



AGENCY OF TRANSPORTATION
Governor's Highway Safety Program

Transportation Committee Handout 2018:
Seat Belt Usage Compliance Data

<http://ghsp.vermont.gov/content/reports-and-data>

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Seat Belt Compliance

I. Introduction

Seat belt laws are divided into two categories: *primary* and *secondary*. Primary seat belt laws allow law enforcement officers to ticket a driver or passenger for not wearing a seat belt, without any other traffic offense taking place. Secondary seat belt laws state that law enforcement officers may issue a ticket for not wearing a seat belt only when there is another citable traffic infraction.

- **34 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands** have primary seat belt laws for front seat occupants. Of these:
 - **18 states, D.C. and 2 territories** include rear seats as primary enforcement.
 - **4 states** include rear seats as secondary enforcement.
 - **12 states and the Virgin Islands** do not include rear seats.
- **15 states** have secondary laws for adult front seat occupants. Of these:
 - **6 states** also have secondary laws for rear seats.
 - **9 states** do not include rear seats.
- **New Hampshire** has enacted neither a primary nor a secondary seat belt law for adults, although the state does have a primary child passenger safety law that covers all drivers and passengers under 18. (Source GHSA Website, Accessed February 2018)

Of the 69 people that lost their lives on Vermont highways 24 were unbelted. Of those 24 lives lost 7 were either partially or totally ejected from the vehicle. FARS 2017 Data (FARS-Fatality Analysis Reporting System).

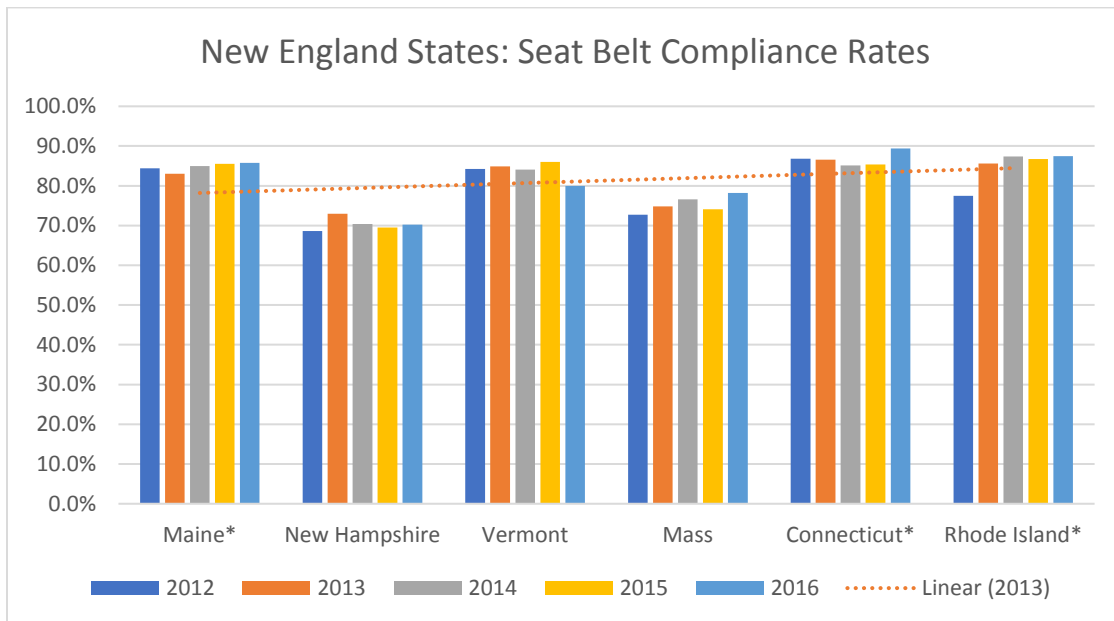
Person Fatalities by Ejected Status					
Year	Not ejected	Partially ejected	Totally ejected	Unknown	Grand Total
2010	45	2	11		58
2011	37	2	6		45
2012	41	5	12		58
2013	42	2	14	1	59
2014	25	2	6		33
2015	26	3	7		36
2016	32	4	12		48
2017**	41	2	5		48
Grand Total	289	22	73	1	385
<i>*This table does not count pedestrians, bicyclists or motorcyclists.</i>					
<i>**2017 is not complete - as of 1/3/18</i>					

