



Seat Belt Use in 2017—Use Rates in the States and Territories

Highlights: In 2017 seat belt use in the United States ranged from 67.6 percent in New Hampshire to 97.1 percent in Georgia. Twenty-three States, the District of Columbia, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands achieved seat belt use rates of 90 percent or higher. These results are from probability-based observational surveys conducted by the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and U.S. Territories.

Background: In 2011 NHTSA established new uniform criteria (per 23 CFR Part 1340) for observational surveys. 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 2010 to 2017 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 2017 State and Territory survey results include the following:

- Twenty-three States, the District of Columbia, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands achieved a belt use rate of 90 percent or higher. These States include, in descending order of belt use rate, Georgia, Hawaii, Oregon, California, Washington, Michigan, New Jersey, Illinois, New York, Indiana, Alabama, South Carolina, Maryland, Minnesota, Texas, New Mexico, Delaware, Iowa, North Carolina, Nevada, Connecticut, Florida, and Alaska. 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 89.7 percent in 2017 as measured by NHTSA's National Occupant Protection Use Survey (NOPUS). NOPUS is a national probability-based survey, 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.

Seat Belt Use in the States, U.S. Territories, and Nationwide, 2010–2017

State or U.S. Territory	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2016–2017 Change
Alabama	91.4%	88.0%	89.5%	97.3%	95.7%	93.3%	92.0%	92.9%	0.9%
Alaska	86.8%	89.3%	88.1%	86.1%	88.4%	89.3%	88.5%	90.1%	1.6%
Arizona	81.8%	82.9%	82.2%	84.7%	87.2%	86.6%	88.0%	86.1%	-1.9%
Arkansas	78.3%	78.4%	71.9%	76.7%	74.4%	77.7%	75.1%	81.0%	5.9%
California	96.2%	96.6%	95.5%	97.4%	97.1%	97.3%	96.5%	96.2%	-0.3%
Colorado	82.9%	82.1%	80.7%	82.1%	82.4%	85.2%	84.0%	83.8%	-0.2%
Connecticut	88.2%	88.4%	86.8%	86.6%	85.1%	85.4%	89.4%	90.3%	0.9%
Delaware	90.7%	90.3%	87.9%	92.2%	91.9%	90.4%	91.4%	91.4%	0.0%
District Of Columbia	92.3%	95.2%	92.4%	87.5%	93.2%	95.5%	94.1%	93.6%	-0.5%
Florida	87.4%	88.1%	87.4%	87.2%	88.8%	89.4%	89.6%	90.2%	0.6%
Georgia	89.6%	93.0%	92.0%	95.5%	97.3%	97.3%	97.2%	97.1%	-0.1%
Hawaii	97.6%	96.0%	93.4%	94.0%	93.5%	92.8%	94.5%	96.9%	2.4%
Idaho	77.9%	79.1%	79.0%	81.6%	80.2%	81.1%	82.9%	81.2%	-1.7%
Illinois	92.6%	92.9%	93.6%	93.7%	94.1%	95.2%	93.0%	93.8%	0.8%
Indiana	92.4%	93.2%	93.6%	91.6%	90.2%	91.9%	92.4%	93.0%	0.6%
Iowa	93.1%	93.5%	92.4%	91.9%	92.8%	93.0%	93.8%	91.4%	-2.4%
Kansas	81.8%	82.9%	79.5%	80.7%	85.7%	82.1%	87.0%	82.0%	-5.0%

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Seat Belt Use in the States, U.S. Territories, and Nationwide, 2010–2017 (continued)

