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# Seat Belt Use

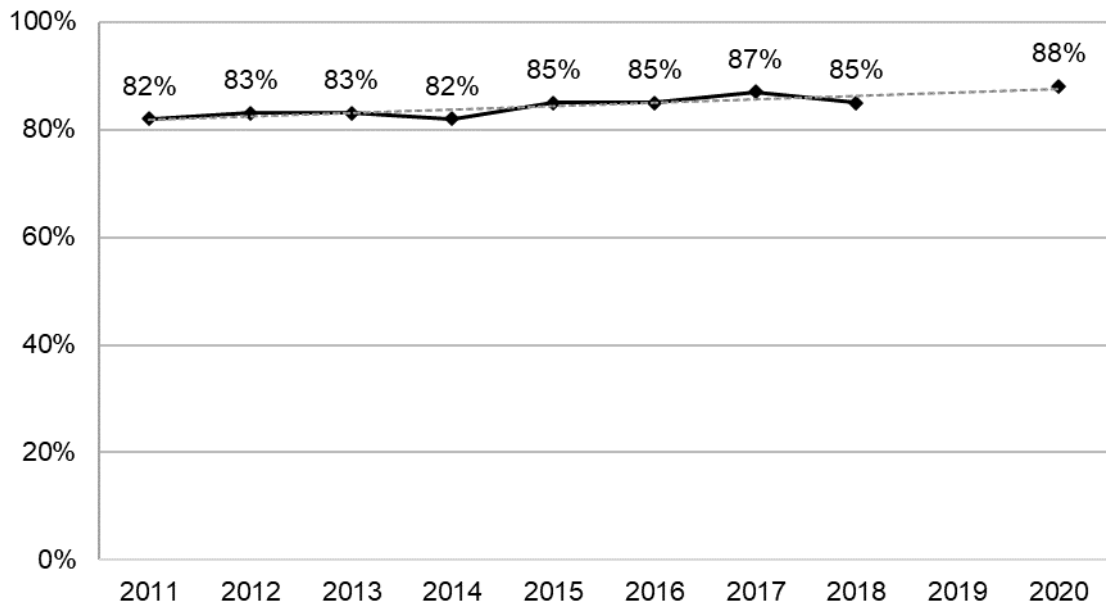
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**Definition:** South Dakotans who report they “always” or “nearly always” use seat belts when driving or riding in a car.

## Prevalence of Seat Belt Use

- South Dakota 88%
- Nationwide median 94%

**Figure 75**  
**Percentage of South Dakotans Who Always or Nearly Always Wear a Seat Belt, 2011-2020**



Source: The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, South Dakota Department of Health, 2011-2020

