



Seat Belt Use in 2018—Use Rates in the States and Territories

Highlights: In 2018 seat belt use in the United States ranged from 76.4 percent in New Hampshire to 97.8 percent in Hawaii. Twenty-four States, the District of Columbia, Guam, and American Samoa 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 2011 to 2018 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 2018 State and Territory survey results include the following:

- Twenty-four States, the District of Columbia, Guam, and American Samoa 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 89.6 percent in 2018 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, 2011-2018

State or U.S. Territory	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2017-2018 Change
Alabama	88.0%	89.5%	97.3%	95.7%	93.3%	92.0%	92.9%	91.8%	-1.1%
Alaska	89.3%	88.1%	86.1%	88.4%	89.3%	88.5%	90.1%	91.6%	1.5%
Arizona	82.9%	82.2%	84.7%	87.2%	86.6%	88.0%	86.1%	85.9%	-0.2%
Arkansas	78.4%	71.9%	76.7%	74.4%	77.7%	75.1%	81.0%	78.0%	-3.0%
California	96.6%	95.5%	97.4%	97.1%	97.3%	96.5%	96.2%	95.9%	-0.3%
Colorado	82.1%	80.7%	82.1%	82.4%	85.2%	84.0%	83.8%	86.3%	2.5%
Connecticut	88.4%	86.8%	86.6%	85.1%	85.4%	89.4%	90.3%	92.1%	1.8%
Delaware	90.3%	87.9%	92.2%	91.9%	90.4%	91.4%	91.4%	92.4%	1.0%
District Of Columbia	95.2%	92.4%	87.5%	93.2%	95.5%	94.1%	93.6%	95.1%	1.5%
Florida	88.1%	87.4%	87.2%	88.8%	89.4%	89.6%	90.2%	90.6%	0.4%
Georgia	93.0%	92.0%	95.5%	97.3%	97.3%	97.2%	97.1%	96.3%	-0.8%
Hawaii	96.0%	93.4%	94.0%	93.5%	92.8%	94.5%	96.9%	97.8%	0.9%
Idaho	79.1%	79.0%	81.6%	80.2%	81.1%	82.9%	81.2%	85.4%	4.2%
Illinois	92.9%	93.6%	93.7%	94.1%	95.2%	93.0%	93.8%	94.6%	0.8%
Indiana	93.2%	93.6%	91.6%	90.2%	91.9%	92.4%	93.0%	93.4%	0.4%
Iowa	93.5%	92.4%	91.9%	92.8%	93.0%	93.8%	91.4%	93.9%	2.5%
Kansas	82.9%	79.5%	80.7%	85.7%	82.1%	87.0%	82.0%	84.0%	2.0%
Kentucky	82.2%	83.7%	85.0%	86.1%	86.7%	86.5%	86.8%	89.9%	3.1%
Louisiana	77.7%	79.3%	82.5%	84.1%	85.9%	87.8%	87.1%	86.9%	-0.2%
Maine	81.6%	84.4%	83.0%	85.0%	85.5%	85.8%	88.9%	88.5%	-0.4%

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Seat Belt Use in the States, U.S. Territories, and Nationwide, 2011-2018 (continued)

