

# FIELD OBSERVATION OF SAFETY BELT USE IN WISCONSIN

## July 2014<sup>1</sup>

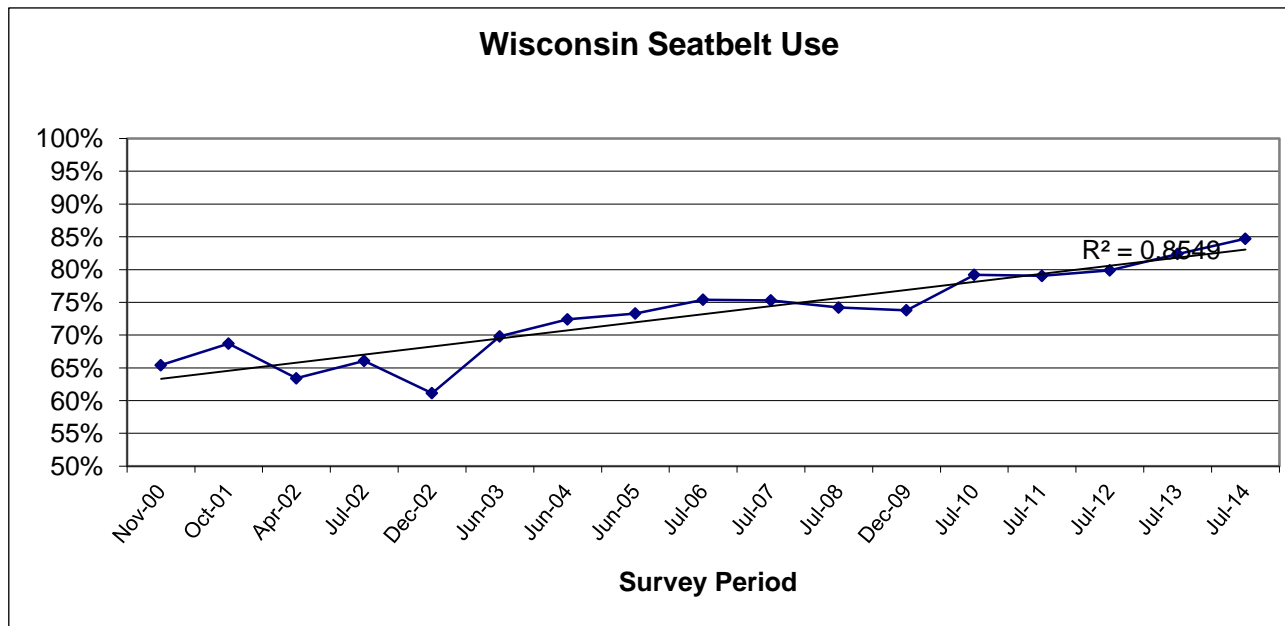
Since March 1987, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation has conducted periodic statewide observation surveys of safety belt use. Wisconsin enacted a mandatory safety belt law with secondary enforcement in December 1987, a mandatory child safety seat law in May 1992, and a primary safety belt enforcement law in July 2009.

### RESULTS

In July 2014, **84.7%** 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.)

