



Seat Belt Use in 2021 — Use Rates in the States and Territories

Highlights

In 2021, seat belt use in the United States ranged from 72.3 percent in the U.S. Virgin Islands to 97.2 percent in California. Twenty-three States, American Samoa, 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 for observational surveys. States conduct and report out from their annual surveys of seat belt use in accordance with the [Uniform Criteria for State Observational Surveys of Seat Belt Use](#) (per 23 CFR Part 1340). 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 2014 to 2021 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 2021 State and Territory survey results include the following:

- Twenty-three States, American Samoa, the District of Columbia, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands achieved belt use rates of 90 percent or higher. 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 90.4 percent in 2021, 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, 2014-2021

State or U.S. Territory	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2020–2021 Change
Alabama	95.7%	93.3%	92.0%	92.9%	91.8%	92.3%	NA	91.3%	NA
Alaska	88.4%	89.3%	88.5%	90.1%	91.6%	94.1%	NA	91.7%	NA
Arizona	87.2%	86.6%	88.0%	86.1%	85.9%	90.6%	NA	88.8%	NA
Arkansas	74.4%	77.7%	75.1%	81.0%	78.0%	81.9%	NA	84.2%	NA
California	97.1%	97.3%	96.5%	96.2%	95.9%	96.0%	NA	97.2%	NA
Colorado	82.4%	85.2%	84.0%	83.8%	86.3%	88.3%	86.3%	86.6%	0.3%
Connecticut	85.1%	85.4%	89.4%	90.3%	92.1%	93.7%	NA	91.5%	NA
Delaware	91.9%	90.4%	91.4%	91.4%	92.4%	92.5%	NA	92.4%	NA
Dist. Of Columbia	93.2%	95.5%	94.1%	93.6%	95.1%	95.4%	95.7%	95.9%	0.2%
Florida	88.8%	89.4%	89.6%	90.2%	90.6%	89.8%	NA	90.1%	NA
Georgia	97.3%	97.3%	97.2%	97.1%	96.3%	95.9%	NA	94.8%	NA
Hawaii	93.5%	92.8%	94.5%	96.9%	97.8%	97.1%	NA	94.3%	NA
Idaho	80.2%	81.1%	82.9%	81.2%	85.4%	85.7%	NA	82.9%	NA
Illinois	94.1%	95.2%	93.0%	93.8%	94.6%	94.3%	NA	93.5%	NA
Indiana	90.2%	91.9%	92.4%	93.0%	93.4%	94.9%	NA	92.9%	NA
Iowa	92.8%	93.0%	93.8%	91.4%	93.9%	94.6%	95.2%	92.7%	-2.5%

