

# Seatbelt Usage Among Mississippi Adults in 2020

The Mississippi Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) is conducted annually to monitor the prevalence of behaviors that contribute to the leading causes of morbidity and mortality among adults in our state. The 2020 Mississippi BRFSS was completed by 6,479 Mississippians aged 18 years or older.

## About Seatbelt Usage

- **Seatbelt use** is one of the most effective ways to **save lives** and **reduce injuries** in motor vehicle crashes.<sup>1</sup>
- Motor vehicle crashes are a **leading cause of death** among people aged 1 – 54 years in the United States.<sup>1</sup>
- **More than half** of adults aged 20 – 44 years who died in motor vehicle crashes in 2018 were not using seatbelts at the time of the crash.<sup>1</sup>
- One out of every 2 people **killed** in motor vehicle crashes in Mississippi are **not using seatbelts**.<sup>2</sup>

## Self-Reported Seatbelt Usage in Mississippi in 2020

- Approximately 6 in 7 adults (**85.1%**) reported always using a seatbelt when driving or riding in a car.<sup>3</sup>
- The percentage of always using a seatbelt was **significantly higher** among **female respondents** (89.9%) compared to male respondents (79.7%).<sup>3</sup> (Figure 1)
- The percentage of always using a seatbelt was **significantly higher** among **Other race respondents** (90.8%) compared to Black, NH respondents (82.7%).<sup>3</sup> (Figure 2)
- The percentage of always using a seatbelt was **significantly lower** among **Black, Non-Hispanic (NH) male** (76.2%) and **White, NH male respondents** (80.9%) compared to respondents of all other race and gender groups.<sup>3</sup> (Figure 3)
- The percentage of always using a seatbelt was **significantly higher** among **Hispanic** respondents (93.8%\*) compared to non-Hispanic respondents (84.9%).<sup>3</sup> (Figure 4)

## Definitions

- Seatbelt Use Question: *How often do you use seat belts when you drive or ride in a car? Would you say always, nearly always, sometimes, seldom, or never?*<sup>3</sup>
- In this report, **“Other Race”** refers to adults who reported their race/ ethnicity as anything other than White, Non-Hispanic (NH) or Black, NH.
- The difference between two estimates is considered **statistically significant** (also stated as “significantly higher/lower” or “significant” in this fact sheet) if the 95% confidence intervals do not overlap.

Figure 1. Percent of Respondents Who Always Use A Seatbelt by Gender, MS, 2020



Figure 2. Percent of Respondents Who Always Use A Seatbelt by Race/Ethnicity, MS, 2020

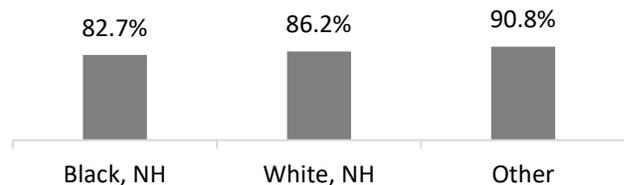


Figure 3. Percent of Respondents Who Always Use A Seatbelt by Race/Ethnicity & Gender, 2020

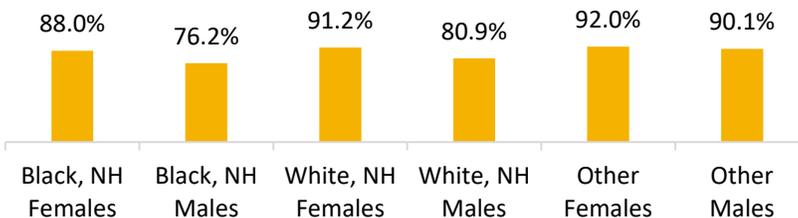
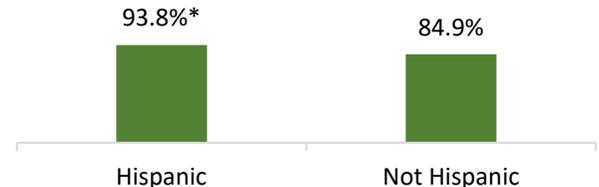


Figure 4. Percent of Respondents Who Always Use A Seatbelt by Ethnicity, MS, 2020



**Note:** In the 2020 MS BRFSS, the numbers of responses for individual races and ethnicities contained in the “Other Race” demographic group were too low to allow for meaningful estimates. To request additional race/ethnicity data, please [submit a data request using MSDH's online form](#).

