



Seat Belt Use in 2022 — Use Rates in the States and Territories

Highlights

In 2022 seat belt use in the United States ranged from 67 percent in the U.S. Virgin Islands to 96.5 percent in Oregon. Twenty-six States, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, 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.

The Uniform Criteria for State Observational Surveys of Seat Belt Use requires States and Territories to re-select their observation sites “no less than once every five years” using an updated State or Territory road segment sampling frame. In 2022 there were 29 States and Territories that re-selected their observation sites, indicated in the table. The remaining States and Territories will re-select their observation sites in 2023.

Results

Seat belt use rates in the States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, other U.S. Territories, and nationwide from 2015 to 2022 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 2022 State and Territory survey results include the following:

- Twenty-six States, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Northern Mariana Islands achieved belt use rate 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 91.6 percent in 2022 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, 2015-2022

State or U.S. Territory	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2021-2022 Change
Alabama	93.3%	92.0%	92.9%	91.8%	92.3%	NA	91.3%	92.7%	1.4%
Alaska**	89.3%	88.5%	90.1%	91.6%	94.1%	NA	91.7%	91.5%	-0.2%
Arizona	86.6%	88.0%	86.1%	85.9%	90.6%	NA	88.8%	87.0%	-1.8%
Arkansas**	77.7%	75.1%	81.0%	78.0%	81.9%	NA	84.2%	79.1%	-5.1%
California**	97.3%	96.5%	96.2%	95.9%	96.0%	NA	97.2%	95.3%	-1.9%
Colorado**	85.2%	84.0%	83.8%	86.3%	88.3%	86.3%	86.6%	87.0%	0.4%
Connecticut**	85.4%	89.4%	90.3%	92.1%	93.7%	NA	91.5%	92.1%	0.6%
Delaware**	90.4%	91.4%	91.4%	92.4%	92.5%	NA	92.4%	90.4%	-2.0%
Dist. of Columbia**	95.5%	94.1%	93.6%	95.1%	95.4%	95.7%	95.9%	95.1%	-0.8%
Florida**	89.4%	89.6%	90.2%	90.6%	89.8%	NA	90.1%	88.3%	-1.8%
Georgia	97.3%	97.2%	97.1%	96.3%	95.9%	NA	94.8%	89.3%	-5.5%
Hawaii**	92.8%	94.5%	96.9%	97.8%	97.1%	NA	94.3%	95.9%	1.6%

