

# 2010 MISSOURI HIGH SCHOOL SAFETY BELT SURVEY



**FINAL REPORT  
SUBMITTED BY:  
MISSOURI SAFETY CENTER  
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## Executive Summary

A high school safety belt observational survey was conducted in the State of Missouri from April 1<sup>st</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The effort was funded by the Highway Safety Division of the Missouri Department of Transportation in cooperation with the Missouri Safety Center.

A total of 30,976 observations were collected at 150 high schools. Two instruments were used to collect these data; one instrument focused on the vehicle and the driver and the other targeted the front seat outboard passenger and other occupants in the vehicle.

There were 17,146 teenage and 11,573 adult drivers observed. In addition, 2,257 front seat outboard passengers were identified of which 2,118 were teenagers.

The following is a list of the major findings.

- Safety belt use for all teenage drivers and teenage front seat outboard passengers combined was 66.5 percent a 5.0 percent increase from 2009 (61.5 %).
- There were 17,416 teenage drivers observed of which 11,382 or 66.4 percent were using safety belts. This is a 5.0 percent increase over the 61.4 percent using safety belts in 2009. This number is still well below the 2009 statewide safety belt use rate of 77.2 percent.
- Female teenage drivers' safety belt use was 11.8 percent higher than male teenage drivers at 72.3 and 60.5 percent respectively. Safety belt use among teenage male drivers increased by 5.0 percent when compared to the 2009 survey results of 55.5 percent. Safety belt use among teenage female drivers increased 5.0 percent when compared to the 2009 survey results of 67.3 percent.
- Adult drivers (70.2%) used safety belts more frequently than teenage drivers (66.4%).
- Safety belt use for the front seat outboard teenage passengers was 69.0 percent when with an adult driver. The adult drivers' safety belt use in this situation was 71.3 percent.
- When a teenage driver had a adult front seat outboard passenger, safety belt use for the teenage driver was much higher at 84.6 percent, whereas the adult passengers usage was only 73.1 percent.
- When there was a teenage driver with a teenage front seat outboard passenger safety belt use was higher for the driver; however there was a slight decrease in passenger seat belt usage. The teenage drivers' safety belt use was 69.0 and the teenage passenger was 65.1 percent. This is an increase of 6.9 and 7.4 percent for both teenage drivers and teenage passengers when compared to the 2009 survey results.

- Only 54.3 percent of the male teenage drivers wore safety belts when there was a teenage front seat outboard passenger in the vehicle. The teenage passengers' safety belt use was slightly lower at 51.4 percent. Safety belt use decreased for both the male teenage driver and the teenage passenger by 1.6 and 3.2 percent respectively when compared to the 2009 data.
- When the teenage driver was female and there was a teenage front seat outboard passenger, the driver's safety belt use was 75.5 percent and the passengers' was lower at 71.6 percent. The female drivers' safety belt use was 21.2 percent higher than male teenage drivers under these circumstances.
- Teenage drivers of cars were most frequently belted at 80.4 percent. Only 50.9 percent of the teenage drivers in trucks were belted.
- In 2010, all ten MoDOT Districts had an increase in the safety belt use rate when teenage drivers and front seat outboard passengers were combined. MoDOT District 2 having the highest increase at 8.7 percent.
- MoDOT Districts 4 (75.0%), 6 (75.3%), 8 (74.7%), and 9 (66.4%) had the highest safety belt use when the teenage drivers and teenage outboard front seat occupants were combined. In contrast, MoDOT Districts 1 (57.8%), 2 (52.6%), and 10 (47.0%) had the lowest observed safety belt use among this group.
- MoDOT Districts 4 (71.5%), 6 (76.1%), 7 (72.0%), 8 (76.0%), and 9 (76.1%) had the highest usage rate among teenage drivers who were with teenage outboard front seat passengers. The highest usage rate among teenage passengers with a teenage driver was also District 9 at 76.1 percent.