



2022 Thanksgiving *Buckle Up. Every Trip. Every Time.*

FACT SHEET

The Thanksgiving holiday is the kickoff to the busiest season of the year. With all the rushing around and holiday travel, it's a great time to remind drivers and passengers to buckle their seat belts. To keep drivers and their passengers safe, the **Southeastern New Mexico Economic Development District/Council of Governments** is partnering with the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to share an important lifesaving reminder: *Buckle Up. Every Trip. Every Time.* Review these statistics for an eye-opening look at the impact seat belts can have on your safety.

- During Thanksgiving weekend, millions of Americans will hit the roads, eager to spend time with family and friends. It's one of the busiest travel times of the year, and unfortunately, that may mean more crashes.
- NHTSA is reminding everyone that seat belts save lives. Buckling up gives you your best defense against injury or death in a crash.
- In 2020, there were 23,824 passenger vehicle occupants (in passenger cars, pickup trucks, vans, or SUVs) killed in traffic crashes in the United States. More than half (51%) of those who were killed were not wearing seat belts.
- The facts don't lie: Fifty percent of all front-seat passenger vehicle occupants killed in crashes in 2020 were unrestrained, and 59% of those killed in back seats were unrestrained.

Make this Thanksgiving different from years past.

- During the Thanksgiving holiday weekend in 2020 (6 p.m. on Wednesday, November 25, to 5:59 a.m. on Monday, November 30), there were 333 passenger vehicle occupants killed in traffic crashes across the nation. More than half (52%) were unrestrained.
- No matter the time of day, driving without a seat belt is deadly. During the 2020 Thanksgiving weekend, 51% of passenger vehicle occupants killed in crashes at night were unbuckled, compared to 55% during the day.
- Younger people continue to be overrepresented in fatal crashes and seat belt non-use. Among young adults 18 to 34 killed while riding in passenger vehicles in 2020, more than half (60%) were completely unrestrained – one of the highest percentages for all age groups.
- Males make up the majority of those killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes. In 2020, 67% of the 23,824 passenger vehicle occupants who were killed were male. Males also



wear their seat belts at a lower rate than females do – 55% of males killed in crashes were unrestrained, compared to 43% of females killed in crashes.

- If you're ejected from a vehicle in a crash, odds are that you will not survive. In 2020, 8 out of 10 (82%) of the passenger vehicle occupants totally ejected from vehicles in crashes were killed. Wearing your seat belt is the most effective way to prevent ejection; in 2020, only 1% of passenger vehicle occupants wearing seat belts were ejected in fatal crashes, compared to 26% of those who were unrestrained.
- Surviving your Thanksgiving drive this year – and making it to next Thanksgiving – can be as simple as buckling up. In the last decade, seat belts saved the lives of more than 100,000 people in the United States. Those people are thankful they wore their seat belts. Won't you wear yours? *Buckle Up. Every Trip. Every Time.*

Drive safely this Thanksgiving. For more information, please visit

www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/get-materials/seat-belts/buckle/thanksgiving-weekend.