



### NEVADA REVISED STATUTE (NRS)

**484D.495 3.(B)** – Nevada statute requires all occupants to wear a seat belt in vehicles made after January 1, 1968. However, current language allows for enforcement of the law only when a driver is pulled over for a reason other than seat belt use and the citation issued results only in a \$25 fine.

## NEVADA SEAT BELT LAWS

All vehicle occupants in Nevada are required to wear a seat belt. While the law is clear that all occupants should be buckled in, it misses the mark in one crucial area: seat belt violators can only be ticketed when they are pulled over for a reason other than seat belt use. In other words, **Nevada's seat belt law is a secondary law, not a primary law.**

## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR NEVADA?

Simply put, since wearing a seat belt is not a primary law in Nevada, fewer people buckle up.

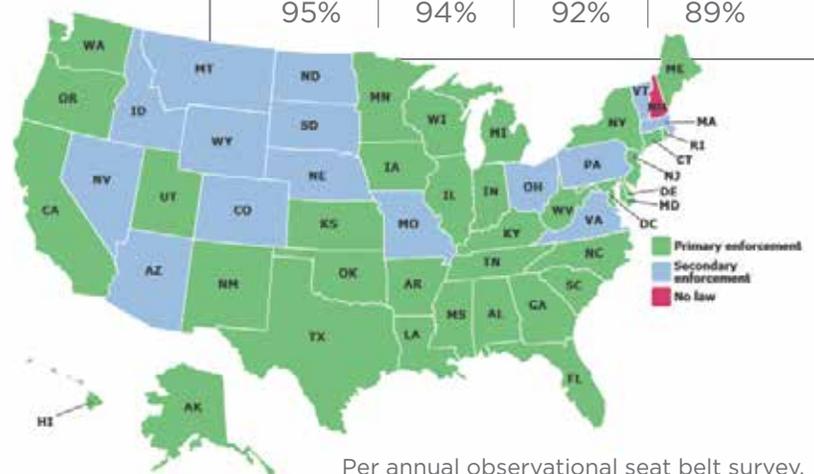
Nevada is 1 of 15 states without a primary seat belt law. Nearly 11 percent of Nevadans—over 318,000 people—are still not buckling up.

**35 lives would have been saved since 2011 had Nevada's seat belt usage been 100%.**

That's 35 people who would still be alive today, had they simply buckled up.

### Nevada Seat Belt Use

2013	2014	2015	2016
95%	94%	92%	89%



Per annual observational seat belt survey. Seat belt use is declining.

# NEVADA PASSENGER VEHICLE OCCUPANT FATALITIES AND ESTIMATE OF LIVES SAVED

Year	Total	Restrained	Unrestrained	Unknown Restraint Use	Percent Known Restrained	Current Lives Saved	Potential Lives Savable at 100%
2013	123	56	57	10	50	76	7
2014	141	66	64	11	51	87	10
2015	176	91	72	13	56	132	18

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) lists the leading cause of death for Nevada residents ages 1-54 as traffic crashes. This comes in conjunction with reports from 2003 to 2012, there were 2,213 vehicle occupants killed in Nevada. As shown in the table above, the potential for Nevada lives saved cannot be denied.

## SHOULD NEVADA BE A PRIMARY SEAT BELT STATE?

Making the switch from a secondary law to a primary law is easier than you might think and involves changing only a few words. Optionally, Utah recently passed a primary seat belt law with a sunset date after three years. Three years of data collection will determine if lives were saved as a result of the law.

**To save more lives on Nevada roads, there are three options we can consider:**

- 1 Change the Nevada law by eliminating existing language that limits the issuance of a 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 identify the effectiveness of the law (similar to Utah).
- 3 Increase the minimum fine for non-compliance with Nevada's seat belt law. This could be enacted in conjunction with the other options or individually.