

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

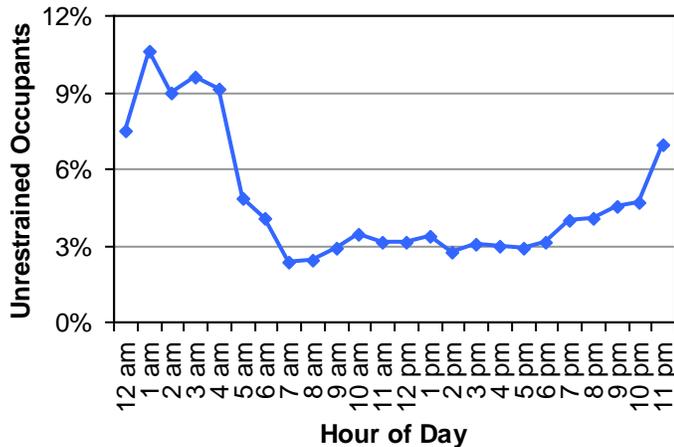
Occupant Protection



Did you know in 2009:

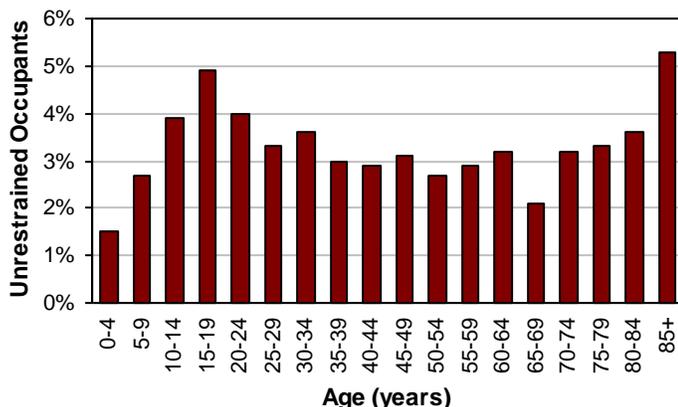
- Unrestrained crash occupants were 32 times more likely to die in a crash than restrained occupants.
- An estimated 109 lives were saved because of restraint use. (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration)
- While overall traffic deaths decreased the number of unrestrained occupant deaths increased 17%.

Unrestrained Crash Occupants by Hour (Utah 2009)



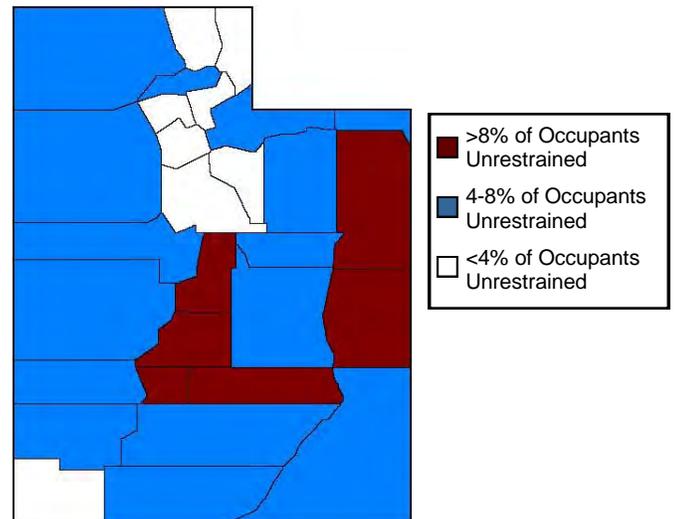
- 11:00 p.m. to 4:59 a.m. had the highest percentage of unrestrained crash occupants.

Unrestrained Crash Occupants by Age (Utah 2009)



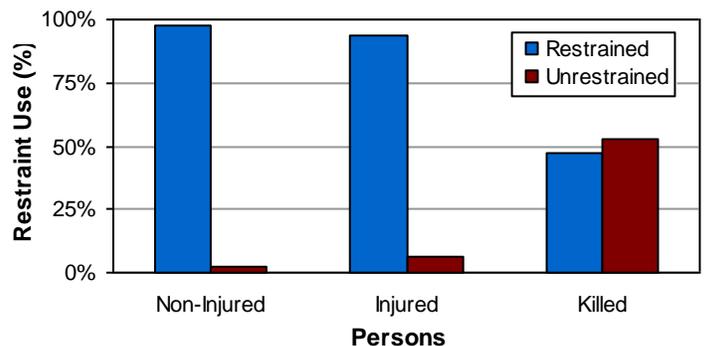
- The highest percentage of unrestrained crash occupants were 85+ and 10-24 years.

