

SMART & SAFE DRIVING

SEPTEMBER 2017

Life Saving Technology

Crumple Zones

Crumple zones are designed to absorb the energy from the impact during a collision by controlled deformation of the vehicle. Typically, crumple zones are located in the front and rear parts of the vehicle but may be found on other parts of the vehicle as well. The purpose is to keep the energy that is bending and buckling metal away from the passengers of the vehicle.

Passenger Safety Cell

The Passenger Safety Cell or safety cage is the area of the vehicle's body that surrounds the passenger compartment and is strengthened or stiffened to provide extra protection for the occupants. The strengthened areas that form a safety cage are usually the floor to roof pillars, the frame of the roof and the floor pan. The safety cell is designed to maintain its structure in a crash.

Seat-Belts

Seat Belts typically consist of a lap belt, which rests over the pelvis, and a shoulder belt, which extends across the chest. The two belt sections are tightly secured to the frame of the car. In the case of an abrupt stop, the seat belt applies a stopping force to parts of the body that are sturdy enough to withstand the force, ultimately keeping passengers in their seats and reducing the chance of major injury.

The above features work together to keep passengers safe in their vehicles. The seat belts are necessary to keep the vehicle occupants within the safety cell which is within the crumple zone.

Montana has the fourth lowest observed seat-belt use in the US! Only 78% of Montanans use their seat-belts.

Montana has a secondary seat belt law that requires all occupants to use a properly positioned seat belt when riding in or driving a vehicle.

Seat belts are the best defense against impaired, aggressive, and distracted drivers.



CITY-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Most of us don't climb into our cars planning to die on the highway. However, most of us don't climb into our cars planning NOT to die on the highway.

Dangerous Driving Habits

- Eating and Drinking
- Applying Makeup or Grooming
- Tending to Pets
- Keeping an Eye on Kids
- Driving While Drowsy
- Fiddling with Entertainment or Onboard Electronics
- Watching Roadside Diversions
- Texting and Updating Social Media
- Daydreaming
- Talking on the Phone
- Driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol

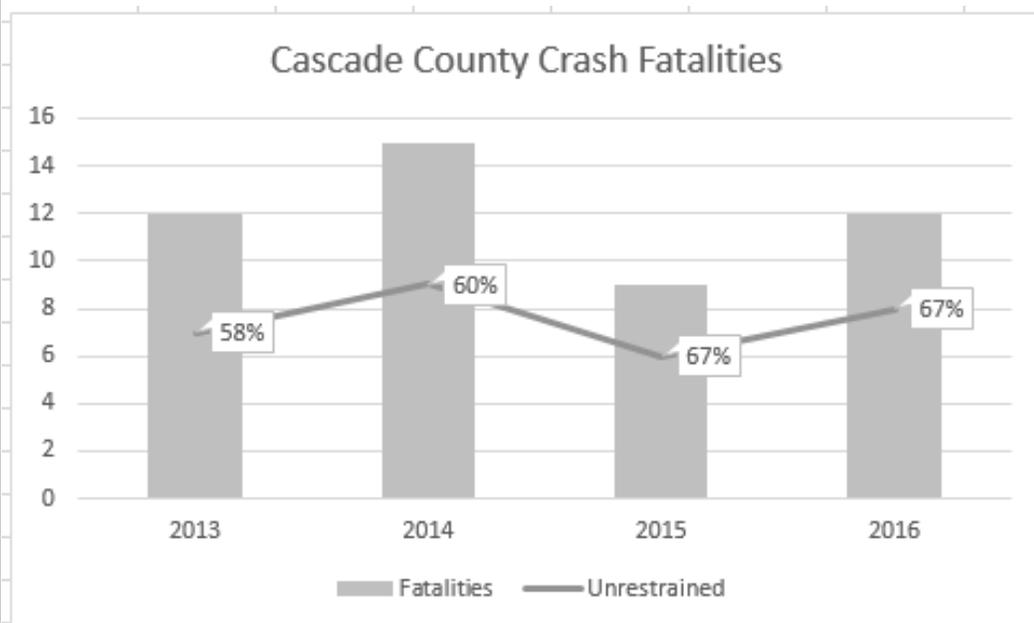
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Vision Zero

According to the Montana Department of Transportation Director Mike Tooley, “Vision Zero is the concept that we can no longer accept any fatalities on Montana highways. Some folks think that’s pretty unrealistic, but when you talk about that, you can ask those folks one simple question: ‘Who in your family can you accept dying on a Montana highway?’ If it’s zero in your family, why isn’t it zero for everybody?”

Below are the total number of fatalities due to crashes in Cascade County. The percentage is the number of those fatalities that were unrestrained with seat-belts.



This health profile was based on information from :
<https://sites.google.com/site/impactabsorbtion>
<http://auto.howstuffworks.com/car-driving-safety/accidents-hazardous-conditions/10-most-dangerous-distracted-driving-habits10.htm>

For more information, please contact :

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