Seat belts

Wearing a seat belt is a simple thing to do, and it provides the best protection in a car. Seat belts prevent people from being thrown from the car during a crash. The few seconds it takes to buckle your seat belt could save your life.

- In 2023, about 20 percent of Wisconsin teens who were killed or seriously injured in a crash were not wearing a seat belt.
- Wearing a seat belt can reduce the risk of serious injury and death in a crash.
- Ninety-four percent of teens say they always buckle up in the car.

Source: Impact Teen Drivers

How Wisconsin law protects

- Wisconsin law requires all drivers and passengers over the age of 4 to wear seat belts. Children younger than 4 must ride in a car seat.
- Wisconsin has a primary enforcement seat belt law. This means police can pull over and ticket drivers who aren't wearing seat belts. Passengers can also be fined for not wearing seat belts.
- Drivers can be fined if they have unbelted passengers in the car. The fine varies based on the passenger's age.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Transportation

Reduce your risk

- Wear a seat belt every trip, no matter how short.
- Keep your seat belt on at all times while in the car. Unbuckling for even a second puts you at risk.
- Ask all passengers to buckle up. Don't move the car until they are buckled.
- Adults and teens can set a good example by always wearing a seat belt.
- Children younger than 13 should sit in the back seat and should never sit in front of an airbag.
- Young passengers should always be properly buckled in a seat belt, booster seat or car seat depend on their age, height and weight.

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