

Proposed Legislation – Primary Safety Belt Talking Points:

Current Seat Belt Law:

- Missouri is one of sixteen states that does not have a primary safety belt law.
- Missouri could expect a 7 percent increase in safety belt usage with the passage of a primary law.
- Missouri has a secondary safety belt enforcement law. Law enforcement must first observe a primary law violation prior to observance of no safety belt – the fine is \$10.
- Drivers operating under a Graduated Driver License (GDL) and any passengers are required to wear a safety belt – the fine is \$10.
- Missouri law requires all children under eight to be in a child safety or booster seat until they are 80 pounds or 4'9" tall. The law applies to cars, pickups, trucks, sport utility vehicles, and vans. The law allows for primary enforcement, which means that a law enforcement officer can stop a driver for no other reason than non-compliance with this law – the fine is \$50.

Additional Information as you may need it:

- Missouri has an 84 percent safety belt usage rate, which is well below the national average of 89.7 percent (2017 data). *Source: 2017 SB Survey*
- Six out of 10 vehicle occupants killed in 2016 Missouri traffic crashes were unbelted.
- In 2016, 62 percent of vehicle occupants killed in Missouri traffic crashes were unbelted.

Preliminary 2017 data indicates 65 percent of vehicle occupants killed in Missouri traffic crashes were unbelted.

- In 2016, 43 percent of the unrestrained driver and passenger fatalities were either partially or totally ejected from the vehicle.
Preliminary 2017 data indicates 45 percent of the unrestrained driver and passenger fatalities were either partially or totally ejected from the vehicle.

- With all the advancements in automobile safety and education on the importance of safety belt use, Missouri's safety belt use has increased 5% since 2014 but remains below the national average of 89.7 percent.
- Teens and pickup truck drivers are among those least likely to buckle up at 70 and 69.3 percent respectively. *Source: 2016 SB Survey (teens) and 2017 SB Survey (pickup drivers).*
- In 2016, 78 percent of teen (15-19) vehicle occupants killed in Missouri traffic crashes were unbelted.

Preliminary 2017 data indicates 68 percent of teen (15-19) vehicle occupants killed in Missouri traffic crashes were unbelted.

- In 2016, 69 percent of pickup truck occupants killed in Missouri traffic crashes were unbelted.

Preliminary 2017 data indicates 74 percent of pickup truck occupants killed in Missouri traffic crashes were unbelted.

- Safety restraints, when utilized correctly, reduce the risk of fatal injuries to front-seat passenger vehicle occupants by 45 percent and reduce the risk of moderate-to-critical injuries by 50 percent.

- St. Louis County adopted the first city-wide seat belt ordinance in 2007.
- To date 54 Missouri cities and two counties have adopted a primary safety belt ordinance for their city as of January, 2018.
- In addition to the tragic loss of life and impact to individual families, crashes result in an annual economic loss in Missouri totaling \$9.1 million. (FHWA)

Missouri Safety Belt Usage Statistics from 2017 SB Survey and 2017 CPS survey, and the 2016 Teen Survey (most recent surveys available)

Missouri's overall safety belt usage rate is 84 percent, compared to 89.7 percent nationwide. This includes safety belt use of drivers and front seat passengers of passenger cars, SUVs, vans and pickups.

Pickups 69.3 percent

Cars 82.7 percent

Van 85.7 percent

SUV 86.5 percent

Teens 70 percent

The 2017 data from 21 survey sites revealed a child safety seat usage rate of 94.4 percent for children under age 4.

96 percent of surveyed children under age four were located in the back seat of the vehicle.

Missouri's child safety seat survey revealed that when drivers are not buckled up, 26 percent of children were not restrained either, but when the driver was buckled up, 99 percent of the children were also restrained.

**Missouri
Safety Belt
Usage
Rates by
Year**

Year	Usage Rate
2000	68%
2001	68%
2002	69%
2003	73%
2004	76%
2005	77%
2006	75%
2007	77%
2008	76%
2009	77%
2010	76%
2011	79%
2012	79%
2013	80%
2014	79%
2015	80%
2016	81%
2017	84%