Unrestrained Crash Occupants by County (Utah 2009)



- Occupants in rural crashes were 1.7 times more likely to be unrestrained than urban occupants.

Restraint Use by Injury Severity (Utah 2009)

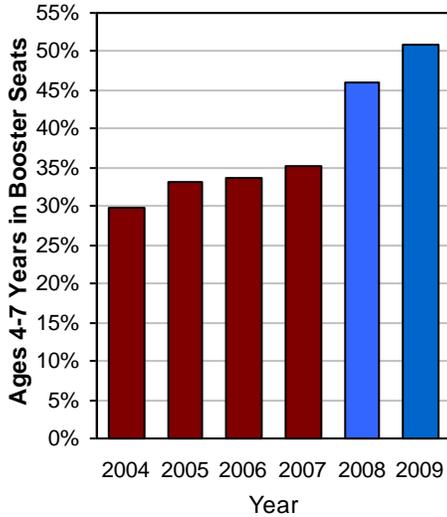


- Over 96% of persons who survived a crash were restrained compared to less than half (47%) of the persons killed.

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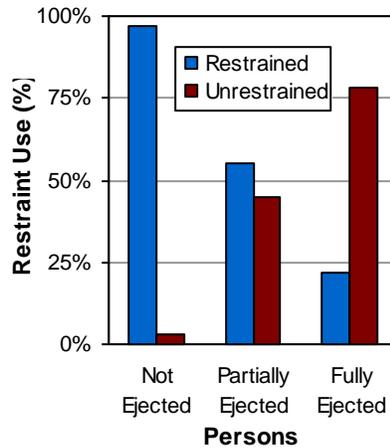


Effectiveness of Booster Seat Law (Utah 2004-2009)



- In 2008, a law was passed increasing the age of child safety seat use from up to age 4 years to up to age 8 years.
- In 2009, booster seat use among ages 4-7 years in crashes increased to 51%.
- Booster seat use increased 45% since passage of the law.

Ejection and Restraint Use (Utah 2009)



- 78% of crash occupants fully ejected from a motor vehicle were unrestrained.
- Unrestrained occupants were 70 times more likely to be fully ejected than restrained 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 seat belt fits properly. Booster seats help position an adult-size seat belt for a safer fit on children.
- The safest place for any child aged 12 and under is in the back seat of the vehicle.

Seat Belt 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 the arm or behind the back.

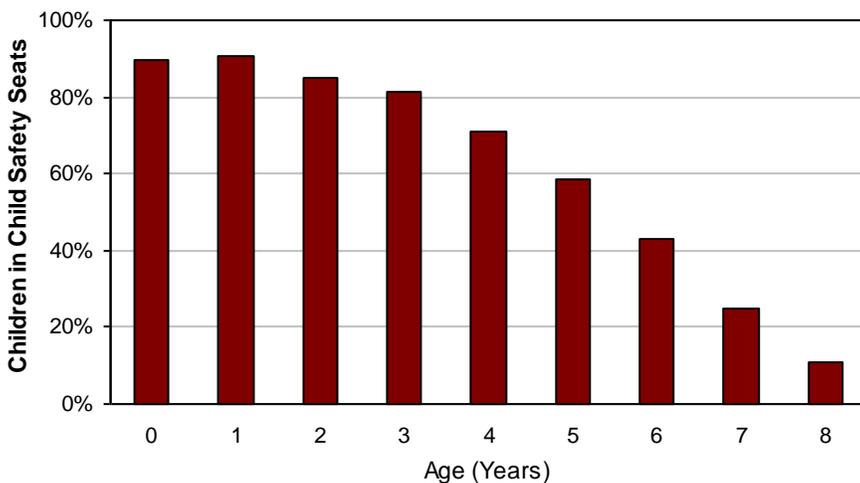
Safety Restraint Laws:

- Utah law requires all motor vehicle occupants to wear a seat belt. 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.
 - ⇒ Children aged 8 to 18 years must ride in an appropriate child restraint or seat belt.
 - ⇒ 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.



Percent of Children Aged 0-8 Years in Crashes Using Child Safety Seats (Utah 2009)



- The older the child the less likely they were using a child safety seat.
- While 90% of children 0-1 years in a crash were in a child safety seat, only 71% of 4-year-olds, 43% of 6-year-olds, and 11% 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 seat belts too early.