

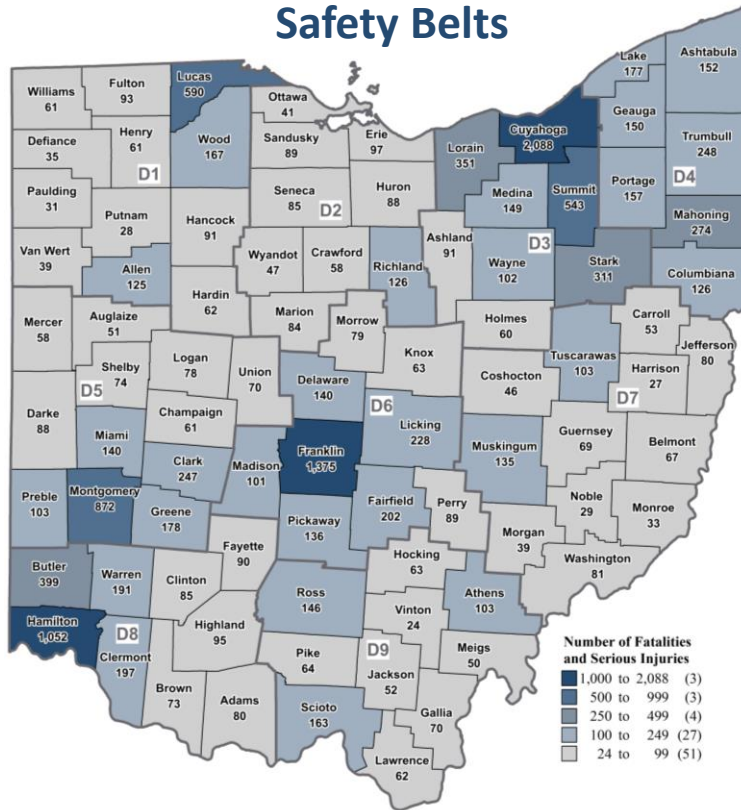


TRAFFIC SAFETY BULLETIN

NOVEMBER 2024



Safety Belts



Map and Table: 2019-2024¹
Statewide Unbelted Fatal and Serious Injuries

OSHP District	Count
District 1	1,383
District 2	715
District 3	3,695
District 4	1,284
District 5	2,020
District 6	2,413
District 7	762
District 8	2,262
District 9	797

Total 15,331

Unbelted Deaths and Injuries

- Since 2019¹, 2,919 people who were not wearing an available safety belt² were killed in traffic crashes in Ohio. This represents 62% of such crash fatalities. So far in 2024, the percentage of unbelted fatalities is 64%. This matches the highest percentage over the previous five years and is 6% higher than in 2019. Additionally, 12,412 unbelted occupants have suffered serious injuries in traffic crashes since 2019 (39% of all serious injuries).
- Cuyahoga County (2,088) leads the state in unbelted fatal and serious injuries since 2019, followed by Franklin (1,375), Hamilton (1,052), and Montgomery (872) Counties. Combined, these four counties account for more than one-third (35%) of unbelted fatal and serious injuries in the state.
- Seventy-three percent (73%) 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 64% for occupants age 41-65 and to 40% for those 65 and over. A higher percentage of men fatally injured in crashes (66%) were unbelted than were women (53%).
- 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 2023, Ohio's observed seat belt compliance rate was 84.75%, up from 80.8% in 2022. Women (91.7%) were more likely to wear safety belts than men (84.3%). Vehicle occupants aged 15-25 lagged behind their 26-64 year old occupants (80.6% vs. 87.7%).³ Additional information on Ohio's safety belt usage rates can be found at: <https://ohiohighwaysafetyoffice.ohio.gov/otso-resources>

Safety Belt Violations

- Since 2019, the Ohio State Highway Patrol has issued nearly 400,000 safety belt and child safety seat citations.

¹2024 data through 10/15/2024 and is provisional as of 10/16/2024.

²Available 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.

³Source: Ohio Department of Public Safety & Ohio Traffic Safety Office, 2023. "Observational Survey of Seat Belt Use in Ohio."