



zero deaths | zero serious injuries
on Montana roadways

Montana Department of Transportation

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MONTANA SEATBELT FACT SHEET

Seatbelts are the single most effective traffic safety device in vehicles today. A primary seatbelt law is the most effective strategy to increase seatbelt usage and save lives.

2015 Fatalities

- 224 fatalities on Montana's roadways
- 118 of those fatalities are attributed to not wearing a seat belt
- 111 of the 118 unrestrained fatalities occurred in Rural crashes
- 86 of the unrestrained fatalities were ejected
- Sixty eight percent of those who died on Montana's roadways weren't wearing a seatbelt. (excludes pedestrian, bicyclist and motorcyclist fatalities).

2011-2015 (MDT)

- 67% of fatalities in vehicles with seatbelts were unrestrained
- More than 3 out of 4 people ejected during a fatal crash die from their injuries
- Nearly 400 ejected fatalities

Seatbelt Usage

- Montana's current observed seatbelt usage rate is 76%, the fourth lowest in the nation.
 - ❖ MT Dept. of Transportation-State Highway Traffic Safety Section (MDT-SHTSS) 2016 Data
- Seatbelt usage would increase if we had a primary seatbelt law.
 - ❖ NHTSA: Strategies to Increase Seat Belt Use: An Analysis of Levels of Fines and the Type of Law. View it here: <http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/164480.aspx>
- Seatbelt use in states that have a primary seatbelt law continues to be higher, approximately 12 percent, compared with states that have secondary enforcement laws.
 - ❖ NHTSA Traffic Safety Facts Seat Belt Use in 2015 – Overall Results (February, 2016 DOT HS 812 243)
 - ❖ NHTSA: Strategies to Increase Seat Belt Use: An Analysis of Levels of Fines and the Type of Law. View it here: <http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/164480.aspx>
- The risk of a moderate to critical injury is reduced by half. For people in the front seats of SUVs, vans and pickups, the use of lap and shoulder belts reduces the risk of a fatal injury by 60 percent and a moderate to critical injury by 65 percent.
 - ❖ Insurance Institute For Highway Safety (IIHS) <http://www.iihs.org/iihs/topics/t/safety-belts/qanda>
 - ❖ <http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Pubs/808945.pdf>

2015 Data:

- 68% (118/173) of fatalities in automobiles with seat belts were not using them
- 96% (86/90) of the ejected fatalities were unrestrained
- 81% (200/248) of the unrestrained people ejected in Montana's roadway crashes suffered fatal or serious injuries

Economic Cost:

- The average cost, per motor vehicle fatality, is **\$1.5 million dollars!**