

Crash Statistics

Crash Statistics: Do Seat Belts Make a Difference? These statistics make the case clear.

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Nationally

- On average, every **47 minutes**, someone not wearing a seat belt dies in a car crash.
- In **2022, 11,302** people killed in car crashes were not wearing seat belts.
- The national estimate of seat belt use during the day by adult front-seat passengers in **2023** was **91.9%**.
- In **2022**, more unrestrained passenger vehicle occupants died in traffic crashes at night (**6,252**) than during the day (**4,949**).
- In **2022, 57%** of passenger vehicle occupants killed at night (6 p.m.–5:59 a.m.) were not wearing seat belts.
- Among young adults aged **18 to 34** killed while riding in passenger vehicles in **2022**, more than half (**60%**) were completely unrestrained—one of the highest percentages for all age groups.
- Men make up the majority of those killed in traffic crashes and are overrepresented in unrestrained fatalities, with **54% of men (8,098 people)** and **41% of women (3,201 people)** dying without a seat belt in **2022**.

In Minnesota

- An annual seat belt survey showed the percentage of people buckling up in Minnesota reached a near all-time high of **94.7% in 2024**, the highest rate in a decade, and up **0.5% from 2023**.
- This increase was led by greater seat belt use among young adults (16 to 29 years old), male occupants (drivers and front-seat passengers), and pickup drivers.
- The percentage of young adults choosing to wear a seat belt rose to a **10-year high of 93.6%**.
- Male occupants increased their seat belt use to **93.6% from 92.6% in 2024**.
- Pickup drivers achieved an all-time seat belt use high of **91.9%**.
- Preliminary counts show **84 unbelted motorists** died on Minnesota roads in **2023**, compared to **87 in 2022** and **110 in 2021**.
- In **1987, 4,176** vehicle occupants suffered severe injuries in traffic crashes; that number was reduced to **1,285 last year**.

Remember:

Minnesota law requires all drivers and passengers to wear seat belts or be in the correct car seat or booster seat. Seat belts should be positioned tight across the hips or thighs and the shoulder belt should be placed across the chest—never tucked under the arm or behind the back.

