



Kentucky Motor Vehicle Crash Facts

Safety Belt Use and Primary Enforcement in Kentucky

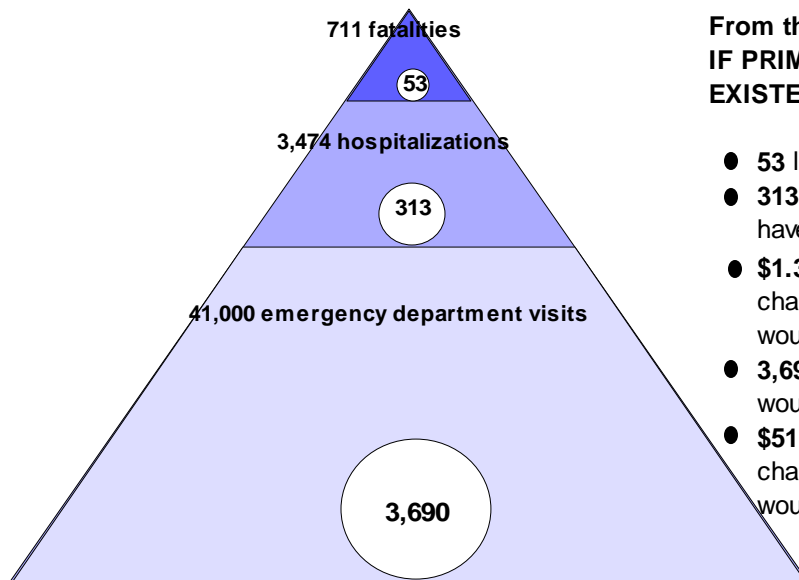


During 2001 in Kentucky...

- There were 322,224 motor vehicle occupants involved in traffic crashes (this number does not include bicyclists, pedestrians, or other persons who were not vehicle occupants).¹
- 711 of those occupants were killed.¹
- 3,474 of those occupants were admitted to hospitals in Kentucky.²
- The average inpatient hospital charges for the 19% of occupants for which a government program (Medicaid, Medicare, or Workers' Compensation) was billed as primary payer were \$21,043.²
- An estimated 41,000 were treated and released from emergency departments in Kentucky.³
- The estimated average emergency department charges for the 36% of visits in which a government program was billed as primary payer were \$390.⁴
- The observed safety belt usage rate for front seat occupants over four years old was 62%.⁵

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration...

- Safety belt usage rates increased by an average of 15 percentage points in states that enacted primary enforcement laws.⁶
- Safety belts reduce the risk of fatal injury by 45% to 60%, and reduce the risk of moderate-to-critical injury by 50% to 65% (depending on seating position and vehicle type).⁶



From these facts, we can estimate that IF PRIMARY ENFORCEMENT HAD EXISTED DURING 2001 IN KENTUCKY...

- 53 lives would have been saved.
- 313 inpatient hospitalizations would have been prevented.
- \$1.3 million in inpatient hospital charges billed to government programs would have been saved.
- 3,690 emergency department visits would have been prevented.
- \$518,000 in emergency department charges billed to government programs would have been saved.

Total economic and comprehensive costs

According to the Kentucky Transportation Center...

- The economic costs of motor vehicle crashes in Kentucky during 2001 totaled nearly \$1.9 billion.⁷
- With primary enforcement, these costs would have been reduced by \$126 million.
- The comprehensive costs were nearly \$5.3 billion.⁷
- With primary enforcement, these costs would have been reduced by \$371 million.

¹Kentucky Collision Report and Analysis for Safer Highways (CRASH) system, 2001.

²Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center. Kentucky Crash Outcome Data Evaluation System, 2001.

³Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Web-based Injury Statistics Querying and Reporting System, (WISQARS) Nonfatal Injury Reports. <http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars/>. Accessed December, 2003.

⁴Barren River District Health Department. Safe Communities Emergency Department Surveillance project.

⁵Kentucky Transportation Center. University of Kentucky College of Engineering. 2001 Safety Belt Usage in Kentucky.

⁶National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Traffic Safety Facts 2001: Occupant Protection. DOT HS 809 474.

⁷Kentucky Transportation Center. University of Kentucky College of Engineering. Traffic Collision Facts, 2001 Report.