

STATE OF NEVADA PRIMARY SEAT BELT LAW FACT SHEET

COSTS:

- In 2010, the economic cost due to motor vehicle crashes in the U.S. was \$242 billion (in 2010 dollars).
 - Nevada pays \$2 billion of these costs.
 - That is \$732 for every resident of Nevada, each year.
 - About three quarters of the costs are paid by citizens not involved in the crashes.
- Crashes cost employers in the State \$753 million annually—\$610 per employee. (based on 2019 dollars)

PRIMARY SEAT BELT LAWS:

- In States with primary seat belt laws, law enforcement officers may stop a vehicle and issue a citation for a seat belt violation, even if this is the only violation officers notice. Officers in States with secondary seat belt laws may issue seat belt citations to motorists only after stopping the drivers for another violation.
- In States with secondary enforcement provisions, 65% of adults aged 18 or older support primary enforcement of seat belt laws. In States with primary laws, support of primary enforcement is even higher at 80 percent (MVOSS 2016).
- NHTSA estimates that if Nevada were to pass a primary belt law, seat belt usage could increase by 2.7 percentage points.
- With a primary law, Nevada could save an estimated 5 lives, 69 serious injuries, and \$16 million in costs each year. (Based on a 2.7 percentage point increase from the 2021 NV seat belt use rate.)

USAGE DATA:

- 6.8 percent of Nevadans—over 213,000 people—are still not buckling up.
- An estimated 78 lives were saved by seat belts in Nevada in 2017 and 14 additional lives could have been saved with 100 percent seat belt use. (STSI)

COMPARISON TO OTHER STATES:

	Nevada	Washington	Oregon
Seat Belt Law	Secondary	Primary	Primary
2021 Observed Use Rate	93.2%	94.2%	94.9%

FATALITY DATA:

- In 2020, 153 vehicle occupants died while riding in cars and light trucks in Nevada. Of these, 54 percent died while not wearing their seat belts compared to 51 percent nationwide. (2020 FARS Data)
- 29 percent (93/317) of the State's motor vehicle traffic fatalities occur in rural areas; however, the fatality rate per 100 million vehicle miles traveled in rural Nevada is higher than the rate in urban areas. (2020 FARS Data)
- In 2020, 63 percent of nighttime passenger vehicle occupant fatalities in Nevada were unrestrained compared to 45 percent of daytime passenger vehicle occupant fatalities. (2020 FARS Data)