



# Seat Belt Use in 2020 — Use Rates in the States and Territories

## Highlights

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, NHTSA issued a [waiver](#) through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act related to conducting 2020 seat belt use surveys. This waiver enabled States and U.S. Territories to use their 2019 seat belt use rate for their 2020 seat belt use rate. Twenty-one States and U.S. Territories conducted 2020 seat belt use surveys and are indicated in the table below. The seat belt use results are from probability-based observational surveys conducted by 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 2013 to 2020 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. In 2020 seat belt use in the United States ranged from 68.2 percent in the U.S. Virgin Islands to 95.7 percent in the District of Columbia.

## National Seat Belt Use Rate

The nationwide seat belt use rate was 90.3 percent in 2020 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, 2013–2020

State or U.S. Territory	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2019–2020 Change
Alabama	97.3%	95.7%	93.3%	92.0%	92.9%	91.8%	92.3%	NA	NA
Alaska	86.1%	88.4%	89.3%	88.5%	90.1%	91.6%	94.1%	NA	NA
Arizona	84.7%	87.2%	86.6%	88.0%	86.1%	85.9%	90.6%	NA	NA
Arkansas	76.7%	74.4%	77.7%	75.1%	81.0%	78.0%	81.9%	NA	NA
California	97.4%	97.1%	97.3%	96.5%	96.2%	95.9%	96.0%	NA	NA
Colorado	82.1%	82.4%	85.2%	84.0%	83.8%	86.3%	88.3%	86.3%	-2.0%
Connecticut	86.6%	85.1%	85.4%	89.4%	90.3%	92.1%	93.7%	NA	NA
Delaware	92.2%	91.9%	90.4%	91.4%	91.4%	92.4%	92.5%	NA	NA
Dist. Of Columbia	87.5%	93.2%	95.5%	94.1%	93.6%	95.1%	95.4%	95.7%	0.3%
Florida	87.2%	88.8%	89.4%	89.6%	90.2%	90.6%	89.8%	NA	NA
Georgia	95.5%	97.3%	97.3%	97.2%	97.1%	96.3%	95.9%	NA	NA
Hawaii	94.0%	93.5%	92.8%	94.5%	96.9%	97.8%	97.1%	NA	NA
Idaho	81.6%	80.2%	81.1%	82.9%	81.2%	85.4%	85.7%	NA	NA
Illinois	93.7%	94.1%	95.2%	93.0%	93.8%	94.6%	94.3%	NA	NA
Indiana	91.6%	90.2%	91.9%	92.4%	93.0%	93.4%	94.9%	NA	NA
Iowa	91.9%	92.8%	93.0%	93.8%	91.4%	93.9%	94.6%	95.2%	0.6%
Kansas	80.7%	85.7%	82.1%	87.0%	82.0%	84.0%	84.9%	85.0%	0.1%

