



# Seat Belt Use in 2010—Use Rates in the States and Territories

In 2010, seat belt use in the United States ranged from 72.2 percent in New Hampshire to 97.6 percent in Hawaii and Washington. These results are from probability-based observational surveys conducted by 50 States, the District of Columbia, and U.S. Territories. These surveys are conducted in accordance with criteria established by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to ensure reliable results. Compliance with the criteria is verified annually by NHTSA's National Center for Statistics and Analysis.

The 2010 State and Territory surveys also found the following:

- Fifteen States and the District of Columbia achieved use rates of 90 percent or higher. These States include Hawaii, Washington, Oregon, California, Michigan, Maryland, Texas, New Jersey, Nevada, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Alabama, and Delaware.
- Jurisdictions with stronger seat belt enforcement laws continue to exhibit generally higher use rates than those with weaker laws. Kansas strengthened its seat belt law to a primary enforcement law, effective June 2010. This

State saw a jump in use rate from 77.0 percent in 2009 to 81.8 percent in 2010.

- Seat belt use rates in the States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, other U.S. Territories, and nationwide from 2003 to 2010 are listed in the following table. 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.

### National Seat Belt Use Rate

The nationwide seat belt use was 85 percent in 2010 as measured by NHTSA's National Occupant Protection Use Survey (NOPUS). NOPUS is a national probability-based survey, which is 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, this survey provides a different 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, 2003-2010**

State or U.S. Territory	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2009-2010 Change
Alabama	77.4%	80.0%	81.8%	82.9%	82.3%	86.1%	90.0%	91.4%	1.4%
Alaska	78.9%	76.7%	78.4%	83.2%	82.4%	84.9%	86.1%	86.8%	0.7%
Arizona	86.2%	95.3%	94.2%	78.9%	80.9%	79.9%	80.8%	81.8%	1.0%
Arkansas	62.8%	64.2%	68.3%	69.3%	69.9%	70.4%	74.4%	78.3%	3.9%
California	91.2%	90.4%	92.5%	93.4%	94.6%	95.7%	95.3%	96.2%	0.9%
Colorado	77.7%	79.3%	79.2%	80.3%	81.1%	81.7%	81.1%	82.9%	1.8%
Connecticut	78.0%	82.9%	81.6%	83.5%	85.8%	88.0%	85.9%	88.2%	2.3%
Delaware	74.9%	82.3%	83.8%	86.1%	86.6%	91.3%	88.4%	90.7%	2.3%
Dist. Of Columbia	84.9%	87.1%	88.8%	85.4%	87.1%	90.0%	93.0%	92.3%	-0.7%
Florida	72.6%	76.3%	73.9%	80.7%	79.1%	81.7%	85.2%	87.4%	2.2%
Georgia	84.5%	86.7%	89.9%	90.0%	89.0%	89.6%	88.9%	89.6%	0.7%
Hawaii	91.8%	95.1%	95.3%	92.5%	97.6%	97.0%	97.9%	97.6%	-0.3%
Idaho	71.7%	74.0%	76.0%	79.8%	78.5%	76.9%	79.2%	77.9%	-1.3%
Illinois	80.1%	83.0%	86.0%	87.8%	90.1%	90.5%	91.7%	92.6%	0.9%
Indiana	82.3%	83.4%	81.2%	84.3%	87.9%	91.2%	92.6%	92.4%	-0.2%
Iowa	86.8%	86.4%	87.1%	89.6%	91.3%	92.9%	93.1%	93.1%	0.0%

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**Table: Seat Belt Use in States, U.S. Territories, and Nationwide, 2003-2010**

