



FAST FACTS

Wyoming crash data from 2017-2021 report that:

- ✓ Over half (52%) of all motor vehicle occupant fatalities were not using a seat belt at the time of the crash.
- ✓ More than half (54%) of all male motor vehicle occupant fatalities were not using a seatbelt at the time of the crash; 48% of all females were not using a seat belt at the time of the crash.
- ✓ The majority of all motor vehicle occupant fatalities for all age groups under 65 years old were unbelted at the time of the crash.
- ✓ Nearly 64% of pickup truck occupant fatalities were unbuckled at the time of the crash compared to 49% of passenger vehicle occupant fatalities.
- ✓ The percent of unbelted fatalities for passenger vehicle occupants were similar for both front (49%) and back rows (45%).
- ✓ More urban motor vehicle occupant fatalities were unbelted (56%) than rural motor vehicle occupant fatalities (52%).

Passenger Vehicle = Passenger Car, Passenger Van, Sports Utility Vehicle

Highway Safety Report



Seat Belt Safety

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), one of the safest choices drivers and passengers can make is to buckle up. No matter the type of vehicle you are in, or the type of road you are traveling on, the easiest way to try to stay safe in case of a motor vehicle crash is to wear your seat belt. Buckling up is the simplest thing you can do to limit injury or save your life during a crash and seat belt use should be an automatic habit for drivers and passengers alike. Using a seat belt is not just a safe, easy, simple choice to make – it’s the law.

In Wyoming, during the most recent five-year period (2017-2021), there were 474 motor vehicle occupant fatalities and over half (247, 52%) were not using a seat belt at the time of the crash. An additional 3% (14) were not using a seat belt correctly at the time of the crash.

Fatalities by Safety Equipment Use 2017 - 2021

Year	Total Fatalities in Vehicles	Restraint Properly Used	Restraint Misused	Restraint Not Used	Restraint Unknown
2017	95	31	1	59	4
2018	88	31	6	44	7
2019	116	57	2	52	5
2020	98	45	3	46	4
2021	77	26	2	46	3
TOTAL	474	190	14	247	23

Men make up the majority of those killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes. Of the motor vehicle occupant fatalities from 2017–2021, 69% were male. Men also wear seat belts at a lower rate than women do. More than half (54%) of all male motor vehicle occupant fatalities were not using a seat belt at the time of the crash. For all female motor vehicle occupant fatalities, 48% were not using a seat belt at the time of the crash.

The majority of all 2017-2021 motor vehicle occupant fatalities for all age groups under 65 years old were unbelted at the time of the crash. Among young motor vehicle occupant fatalities less than 26 years old 54% were unrestrained, while 59% of 26 to 44 year old fatalities were unbuckled, and 54% of 45 to 64 year old fatalities were not using a seat belt.

Seat Belt Safety Myths

Many safety myths surround the use of seat belts, including vehicle type, seat position, and the location of a crash providing more protection for occupants and making seat belt use not as necessary. All are false.

BY THE NUMBERS

WYDOT Crash Data

April 1, 2023 vs.

(April 1, 2022)

Fatalities: 32 (18)

Serious Injuries: 99 (96)

Alcohol-Involved
Fatalities: 2 (5)

Bicycle-Involved
Fatalities: 0 (0)

CMV-Involved
Fatalities: 15 (6)

Drug-Involved
Fatalities: 7 (4)

Motorcycle-Involved
Fatalities: 0 (0)

Pedestrian-Involved
Fatalities: 2 (3)

Speed-Related
Fatalities: 19 (11)

Data current as of 04/25/2023



5300 Bishop Blvd.
Cheyenne, WY 82009
www.dot.state.wy.us

Vehicle Type: There seems to be a misconception among those who ride in pickup trucks that their large vehicle will protect them better than other vehicles would in a traffic crash. The numbers say otherwise: 64% of pickup truck occupant fatalities were not buckled compared to 49% of passenger vehicle occupant fatalities who were not wearing a seat belt at the time of the crash.

Seating Position: Some people wrongly believe they are safe in the back seat unrestrained. However, when looking at passenger vehicle occupants killed in traffic crashes, 49% of all front-seat fatalities were unbelted and 45% of all back seat fatalities were unrestrained.

Urban vs. Rural Locations: Urban traffic crashes are often thought to be less dangerous than rural crashes. While fewer motor vehicle fatalities occur in urban locations (14%) versus rural locations (86%), a higher percentage of urban crash fatalities were not wearing a seat belt at the time of the crash (56%) compared to rural motor vehicle occupant fatalities (52%).

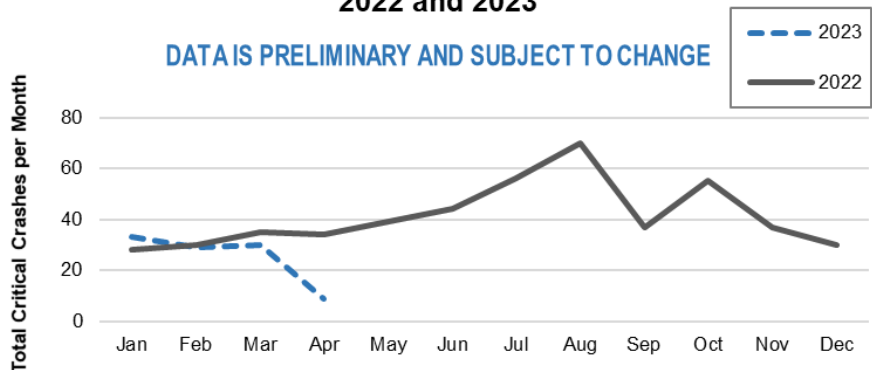
Regardless of vehicle type, seating position, or location of the crash, seat belt use is the single most effective way to stay alive in a crash.

Click It or Ticket: The U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) works with local and state law enforcement across the country to protect road users and help save lives. According to NHTSA, "The Memorial Day holiday weekend is an especially dangerous time on America's roads, as it is the first long holiday weekend of summer. To keep our nation's roads safe during this busy season, NHTSA will be conducting the 2023



national *Click It or Ticket* seat belt enforcement mobilization from May 22-June 4, 2023." During this period, state and local law enforcement agencies across the nation will participate in high-visibility seat belt enforcement as well as provide important educational material in an effort to help spread the word about the benefits of seat belt safety. The enforcement effort hopes to alert people to the dangers of being an unrestrained motor vehicle occupant.

Monthly Critical Crash Comparison:
2022 and 2023



Total as of 04/25/2023