

FIELD OBSERVATION OF SEATBELT USE IN WISCONSIN

June, 2004



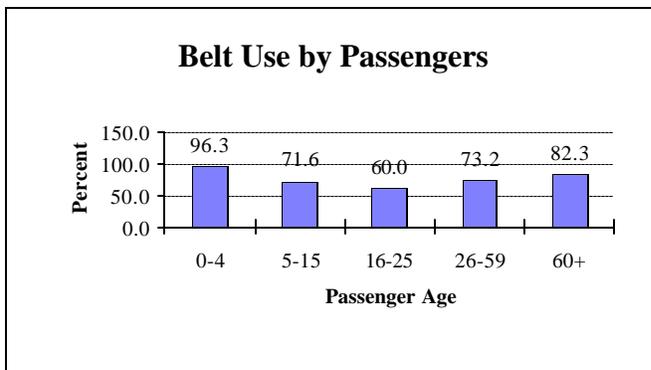
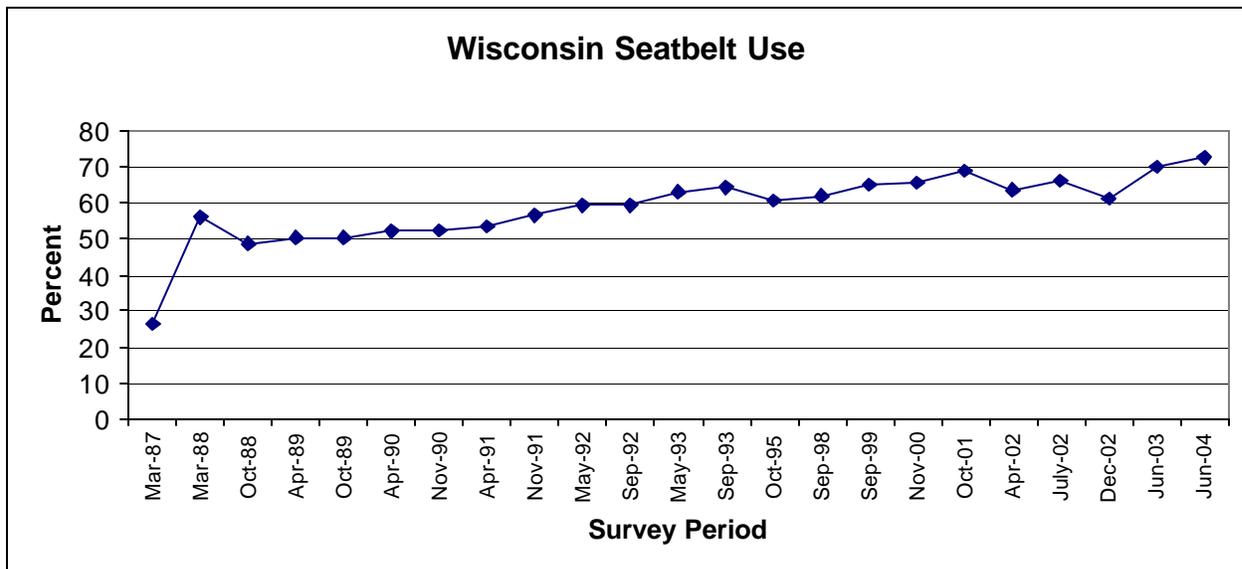
Since March 1987, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation has conducted periodic statewide observation surveys of seatbelt use. Wisconsin enacted a mandatory seatbelt law in December 1987 and a mandatory child safety seat law in May 1992.

RESULTS

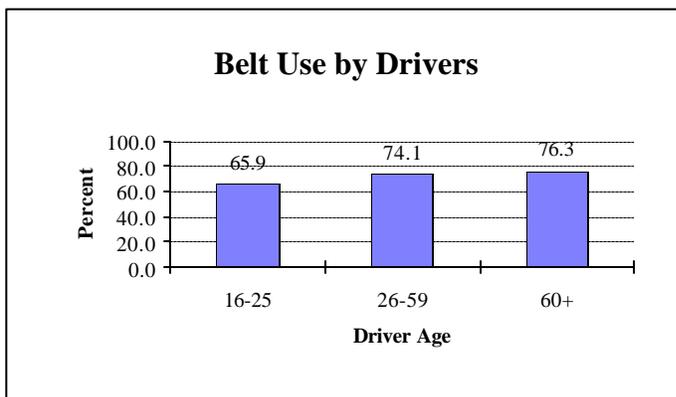
In June 2004, **72.4%** of passenger vehicle occupants (front outboard*) used their seatbelts.

*Front outboard refers to the driver and passenger in the right front seat (not in the middle position).

(Note: The chronology on the graph is not to scale due to irregularity in collection dates.)