## Seat Belt Use in the States, U.S. Territories, and Nationwide, 2013–2020

State or U.S. Territory	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2019–2020 Change
Kentucky	85.0%	86.1%	86.7%	86.5%	86.8%	89.9%	89.7%	NA	NA
Louisiana	82.5%	84.1%	85.9%	87.8%	87.1%	86.9%	87.5%	NA	NA
Maine	83.0%	85.0%	85.5%	85.8%	88.9%	88.5%	88.5%	NA	NA
Maryland	90.7%	92.1%	92.9%	90.8%	92.1%	90.3%	90.4%	89.9%	-0.5%
Massachusetts	74.8%	76.6%	74.1%	78.2%	73.7%	81.6%	81.6%	NA	NA
Michigan	93.0%	93.3%	92.8%	94.5%	94.1%	93.4%	94.4%	NA	NA
Minnesota	94.8%	94.7%	94.0%	93.2%	92.0%	92.4%	93.4%	NA	NA
Mississippi	74.4%	78.3%	79.6%	77.9%	78.8%	80.2%	80.5%	79.3%	-1.2%
Missouri	80.1%	78.8%	79.9%	81.4%	84.0%	87.1%	87.7%	86.1%	-1.6%
Montana	74.0%	74.0%	77.0%	76.0%	78.0%	86.6%	88.9%	89.9%	1.0%
Nebraska	79.1%	79.0%	79.6%	83.3%	85.9%	85.5%	79.7%	80.6%	0.9%
Nevada	94.8%	94.0%	92.1%	89.4%	90.6%	91.9%	94.2%	NA	NA
New Hampshire	73.0%	70.4%	69.5%	70.2%	67.6%	76.4%	70.7%	72.4%	1.7%
New Jersey	91.0%	87.6%	91.4%	93.4%	94.1%	94.5%	90.2%	NA	NA
New Mexico	92.0%	92.1%	93.3%	92.3%	91.5%	90.2%	91.8%	NA	NA
New York	91.1%	90.6%	92.2%	91.8%	93.4%	92.9%	94.2%	NA	NA
North Carolina	88.6%	90.6%	89.9%	91.7%	91.4%	91.3%	88.4%	87.1%	-1.3%
North Dakota	77.7%	81.0%	80.4%	82.8%	79.3%	82.5%	83.7%	83.7%	0.0%
Ohio	84.5%	85.0%	83.9%	83.8%	82.8%	84.9%	85.9%	NA	NA
Oklahoma	83.6%	86.3%	84.5%	86.6%	86.9%	85.6%	84.7%	NA	NA
Oregon	98.2%	97.8%	95.5%	96.2%	96.8%	95.8%	95.7%	94.6%	-1.1%
Pennsylvania	84.0%	83.6%	82.7%	85.2%	85.6%	88.5%	88.6%	88.9%	0.3%
Rhode Island	85.6%	87.4%	86.7%	87.5%	88.3%	88.8%	88.3%	NA	NA
South Carolina	91.7%	90.0%	91.6%	93.9%	92.3%	89.7%	90.3%	NA	NA
South Dakota	68.7%	68.9%	73.6%	74.2%	74.8%	78.9%	75.2%	68.3%	-6.9%
Tennessee	84.8%	87.7%	86.2%	88.9%	88.5%	90.9%	91.8%	NA	NA
Texas	90.3%	90.7%	90.5%	91.6%	91.9%	91.3%	90.9%	NA	NA
Utah	82.4%	83.4%	87.2%	87.9%	88.8%	89.0%	90.2%	NA	NA
Vermont	84.9%	84.1%	85.0%	80.0%	84.5%	89.8%	89.3%	88.8%	-0.5%
Virginia	79.7%	77.3%	80.9%	79.0%	85.3%	84.1%	85.4%	NA	NA
Washington	94.5%	94.5%	94.6%	94.7%	94.8%	93.2%	93.1%	93.0%	-0.1%
West Virginia	82.2%	87.8%	89.0%	86.8%	89.7%	90.5%	90.2%	NA	NA
Wisconsin	82.4%	84.7%	85.8%	88.4%	89.4%	89.3%	90.2%	89.2%	-1.0%
Wyoming	81.9%	79.2%	79.8%	80.5%	84.8%	86.3%	78.3%	82.5%	4.2%
<b>Nationwide*</b>	<b>87.2%</b>	<b>86.7%</b>	<b>88.5%</b>	<b>90.1%</b>	<b>89.7%</b>	<b>89.6%</b>	<b>90.7%</b>	<b>90.3%</b>	<b>-0.4%</b>
Puerto Rico	89.7%	89.5%	91.8%	93.8%	87.9%	85.0%	88.3%	84.8%	-3.5%
American Samoa	74.9%	76.3%	77.0%	82.9%	84.9%	93.4%	83.4%	NA	NA
Guam	93.8%	90.1%	91.5%	90.1%	91.0%	92.2%	96.9%	NA	NA
No. Mariana Islands	90.5%	91.4%	95.6%	92.3%	92.2%	89.3%	93.9%	NA	NA
U.S. Virgin Islands	76.8%	66.1%	82.7%	79.1%	NA	NA	71.1%	68.2%	-2.9%

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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