

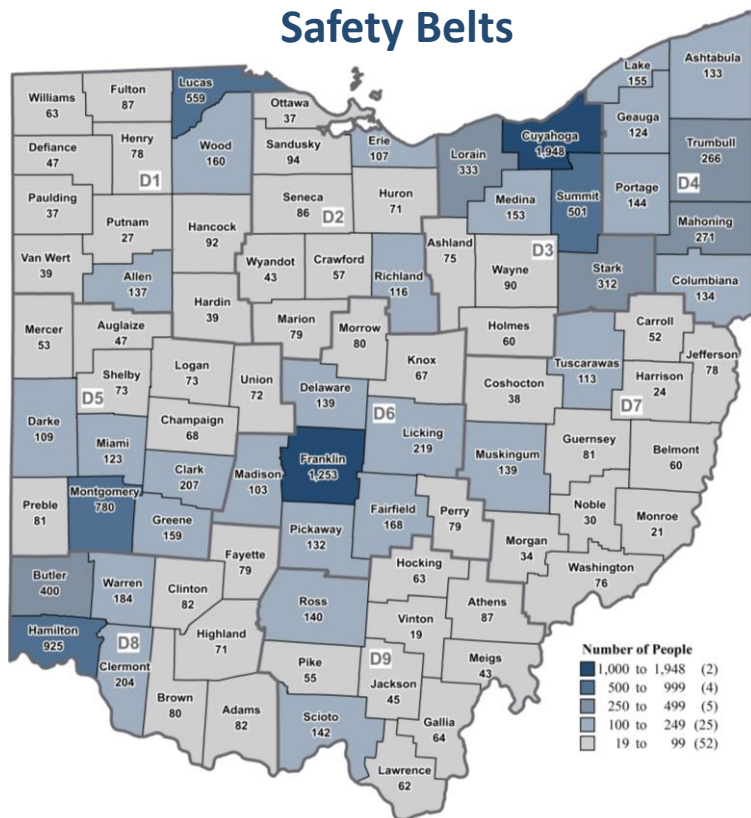


TRAFFIC SAFETY BULLETIN

OCTOBER 2026



Safety Belts



Map and Table: 2021-2026¹
Statewide Unbelted Fatal
and Serious Injuries

OSHP District	Count
District 1	1,365
District 2	690
District 3	3,472
District 4	1,227
District 5	1,845
District 6	2,240
District 7	746
District 8	2,107
District 9	720

Total 14,412

Unbelted Fatalities and Injuries

- Since 2021¹, 2,741 people killed in traffic crashes in Ohio were not wearing an available safety belt.² This represents 61% of such crash fatalities. The 57% unbelted fatality rate in 2025 was the lowest rate over the previous five years. Thus far in 2026, the rate has increased to 60%. Additionally, 11,671 unbelted occupants suffered serious injuries in motor vehicle crashes since 2021.
- Cuyahoga County (1,948) leads the state in combined unbelted fatal and serious injuries since 2021, followed by Franklin (1,253), Hamilton (925), and Montgomery (780) Counties. Combined, these four counties account for more than one-third (34%) 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 65% for occupants age 41-65 and to 39% for those 66 and older. A higher percentage of men fatally injured in crashes (67%) were unbelted than were women (51%).
- 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 2025, Ohio's observed seat belt compliance rate was 87.8%, higher than the 85.2% rate observed in 2024.³ Women (92.9%) were more likely to wear safety belts than men (86.7%). Vehicle occupants aged 15-25 lagged 26-64-year-old occupants (84.7% vs. 89.6%). Additional information on Ohio's safety belt usage rates can be found at: <https://otso.ohio.gov/resources/traffic-safety-topics/seat-belts/safety-seatbelt-survey>.

Safety Belt Violations

- Since 2021, the Ohio State Highway Patrol has issued more than 332,000 safety belt and child safety seat citations.

¹2026 data through 8/31 and is provisional as of 9/10/2026.

²Available belt includes only drivers and passengers in OH-1 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, 2025. "Observational Survey of Seat Belt Use in Ohio."