

# FIELD OBSERVATION OF SEATBELT USE IN WISCONSIN

## June, 2005



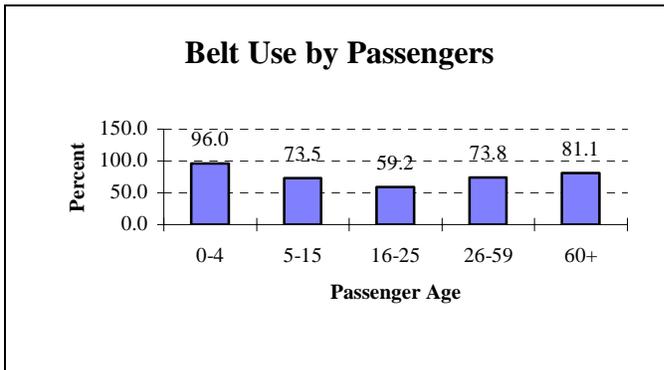
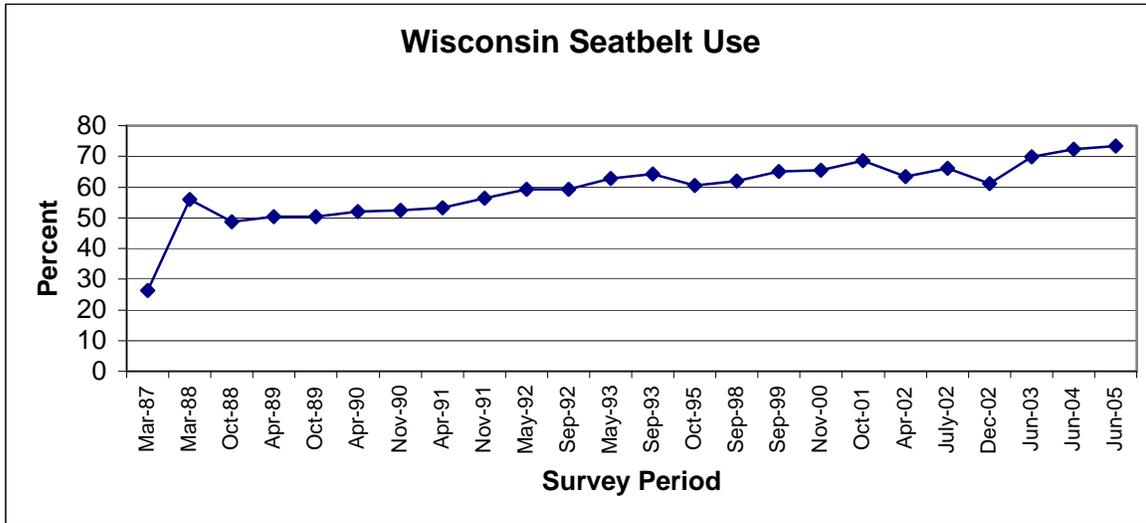
Since March 1987, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation has conducted periodic statewide observation surveys of seatbelt use. Wisconsin enacted a mandatory seatbelt law in December 1987 and a mandatory child safety seat law in May 1992.

### RESULTS

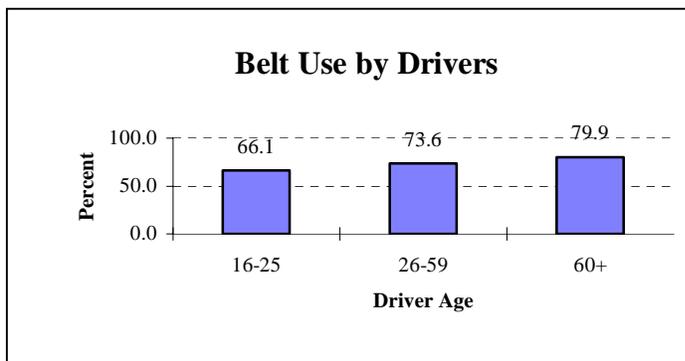
In June 2005, **73.3%** of passenger vehicle occupants (front outboard\*) used their seatbelts.

\*Front outboard refers to the driver and the right front seat passenger.

