

Traffic Safety Facts

Crash • Stats



DOT HS 811 049

A Brief Statistical Summary

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Lives Saved in 2007 by Restraint Use and Minimum Drinking Age Laws

In 2007, the use of seat belts in motor vehicles saved an estimated 15,147 lives. Seat belts have saved 76,936 lives during the 5-year period from 2003 through 2007. These annual lives-saved counts, shown in Table 1, have been produced by NHTSA's National Center for Statistics and Analysis since 1975. The counts are estimates which are calculated using the effectiveness of each device or law that is mentioned.

In addition to the 15,147 lives saved in 2007 by seat belts (occupants age 5 and older), 2,788 lives were saved by frontal air bags (occupants age 13 and older), 1,784 lives were saved by motorcycle helmets, 826 lives (ages 18, 19, and 20) were saved by 21-year-old minimum drinking age laws, and

382 lives (age 4 and younger) were saved by child restraints (child safety seats and lap/shoulder belts). An additional 5,024 lives would have been saved in 2007 if all unrestrained motor vehicle occupants involved in fatal crashes had worn their seat belts; and if all motorcyclists had been helmeted, an additional 800 lives would have been saved.

As the number of motorcyclists has greatly increased in recent years, the number of lives saved by motorcycle helmets has also gone up sharply, from 1,173 in 2003 to 1,784 in 2007, an increase of more than 50 percent. The number of additional lives that would have been saved if motorcycle helmet use had been 100 percent also rose each year since 2003.

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, 2003 - 2007

Year	Lives saved by child restraints	Lives saved by seat belts	Lives saved by frontal air bags	Lives saved by motorcycle helmets	Additional lives saved at 100-percent seat belt use	Additional lives saved at 100-percent motorcycle helmet use
2003		15,095		1,173	6,151	
2004		15,548		1,324	5,874	
2005		15,688		1,554	5,667	
2006		15,458		1,667	5,468	
2007		15,147		1,784	5,024	

Source: FARS 2003-2006 Final File, 2007 Annual Report File

Table 2 on the back page shows lives-saved totals in the year 2007 for all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. The far left column shows 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 motorcycle 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.



U.S. Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Table 2: Lives Saved in 2007 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	5	400	87	46	188	3
Alaska	1	27	5	4	12	0
Arizona	20	298	64	35	135	29
Arkansas	8	219	49	18	150	19
California	52	1791	211	266	196	26
Colorado	2	201	33	20	82	21
Connecticut	0	101	19	8	31	10
Delaware	1	49	9	3	14	4
DC	1	10	2	1	3	0
Florida	20	857	194	170	411	104
Georgia	15	613	122	84	171	8
Hawaii	2	45	7	4	2	9
Idaho	6	86	14	7	43	6
Illinois	11	436	85	18	105	48
Indiana	8	377	62	14	107	37
Iowa	6	184	30	5	42	20
Kansas	12	160	29	8	89	13
Kentucky	12	292	64	24	186	27
Louisiana	6	308	77	40	192	8
Maine	1	72	15	4	31	6
Maryland	3	254	41	50	38	4
Massachusetts	0	105	32	34	80	1
Michigan	6	546	75	65	69	5
Minnesota	5	210	41	7	59	18
Mississippi	3	277	76	20	204	7
Missouri	9	297	75	42	172	8
Montana	0	72	19	10	42	7
Nebraska	6	88	21	7	46	1
Nevada	0	149	26	26	28	3
New Hampshire	0	28	10	6	28	6
New Jersey	8	250	47	42	51	5
New Mexico	4	133	25	5	30	15
New York	9	521	78	86	164	9
North Carolina	12	729	117	111	177	5
North Dakota	1	33	9	1	18	3
Ohio	14	409	89	39	179	46
Oklahoma	5	303	56	13	121	19
Oregon	1	217	24	29	25	1
Pennsylvania	6	412	109	61	147	45
Rhode Island	0	15	4	2	7	4
South Carolina	7	313	76	19	200	37
South Dakota	1	36	11	4	28	9
Tennessee	11	395	93	77	196	7
Texas	43	1622	234	94	281	89
Utah	8	137	16	11	38	5
Vermont	0	29	5	3	8	1
Virginia	7	320	75	69	161	4
Washington	6	264	32	35	24	4
West Virginia	6	163	30	20	39	2
Wisconsin	4	237	52	16	137	30
Wyoming	4	59	10	5	37	4
National	382	15,147	2,788	1,784	5,024	800
Puerto Rico	0	84	18	17	15	24