

FIELD OBSERVATION OF SAFETY BELT USE IN WISCONSIN

July 2007



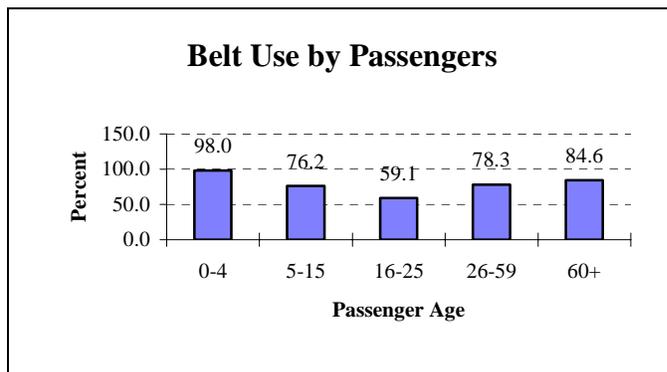
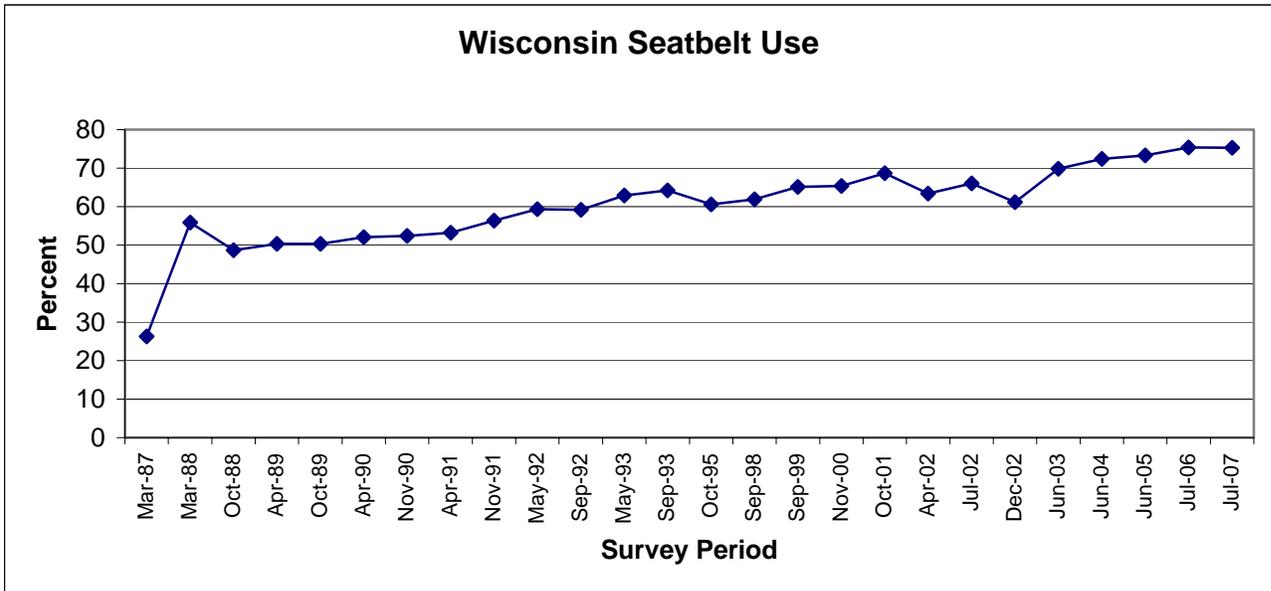
Since March 1987, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation has conducted periodic statewide observation surveys of safety belt use. Wisconsin enacted a mandatory safety belt law in December 1987 and a mandatory child safety seat law in May 1992.

RESULTS

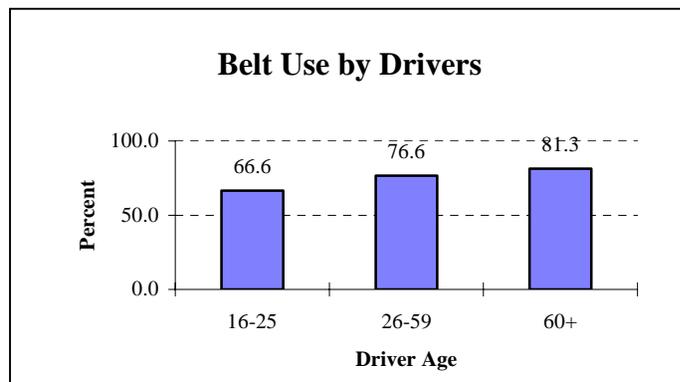
In July 2007, **75.3%** of passenger vehicle occupants (front outboard*) used their safety belts.

*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.)

