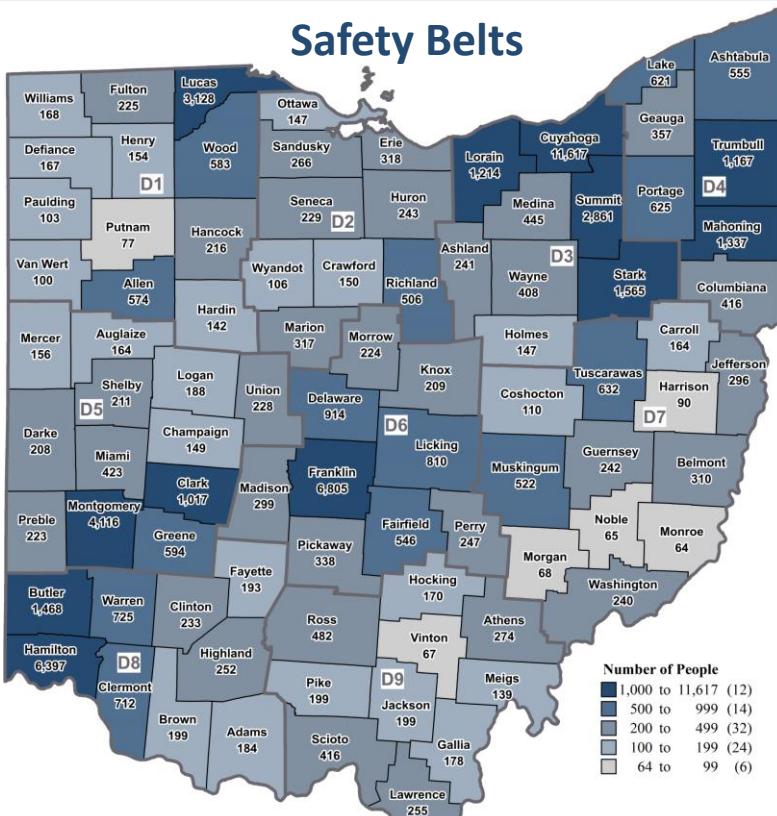




# TRAFFIC SAFETY BULLETIN



## Safety Belts



### Map and Table: 2020-2024

#### Statewide Unbelted Fatalities and Injuries

OSHP District	Count
District 1	5,637
District 2	2,282
District 3	18,498
District 4	5,078
District 5	7,677
District 6	10,016
District 7	2,803
District 8	10,363
District 9	2,379
Total	64,733

### Unbelted Deaths and Injuries

- From 2020-2024, 2,559 people in Ohio were killed in traffic crashes where a safety belt was available,<sup>1</sup> but not in use. There were an additional 62,174 unbelted occupants that suffered injuries during this time. In 2024, Ohio's unbelted fatality rate was 64%, marking the fifth consecutive year that this rate was 60% or higher in the state.
- Cuyahoga County (11,617) led the state in unbelted fatalities and injuries from 2020-2024, followed by Franklin (6,805), Hamilton (6,397), and Montgomery (4,116) Counties. Combined, these four counties accounted for 45% of unbelted fatalities and injuries in the state over this time.
- Seventy-four percent (74%) of vehicle occupants age 21-40 killed in motor vehicle crashes were not wearing an available safety belt over this time. This figure drops to 67% for occupants age 41-60 and to 43% for those over 60. A higher percentage of men fatally injured in crashes (67%) were unbelted than were women (52%).
- Additional safety belt enforcement and educational information can be found on the Patrol's Ohio Statistics and Analytics for Traffic Safety (OSTATS) Safety Belt dashboard at: <https://www.safetybeltdashboard.ohio.gov>. Additional crash-related data can be found at: <https://statepatrol.ohio.gov/ostats>.

### Safety Belt Usage

- In 2024, Ohio's observed seat belt compliance rate was 85.20%, slightly higher than the 84.75% rate observed in 2023.<sup>2</sup> Women (91.9%) were more likely to wear safety belts than men (84.8%). Vehicle occupants aged 15-25 lagged behind 26-64 year old occupants (80.7% vs. 88.3%). Additional information on Ohio's safety belt usage rates can be found at: <https://otso.ohio.gov/resources/traffic-safety-topics/seat-belts/seatbelt-survey>.

### Safety Belt Violations

- Over the last five years (2020-2024), the Ohio State Highway Patrol has issued more than 300,000 safety belt and child safety seat citations.

<sup>1</sup>Available belt includes only drivers and passengers in unit types 1-5, 14-15, & 17-18 and drivers of school buses (unit type 19). Excludes motorcycles, ATVs, Amish buggies, other non-specified units, and non-motorists such as pedestrians. Unbelted includes none, unknown, and other non-applicable categories.

<sup>2</sup>Source: Ohio Department of Public Safety & Ohio Traffic Safety Office. 2024. "Observational Survey of Seat Belt Use in Ohio."