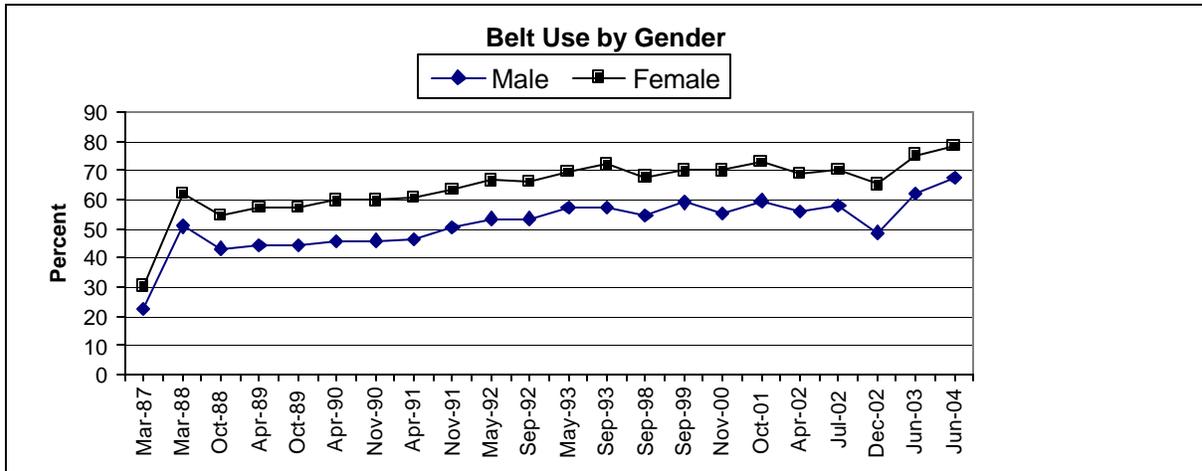


Belt use is highest among children 0-4 years of age (96.3%). This includes child safety seat use. However, a 16-month, nationwide study completed in 2002 by the National Safe Kids Campaign showed that approximately 82% of child safety seats are used improperly in the vehicle, creating a situation where a child would be at increased risk of injury in the event of a crash.



Belt use is the lowest among drivers ages 16-25 (65.9%). This group represents 16.2% of licensed drivers, yet accounted for 29.4% of drivers involved in crashes in 2003.

Wisconsin has consistently displayed a gender difference of more than 10% in safety belt use. In the most recent survey, 78.5% of females wore their belts, while only 67.5% of males did.

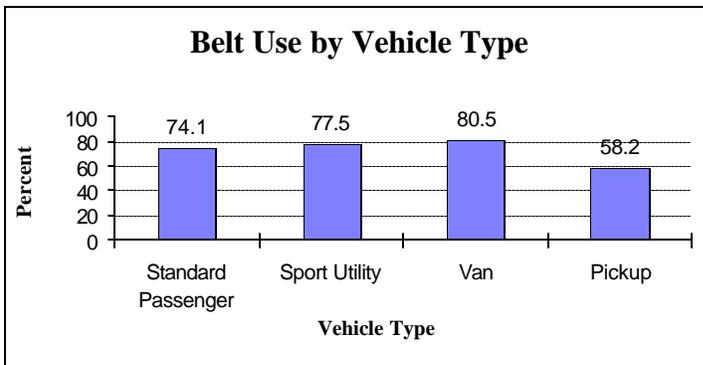
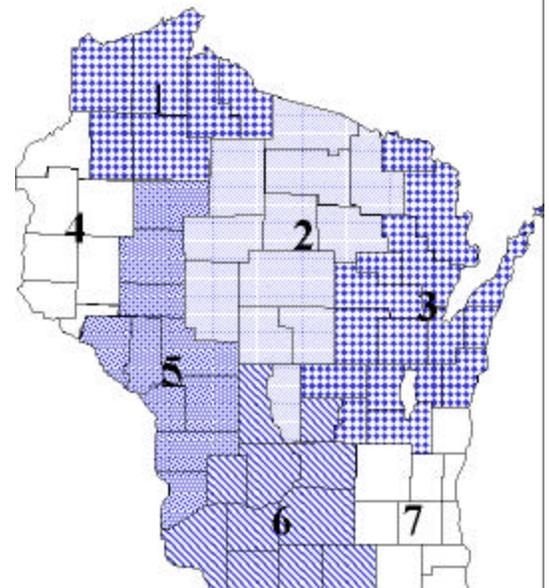


Belt Use by Region

Belt use varies by more than 7% across the state. The Madison area is highest at 75.6%, and the Milwaukee area is lowest at 68.1%.

Region	Belt Usage 2004 (%)
1 Superior/Northern WI	70.9
2 Wausau/Rhineland	75.3
3 Green Bay/Appleton	74.3
4 Minneapolis/St. Paul	70.7
5 La Crosse/Eau Claire	72.7
6 Madison	75.6
7 Milwaukee	68.1

Wisconsin Regions



Occupants of vans were most likely to be wearing their seatbelts. 80.5% of van occupants wore safety belts.

Occupants of pickup trucks were least likely to use their belts. More than half (58.2%) of the occupants of pickup trucks wore safety belts.