

Traffic Safety Facts

Crash • Stats

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Seat Belt Use in 2007 – Use Rates in the States And Territories

In 2007, seat belt use in the United States ranged from 63.8 percent in New Hampshire to 97.6 percent in Hawaii. These seat belt use rates are reported to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration by States and Territories in response to grant requirements under 23 U.S.C. §§ 402, 406.

The 2007 State and Territory surveys also found the following:

- Twelve States and Territories achieved use rates of 90 percent or higher — Hawaii, Washington, Oregon, California, Michigan, Maryland, Puerto Rico, Texas, New Mexico, New Jersey, Iowa, and Illinois.
- Jurisdictions with primary belt-enforcement laws continue to exhibit generally higher use rates than those with secondary laws or no belt law. Kentucky strengthened its belt law to a primary enforcement law, effective July 2006, with citations issued beginning in January 2007. This State saw a jump in use from 67.2 percent in 2006 to 71.8 percent in 2007. Maine's primary enforcement seat belt law took effect on September 17, 2007, but citations were issued beginning April 1, 2008.

Seat belt use rates in the States, U.S. Territories, the District of Columbia, and nationwide from 2001-2007 are listed in the following table. Rates in jurisdictions with primary 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 conducted. The 2003 rate for New Hampshire was not reported by the State.

National Seat Belt Use Rate

Seat belt use nationwide was 82 percent in 2007, as measured by NHTSA's National Occupant Protection Use Survey (NOPUS). NOPUS provides NHTSA's official measure of nationwide use because it is the only probability-based observational survey of seat belt use in the United States. Additionally, NOPUS does not employ sampling frame exemptions allowed of the States and Territories in 23 CFR Part 1340 (namely, the omission of up to 15 percent of low-population areas and the permission to observe data solely in vehicles stopped at stop signs or stoplights), and so provides a more accurate measure of nationwide use than would be obtained by combining the use rates from the States and Territories.

Table: Seat Belt Use in States, U.S. Territories, and Nationwide, 2001-2007

State or U.S. Territory	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Conversion Rate* 2006-2007
Alabama	79.4%	78.7%	77.4%	80.0%	81.8%	82.9%	82.3%	-4%
Alaska	62.6%	65.8%	78.9%	76.7%	78.4%	83.2%	82.4%	-5%
Arizona	74.4%	73.7%	86.2%	95.3%	94.2%	78.9%	80.9%	9%
Arkansas	54.5%	63.7%	62.8%	64.2%	68.3%	69.3%	69.9%	2%
California	91.1%	91.1%	91.2%	90.4%	92.5%	93.4%	94.6%	18%
Colorado	72.1%	73.2%	77.7%	79.3%	79.2%	80.3%	81.1%	4%
Connecticut	78.0%	78.0%	78.0%	82.9%	81.6%	83.5%	85.8%	14%
Delaware	67.3%	71.2%	74.9%	82.3%	83.8%	86.1%	86.6%	4%
Dist. Of Columbia	83.6%	84.6%	84.9%	87.1%	88.8%	85.4%	87.1%	12%