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

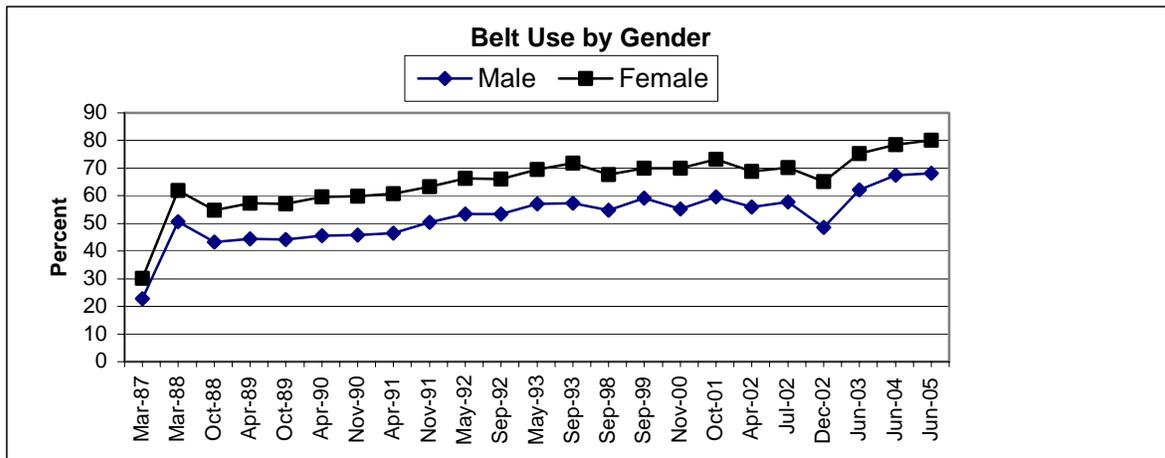


**Belt use is highest (96.0%) among children 0-4 years of age. This includes child safety seat use.** However, a 16-month, nationwide study completed in 2002 by the National Safe Kids Campaign showed that approximately 82% of child safety seats are used improperly in the vehicle, creating a situation where a child would be at increased risk of injury in the event of a crash.



**Belt use is the lowest (66.1%) among drivers ages 16-25.** This group represents 16.5% of licensed drivers, yet accounted for 29.1% of drivers involved in crashes in 2004.

**Wisconsin has consistently displayed a gender difference of more than 10% in safety belt use.**  
 In the most recent survey, 80.1% of females wore their belts, while only 68.1% of males did.

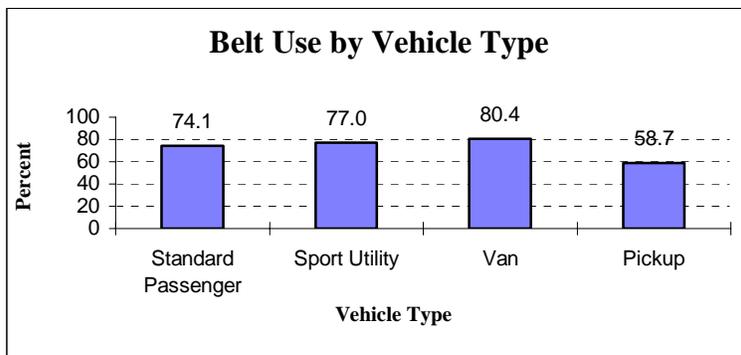
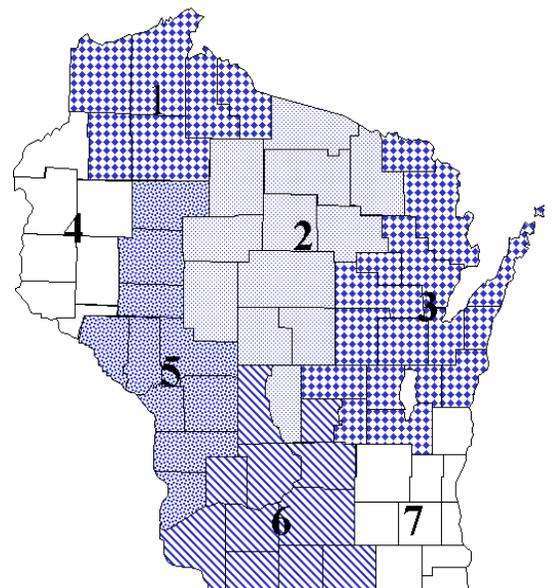


**Belt Use by Region**

**Belt use varies by more than 11% across the state.** The Green Bay/Appleton area is highest at 77.6%, and the Wausau/Rhineland area is lowest at 66.1%.

Region		Belt Usage 2005 (%)
1	Superior/Northern WI	70.6
2	Wausau/Rhineland	66.1
3	Green Bay/Appleton	77.6
4	Minneapolis/St. Paul	72.5
5	La Crosse/Eau Claire	72.1
6	Madison	77.1
7	Milwaukee	72.1

**Wisconsin Regions**



**Occupants of vans were most likely to be wearing their seatbelts.** 80.4% of front seat van occupants wore safety belts.  
**Occupants of pickup trucks were least likely to use their belts.** Little more than half (58.7%) of the occupants of pickup trucks wore safety belts.