

FIELD OBSERVATION OF SEATBELT USE IN WISCONSIN

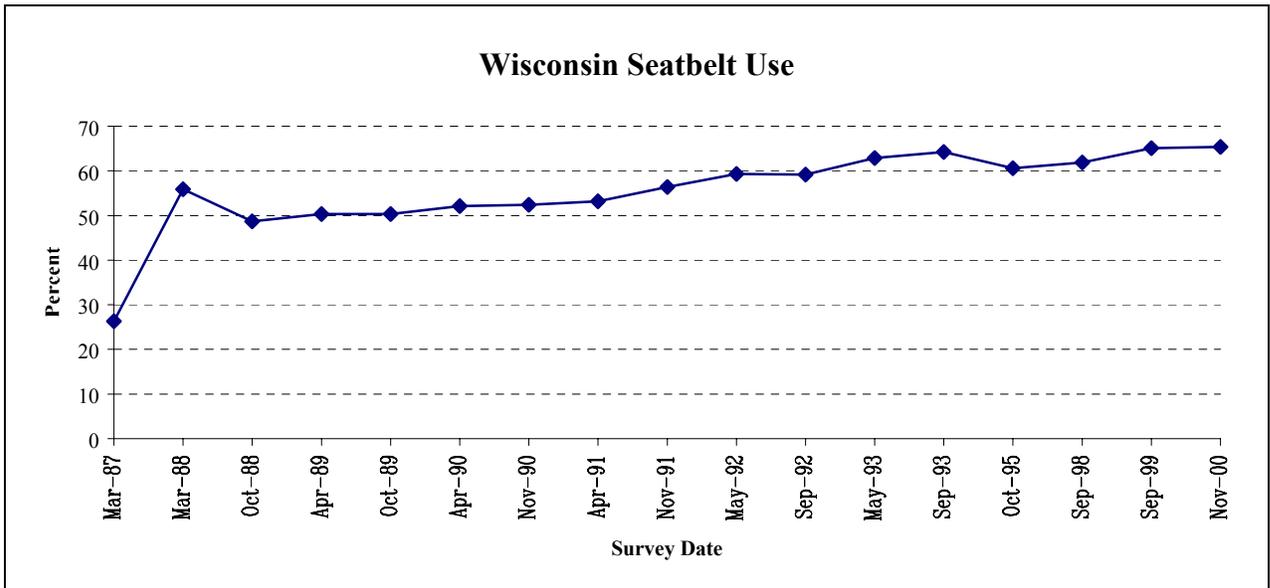


May 2001

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.

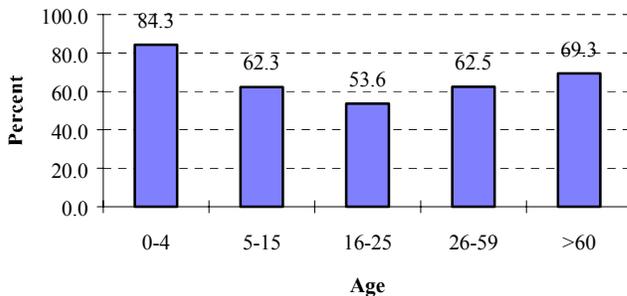
RESULTS

In November 2000, **65.4%** of passenger vehicle occupants used their seatbelts.



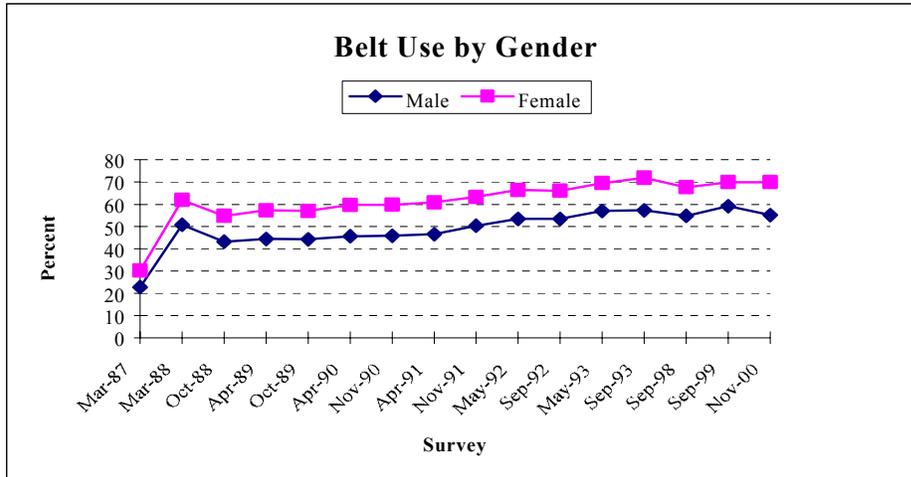
(Note: The chronology on the graph is not to scale due to irregularity in collection dates.)

