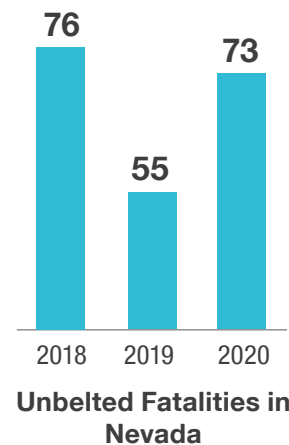




Current Situation:

Nearly 50% of vehicle occupants killed in traffic fatalities in Nevada are unbelted.

- » Between 2018 and 2020, 204 of 480 (42%) vehicle occupants killed in Nevada were unbelted, plus an additional 32 (7%) were unknown.
- » Nevada's seat belt law is a secondary law, not a primary law, and violators can only be ticketed when they are pulled over for a reason other than seat belt use.
- » Nevada is one of just 15 states without a primary seat belt law.
- » Restraint use is the highest predictor of injury severity of vehicle occupants in a crash in Nevada, with those **unrestrained at 2.2 times higher risk** of a fatal or serious injury compared to those who use restraints.¹
- » Hospital patients from a crash that were unrestrained have **higher injury scores, longer hospital stays** (6.3 vs. 3.0 days), **more days in the ICU** (2.5 days vs. 1 day), **more days on ventilator support** (1.35 vs. 0.43 days), and incur a median of **\$12,110 more per person in hospital charges** compared with those who were restrained.¹



Source: FARS for 2016-2020, Nevada State Data for 2021

Recommended Solution:

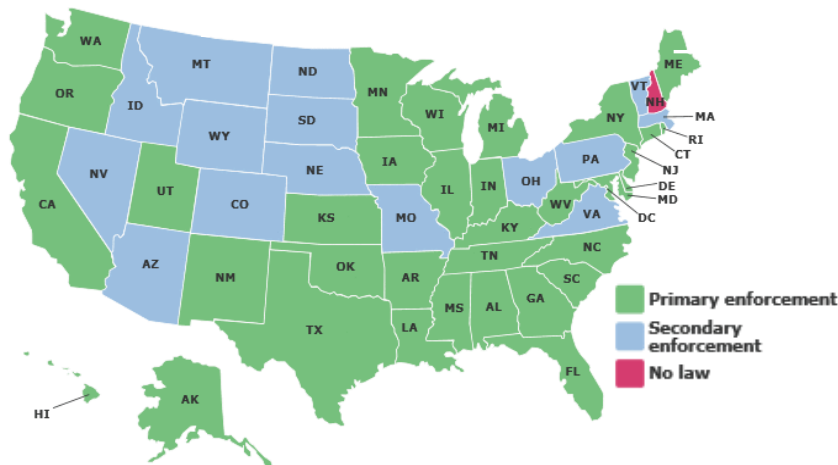
Change Nevada's seat belt law to a primary seat belt law.

- » Since 2011, 35 lives would have been saved had Nevada's seat belt usage been 100%.²
- » Approximately 200 lives were saved between 2016 and 2017 as a result of a new primary seat belt law in Utah.³

Primary Seat Belt Laws Nationwide

Primary seat belt laws are being used nationally and internationally to save lives through increased seat belt usage. Primary enforcement laws are more effective than secondary enforcement laws. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), in 2019, 92% of front seat occupants in states with primary enforcement laws buckled up, in contrast to 86% of front seat occupants in states with secondary enforcement or no laws. Nevada is one of only 15 states with secondary seat belt laws.

It is estimated that over 220,000 of Nevadans are still not buckling up and are overrepresented in fatalities in Nevada.⁴



References and Additional Resources

1. **Nevada's Traffic Research and Education Newsletter**
<https://www.unlv.edu/medicine/newsletters>
2. **State of Nevada Office of Traffic Safety Annual Report, 2016**
https://www.nhtsa.gov/sites/nhtsa.gov/files/documents/nv_fy2016_annual_report.pdf
3. **Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) 2016-2019 Final, FARS 2020 ARF, Preliminary State Data (2021)**
<https://www.nhtsa.gov/research-data/fatality-analysis-reporting-system-fars>
4. **Utah Department of Public Safety (DPS)**
<https://publicsafety.utah.gov/>

Proposed Policy Recommendations for a Primary Seat Belt Law:

- 1 Change the Nevada law by eliminating existing language that limits the issuance of a seat belt citation. This would make Nevada a primary seat belt law state.
- 2 Change Nevada law by eliminating existing language that limits the issuance of a citation, but with a sunset date to allow for data collection and analysis to evaluate the effectiveness of the law (similar to Utah).
- 3 Increase the minimum fine for non-compliance with Nevada's existing seat belt law. This could be enacted in conjunction with the other options or separately.

For more information contact:

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