

Wearing a seatbelt is one of the best ways to decrease injuries and deaths in motor vehicle crashes.

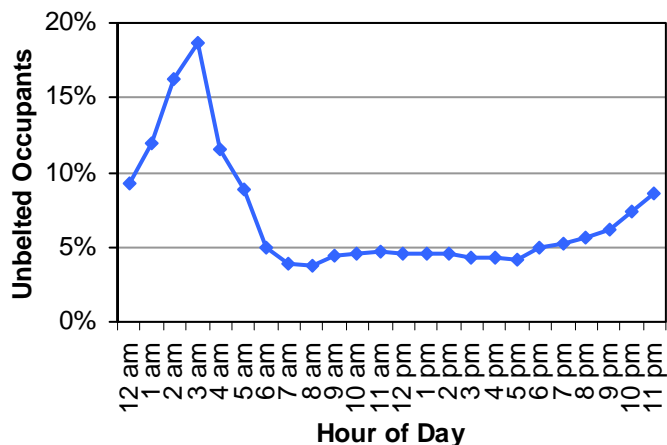
Occupant Protection



Did you know in 2007:

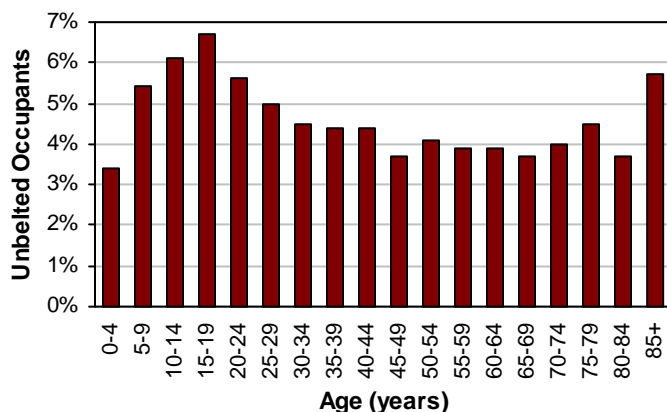
- Unbelted crash occupants were 17 times more likely to die in a crash than belted occupants.
- An estimated 145 lives were saved because of seatbelt use. (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration)
- Occupants in pickup trucks and SUVs were the least likely of those who died to be restrained.

Unbelted Crash Occupants by Hour (Utah 2007)



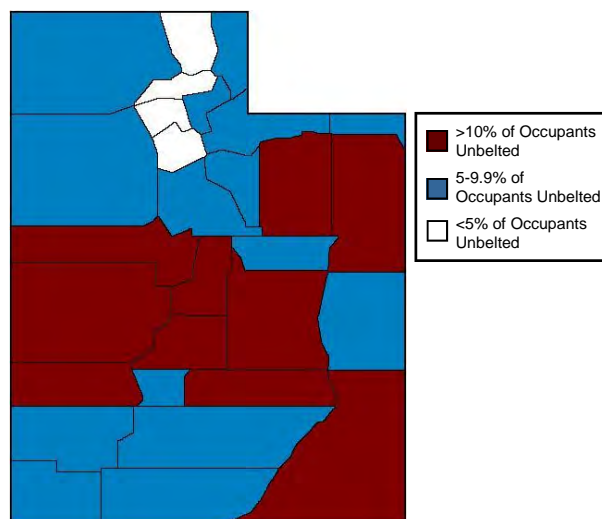
- 11:00 p.m. to 5:59 a.m. had the highest percentage of unbelted crash occupants.

Unbelted Crash Occupants by Age (Utah 2007)



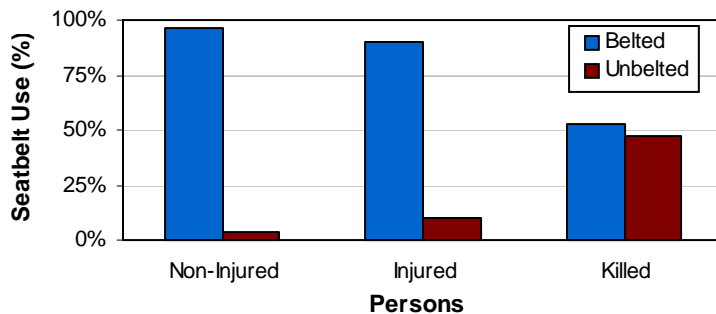
- The highest percentage of unbelted crash occupants were aged 10-24 years.