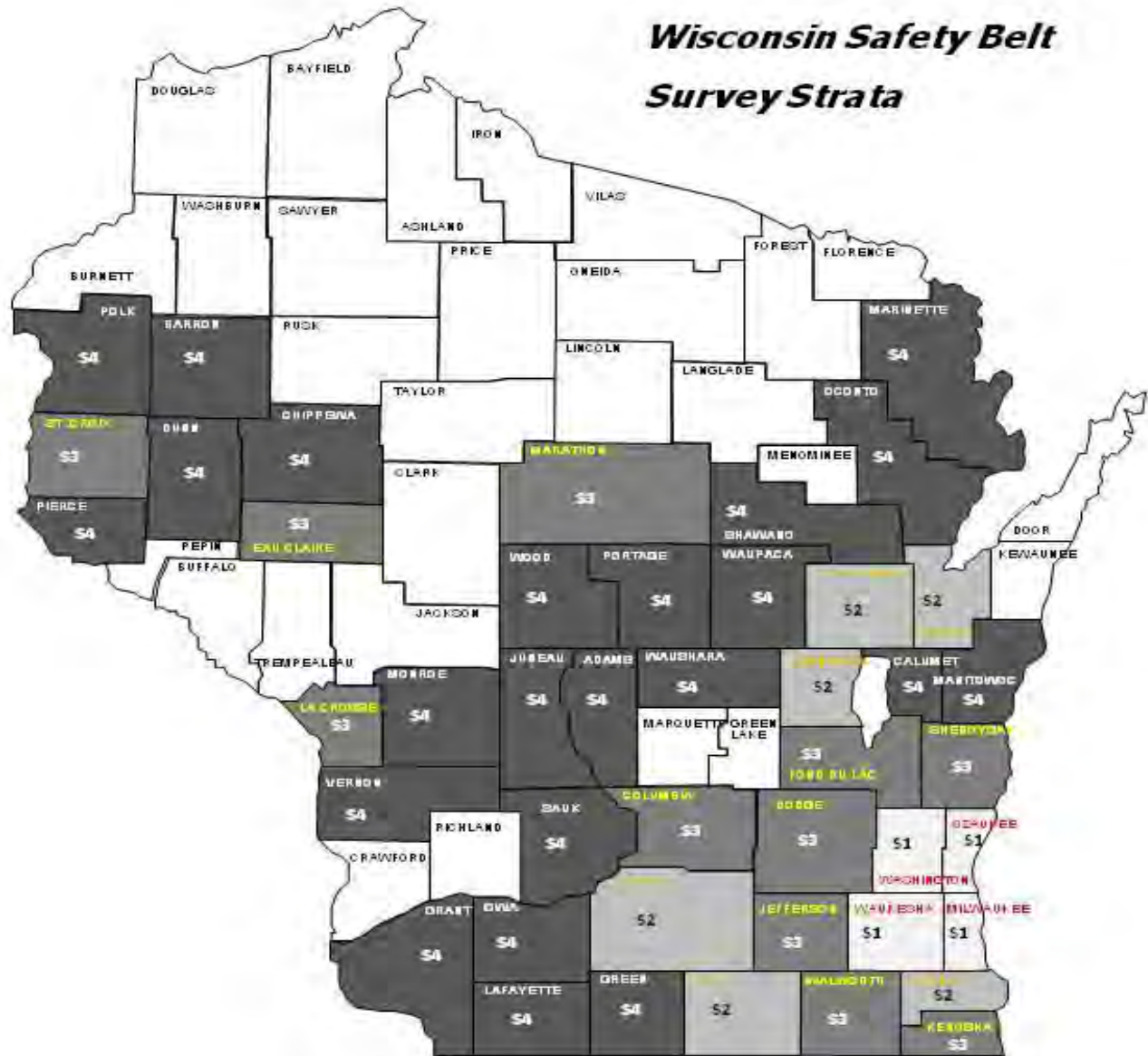


### Belt Use by Region (Stratum)

**Belt use varies by 4.3% across the state.** The Stratum 3 area is highest at 87.5%, and the Stratum 1 area is lowest at 83.2%

Strata <sup>2</sup>		Belt Usage 2014 (%)
1	Stratum 1	83.2
2	Stratum 2	83.6
3	Stratum 3	87.5
4	Stratum 4	84.5

## Wisconsin Safety Belt Survey Strata



- S1** Stratum 1 - Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Washington, and Waukesha Counties
- S2** Stratum 2 - Brown, Dane, Outagamie, Racine, Rock, and Winnebago Counties
- S3** Stratum 3 - Columbia, Dodge, Eau Claire, Fond du Lac, Jefferson, Kenosha, La Crosse, Marathon, Saint Croix, Sheboygan, and Walworth Counties
- S4** Stratum 4 - Adams, Barron, Calumet, Chippewa, Dunn, Grant, Green, Iowa, Juneau, Lafayette, Manitowoc, Marinette, Monroe, Oconto, Pierce, Polk, Portage, Sauk, Shawano, Vernon, Waupaca, Waushara, and Wood Counties

<sup>1</sup> Data for age, gender, and vehicle type were not collected in 2014, thus graphs and narratives that had been included in Seat Belt Monographs from previous years, for these variables will not be included in the 2014 Seat Belt Monograph.

<sup>2</sup> A stratum consists of one of four groups of counties, which are not necessarily contiguous that constitute a comparable number of Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and altogether make up 85+ percent of the three-year average of statewide motor vehicle fatalities. The counties making up the 85+ percent of 3-year statewide fatalities are necessary to meet the NHTSA guidelines for a seatbelt observation survey.

Except for Stratum 1, which represents metropolitan Milwaukee and is intrinsically contiguous, the other three strata each represent groups of counties that are by their nature have similar population size and characteristics. Please note that Stratum 2 represents the counties with the larger cities (outside of metro Milwaukee) of a more urban environment in Wisconsin, with Stratum 3 mostly representing the counties with the small to mid-size municipalities and a greater combination of urban and rural areas, whereas Stratum 4 represents the counties with the smallest municipalities, which are more rural in their nature when taken together with the other three strata. Altogether, the four strata make up the forty-four counties that have a possibility of having sites selected to be surveyed for seatbelt usage observations.