



Seat Belt Use in 2019—Use Rates in the States and Territories

Highlights: In 2019, seat belt use in the United States ranged from 70.7 percent in New Hampshire to 97.1 percent in Hawaii. Twenty-six States, the District of Columbia, Guam, and 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 2012 to 2019 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 2019 State and Territory survey results include the following:

- Twenty-six States, the District of Columbia, Guam, and 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 90.7 percent in 2019 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, 2012–2019

State or U.S. Territory	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2018-2019 Change
Alabama	89.5%	97.3%	95.7%	93.3%	92.0%	92.9%	91.8%	92.3%	0.5%
Alaska	88.1%	86.1%	88.4%	89.3%	88.5%	90.1%	91.6%	94.1%	2.5%
Arizona	82.2%	84.7%	87.2%	86.6%	88.0%	86.1%	85.9%	90.6%	4.7%
Arkansas	71.9%	76.7%	74.4%	77.7%	75.1%	81.0%	78.0%	81.9%	3.9%
California	95.5%	97.4%	97.1%	97.3%	96.5%	96.2%	95.9%	96.0%	0.1%
Colorado	80.7%	82.1%	82.4%	85.2%	84.0%	83.8%	86.3%	88.3%	2.0%
Connecticut	86.8%	86.6%	85.1%	85.4%	89.4%	90.3%	92.1%	93.7%	1.6%
Delaware	87.9%	92.2%	91.9%	90.4%	91.4%	91.4%	92.4%	92.5%	0.1%
District of Columbia	92.4%	87.5%	93.2%	95.5%	94.1%	93.6%	95.1%	95.4%	0.3%
Florida	87.4%	87.2%	88.8%	89.4%	89.6%	90.2%	90.6%	89.8%	-0.8%
Georgia	92.0%	95.5%	97.3%	97.3%	97.2%	97.1%	96.3%	95.9%	-0.4%
Hawaii	93.4%	94.0%	93.5%	92.8%	94.5%	96.9%	97.8%	97.1%	-0.7%
Idaho	79.0%	81.6%	80.2%	81.1%	82.9%	81.2%	85.4%	85.7%	0.3%
Illinois	93.6%	93.7%	94.1%	95.2%	93.0%	93.8%	94.6%	94.3%	-0.3%
Indiana	93.6%	91.6%	90.2%	91.9%	92.4%	93.0%	93.4%	94.9%	1.5%
Iowa	92.4%	91.9%	92.8%	93.0%	93.8%	91.4%	93.9%	94.6%	0.7%
Kansas	79.5%	80.7%	85.7%	82.1%	87.0%	82.0%	84.0%	84.9%	0.9%
Kentucky	83.7%	85.0%	86.1%	86.7%	86.5%	86.8%	89.9%	89.7%	-0.2%
Louisiana	79.3%	82.5%	84.1%	85.9%	87.8%	87.1%	86.9%	87.5%	0.6%
Maine	84.4%	83.0%	85.0%	85.5%	85.8%	88.9%	88.5%	88.5%	0.0%

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Seat Belt Use in the States, U.S. Territories, and Nationwide, 2012–2019 (continued)