Seat Belt Use in the States, U.S. Territories, and Nationwide, 2014-2021

State or U.S. Territory	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2020–2021 Change
Kansas	85.7%	82.1%	87.0%	82.0%	84.0%	84.9%	85.0%	85.9%	0.9%
Kentucky	86.1%	86.7%	86.5%	86.8%	89.9%	89.7%	NA	89.8%	NA
Louisiana	84.1%	85.9%	87.8%	87.1%	86.9%	87.5%	NA	85.7%	NA
Maine	85.0%	85.5%	85.8%	88.9%	88.5%	88.5%	NA	91.8%	NA
Maryland	92.1%	92.9%	90.8%	92.1%	90.3%	90.4%	89.9%	91.4%	1.5%
Massachusetts	76.6%	74.1%	78.2%	73.7%	81.6%	81.6%	NA	77.5%	NA
Michigan	93.3%	92.8%	94.5%	94.1%	93.4%	94.4%	NA	92.6%	NA
Minnesota	94.7%	94.0%	93.2%	92.0%	92.4%	93.4%	NA	92.4%	NA
Mississippi	78.3%	79.6%	77.9%	78.8%	80.2%	80.5%	79.3%	80.0%	0.7%
Missouri	78.8%	79.9%	81.4%	84.0%	87.1%	87.7%	86.1%	88.0%	1.9%
Montana	74.0%	77.0%	76.0%	78.0%	86.6%	88.9%	89.9%	92.2%	2.3%
Nebraska	79.0%	79.6%	83.3%	85.9%	85.5%	79.7%	80.6%	81.2%	0.6%
Nevada	94.0%	92.1%	89.4%	90.6%	91.9%	94.2%	NA	93.2%	NA
New Hampshire	70.4%	69.5%	70.2%	67.6%	76.4%	70.7%	72.4%	75.5%	3.1%
New Jersey	87.6%	91.4%	93.4%	94.1%	94.5%	90.2%	NA	93.9%	NA
New Mexico	92.1%	93.3%	92.3%	91.5%	90.2%	91.8%	NA	89.6%	NA
New York	90.6%	92.2%	91.8%	93.4%	92.9%	94.2%	NA	93.2%	NA
North Carolina	90.6%	89.9%	91.7%	91.4%	91.3%	88.4%	87.1%	89.6%	2.5%
North Dakota	81.0%	80.4%	82.8%	79.3%	82.5%	83.7%	83.7%	81.9%	-1.8%
Ohio	85.0%	83.9%	83.8%	82.8%	84.9%	85.9%	NA	84.1%	NA
Oklahoma	86.3%	84.5%	86.6%	86.9%	85.6%	84.7%	NA	84.4%	NA
Oregon	97.8%	95.5%	96.2%	96.8%	95.8%	95.7%	94.6%	94.9%	0.3%
Pennsylvania	83.6%	82.7%	85.2%	85.6%	88.5%	88.6%	88.9%	89.5%	0.6%
Rhode Island	87.4%	86.7%	87.5%	88.3%	88.8%	88.3%	NA	89.4%	NA
South Carolina	90.0%	91.6%	93.9%	92.3%	89.7%	90.3%	NA	90.1%	NA
South Dakota	68.9%	73.6%	74.2%	74.8%	78.9%	75.2%	68.3%	86.9%	18.6%
Tennessee	87.7%	86.2%	88.9%	88.5%	90.9%	91.8%	NA	90.1%	NA
Texas	90.7%	90.5%	91.6%	91.9%	91.3%	90.9%	NA	89.8%	NA
Utah	83.4%	87.2%	87.9%	88.8%	89.0%	90.2%	NA	88.2%	NA
Vermont	84.1%	85.0%	80.0%	84.5%	89.8%	89.3%	88.8%	89.2%	0.4%
Virginia	77.3%	80.9%	79.0%	85.3%	84.1%	85.4%	NA	81.7%	NA
Washington	94.5%	94.6%	94.7%	94.8%	93.2%	93.1%	93.0%	94.2%	1.2%
West Virginia	87.8%	89.0%	86.8%	89.7%	90.5%	90.2%	NA	88.1%	NA
Wisconsin	84.7%	85.8%	88.4%	89.4%	89.3%	90.2%	89.2%	88.1%	-1.1%
Wyoming	79.2%	79.8%	80.5%	84.8%	86.3%	78.3%	82.5%	80.2%	-2.3%
Nationwide*	86.7%	88.5%	90.1%	89.7%	89.6%	90.7%	90.3%	90.4%	0.1%
Puerto Rico	89.5%	91.8%	93.8%	87.9%	85.0%	88.3%	84.8%	88.2%	3.5%
American Samoa	76.3%	77.0%	82.9%	84.9%	93.4%	83.4%	NA	93.1%	NA
Guam	90.1%	91.5%	90.1%	91.0%	92.2%	96.9%	NA	93.9%	NA
No. Mariana Islands	91.4%	95.6%	92.3%	92.2%	89.3%	93.9%	NA	96.4%	NA
U.S. Virgin Islands	66.1%	82.7%	79.1%	NA	NA	71.1%	68.2%	72.3%	4.1%

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

NA: No rate reported or no survey conducted

*The “nationwide” rates are from NHTSA’s National Occupant Protection Use Survey (NOPUS).

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