



Vermont

Primary Enforcement Seat Belts

Safety Facts

Traffic deaths are rising across the country. More than 40,000 people died in automobile crashes in 2016, a six percent increase from 2015, (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, NHTSA).

As of October 2017, there have been 53 traffic fatalities in Vermont, the highest total to date in five years. As fatalities rise seat belt use is declining. Vermont's current seat belt use at 80%, it's lowest since 2004.

Lack of seatbelt use, drugged driving, distracted driving and speeding are the main factors for the increase in fatalities. It is more important than ever to buckle up.



Over the past 5 years 40% of highway fatalities have been either unrestrained or improperly restrained, (NHTSA)

Unbuckled injuries cost 55% more to treat than are restrained, (NHTSA)

It's estimated that if Vermont passed a primary seat belt law belt usage could increase by 8 percentage points, (NHTSA)

34 States have primary seat belt enforcement

Why is Vermont's law not enforced like every other other motor vehicle law?



90.1%
United States
National average,
2016*
* NHTSA

Vermont's seat
belt use is below
the national
average

80%
Vermont's state
average 2016*
* NHTSA

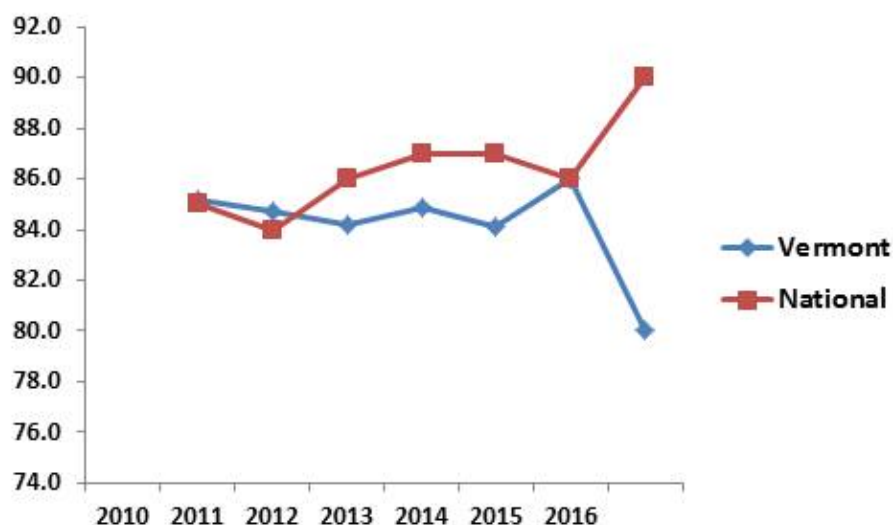
Kids Pay Attention

Parents are the number one influence on children's seat belt safety. Research shows that children whose parents buckle up are more likely to buckle up themselves.

SEAT BELTS SAVE LIVES

Seatbelt Use:

Percentage of Drivers Wearing Seat Belts



13,941

Number of lives saved nationally by seat belts in 2015, (NHTSA)

Each Year Vermont could save about;

3 Lives

15 Serious Injuries

\$6 million in costs*

*Based on a 8 percentage point increase from the 2016 VT seat belt use rate.

Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)

AAA supports safety belt use as a primary law rather than a secondary law. The simplest and most cost effective way to prevent injury and death is by buckling up. Safety belts save lives, reduce injury and reduce the millions of dollars in associated costs that we all pay.