**Table 55**  
**South Dakotans Who Always or Nearly Always Wear a Seat Belt, 2016-2020**

|                              |                                       | 2016-2020 | 95% Confidence Interval |       |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-------|
|                              |                                       |           | Low                     | High  |
| <b>Gender</b>                | Male                                  | 80%       | 79.0%                   | 81.7% |
|                              | Female                                | 92%       | 90.9%                   | 92.7% |
| <b>Age</b>                   | 18-29                                 | 84%       | 81.3%                   | 86.0% |
|                              | 30-39                                 | 84%       | 81.8%                   | 86.5% |
|                              | 40-49                                 | 86%       | 84.1%                   | 88.6% |
|                              | 50-59                                 | 85%       | 82.4%                   | 86.5% |
|                              | 60-69                                 | 89%       | 87.2%                   | 90.1% |
|                              | 70-79                                 | 89%       | 86.9%                   | 90.6% |
|                              | 80+                                   | 92%       | 89.4%                   | 93.5% |
| <b>Race/Ethnicity</b>        | White, Non-Hispanic                   | 86%       | 85.3%                   | 87.1% |
|                              | American Indian, Non-Hispanic         | 85%       | 81.2%                   | 87.6% |
|                              | American Indian/White, Non-Hispanic   | 82%       | 73.8%                   | 88.7% |
|                              | Hispanic                              | 87%       | 77.9%                   | 92.2% |
| <b>Household Income</b>      | Less than \$35,000                    | 83%       | 80.9%                   | 84.3% |
|                              | \$35,000-\$74,999                     | 86%       | 84.1%                   | 87.4% |
|                              | \$75,000+                             | 90%       | 88.2%                   | 91.0% |
| <b>Education</b>             | Less than High School, G.E.D.         | 78%       | 73.4%                   | 81.4% |
|                              | High School, G.E.D.                   | 83%       | 81.6%                   | 84.8% |
|                              | Some Post-High School                 | 86%       | 84.8%                   | 87.7% |
|                              | College Graduate                      | 92%       | 91.5%                   | 93.4% |
| <b>Employment Status</b>     | Employed for Wages                    | 87%       | 85.6%                   | 87.9% |
|                              | Self-employed                         | 76%       | 73.3%                   | 79.3% |
|                              | Unemployed                            | 81%       | 75.2%                   | 85.7% |
|                              | Homemaker                             | 93%       | 86.9%                   | 95.9% |
|                              | Student                               | 88%       | 83.3%                   | 91.9% |
|                              | Retired                               | 90%       | 89.0%                   | 91.6% |
|                              | Unable to Work                        | 82%       | 77.4%                   | 85.2% |
| <b>Marital Status</b>        | Married/Unmarried Couple              | 88%       | 87.5%                   | 89.5% |
|                              | Divorced/Separated                    | 81%       | 78.2%                   | 83.6% |
|                              | Widowed                               | 89%       | 86.6%                   | 91.5% |
|                              | Never Married                         | 82%       | 79.7%                   | 84.0% |
| <b>Home Ownership Status</b> | Own Home                              | 87%       | 86.1%                   | 88.0% |
|                              | Rent Home                             | 83%       | 80.7%                   | 84.7% |
| <b>Children Status</b>       | Children in Household (Ages 18-44)    | 85%       | 82.4%                   | 86.4% |
|                              | No Children in Household (Ages 18-44) | 84%       | 82.0%                   | 86.5% |
| <b>Phone Status</b>          | Landline                              | 88%       | 86.6%                   | 89.1% |
|                              | Cell Phone                            | 85%       | 84.4%                   | 86.5% |
| <b>Pregnancy Status</b>      | Pregnant (Ages 18-44)                 | 89%       | 70.0%                   | 96.6% |
|                              | Not Pregnant (Ages 18-44)             | 91%       | 89.0%                   | 92.3% |
| <b>County</b>                | Minnehaha                             | 89%       | 87.1%                   | 91.0% |
|                              | Pennington                            | 89%       | 86.9%                   | 90.7% |
|                              | Lincoln                               | 94%       | 88.1%                   | 96.8% |
|                              | Brown                                 | 80%       | 76.3%                   | 82.7% |
|                              | Brookings                             | 90%       | 86.6%                   | 92.8% |
|                              | Codington                             | 82%       | 77.3%                   | 85.2% |
|                              | Meade                                 | 83%       | 76.4%                   | 87.8% |
|                              | Lawrence                              | 88%       | 83.7%                   | 90.9% |

Note: \*Results based on small sample sizes have been suppressed.

Source: The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, South Dakota Department of Health, 2016-2020

## **Demographics**

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>Gender</b>           | Females exhibit a significantly higher prevalence of seat belt use than males.   |
| <b>Age</b>              | Seat belt use generally increases as age increases with a significant increase as the 60s are reached.   |
| <b>Race/Ethnicity</b>   | The prevalence of seat belt use does not seem to differ based on race/ethnicity.   |
| <b>Household Income</b> | Seat belt use increases as household income increases. This includes a significant increase as the \$75,000+ income group is reached.  |
| <b>Education</b>        | Seat belt use increases as education levels increase. This includes significant increases as the high school and college graduate levels are reached.  |
| <b>Employment</b>       | Those who are a homemaker, a student, or retired demonstrate a very high prevalence of seat belt use, while those who are self-employed, unemployed, or unable to work show a very low prevalence. |
| <b>Marital Status</b>   | Those who are married or widowed exhibit a very high prevalence of seat belt use, while those who are divorced or have never been married show a very low prevalence.                              |
| <b>Home Ownership</b>   | Those who own their home show a significantly higher prevalence of seat belt use than those who rent their home.   |
| <b>Children Status</b>  | The prevalence of seat belt use does not seem to change based on the presence of children in the household.  |
| <b>Phone Status</b>     | Those who primarily use a landline phone demonstrate a significantly higher prevalence of seat belt use than those who primarily use a cell phone.   |
| <b>Pregnancy Status</b> | The prevalence of seat belt use does not seem to differ based on pregnancy status.   |
| <b>County</b>           | Minnehaha, Pennington, Lincoln, Brookings, and Lawrence counties all exhibit a very high prevalence of seat belt use, while Brown, Codington, and Meade counties all show a very low prevalence.   |