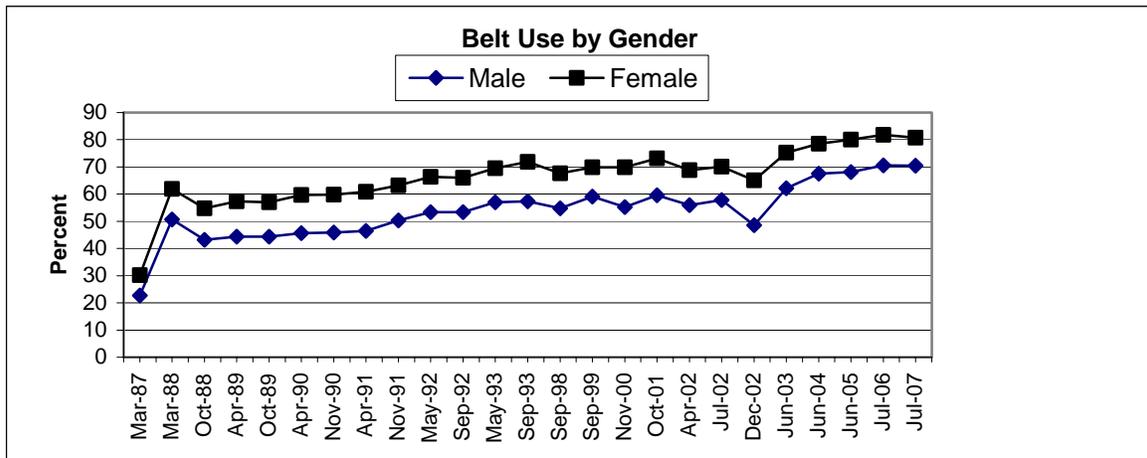


Belt use is highest (98.0%) among children 0-4 years of age. This includes child safety seat use. However, a 16-month, nationwide study completed in 2002 by the National Safe Kids Campaign showed that approximately 72.6% of child safety seats are used improperly in the vehicle, creating a situation where a child would be at increased risk of injury in the event of a crash. Please also note the enactment of **2005 Wisconsin Act 106**. This legislation broadly necessitates the use of booster seats for children from 4 through 7 years of age. The outcome of this statute will hopefully increase the percentage of belt use by passengers in the 5-15 age range statewide.



Belt use is the lowest (66.6%) among drivers ages 16-25. This group represents 16.0% of licensed drivers, yet accounted for 27.8% of drivers involved in crashes in 2006.

Wisconsin has consistently displayed a gender difference of approximately 10% or more in safety belt use. In the most recent survey, 80.8% of females wore their belts, while only 70.5% of males did.

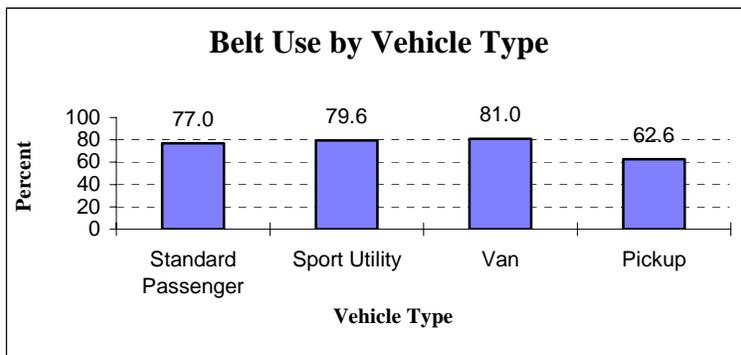
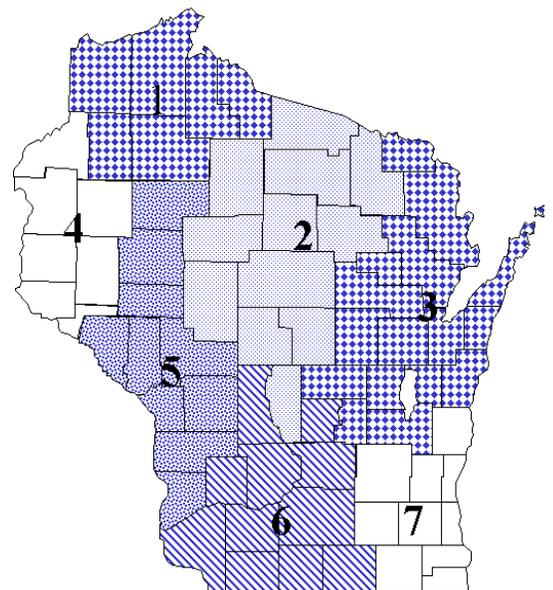


Belt Use by Region

Belt use varies by 8% across the state. The Green Bay/Appleton area is highest at 79.4%, and the La Crosse/Eau Claire area is lowest at 71.4%.

Region	Belt Usage 2007 (%)
1 Superior/Northern WI	71.9
2 Wausau/Rhineland	75.6
3 Green Bay/Appleton	79.4
4 Minneapolis/St. Paul	77.9
5 La Crosse/Eau Claire	71.4
6 Madison	75.2
7 Milwaukee	74.9

Wisconsin Regions



Occupants of vans were most likely to be wearing their safety belts. 81.0% of front seat van occupants wore safety belts. Occupants of pickup trucks were least likely to use their belts. Little more than half (62.6%) of the occupants of pickup trucks wore safety belts.