Seat Belt Use in the States, U.S. Territories, and Nationwide, 2015-2022

State or U.S. Territory	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2021-2022 Change
Idaho	81.1%	82.9%	81.2%	85.4%	85.7%	NA	82.9%	87.6%	4.7%
Illinois	95.2%	93.0%	93.8%	94.6%	94.3%	NA	93.5%	93.0%	-0.5%
Indiana	91.9%	92.4%	93.0%	93.4%	94.9%	NA	92.9%	93.0%	0.1%
Iowa**	93.0%	93.8%	91.4%	93.9%	94.6%	95.2%	92.7%	95.9%	3.2%
Kansas**	82.1%	87.0%	82.0%	84.0%	84.9%	85.0%	85.9%	87.2%	1.3%
Kentucky	86.7%	86.5%	86.8%	89.9%	89.7%	NA	89.8%	86.7%	-3.1%
Louisiana**	85.9%	87.8%	87.1%	86.9%	87.5%	NA	85.7%	86.1%	0.4%
Maine**	85.5%	85.8%	88.9%	88.5%	88.5%	NA	91.8%	93.4%	1.6%
Maryland**	92.9%	90.8%	92.1%	90.3%	90.4%	89.9%	91.4%	92.7%	1.3%
Massachusetts	74.1%	78.2%	73.7%	81.6%	81.6%	NA	77.5%	77.0%	-0.5%
Michigan	92.8%	94.5%	94.1%	93.4%	94.4%	NA	92.6%	92.9%	0.3%
Minnesota**	94.0%	93.2%	92.0%	92.4%	93.4%	NA	92.4%	93.3%	0.9%
Mississippi	79.6%	77.9%	78.8%	80.2%	80.5%	79.3%	80.0%	78.9%	-1.1%
Missouri	79.9%	81.4%	84.0%	87.1%	87.7%	86.1%	88.0%	88.9%	0.9%
Montana	77.0%	76.0%	78.0%	86.6%	88.9%	89.9%	92.2%	92.9%	0.7%
Nebraska**	79.6%	83.3%	85.9%	85.5%	79.7%	80.6%	81.2%	76.3%	-4.9%
Nevada**	92.1%	89.4%	90.6%	91.9%	94.2%	NA	93.2%	93.1%	-0.1%
New Hampshire	69.5%	70.2%	67.6%	76.4%	70.7%	72.4%	75.5%	75.7%	0.2%
New Jersey**	91.4%	93.4%	94.1%	94.5%	90.2%	NA	93.9%	92.9%	-1.0%
New Mexico	93.3%	92.3%	91.5%	90.2%	91.8%	NA	89.6%	89.8%	0.2%
New York	92.2%	91.8%	93.4%	92.9%	94.2%	NA	93.2%	91.9%	-1.3%
North Carolina**	89.9%	91.7%	91.4%	91.3%	88.4%	87.1%	89.6%	90.9%	1.3%
North Dakota**	80.4%	82.8%	79.3%	82.5%	83.7%	83.7%	81.9%	80.6%	-1.3%
Ohio**	83.9%	83.8%	82.8%	84.9%	85.9%	NA	84.1%	80.8%	-3.3%
Oklahoma**	84.5%	86.6%	86.9%	85.6%	84.7%	NA	84.4%	80.0%	-4.4%
Oregon	95.5%	96.2%	96.8%	95.8%	95.7%	94.6%	94.9%	96.5%	1.6%
Pennsylvania	82.7%	85.2%	85.6%	88.5%	88.6%	88.9%	89.5%	89.9%	0.4%
Rhode Island	86.7%	87.5%	88.3%	88.8%	88.3%	NA	89.4%	87.1%	-2.3%
South Carolina	91.6%	93.9%	92.3%	89.7%	90.3%	NA	90.1%	90.6%	0.5%
South Dakota**	73.6%	74.2%	74.8%	78.9%	75.2%	68.3%	86.9%	88.1%	1.2%
Tennessee**	86.2%	88.9%	88.5%	90.9%	91.8%	NA	90.1%	90.5%	0.4%
Texas	90.5%	91.6%	91.9%	91.3%	90.9%	NA	89.8%	90.4%	0.6%
Utah**	87.2%	87.9%	88.8%	89.0%	90.2%	NA	88.2%	91.8%	3.6%
Vermont	85.0%	80.0%	84.5%	89.8%	89.3%	88.8%	89.2%	90.4%	1.2%
Virginia**	80.9%	79.0%	85.3%	84.1%	85.4%	NA	81.7%	75.6%	-6.1%
Washington	94.6%	94.7%	94.8%	93.2%	93.1%	93.0%	94.2%	93.9%	-0.3%
West Virginia	89.0%	86.8%	89.7%	90.5%	90.2%	NA	88.1%	92.5%	4.4%
Wisconsin	85.8%	88.4%	89.4%	89.3%	90.2%	89.2%	88.1%	87.5%	-0.6%
Wyoming**	79.8%	80.5%	84.8%	86.3%	78.3%	82.5%	80.2%	78.3%	-1.9%
Nationwide*	88.5%	90.1%	89.7%	89.6%	90.7%	90.3%	90.4%	91.6%	1.2%
Puerto Rico**	91.8%	93.8%	87.9%	85.0%	88.3%	84.8%	88.2%	91.8%	3.6%
American Samoa	77.0%	82.9%	84.9%	93.4%	83.4%	NA	93.1%	84.2%	-8.9%
Guam	91.5%	90.1%	91.0%	92.2%	96.9%	NA	93.9%	94.2%	0.3%
No. Mariana Islands	95.6%	92.3%	92.2%	89.3%	93.9%	NA	96.4%	95.7%	-0.7%
U.S. Virgin Islands**	82.7%	79.1%	NA	NA	71.1%	68.2%	72.3%	67.0%	-5.3%

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).

**Re-selected observation sites in 2022.

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