State or U.S. Territory	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2009-2010 Change
Kansas	63.6%	68.3%	69.0%	73.5%	75.0%	77.4%	77.0%	81.8%	4.8%
Kentucky	65.5%	66.0%	66.7%	67.2%	71.8%	73.3%	79.7%	80.3%	0.6%
Louisiana	73.8%	75.0%	77.7%	74.8%	75.2%	75.5%	74.5%	75.9%	1.4%
Maine	NA	72.3%	75.8%	77.2%	79.8%	83.0%	82.6%	82.0%	-0.6%
Maryland	87.9%	89.0%	91.1%	91.1%	93.1%	93.3%	94.0%	94.7%	0.7%
Massachusetts	61.7%	63.3%	64.8%	66.9%	68.7%	66.8%	73.6%	73.7%	0.1%
Michigan	84.8%	90.5%	92.9%	94.3%	93.7%	97.2%	98.0%	95.2%	-2.8%
Minnesota	79.4%	82.1%	83.9%	83.3%	87.8%	86.7%	90.2%	92.3%	2.1%
Mississippi	62.2%	63.2%	60.8%	73.6%	71.8%	71.3%	76.0%	81.0%	5.0%
Missouri	72.9%	75.9%	77.4%	75.2%	77.2%	75.8%	77.2%	76.0%	-1.2%
Montana	79.5%	80.9%	80.0%	79.0%	79.6%	79.3%	79.2%	78.9%	-0.3%
Nebraska	76.1%	79.2%	79.2%	76.0%	78.7%	82.6%	84.8%	84.1%	-0.7%
Nevada	78.7%	86.6%	94.8%	91.2%	92.2%	90.9%	91.0%	93.2%	2.2%
New Hampshire	49.6%*	NA	NA	63.5%	63.8%	69.2%	68.9%	72.2%	3.3%
New Jersey	81.2%	82.0%	86.0%	90.0%	91.4%	91.8%	92.7%	93.7%	1.0%
New Mexico	87.2%	89.7%	89.5%	89.6%	91.5%	91.1%	90.1%	89.8%	-0.3%
New York	84.6%	85.0%	85.0%	83.0%	83.5%	89.1%	88.0%	89.8%	1.8%
North Carolina	86.1%	86.1%	86.7%	88.5%	88.8%	89.8%	89.5%	89.7%	0.2%
North Dakota	63.7%	67.4%	76.3%	79.0%	82.2%	81.6%	81.5%	74.8%	-6.7%
Ohio	74.7%	74.1%	78.7%	81.7%	81.6%	82.7%	83.6%	83.8%	0.2%
Oklahoma	76.7%	80.3%	83.1%	83.7%	83.1%	84.3%	84.2%	85.9%	1.7%
Oregon	90.4%	92.6%	93.3%	94.1%	95.3%	96.3%	96.6%	97.0%	0.4%
Pennsylvania	79.0%	81.8%	83.3%	86.3%	86.7%	85.1%	87.9%	86.0%	-1.9%
Rhode Island	74.2%	76.2%	74.7%	74.0%	79.1%	72.0%	74.7%	78.0%	3.3%
South Carolina	72.8%	65.7%	69.7%	72.5%	74.5%	79.0%	81.5%	85.4%	3.9%
South Dakota	69.9%	69.4%	68.8%	71.3%	73.0%	71.8%	72.1%	74.5%	2.4%
Tennessee	68.5%	72.0%	74.4%	78.6%	80.2%	81.5%	80.6%	87.1%	6.5%
Texas	84.3%	83.2%	89.9%	90.4%	91.8%	91.2%	92.9%	93.8%	0.9%
Utah	85.2%	85.7%	86.9%	88.6%	86.8%	86.0%	86.1%	89.0%	2.9%
Vermont	82.4%	79.9%	84.7%	82.4%	87.1%	87.3%	85.3%	85.2%	-0.1%
Virginia	74.6%	79.9%	80.4%	78.7%	79.9%	80.6%	82.3%	80.5%	-1.8%
Washington	94.8%	94.2%	95.2%	96.3%	96.4%	96.5%	96.4%	97.6%	1.2%
West Virginia	73.6%	75.8%	84.9%	88.5%	89.6%	89.5%	87.0%	82.1%	-4.9%
Wisconsin	69.8%	72.4%	73.3%	75.4%	75.3%	74.2%	73.8%	79.2%	5.4%
Wyoming	NA	70.1%	NA	63.5%	72.2%	68.6%	67.6%	78.9%	11.3%
<b>Nationwide</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>1%</b>
Puerto Rico	87.1%	90.1%	92.5%	92.7%	92.1%	92.8%	92.3%	NA	
American Samoa	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	55.7%	60.0%	73.0%	13.0%
Guam	NA	NA	NA	NA	81%	85.0%	80.0%	85.0%	5.0%
Northern Mariana Islands	NA	NA	NA	NA	80%	89.8%	84.6%	80.9%	-3.7%
U.S. Virgin Island	NA	NA	NA	80.2%	NA	82.3%	85.6%	86.4%	0.8%

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

\*The 2003 rate for New Hampshire was not reported by the State. It was obtained from an independent source.

NA: No rate reported.



U.S. Department of Transportation  
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Administration**

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