State or U.S. Territory	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Conversion Rate* 2006-2007
Florida	69.5%	75.1%	72.6%	76.3%	73.9%	80.7%	79.1%	-8%
Georgia	79.0%	77.0%	84.5%	86.7%	89.9%	90.0%	89.0%	-10%
Hawaii	82.5%	90.4%	91.8%	95.1%	95.3%	92.5%	97.6%	68%
Idaho	60.4%	62.9%	71.7%	74.0%	76.0%	79.8%	78.5%	-6%
Illinois	71.4%	73.8%	80.1%	83.0%	86.0%	87.8%	90.1%	19%
Indiana	67.4%	72.2%	82.3%	83.4%	81.2%	84.3%	87.9%	23%
Iowa	80.9%	82.4%	86.8%	86.4%	87.1%	89.6%	91.3%	16%
Kansas	60.8%	61.3%	63.6%	68.3%	69.0%	73.5%	75.0%	6%
Kentucky	61.9%	62.0%	65.5%	66.0%	66.7%	67.2%	71.8%	14%
Louisiana	68.1%	68.6%	73.8%	75.0%	77.7%	74.8%	75.2%	2%
Maine	NA	NA	NA	72.3%	75.8%	77.2%	79.8%	11%
Maryland	82.9%	85.8%	87.9%	89.0%	91.1%	91.1%	93.1%	22%
Massachusetts	56.0%	51.0%	61.7%	63.3%	64.8%	66.9%	68.7%	5%
Michigan	82.3%	82.9%	84.8%	90.5%	92.9%	94.3%	93.7%	-11%
Minnesota	73.9%	80.1%	79.4%	82.1%	83.9%	83.3%	87.8%	27%
Mississippi	61.6%	62.0%	62.2%	63.2%	60.8%	73.6%	71.8%	-7%
Missouri	67.9%	69.4%	72.9%	75.9%	77.4%	75.2%	77.2%	8%
Montana	76.3%	78.4%	79.5%	80.9%	80.0%	79.0%	79.6%	3%
Nebraska	70.2%	69.7%	76.1%	79.2%	79.2%	76.0%	78.7%	11%
Nevada	74.5%	74.9%	78.7%	86.6%	94.8%	91.2%	92.2%	11%
New Hampshire	NA	NA	49.6%	NA	NA	63.5%	63.8%	1%
New Jersey	77.6%	80.5%	81.2%	82.0%	86.0%	90.0%	91.4%	14%
New Mexico	87.8%	87.6%	87.2%	89.7%	89.5%	89.6%	91.5%	18%
New York	80.3%	82.8%	84.6%	85.0%	85.0%	83.0%	83.5%	3%
North Carolina	82.7%	84.1%	86.1%	86.1%	86.7%	88.5%	88.8%	3%
North Dakota	57.9%	63.4%	63.7%	67.4%	76.3%	79.0%	82.2%	15%
Ohio	66.9%	70.3%	74.7%	74.1%	78.7%	81.7%	81.6%	-1%
Oklahoma	67.9%	70.1%	76.7%	80.3%	83.1%	83.7%	83.1%	-4%
Oregon	87.5%	88.2%	90.4%	92.6%	93.3%	94.1%	95.3%	20%

State or U.S. Territory	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Conversion Rate* 2006-2007
Pennsylvania	70.5%	75.7%	79.0%	81.8%	83.3%	86.3%	86.7%	3%
Rhode Island	63.2%	70.8%	74.2%	76.2%	74.7%	74.0%	79.1%	20%
South Carolina	69.6%	66.3%	72.8%	65.7%	69.7%	72.5%	74.5%	7%
South Dakota	63.3%	64.0%	69.9%	69.4%	68.8%	71.3%	73.0%	6%
Tennessee	68.3%	66.7%	68.5%	72.0%	74.4%	78.6%	80.2%	7%
Texas	76.1%	81.1%	84.3%	83.2%	89.9%	90.4%	91.8%	15%
Utah	77.8%	80.1%	85.2%	85.7%	86.9%	88.6%	86.8%	-16%
Vermont	67.4%	84.9%	82.4%	79.9%	84.7%	82.4%	87.1%	27%
Virginia	72.3%	70.4%	74.6%	79.9%	80.4%	78.7%	79.9%	6%
Washington	82.6%	92.6%	94.8%	94.2%	95.2%	96.3%	96.4%	3%
West Virginia	52.3%	71.6%	73.6%	75.8%	84.9%	88.5%	89.6%	10%
Wisconsin	68.7%	66.1%	69.8%	72.4%	73.3%	75.4%	75.3%	0%
Wyoming	NA	66.6%	NA	70.1%	NA	63.5%	72.2%	24%
Nationwide	73%	75%	79%	80%	82%	81%	82%	7%
Puerto Rico	83.1%	90.5%	87.1%	90.1%	92.5%	92.7%	92.1%	-8%
American Samoa							NA	
Guam							81%	
Northern Mariana Islands							80%	
U.S. Virgin Islands						80.2%	NA	

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

NA: No rate reported.

*The "conversion rate" is the percentage reduction in belt nonuse. Negative conversion rates reflect a decrease in the estimated use rates.



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

For questions regarding the above reported data, contact Donna Glassbrenner at 202-366-3962, or Tony Jianqiang Ye at 202-366-3603. This issue of Crash•Stats and other general information on highway traffic safety may be accessed online at <http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/CMSWeb/index.aspx>