

WAKE FOREST

DRIVER SAFETY

BUCKLE UP!

Seat belts should never have time off!

Today, 84% of the U.S. population is buckling up. While that's good news, there are still almost 45 million people who are not wearing a seat belt all the time—and some not wearing one at all. Seat belt use is the single most important factor in preventing or reducing the severity of injuries to vehicle occupants involved in a traffic crash.

Part-time belt users make an active decision to not use their seat belt after considering things such as where and how far they will be traveling, how fast they expect to drive, how likely they think they are to encounter a police officer, and the condition of the roads, to name a few. That's a lot to think about when deciding whether or not to take *two seconds* to secure a seat belt. In effect, part-time belt users assess the likelihood of getting in a crash or of getting a ticket each time they head out. But whoever plans for these things to happen?

Consider these facts:

- In a lifetime of being either a driver or a passenger, 99 out of 100 people will be involved in a traffic crash.
- Correctly used, seat belts reduce the risk of fatal injury to front-seat passenger car occupants by 45% and the risk of moderate-to-critical injury by 50%. For light truck occupants, seat belts reduce the risk of fatal injury by 60% and moderate-to-critical injury by 65%. (NHTSA)
- Between 1975 and 2010, seat belts saved an estimated 280,486 lives. In 2010 alone, seat belts saved an estimated 12,546 lives. (NHTSA)
- A common explanation given by non-seat belt users is that they were only driving a short distance. They probably don't know that 25% of all crashes happen within one mile (1.6 km) of home.

Your time is valuable, but so are you. It takes less than 2 seconds to buckle up. Seat belts should never have time off.



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