State or U.S. Territory	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2018-2019 Change
Maryland	91.1%	90.7%	92.1%	92.9%	90.8%	92.1%	90.3%	90.4%	0.1%
Massachusetts	72.7%	74.8%	76.6%	74.1%	78.2%	73.7%	81.6%	81.6%	0.0%
Michigan	93.6%	93.0%	93.3%	92.8%	94.5%	94.1%	93.4%	94.4%	1.0%
Minnesota	93.6%	94.8%	94.7%	94.0%	93.2%	92.0%	92.4%	93.4%	1.0%
Mississippi	83.2%	74.4%	78.3%	79.6%	77.9%	78.8%	80.2%	80.5%	0.3%
Missouri	79.4%	80.1%	78.8%	79.9%	81.4%	84.0%	87.1%	87.7%	0.6%
Montana	76.3%	74.0%	74.0%	77.0%	76.0%	78.0%	86.6%	88.9%	2.3%
Nebraska	78.6%	79.1%	79.0%	79.6%	83.3%	85.9%	85.5%	79.7%	-5.8%
Nevada	90.5%	94.8%	94.0%	92.1%	89.4%	90.6%	91.9%	94.2%	2.3%
New Hampshire	68.6%	73.0%	70.4%	69.5%	70.2%	67.6%	76.4%	70.7%	-5.7%
New Jersey	88.3%	91.0%	87.6%	91.4%	93.4%	94.1%	94.5%	90.2%	-4.3%
New Mexico	91.4%	92.0%	92.1%	93.3%	92.3%	91.5%	90.2%	91.8%	1.6%
New York	90.4%	91.1%	90.6%	92.2%	91.8%	93.4%	92.9%	94.2%	1.3%
North Carolina	87.5%	88.6%	90.6%	89.9%	91.7%	91.4%	91.3%	88.4%	-2.9%
North Dakota	80.9%	77.7%	81.0%	80.4%	82.8%	79.3%	82.5%	83.7%	1.2%
Ohio	82.0%	84.5%	85.0%	83.9%	83.8%	82.8%	84.9%	85.9%	1.0%
Oklahoma	83.8%	83.6%	86.3%	84.5%	86.6%	86.9%	85.6%	84.7%	-0.9%
Oregon	96.8%	98.2%	97.8%	95.5%	96.2%	96.8%	95.8%	95.7%	-0.1%
Pennsylvania	83.5%	84.0%	83.6%	82.7%	85.2%	85.6%	88.5%	88.6%	0.1%
Rhode Island	77.5%	85.6%	87.4%	86.7%	87.5%	88.3%	88.8%	88.3%	-0.5%
South Carolina	90.5%	91.7%	90.0%	91.6%	93.9%	92.3%	89.7%	90.3%	0.6%
South Dakota	66.5%	68.7%	68.9%	73.6%	74.2%	74.8%	78.9%	75.2%	-3.7%
Tennessee	83.7%	84.8%	87.7%	86.2%	88.9%	88.5%	90.9%	91.8%	0.9%
Texas	94.0%	90.3%	90.7%	90.5%	91.6%	91.9%	91.3%	90.9%	-0.4%
Utah	81.9%	82.4%	83.4%	87.2%	87.9%	88.8%	89.0%	90.2%	1.2%
Vermont	84.2%	84.9%	84.1%	85.0%	80.0%	84.5%	89.8%	89.3%	-0.5%
Virginia	78.4%	79.7%	77.3%	80.9%	79.0%	85.3%	84.1%	85.4%	1.3%
Washington	96.9%	94.5%	94.5%	94.6%	94.7%	94.8%	93.2%	93.1%	-0.1%
West Virginia	84.0%	82.2%	87.8%	89.0%	86.8%	89.7%	90.5%	90.2%	-0.3%
Wisconsin	79.9%	82.4%	84.7%	85.8%	88.4%	89.4%	89.3%	90.2%	0.9%
Wyoming	77.0%	81.9%	79.2%	79.8%	80.5%	84.8%	86.3%	78.3%	-8.0%
Nationwide*	86.1%	87.2%	86.7%	88.5%	90.1%	89.7%	89.6%	90.7%	1.1%
Puerto Rico	90.2%	89.7%	89.5%	91.8%	93.8%	87.9%	85.0%	88.3%	3.3%
American Samoa	75.0%	74.9%	76.3%	77.0%	82.9%	84.9%	93.4%	83.4%	-10.0%
Guam	81.4%	93.8%	90.1%	91.5%	90.1%	91.0%	92.2%	96.9%	4.7%
No. Mariana Islands	NA	90.5%	91.4%	95.6%	92.3%	92.2%	89.3%	93.9%	4.6%
U.S. Virgin Islands	77.9%	76.8%	66.1%	82.7%	79.1%	NA	NA	71.1%	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 NHTSA's National Occupant Protection Use Survey (NOPUS).

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