Characteristics of Seat Belt Use in Pickup Trucks Crashes

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Quick Facts: Seat Belt Use

- Wearing a seat belt is the easiest way to prevent fatalities in motor vehicle crashes.

- Seat belt use reduces the risk of fatality by 45% in passenger cars, and by 60% for pickup trucks (Kahane, 2015).

- How do we increase seat belt use?
  - Strong laws
  - Strong laws + High-Visibility Enforcement (HVE)
Increases in Observed Seat Belt Use

Source: NOPUS
Observed Seat Belt Use by Vehicle Type

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Observed Seat Belt Use by Vehicle Type

Source: NOPUS
Belt Use by Fatally Injured Occupants

Source: FARS
Belt Use by Fatally Injured Occupants

Source: FARS
Looking deeper...

Let’s explore a bit....

- Sex
- Rural
- Time of Day
- Alcohol

Based on FARS data

- front seat outboard occupants of pickup trucks
Belt Use by Sex, Pickup Trucks

Pickup Trucks Only. Source: FARS
Unbelted Fatalities by Rural/Urban

![Bar chart showing unbelted fatalities by rural and urban areas from 2013 to 2017. The chart indicates a decreasing trend in rural fatalities and an increasing trend in urban fatalities.](chart.png)

*Pickup Trucks Only. Source: FARS*
Fatalities by Time of Day, 2017

Pickup Trucks Only. Source: FARS
Fatalities by Time of Day, 2017

Pickup Trucks Only. Source: FARS
Belt Use by Alcohol Involvement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BAC Level</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zero BAC</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAC .01-.07</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAC .08+</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pickup Trucks Only. Source: FARS
So, now what?

- 2014: 77%; 2018: 84%
- Pickup truck occupants may not be that different after all:
  - Males
  - Rural
  - At night
  - When drinking
- The difference is...
  - More room for improvement in pickup trucks
Contact

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