

Always... Buckle Up Your Seat Belt

In **Ohio**, 49% of people killed in crashes are *not* properly restrained.

NHTSA CRASH STATS 2023

One of the most effective measures a person can take to prevent injury or death in a motor vehicle crash is to be restrained in a seat belt, or for small children, a rear- or forward-facing child safety seat.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) estimates **seat belts reduce the risk of fatal injury to front-seat passenger car occupants by 45%** and the risk of moderate-to-critical injury by 50%.

For light-truck occupants, seat belts reduce the risk of fatal injury by **60 percent** and moderate-to-critical injury by 65 percent.

Research on the effectiveness of **child safety seats** has found them to **reduce fatal injury by 71% for infants** (less than 1 year old) and by **54% for toddlers** (1 to 4 years old) in passenger cars.

Ohio Law

Every driver and front seat passenger must wear a seat belt.

Unless they are 4'9" or taller, every child under 8 years old must ride in a booster seat or other appropriate child safety seat*

Every child, from 8 to 15 years old who is *not* secured in a car seat must be secured in the vehicle's seat belt. Unless there is a life-threatening situation, the parent has an affidavit signed by a licensed physician exempting the child from the law due to a physical impairment, or the vehicle is a taxicab, a public safety vehicle, is regulated under Ohio Revised Code 5104.011 or was manufactured without seat belts.

* Includes infant seats, convertible seats, forward-facing seats, booster seats and other federally-approved safety devices.

Proper Use Is Important

Seat belts reduce the risk of collision with the steering wheel, dashboard, windshield and other passengers.

The shoulder belt should lay across your chest and over your shoulder

The seat belt should be close-fitting to help prevent ejection during a crash.

Never slip the diagonal belt behind your body—the lap belt alone can *not* prevent you from being thrown forward or out of the vehicle.

Properly worn seat belts also help prevent internal injuries by spreading the force of the collision across the body's strongest areas.

The lap belt should go over the hips, not the abdomen.



Did You Know?*

- + **Nearly two people die every hour in a U.S. car crash.** Crashes are among the leading causes of death in the US.
- + **Failure to buckle up is a factor in more crash fatalities** than any other traffic safety-related behavior.
- + **Seat belts provide the best protection against ejection in a crash.** Three-fourths of people ejected from cars in crashes are killed.
- + **Three out of four crashes occur within 25 miles of home.** Crashes can happen on the way to school, work, grocery store or even within your own neighborhood.

* Ohio Department of Public Safety HSY 7742

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Child Safety Seats

For child safety seats and booster seats, follow the seat manufacturer's instructions for height and weight limits and proper use. To find a Child Passenger Safety Technician in your area, go to <https://cert.safekids.org>.



Air Bags

Air bags are called supplemental restraints because they are designed to work best in combination with seat belts. **Never put a rear-facing infant restraint in the front seat of a vehicle with a front passenger air bag.** Read the vehicle owner's manual for more information. The safest place for ALL children is in the back seat.

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