Belt Use by Age



Belt use is highest among children 0-4 years of age (84.3%). This includes child safety seat use. However, other studies have shown that more than 90% of child safety seats are not correctly installed or children are not properly restrained in the vehicle.

Belt use is the lowest among occupants ages 16-25 (53.6%). This group represents 16.4% of licensed drivers, yet accounts for 32.4% of drivers involved in crashes in 2000.



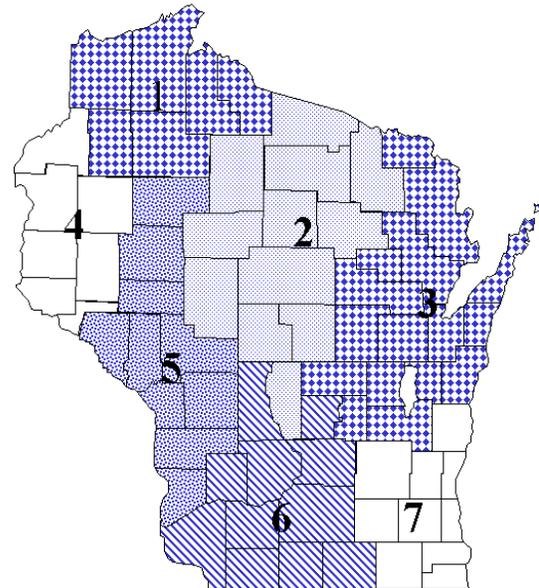
Wisconsin has consistently displayed a gender difference of more than 10% in safety belt use. In the most recent survey, 69.9% of females wore their belts, while only 55.2% of males did in 2000.

Belt Use by Region

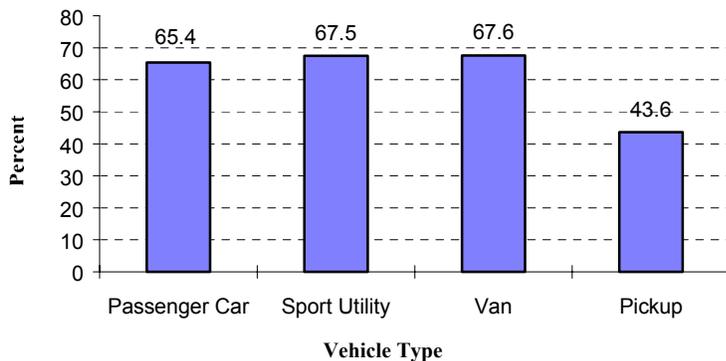
Belt use varies by more than 10% across the state. The Madison area is highest at 68.7%, and the Minneapolis/St. Paul area is lowest at 51.9%.

Media Market		Belt Usage
		2000 (%)
1	Duluth/Superior	59.4
2	Wausau/Rhineland	62.1
3	Green Bay/Appleton	67.7
4	Minneapolis/St. Paul	51.9
5	La Crosse/Eau Claire	60.9
6	Madison	68.7
7	Milwaukee	66.9

WISCONSIN MEDIA MARKETS



Belt Use by Vehicle Type



Occupants of vans were most likely to be wearing their seatbelts. Approximately 67.6% of van occupants wore safety belts.

Occupants of pickup trucks were least likely to use their belts. Fewer than half (43.6%) of the occupants of pickup trucks wore safety belts.