In Ohio, 1,151 people who were not wearing safety belts while occupants of motor vehicles were killed in crashes from 2013-2015. This represents 51% of such crash fatalities (40% of those killed were wearing safety belts; the remaining 9% had no belts available to them). During this period, an additional 4,566 unbelted motor vehicle occupants sustained serious (incapacitating) injuries.

NHTSA estimates that in 2015, 394 lives of motor vehicle occupants aged 5 and over were saved by safety belts in Ohio. An estimated 13,941 lives were saved nationwide. Source: NHTSA

Safety Belt Usage

In 2015, Ohio’s observed safety belt usage rate was 83.9%*, a decrease from the 85.0% observed in 2014, the record high. Occupants of light trucks (80%) and those who were 15-25 years old (82%) were below the statewide rate. Women (88%) were more likely to wear safety belts than men (81%). Male passengers of motor vehicles aged 15-25 only had a 64% usage rate, the lowest in the survey.

Safety belt usage rates in the 34 states with primary safety belt laws continue to be higher than the rates in states with secondary laws like Ohio (91% versus 79% in 2015). Source: NHTSA

Safety Belt Convictions

In 2015, 118,358** people in Ohio were convicted of driving or riding in a passenger vehicle without wearing a safety belt, a decline of 3% from 2014.

**Source: Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles. 2015. “Non-Commercial Driver Record Conviction Totals By County.”