

Pickup Truck drivers:

Problem Identification:

Louisiana is currently classified as lower belt use state under MAP-21. Louisiana conducted a comprehensive review and assessment of the State's occupant protection program and determined that pickup truck drivers are a high-risk population. This determination was based on observational surveys and crash analysis.

Pickup trucks make up 24.5% of the registered vehicles in Louisiana, excluding off-road vehicles, buses, trailers and motorcycles. According to the Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles (OMV), there are a total of 3,677,567 registered cars and trucks (less than 10,000 lbs.). Of this total, 900,758 are pickup trucks.

Historically, pickup truck drivers and passengers have the lowest seat belt usage rate in Louisiana based on observational surveys conducted in 2010, 2011 and 2012.

The 2010 observational survey found an overall usage rate of 75.9% for drivers and front seat passengers for all private vehicles. The lowest usage rate among individual vehicle types was with pickup trucks. The rate for pickup trucks was 69.7%, compared to 77.3% for passenger cars.

Table 1. Percent of Seat Belt Usage Among Drivers and Front Seat Passengers in Louisiana, 2010, by Region and Vehicle Type (Weighted Data).

	AUTO	PICKUP	SUV	VAN	ALL
1-New Orleans	73.5%	67.8%	73.5%	76.9%	72.6%
2-Baton Rouge	78.7%	71.5%	80.5%	84.1%	77.6%
3-Houma	78.3%	71.9%	80.6%	83.3%	77.0%
4-Lafayette	78.3%	76.4%	84.9%	81.6%	80.5%
5-Lake Charles	79.3%	62.6%	77.0%	83.4%	74.2%
6-Alexandria	74.3%	63.6%	73.9%	81.8%	71.8%
7-Shreveport	80.0%	72.5%	81.5%	84.1%	78.6%
8-Monroe	76.2%	67.8%	77.4%	81.5%	74.7%
Louisiana	77.3%	69.7%	78.3%	82.0%	75.9%

The usage rate for both front and rear seats combined also show pickup trucks to be the lowest category among all personal vehicles with a rate of 69.4% compared to 76.6% for passenger cars and an overall rate of 75.5%.

Table 2: Percent of Seat Belt Usage Among Front and Rear Seat Occupants in Louisiana, 2010, By Seat and Vehicle Type (Weighted Data).

	AUTO	PICKUP	SUV	VAN	ALL
Front Seat	77.3%	69.7%	78.3%	82.0%	75.9%
Rear Seat	50.0%	47.8%	77.2%	90.7%	58.4%
Front & Rear Seat	76.6%	69.4%	78.3%	82.2%	75.5%

A copy of the complete 2010 observational survey is available upon request.

The 2011 observational survey found an overall usage rate of 77.7% for drivers and front seat passengers for all private vehicles. The lowest usage rate among individual vehicles types was with pickup trucks. The rate for pickup trucks was 70% compared to 80.1% for passenger cars.

Table 3. Percent of Seat Belt Usage Among Drivers and Front Seat Passengers in Louisiana, 2011, by Region and Vehicle Type (Weighted Data).

	AUTO	PICKUP	SUV	VAN	ALL
1-New Orleans	77.9%	67.4%	75.0%	86.0%	74.9%
2-Baton Rouge	80.3%	73.8%	78.8%	78.8%	78.5%
3-Houma	80.0%	75.6%	82.5%	88.5%	79.6%
4-Lafayette	80.7%	76.4%	84.9%	81.6%	80.5%
5-Lake Charles	79.3%	62.9%	75.7%	87.0%	74.8%
6-Alexandria	80.1%	63.4%	74.4%	87.3%	74.8%
7-Shreveport	81.3%	66.2%	81.1%	91.6%	78.2%
8-Monroe	81.6%	66.6%	79.3%	92.6%	77.8%
Louisiana	80.1%	70.0%	79.2%	85.5%	77.7%

The usage rate for rear seat only also show pickup trucks to be the lowest category among all personal vehicles with a rate of 40.3% compared to 46% for passenger cars and an overall rate of 53.8%.