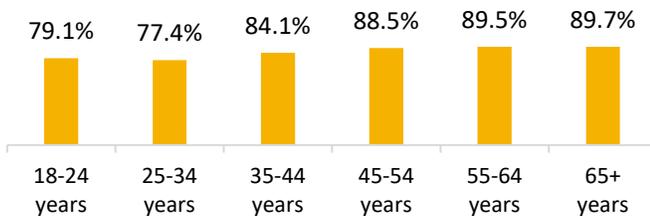
\*This estimate is based on a cell size of less than 50. Use caution when interpreting and comparing this estimate.

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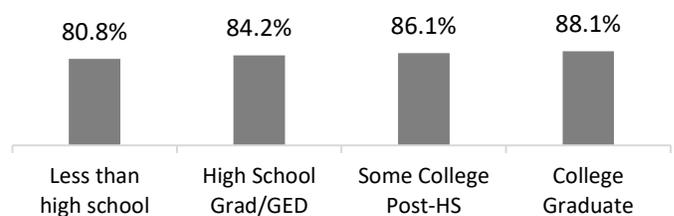
## Self-Reported Seatbelt Usage in Mississippi in 2020 (continued)

- The percentage of always using a seatbelt increased as age increased. Always using a seatbelt was **significantly higher** among adults **aged 55 to 64 years** (89.5%) and **65 years and older** (89.7%) compared to adults aged **18 to 24 years** (79.1%) and **25 to 34 years** (77.4%).<sup>3</sup> (Figure 5)
- The percentage of always using a seatbelt increased as education level increased. Always using a seatbelt was **significantly higher** among adults who have **graduated from college** (88.1%) compared to adults who have not completed a high school education (80.8%).<sup>3</sup> (Figure 6)
- The percentage of always using a seatbelt was **highest** among adults whose household income was \$50,000 or more (87.2%); however, the percentage **did not differ significantly** across annual household income groups.<sup>3</sup> (Figure 7)

**Figure 5. Percent of Respondents Who Always Use A Seatbelt by Age, MS, 2020**



**Figure 6. Percent of Respondents Who Always Use A Seatbelt by Education, MS, 2020**



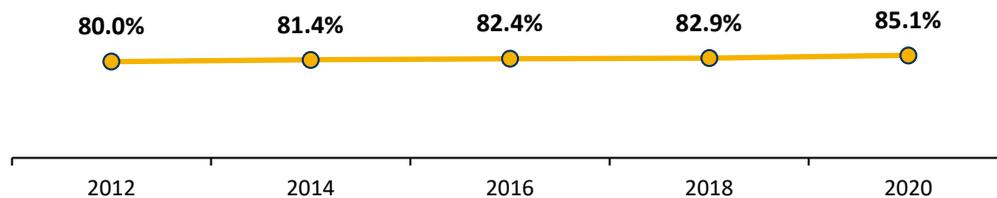
**Figure 7. Percent of Respondents Who Always Use A Seatbelt by Annual Household Income, MS, 2020**



## Seatbelt Usage Trends in Mississippi

- There was a **significant increase** in the percentage of adults who always use a seatbelt between 2012 (80.0%) and 2020 (85.1%).<sup>3</sup> (Figure 8)

**Figure 8. 2012-2020 Trend of Always Using A Seatbelt Among Adults in Mississippi**



### References

- 1) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2020, October 7). *Seat belts: Get the facts*. Retrieved 8-24-2022, from <https://www.cdc.gov/transportationsafety/seatbelts/facts.html>
- 2) Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT). (n.d.). *Driver safety education*. Retrieved on 8-24-2022, from <https://mdot.ms.gov/safetyseducation/parents/facts-and-stats/>
- 3) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2022, May 4). *Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System*. Retrieved 5-12-2022, from <https://www.cdc.gov/brfss/index.html>

**For More Information, Contact:**  
Mississippi State Department of Health  
Office of Vital Records: (601) 206-8200