

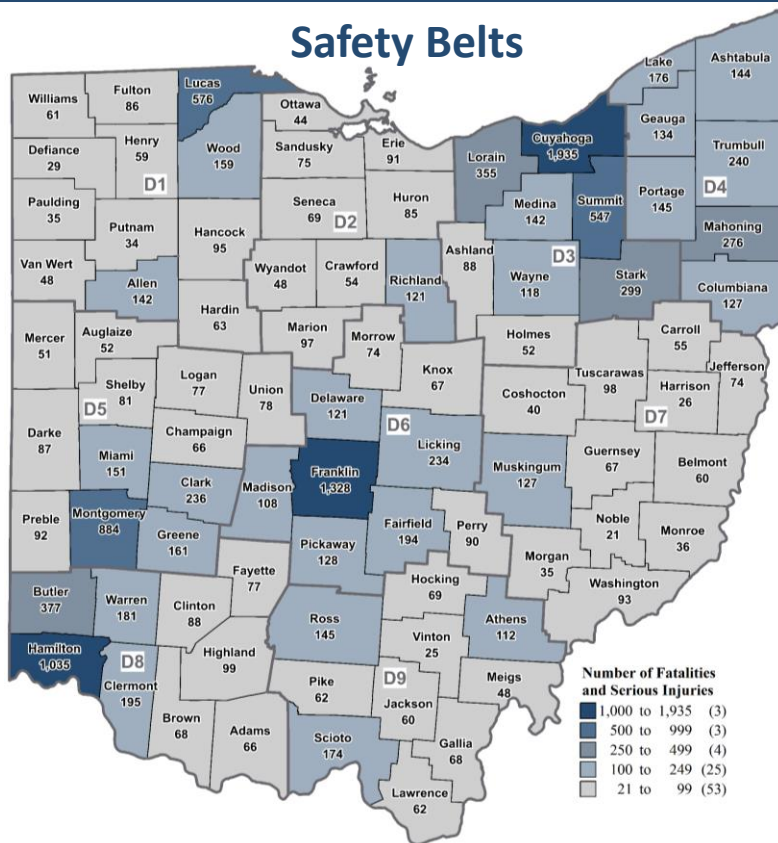


TRAFFIC SAFETY BULLETIN

NOVEMBER 2023



Safety Belts



Map and Table: 2018-2023¹
Statewide Unbelted Fatal and Serious Injuries

OSHP District	Count
District 1	1,387
District 2	684
District 3	3,536
District 4	1,242
District 5	2,016
District 6	2,344
District 7	732
District 8	2,186
District 9	825
Total	14,952

Unbelted Deaths and Injuries

- Since 2018¹, 2,847 people who were not wearing an available safety belt were killed in traffic crashes in Ohio. This represents 61% of such crash fatalities. The percentage of unbelted fatalities rose from 56% in 2018 to 64% in 2021 before a slight dip last year (63%). Through nine months, the 2023 unbelted fatality rate is 59%. Another 12,104 unbelted occupants suffered serious injuries in traffic crashes since 2018.
- Cuyahoga County (1,935) led the state in unbelted fatal and serious injuries since 2018, followed by Franklin (1,328), Hamilton (1,035), and Montgomery (884) Counties. Combined, these four counties accounted for more than one-third (35%) of unbelted fatal and serious injuries in the state.
- Seventy-two percent (72%) 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 62% for occupants age 41-65. A higher percentage of men fatally injured in crashes (65%) 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 2022, Ohio's observed safety belt usage rate was 80.8%, down from the 2021 rate of 84.1% and the lowest compliance rate since 2005². Women (89.5%) were more likely to wear safety belts than men (82.0%). Vehicle occupants aged 15-25 lagged behind 26-64 year old occupants (80.6% vs. 85.1%). Additional information on Ohio's safety belt usage rates can be found at: <https://ohiohighwaysafetyoffice.ohio.gov/otso-resources>

Safety Belt Violations

- Since 2018, the Ohio State Highway Patrol has issued over 475,000 safety belt and child safety seat citations.

¹2023 data through 9/30/2023 and is provisional as of 10/18/2023. Available belt includes only drivers and passengers in unit types 1-5, 14-15, & 17-18 (excludes motorcycles, ATVs, buses, Amish buggies, other non-specified units, and non-motorists such as pedestrians). Unbelted includes none, unknown, and other non-applicable categories.

²Source: Ohio Department of Public Safety & Ohio Traffic Safety Office. 2022. "Observational Survey of Seat Belt Use in Ohio."