to 2015 are listed in the table below. Rates in jurisdictions with primary seat belt enforcement during the calendar year of the survey are shaded in the table. However, the law might not have taken effect when the survey was being conducted.

The 2015 State and Territory survey results include the following:

- Nineteen States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam and Northern Mariana Islands achieved belt use rates of 90 percent or higher. These States include, in descending order of belt use rate, California, Georgia, Oregon, Illinois, Washington, Minnesota, New Mexico, Alabama, Iowa, Maryland, Michigan, Hawaii, New York, Nevada, Indiana, South Carolina, New Jersey, Texas, and Delaware.
- 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 88.5 percent in 2015 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, 2008–2015

State or U.S. Territory	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2014–2015 Change
Alabama	86.1%	90.0%	91.4%	88.0%	89.5%	97.3%	95.7%	93.3%	-2.4%
Alaska	84.9%	86.1%	86.8%	89.3%	88.1%	86.1%	88.4%	89.3%	0.9%
Arizona	79.9%	80.8%	81.8%	82.9%	82.2%	84.7%	87.2%	86.6%	-0.6%
Arkansas	70.4%	74.4%	78.3%	78.4%	71.9%	76.7%	74.4%	77.7%	3.3%
California	95.7%	95.3%	96.2%	96.6%	95.5%	97.4%	97.1%	97.3%	0.2%
Colorado	81.7%	81.1%	82.9%	82.1%	80.7%	82.1%	82.4%	85.2%	2.8%
Connecticut	88.0%	85.9%	88.2%	88.4%	86.8%	86.6%	85.1%	85.4%	0.3%
Delaware	91.3%	88.4%	90.7%	90.3%	87.9%	92.2%	91.9%	90.4%	-1.5%
Dist. Of Columbia	90.0%	93.0%	92.3%	95.2%	92.4%	87.5%	93.2%	95.5%	2.3%
Florida	81.7%	85.2%	87.4%	88.1%	87.4%	87.2%	88.8%	89.4%	0.6%
Georgia	89.6%	88.9%	89.6%	93.0%	92.0%	95.5%	97.3%	97.3%	0.0%
Hawaii	97.0%	97.9%	97.6%	96.0%	93.4%	94.0%	93.5%	92.8%	-0.7%
Idaho	76.9%	79.2%	77.9%	79.1%	79.0%	81.6%	80.2%	81.1%	0.9%
Illinois	90.5%	91.7%	92.6%	92.9%	93.6%	93.7%	94.1%	95.2%	1.1%
Indiana	91.2%	92.6%	92.4%	93.2%	93.6%	91.6%	90.2%	91.9%	1.7%
Iowa	92.9%	93.1%	93.1%	93.5%	92.4%	91.9%	92.8%	93.0%	0.2%
Kansas	77.4%	77.0%	81.8%	82.9%	79.5%	80.7%	85.7%	82.1%	-3.6%

