



STATE OF DELAWARE  
OFFICE OF HIGHWAY SAFETY

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Newsletter Article

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**Buckle Up...Your Life May Depend on It.**

If you are one of the 90% of Delawareans who buckle up on a regular basis, we appreciate all that you are doing to help keep you and your family safe! However, in spite of the fact that the seat belt use rate in Delaware is above the national average, more than half of the drivers and passengers killed so far this year in car crashes were not buckled up.

What do we know about these crashes? Most of the victims (74%) were males, and were the drivers of the vehicles. Twenty-six percent of the victims were in their 20's, yet 19% were in their 50's. Primarily, the crashes were caused by a driver who was speeding, making an unsafe passing move, failing to stop at a red light or failed to negotiate a curve or sharp turn. Approximately 43% of these crashes occurred after 9 p.m.

What should you know?

- Everyone in the vehicle, even backseat passengers and children, must wear seatbelts properly – every trip, every time you get in the car. It's our law.
- Lap and shoulder belts both must be worn and shoulder belts may not be placed behind the back or under the arm.
- The driver will receive a ticket for the failure of anyone in the vehicle to buckle up. Fines and court fees could total more than \$70.

Seat belts save lives and you can make a difference by buckling up every time.

**Buckle Up. Arrive Alive DE.**