II. Secondary Belt Law to Primary Enforcement

States that went from a Secondary Seat Belt Law to a Primary Seat Belt Law						
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	AVG By State
Alabama	89.5%	97.3%	95.7%	93.3%	92.0%	93.6%
Alaska	88.1%	86.1%	88.4%	89.3%	88.5%	88.1%
Arkansas	71.9%	76.7%	74.4%	77.7%	75.1%	75.2%
California	95.5%	97.4%	97.1%	97.3%	96.5%	96.8%
Delaware	87.9%	92.2%	91.9%	90.4%	91.4%	90.8%
Washington D.C.	92.4%	87.5%	93.2%	95.5%	94.1%	92.5%
Florida	87.4%	87.2%	88.8%	89.4%	89.6%	88.5%
Georgia	92.0%	95.5%	97.3%	97.3%	97.2%	95.9%
Illinois	93.6%	93.7%	94.1%	95.2%	93.0%	93.9%
Indiana	93.6%	91.6%	90.2%	91.9%	92.4%	91.9%
Kansas	79.5%	80.7%	85.7%	82.1%	89.0%	83.4%
Kentucky	83.7%	85.0%	86.1%	86.7%	86.5%	85.6%
Louisiana	79.3%	82.5%	84.1%	85.9%	87.8%	83.9%
Maine	84.4%	83.0%	85.0%	85.5%	85.8%	84.7%
Maryland	91.1%	90.7%	92.1%	92.9%	90.8%	91.5%
Michigan	93.6%	93.0%	93.3%	92.8%	94.5%	93.4%
Minnesota	93.6%	94.8%	94.7%	94.0%	93.2%	94.1%
Mississippi	83.2%	74.4%	78.3%	79.6%	77.9%	78.7%
New Jersey	88.3%	91.0%	87.6%	91.4%	93.4%	90.3%
North Carolina	87.5%	88.6%	90.6%	89.9%	91.7%	89.7%
Oklahoma	83.8%	83.6%	86.3%	84.5%	86.6%	85.0%
Rhode Island	77.5%	85.6%	87.4%	86.7%	87.5%	84.9%
South Carolina	90.5%	91.7%	90.0%	91.6%	93.9%	91.5%
Tennessee	83.7%	84.8%	87.7%	86.2%	88.9%	86.3%
Washington	96.9%	94.5%	94.5%	94.6%	94.7%	95.0%
West Virginia	84.0%	82.2%	87.8%	89.0%	86.8%	86.0%
Wisconsin	79.9%	82.4%	84.7%	85.8%	88.4%	84.2%
*Eight states enacted primary laws initially without previously having a secondary law.						
					Median AVG	89.7%
AVG By Year	87.1%	87.9%	89.1%	89.5%	89.9%	

III. New England Seat Belt Data

New England States: Seat Belt Compliance Rates	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	AVG By State	Primary Belt Law: Year Enacted
Maine*	84.4%	83.0%	85.0%	85.5%	85.8%	84.7%	2007
New Hampshire	68.6%	73.0%	70.4%	69.5%	70.2%	70.3%	
Vermont	84.2%	84.9%	84.1%	86.0%	80.0%	83.8%	
Mass	72.7%	74.8%	76.6%	74.1%	78.2%	75.3%	
Connecticut*	86.8%	86.6%	85.1%	85.4%	89.4%	86.7%	1986
Rhode Island*	77.5%	85.6%	87.4%	86.7%	87.5%	84.9%	2011
*States with Primary Seat Belt Law					Median AVG	84.3%	
AVG By Year	79.0%	81.3%	81.4%	81.2%	81.9%		



IV. Primary Seat Belt States

Seat Belt Laws by State Updated February 2017

States with Primary Seat Belt Laws

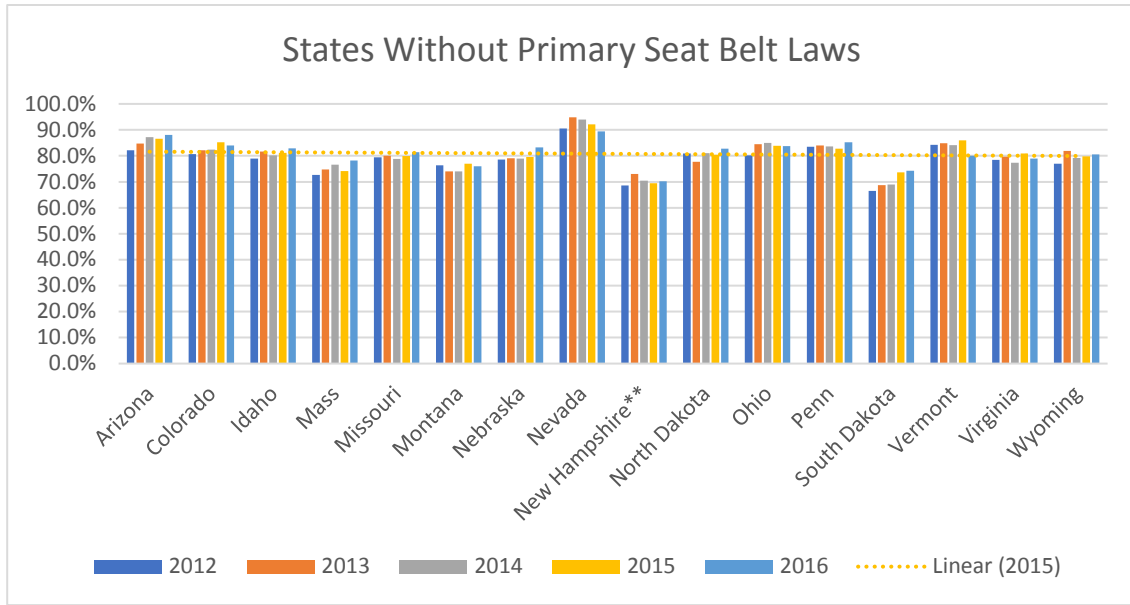
State	Who is Covered (Yrs.)	In What Seat	Maximum Fine 1st Offense
Alabama	>15	Front	\$25
Alaska	>16	All	\$15
Arkansas	>15	Front	\$25 (plus court costs and city/county jail fines)
California	>16	All	\$162 (\$20 fine + \$142 in penalties and assessments)
Connecticut	>7	Front	\$92 for >18 (\$50 fine + \$7 fee + \$35 surcharge) \$120 for <18 (\$75 fine + \$10 fee + \$35 surcharge)
Delaware ¹	>16	All	\$25
D.C.	>16	All	\$50
Florida	>6	Front	\$30
	6 - 17	All	
Georgia	8 - 17	All	\$15
	>18	Front	
Guam	All	All	\$100
Hawaii	>8	All	\$112 (including administrative fees)
Illinois	<18, if driver <18	All	\$25 plus court costs
	>16	All	
Indiana	>16	All	\$25
Iowa	All	Front	\$127.50 (including court costs)
Kansas	14 - 17	All	\$60
	>18	Front (other seating positions are secondary enforcement)	\$10
Kentucky	<6 and >50"	All	\$25
	>7		
Louisiana	>13	All	\$25
Maine	>18	All	\$50
Maryland	>16	All (secondary for rear seats)	\$83 (fine plus court costs)
Michigan	>16	Front	\$25
Minnesota	<7 (and >57") or >8	All	\$25, plus approx. \$75 court surcharge (surcharge varies slightly by county)
Mississippi	>7	Front	\$25
New Jersey	<7 and >80 lbs.	All (secondary for rear seats)	\$46 (including court costs)
	>8		
New Mexico	>18	All	\$25
New York	<16	All	\$50
	All	Front	
North Carolina	>16	All (secondary for rear seats)	\$25.50 + \$135.50 in court costs (\$10 + no court costs for rear seats)
Northern Mariana Islands	>6	All	\$25
Oklahoma	>13	Front	\$20