State or U.S. Territory	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2016–2017 Change
Kentucky	80.3%	82.2%	83.7%	85.0%	86.1%	86.7%	86.5%	86.8%	0.3%
Louisiana	75.9%	77.7%	79.3%	82.5%	84.1%	85.9%	87.8%	87.1%	-0.7%
Maine	82.0%	81.6%	84.4%	83.0%	85.0%	85.5%	85.8%	88.9%	3.1%
Maryland	94.7%	94.2%	91.1%	90.7%	92.1%	92.9%	90.8%	92.1%	1.3%
Massachusetts	73.7%	73.2%	72.7%	74.8%	76.6%	74.1%	78.2%	73.7%	-4.5%
Michigan	95.2%	94.5%	93.6%	93.0%	93.3%	92.8%	94.5%	94.1%	-0.4%
Minnesota	92.3%	92.7%	93.6%	94.8%	94.7%	94.0%	93.2%	92.0%	-1.2%
Mississippi	81.0%	81.9%	83.2%	74.4%	78.3%	79.6%	77.9%	78.8%	0.9%
Missouri	76.0%	79.0%	79.4%	80.1%	78.8%	79.9%	81.4%	84.0%	2.6%
Montana	78.9%	76.9%	76.3%	74.0%	74.0%	77.0%	76.0%	78.0%	2.0%
Nebraska	84.1%	84.2%	78.6%	79.1%	79.0%	79.6%	83.3%	85.9%	2.6%
Nevada	93.2%	94.1%	90.5%	94.8%	94.0%	92.1%	89.4%	90.6%	1.2%
New Hampshire	72.2%	75.0%	68.6%	73.0%	70.4%	69.5%	70.2%	67.6%	-2.6%
New Jersey	93.7%	94.5%	88.3%	91.0%	87.6%	91.4%	93.4%	94.1%	0.7%
New Mexico	89.8%	90.5%	91.4%	92.0%	92.1%	93.3%	92.3%	91.5%	-0.8%
New York	89.8%	90.5%	90.4%	91.1%	90.6%	92.2%	91.8%	93.4%	1.6%
North Carolina	89.7%	89.5%	87.5%	88.6%	90.6%	89.9%	91.7%	91.4%	-0.3%
North Dakota	74.8%	76.7%	80.9%	77.7%	81.0%	80.4%	82.8%	79.3%	-3.5%
Ohio	83.8%	84.1%	82.0%	84.5%	85.0%	83.9%	83.8%	82.8%	-1.0%
Oklahoma	85.9%	85.9%	83.8%	83.6%	86.3%	84.5%	86.6%	86.9%	0.3%
Oregon	97.0%	96.6%	96.8%	98.2%	97.8%	95.5%	96.2%	96.8%	0.6%
Pennsylvania	86.0%	83.8%	83.5%	84.0%	83.6%	82.7%	85.2%	85.6%	0.4%
Rhode Island	78.0%	80.4%	77.5%	85.6%	87.4%	86.7%	87.5%	88.3%	0.8%
South Carolina	85.4%	86.0%	90.5%	91.7%	90.0%	91.6%	93.9%	92.3%	-1.6%
South Dakota	74.5%	73.4%	66.5%	68.7%	68.9%	73.6%	74.2%	74.8%	0.6%
Tennessee	87.1%	87.4%	83.7%	84.8%	87.7%	86.2%	88.9%	88.5%	-0.4%
Texas	93.8%	93.7%	94.0%	90.3%	90.7%	90.5%	91.6%	91.9%	0.3%
Utah	89.0%	89.2%	81.9%	82.4%	83.4%	87.2%	87.9%	88.8%	0.9%
Vermont	85.2%	84.7%	84.2%	84.9%	84.1%	85.0%	80.0%	84.5%	4.5%
Virginia	80.5%	81.8%	78.4%	79.7%	77.3%	80.9%	79.0%	85.3%	6.3%
Washington	97.6%	97.5%	96.9%	94.5%	94.5%	94.6%	94.7%	94.8%	0.1%
West Virginia	82.1%	84.9%	84.0%	82.2%	87.8%	89.0%	86.8%	89.7%	2.9%
Wisconsin	79.2%	79.0%	79.9%	82.4%	84.7%	85.8%	88.4%	89.4%	1.0%
Wyoming	78.9%	82.6%	77.0%	81.9%	79.2%	79.8%	80.5%	84.8%	4.3%
Nationwide*	85%	84%	86.0%	87.0%	86.7%	88.5%	90.1%	89.7%	-0.4%
Puerto Rico	NA	91.9%	90.2%	89.7%	89.5%	91.8%	93.8%	87.9%	-5.9%
American Samoa	73.0%	77.0%	75.0%	74.9%	76.3%	77.0%	82.9%	84.9%	2.0%
Guam	85.0%	81.0%	81.4%	93.8%	90.1%	91.5%	90.1%	91.0%	0.9%
No. Mariana Islands	80.9%	93.7%	NA	90.5%	91.4%	95.6%	92.3%	92.2%	-0.1%
U.S. Virgin Islands	86.4%	85.6%	77.9%	76.8%	66.1%	82.7%	79.1%	NA	NA

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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