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State or U.S. Territory	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2014–2015 Change
Kentucky	73.3%	79.7%	80.3%	82.2%	83.7%	85.0%	86.1%	86.7%	0.6%
Louisiana	75.5%	74.5%	75.9%	77.7%	79.3%	82.5%	84.1%	85.9%	1.8%
Maine	83.0%	82.6%	82.0%	81.6%	84.4%	83.0%	85.0%	85.5%	0.5%
Maryland	93.3%	94.0%	94.7%	94.2%	91.1%	90.7%	92.1%	92.9%	0.8%
Massachusetts	66.8%	73.6%	73.7%	73.2%	72.7%	74.8%	76.6%	74.1%	-2.5%
Michigan	97.2%	98.0%	95.2%	94.5%	93.6%	93.0%	93.3%	92.8%	-0.5%
Minnesota	86.7%	90.2%	92.3%	92.7%	93.6%	94.8%	94.7%	94.0%	-0.7%
Mississippi	71.3%	76.0%	81.0%	81.9%	83.2%	74.4%	78.3%	79.6%	1.3%
Missouri	75.8%	77.2%	76.0%	79.0%	79.4%	80.1%	78.8%	79.9%	1.1%
Montana	79.3%	79.2%	78.9%	76.9%	76.3%	74.0%	74.0%	77.0%	3.0%
Nebraska	82.6%	84.8%	84.1%	84.2%	78.6%	79.1%	79.0%	79.6%	0.6%
Nevada	90.9%	91.0%	93.2%	94.1%	90.5%	94.8%	94.0%	92.1%	-1.9%
New Hampshire	69.2%	68.9%	72.2%	75.0%	68.6%	73.0%	70.4%	69.5%	-0.9%
New Jersey	91.8%	92.7%	93.7%	94.5%	88.3%	91.0%	87.6%	91.4%	3.8%
New Mexico	91.1%	90.1%	89.8%	90.5%	91.4%	92.0%	92.1%	93.3%	1.2%
New York	89.1%	88.0%	89.8%	90.5%	90.4%	91.1%	90.6%	92.2%	1.6%
North Carolina	89.8%	89.5%	89.7%	89.5%	87.5%	88.6%	90.6%	89.9%	-0.7%
North Dakota	81.6%	81.5%	74.8%	76.7%	80.9%	77.7%	81.0%	80.4%	-0.6%
Ohio	82.7%	83.6%	83.8%	84.1%	82.0%	84.5%	85.0%	83.9%	-1.1%
Oklahoma	84.3%	84.2%	85.9%	85.9%	83.8%	83.6%	86.3%	84.5%	-1.8%
Oregon	96.3%	96.6%	97.0%	96.6%	96.8%	98.2%	97.8%	95.5%	-2.3%
Pennsylvania	85.1%	87.9%	86.0%	83.8%	83.5%	84.0%	83.6%	82.7%	-0.9%
Rhode Island	72.0%	74.7%	78.0%	80.4%	77.5%	85.6%	87.4%	86.7%	-0.7%
South Carolina	79.0%	81.5%	85.4%	86.0%	90.5%	91.7%	90.0%	91.6%	1.6%
South Dakota	71.8%	72.1%	74.5%	73.4%	66.5%	68.7%	68.9%	73.6%	4.7%
Tennessee	81.5%	80.6%	87.1%	87.4%	83.7%	84.8%	87.7%	86.2%	-1.5%
Texas	91.2%	92.9%	93.8%	93.7%	94.0%	90.3%	90.7%	90.5%	-0.2%
Utah	86.0%	86.1%	89.0%	89.2%	81.9%	82.4%	83.4%	87.2%	3.8%
Vermont	87.3%	85.3%	85.2%	84.7%	84.2%	84.9%	84.1%	86.0%	1.9%
Virginia	80.6%	82.3%	80.5%	81.8%	78.4%	79.7%	77.3%	80.9%	3.6%
Washington	96.5%	96.4%	97.6%	97.5%	96.9%	94.5%	94.5%	94.6%	0.1%
West Virginia	89.5%	87.0%	82.1%	84.9%	84.0%	82.2%	87.8%	89.0%	1.2%
Wisconsin	74.2%	73.8%	79.2%	79.0%	79.9%	82.4%	84.7%	85.8%	1.1%
Wyoming	68.6%	67.6%	78.9%	82.6%	77.0%	81.9%	79.2%	79.8%	0.6%
Nationwide*	83%	84%	85%	84%	86.0%	87.0%	86.7%	88.5%	1.8%
Puerto Rico	92.8%	92.3%	NA	91.9%	90.2%	89.7%	89.5%	91.8%	2.3%
American Samoa	55.7%	60.0%	73.0%	77.0%	75.0%	74.9%	76.3%	77.0%	0.7%
Guam	85.0%	80.0%	85.0%	81.0%	81.4%	93.8%	90.1%	91.5%	1.4%
No. Mariana Islands	89.8%	84.6%	80.9%	93.7%	NA	90.5%	91.4%	95.6%	4.2%
U.S. Virgin Island	82.3%	85.6%	86.4%	85.6%	77.9%	76.8%	66.1%	82.7%	16.6%

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).

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This issue of Crash•Stats was written by Yuan Yan Chen, a mathematical statistician at NHTSA, and by Caitlin Webb, a statistician employed by BLS LLC, working with NHTSA. For questions regarding the information presented in this document, please contact NCSAWEB@dot.gov. Internet users may access this Crash•Stats and other general information on traffic safety at www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/cats/index.aspx.