Oregon	All	All	\$130
Puerto Rico	>9 (or >57")		\$50
Rhode Island	>8	All	\$40
South Carolina	>6	All	\$25
Tennessee	>16	Front	\$25
Texas	>15	All	\$50 (driver or passenger)
	<7 (and >57") - <17		\$200 (driver)
Utah	All	All	\$45 (2nd offense)
Virgin Islands	All	Front	\$25 to \$250
Washington	>8 or >4'9"	All	\$124
West Virginia	8 - 17	All	\$25
	>18	Front	
Wisconsin	>8	All	\$10
Total	34 States + D.C., PR, 4 Terr.	All (18 + D.C., 2 Terr.) Rear Secondary (4) Front Seat Only (12 + VI)	

¹ Delaware's seat belt law is a civil penalty.

V. States Without Primary Seat Belt Law - Data

States Without A Primary Seat Belt Law	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	5 Year AVG
Arizona	88.0%	86.6%	87.2%	84.7%	82.2%	85.7%
Colorado	84.0%	85.2%	82.4%	82.1%	80.7%	82.9%
Idaho	82.9%	81.1%	80.2%	81.6%	79.0%	81.0%
Mass	78.2%	74.1%	76.6%	74.8%	72.7%	75.3%
Missouri	81.4%	79.9%	78.8%	80.1%	79.4%	79.9%
Montana	76.0%	77.0%	74.0%	74.0%	76.3%	75.5%
Nebraska	83.3%	79.6%	79.0%	79.1%	78.6%	79.9%
Nevada	89.4%	92.1%	94.0%	94.8%	90.5%	92.2%
New Hampshire*	70.2%	69.5%	70.4%	73.0%	68.6%	70.3%
North Dakota	82.8%	80.4%	81.0%	77.7%	80.9%	80.6%
Ohio	83.8%	83.9%	85.0%	84.5%	80.2%	83.5%
Penn	85.2%	82.7%	83.6%	84.0%	83.5%	83.8%
South Dakota	74.2%	73.6%	68.9%	68.7%	66.5%	70.4%
Vermont	80.0%	86.0%	84.1%	84.9%	84.2%	83.8%
Virginia	79.0%	80.9%	77.3%	79.7%	78.4%	79.1%
Wyoming	80.5%	79.8%	79.2%	81.9%	77.0%	79.7%
Average By Year	81.2%	80.8%	80.1%	80.4%	78.7%	
					Median AVG	80.2%
Total Seat Belt Use						
*No Seat Belt Law						



VI. Research Sources

Center for Disease Control Motor Vehicle Facts: Seat Belts

<https://www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/seatbelts/index.html>

Insurance Institute of Highway Safety

<http://www.iihs.org/iihs/topics/t/safety-belts/topicoverview>

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Website State Specific Highway Safety Data:

<https://cdan.nhtsa.gov/STSI.htm>

State of Maine Seat Belt Compliance Study

[NHTSA Evaluation of PBL 2010.pdf](#)

State of Minnesota Seat Belt Analysis Study/Medical Costs

[Minnesota Seat Belt Report.pdf](#)

Vermont Governor's Highway Safety Program

<http://ghsp.vermont.gov/>