

Why buckle up? So, we can see you again.



It's a law we can live with.

The **Montana Seatbelt Use Act** requires the use of seatbelts by the driver and each occupant of each vehicle. State law also requires child safety restraint systems for children under the age of 6 and weighing less than 60 pounds.

Montana law places the responsibility on the driver to ensure **each occupant** is properly buckled or in a child safety seat (MCA 61-13-103). In the event of a crash, an unbuckled occupant can seriously injure or kill other occupants in the vehicle

Montana high school students report **always wearing a seatbelt about half of the time while driving a vehicle** and **less than half of the time while riding as a passenger in a vehicle** according to the Montana Youth Risk Behavioral Survey.

Of teens aged 14-18 who were involved in a motor vehicle crash and sustained severe injuries, **71%** were not wearing a seatbelt. Those who died might be alive today if only they had been wearing their seat belts.

Seatbelts and air bags are meant to work together to keep drivers and passengers safe. The presence of air bags in a vehicle does NOT mean seatbelts are unnecessary.

Whether a person is belted or not often becomes the difference between life and death. While researchers may differ by a few percentage points either way, figures from seatbelt studies reveal:

- Seatbelts can reduce the number of serious injuries by 50 percent.
- Seatbelts can reduce fatalities by 40 to 60 percent.

Information courtesy of Montana Department of Justice: <https://doj.mt.gov/driving/driving-safety/>

You care about your family and your friends. *They care about you.*

Make it a habit, on short trips and long trips.

Buckle Up every time, every trip, everybody.

<http://www.buckleup.mt.gov>