Percent of Unbelted Occupants in Total Crashes by County (Utah 2007)



- Crash occupants in rural counties were twice as likely to be unbelted than urban occupants.

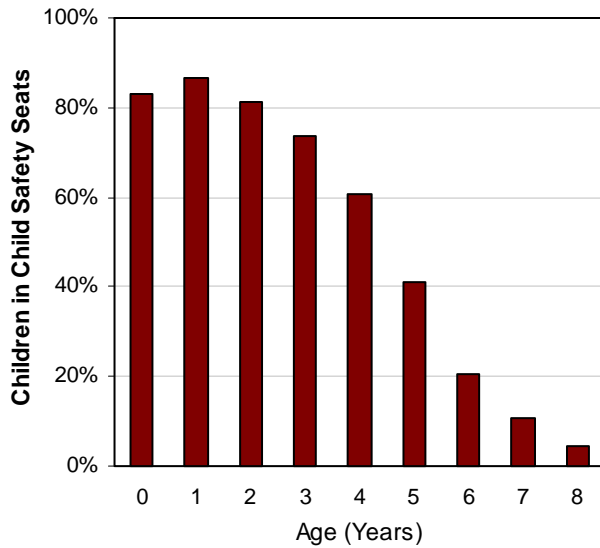
Seatbelt Use by Injury Severity (Utah 2007)



- Over 95% of persons who survived a crash wore a seatbelt compared to only half (53%) of the persons killed.

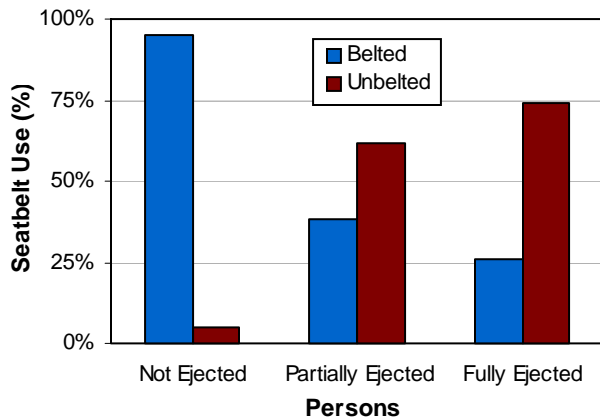


Percent of Children Aged 0-8 Years in Crashes Using Child Safety Seats (Utah 2007)



- The older the child the less likely they were using a child safety seat.
- While 85% of children 0-1 years were in a child safety seat at the time of the crash, only 60% of 4-year-olds, 21% of 6-year-olds, and 5% of 8-year-olds were in a child safety seat.
- The decrease in child safety seat use for children aged 4-8 years is concerning and indicates that children are moving to adult-sized seatbelts too early.

Ejection and Seatbelt Use (Utah 2007)



- 74% of crash occupants fully ejected from a motor vehicle were unbelted.
- Unbelted occupants were 56 times more likely to be fully ejected than belted occupants.

Child Safety Seat Recommendations:

- Infants should be placed in a rear-facing safety seat until they are at least 20 pounds and 1 year of age.
- Never place a rear-facing child safety seat in the front seat of a vehicle with a passenger side air bag.
- Children at least 1 year of age weighing 20-40 pounds should ride in forward facing child safety seats.
- Older children (approximately 4-8 years of age) should ride in belt-positioning booster seats until they are 4'9" tall and the seatbelt fits properly. Booster seats help position an adult-size seatbelt for a safer fit on children.
- The safest place for any child aged 12 and under is in the back seat of the vehicle.

Seatbelt Recommendations:

- Always use both the lap and shoulder belt. When worn properly, the shoulder belt should fit across the collar bone and the lap belt should fit low over the hips.
- Never place the shoulder strap under your arm or behind your back.

Safety Restraint Laws (Effective May 2008):

- Utah law requires all motor vehicle occupants to wear a seatbelt. This is a secondary enforcement law for drivers and passengers age 19 years and older. This means an adult may be issued a citation and a \$45 fine only when the police officer has stopped the vehicle for another reason.
- The law is a primary enforcement law for drivers and passengers under age 19 years.
 - ⇒ Children age 7 years and under must ride in an approved child safety seat; and
 - ⇒ Children aged 8 to 18 years must ride in an appropriate child restraint or seatbelt.
 - ⇒ There are a few exemptions to the law. Contact the Highway Safety Office for more information.

This primary enforcement law means a person may be stopped and issued a citation for simply not buckling up.

