Seat Belt Use In Fatal and Injury Crashes

- Occupant seat belt use in fatal and injury crashes is considerably lower than conventional use reported by NHTSA. From 2009 - 2014, North Dakota’s average occupant use in fatal crashes was 26% and in injury crashes, 68%.
- The distribution of seat belt use in crashes by age reflected the lowest use in the 21-24 year olds and a steady increase with age - over 80% for drivers 55 years and older.
- Drivers in crashes on interstate roads demonstrated the highest seat belt use.

- On average, drivers of pickups/vans were marginally less likely to use seat belts than drivers of cars and large trucks in fatal and serious injury crashes.
- Observational studies of seat belt use in North Dakota have found female use to be higher than male use, and this pattern holds true in crashes. From 2012-2014, female use in crashes was 53% compared to male use of 47%.
- Drivers’ seat belt use in lane departure and rollover crash types is 15% - 22% less than those in crashes outside each category. Belt use is roughly equal in speeding crashes.
- Annual seat belt use in crashes shows drivers in the east consistently use restraints more than the west, 78% and 70%, respectively.