State or U.S. Territory	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2017-2018 Change
Maryland	94.2%	91.1%	90.7%	92.1%	92.9%	90.8%	92.1%	90.3%	-1.8%
Massachusetts	73.2%	72.7%	74.8%	76.6%	74.1%	78.2%	73.7%	81.6%	7.9%
Michigan	94.5%	93.6%	93.0%	93.3%	92.8%	94.5%	94.1%	93.4%	-0.7%
Minnesota	92.7%	93.6%	94.8%	94.7%	94.0%	93.2%	92.0%	92.4%	0.4%
Mississippi	81.9%	83.2%	74.4%	78.3%	79.6%	77.9%	78.8%	80.2%	1.4%
Missouri	79.0%	79.4%	80.1%	78.8%	79.9%	81.4%	84.0%	87.1%	3.1%
Montana	76.9%	76.3%	74.0%	74.0%	77.0%	76.0%	78.0%	86.6%	8.6%
Nebraska	84.2%	78.6%	79.1%	79.0%	79.6%	83.3%	85.9%	85.5%	-0.4%
Nevada	94.1%	90.5%	94.8%	94.0%	92.1%	89.4%	90.6%	91.9%	1.3%
New Hampshire	75.0%	68.6%	73.0%	70.4%	69.5%	70.2%	67.6%	76.4%	8.8%
New Jersey	94.5%	88.3%	91.0%	87.6%	91.4%	93.4%	94.1%	94.5%	0.4%
New Mexico	90.5%	91.4%	92.0%	92.1%	93.3%	92.3%	91.5%	90.2%	-1.3%
New York	90.5%	90.4%	91.1%	90.6%	92.2%	91.8%	93.4%	92.9%	-0.5%
North Carolina	89.5%	87.5%	88.6%	90.6%	89.9%	91.7%	91.4%	91.3%	-0.1%
North Dakota	76.7%	80.9%	77.7%	81.0%	80.4%	82.8%	79.3%	82.5%	3.2%
Ohio	84.1%	82.0%	84.5%	85.0%	83.9%	83.8%	82.8%	84.9%	2.1%
Oklahoma	85.9%	83.8%	83.6%	86.3%	84.5%	86.6%	86.9%	85.6%	-1.3%
Oregon	96.6%	96.8%	98.2%	97.8%	95.5%	96.2%	96.8%	95.8%	-1.0%
Pennsylvania	83.8%	83.5%	84.0%	83.6%	82.7%	85.2%	85.6%	88.5%	2.9%
Rhode Island	80.4%	77.5%	85.6%	87.4%	86.7%	87.5%	88.3%	88.8%	0.5%
South Carolina	86.0%	90.5%	91.7%	90.0%	91.6%	93.9%	92.3%	89.7%	-2.6%
South Dakota	73.4%	66.5%	68.7%	68.9%	73.6%	74.2%	74.8%	78.9%	4.1%
Tennessee	87.4%	83.7%	84.8%	87.7%	86.2%	88.9%	88.5%	90.9%	2.4%
Texas	93.7%	94.0%	90.3%	90.7%	90.5%	91.6%	91.9%	91.3%	-0.6%
Utah	89.2%	81.9%	82.4%	83.4%	87.2%	87.9%	88.8%	89.0%	0.2%
Vermont	84.7%	84.2%	84.9%	84.1%	85.0%	80.0%	84.5%	89.8%	5.3%
Virginia	81.8%	78.4%	79.7%	77.3%	80.9%	79.0%	85.3%	84.1%	-1.2%
Washington	97.5%	96.9%	94.5%	94.5%	94.6%	94.7%	94.8%	93.2%	-1.6%
West Virginia	84.9%	84.0%	82.2%	87.8%	89.0%	86.8%	89.7%	90.5%	0.8%
Wisconsin	79.0%	79.9%	82.4%	84.7%	85.8%	88.4%	89.4%	89.3%	-0.1%
Wyoming	82.6%	77.0%	81.9%	79.2%	79.8%	80.5%	84.8%	86.3%	1.5%
Nationwide*	83.8%	86.1%	87.2%	86.7%	88.5%	90.1%	89.7%	89.6%	-0.1%
Puerto Rico	91.9%	90.2%	89.7%	89.5%	91.8%	93.8%	87.9%	85.0%	-2.9%
American Samoa	77.0%	75.0%	74.9%	76.3%	77.0%	82.9%	84.9%	93.4%	8.5%
Guam	81.0%	81.4%	93.8%	90.1%	91.5%	90.1%	91.0%	92.2%	1.2%
No. Mariana Islands	93.7%	NA	90.5%	91.4%	95.6%	92.3%	92.2%	89.3%	-2.9%
U.S. Virgin Islands	85.6%	77.9%	76.8%	66.1%	82.7%	79.1%	NA	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 the NOPUS.

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