

# Occupant Protection

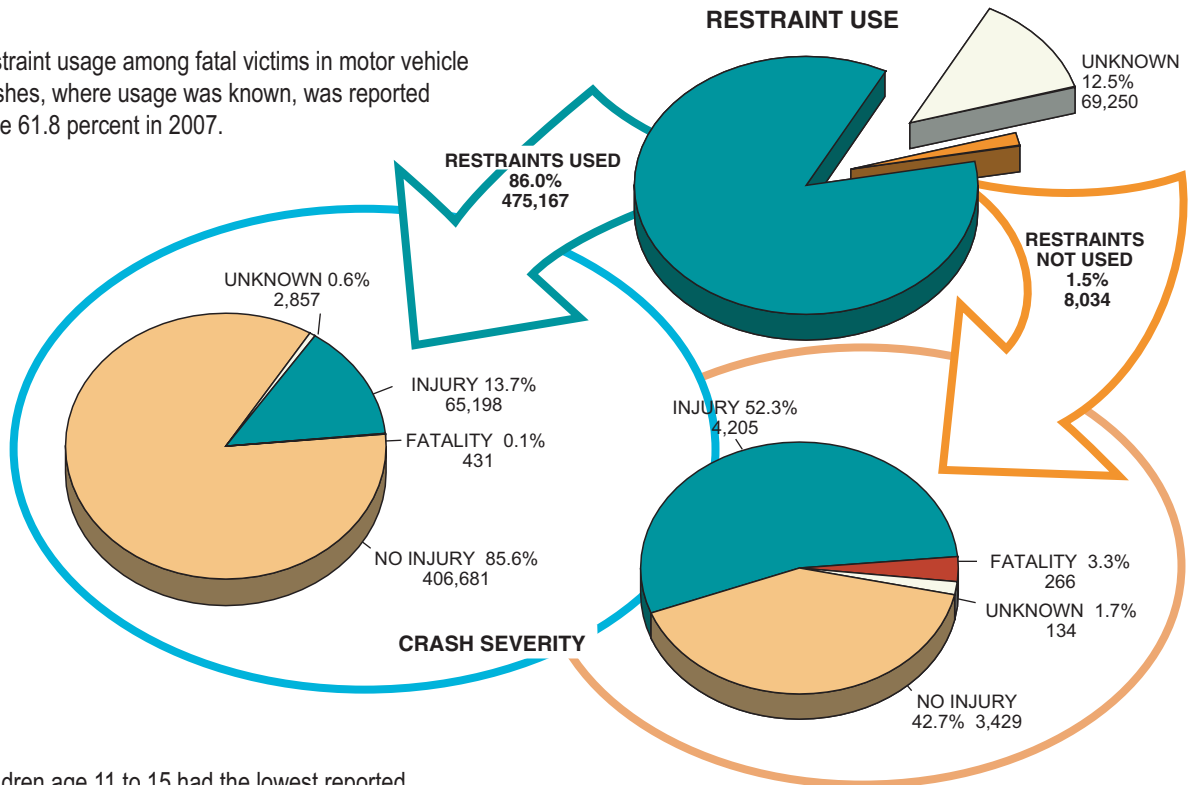


Restraint use by motorists is measured two ways: by what motorists REPORT to police at the scene of a traffic crash (reported usage), and by DIRECT OBSERVATION studies where motorists are totally unaware of the presence of researchers (observed usage).

Of the 552,451 drivers and injured passengers involved in crashes, 475,167 (86.0%) were REPORTED to have been using occupant restraints. However, a DIRECT OBSERVATION study by the Wayne State University Transportation Research Group estimated statewide belt use was 93.7 percent in 2007.

Occupants in crashes were **33 times** more likely to be killed if they were not wearing their restraints.

Restraint usage among fatal victims in motor vehicle crashes, where usage was known, was reported to be 61.8 percent in 2007.



Children age 11 to 15 had the lowest reported restraint usage (78.3%).

Motor vehicle occupants aged 75 to 110 had the highest reported restraint usage (95.5%) of any age group.

Restraint use can prevent ejection from a motor vehicle. Ejection is associated with higher levels of injury severity and greater numbers of fatalities.