**Table 4: Percent of Seat Belt Usage in Louisiana, November 2008, 2010, and 2011
By Vehicle Type (Weighted Data).**

	AUTO	PICKUP	SUV	VAN	ALL
Rear Seat 2008	27.3%	12.5%	31.3%	29.4%	27.2%
Rear Seat 2010	50.0%	47.8%	77.2%	90.7%	58.4%
Rear Seat 2011	46.0%	40.3%	71.4%	93.6%	53.8%

A copy of the complete 2011 observation survey may be found on the LHSC website at:
<http://lahighwaysafety.org/pdf/2011%20OP%20Survey.pdf>

The 2012 observational survey found an overall usage rate of 79.3% for drivers and front seat passengers for all private vehicles. The lowest usage rate among individual vehicles types was with pickup trucks. The rate for pickup trucks drivers was 71.7% compared to 82% for passenger car drivers. Front seat passenger usage was also lower with pickup trucks than passenger cars with 68.3% versus 84.9% respectively.

**Table 5: Louisiana Driver & Passenger Weighted Seat Belt Use
Estimates by Vehicle Type, 2012**

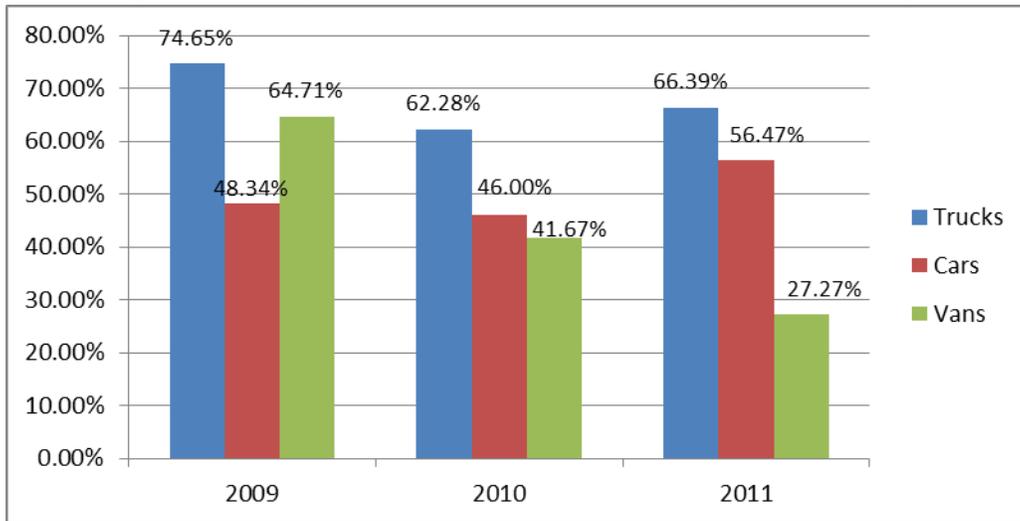
	% Use Rate	
	Driver (56,492)	Passenger (12,471)
Vehicle Type		
Car	82.0%	84.9%
Pick-up	71.7%	68.3%
SUV	82.9%	76.7%
Van	85.5%	85.0%

A copy of the complete 2012 observation survey may be found on the LHSC website at:
<http://lahighwaysafety.org/pdf/2012%20Occupant%20Protection%20Observational%20Survey.pdf>

The LHSC also conducted a detailed analysis of unrestrained driver fatalities by vehicle type for the years 2009, 2010, and 2011. Pickup truck drivers had a significantly higher rate of unrestrained driver fatalities over passenger cars and vans.

In 2009, 74.65% of pickup truck driver fatalities were unrestrained, compared to 48.34% of passenger car driver fatalities and 64.71% of van driver fatalities.

Figure 1: Safety Belt Use of Driver Fatalities by Vehicle Type



In 2010, 62.28% of the pickup truck driver fatalities were unrestrained, compared to 46% of passenger car driver fatalities and 41.67% of van driver fatalities.

In 2011, the rate of unrestrained driver fatalities for pickup trucks was 66.39% compared to 56.47% for passenger cars and 27.27% for vans.

In 2012, the LHSC conducted the first ever nighttime occupant protection survey. This survey indicated that the seat belt usage rate among pickup truck occupants was significantly lower than for all other vehicles. The nighttime usage rate for pickup truck occupants was 69.2% compared to 80.8% for all other vehicles.

A copy of the nighttime survey is available on the LHSC website at:

http://www.lahighwaysafety.org/pdf/2012_nighttime_seatbelt.pdf