Illinois’ primary safety belt law became effective July 2003. The law authorized police officers to stop vehicles in which occupants are not buckled up and issue citations.

The safety belt usage rate has increased to 95% in Illinois. This increase can be attributed to public awareness and compliance with the primary safety belt law.

More than 30,000 Illinois motorists annually are convicted of safety belt violations. About 2,000 motorists are convicted of not properly restraining their children in a moving vehicle.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, safety belts are the single-most effective traffic safety device.

For more information on safety belt usage, child passenger requirements and other traffic laws, please consult the Illinois Rules of the Road, available at your local Driver Services facility or at ilsos.gov.
Under Illinois law, motorists may be stopped and ticketed solely for failing to wear their safety belts. Since passage of the law in 2003, the safety belt usage rate in Illinois has increased every year, reaching an impressive 95% usage rate.

Our efforts at increasing public awareness about the law and the lifesaving potential of wearing safety belts do not end here. Traffic crashes continue to claim the lives of thousands of people across the country each year. Many of those lives could have been saved had they buckled up.

This brochure provides important facts and statistics on safety belt usage as well as passenger restraint laws. Please review this information and share it with others. Remember, next time you get in your vehicle, “Click It” or face a ticket.

Jesse White
Secretary of State

Passenger restraint laws

- All drivers and passengers must be buckled up, regardless of where they sit in the vehicle.
- A person transporting a child under age 8 is responsible for securing the child in an appropriate child safety seat for their age and weight.
- When riding in a truck equipped only with front safety belts, a child under age 8 must be secured in an appropriate child restraint system.
- If a passenger has a disability or medical condition that makes him/her unable to secure his/her own safety belt, the driver is responsible for securing and adjusting the safety belt for the passenger.

Illinois Safety Belt Usage Rate