2.0 Section Sponsored Research

Murray State University Seatbelt Survey

This report contains a summary of baseline data collected on Tuesday, October 26 and Wednesday, October 27, 2004 at nine various locations on the campus of Murray State University in Murray, Kentucky. Locations include the Industry and Technology parking lot, the Dorm Circle parking lot, the White College parking lot, the Curris Center parking lot, the Sparks Hall parking lot, on the corner of 15th Street and Olive Street, on the corner of 16th Street and Calloway Avenue, on 16th Street in front of the Public Safety parking lot, and in the 16th Street and Chestnut Street parking lot.

Eighteen members of the Murray State University American Society of Safety Engineers Student Section collected this data between 7:45 am to 12:30 pm on October 26, and 9:00 am to 1:40 pm on October 27. All observations were taken from vehicles that possessed a Murray State University Vehicle Parking Tag.

There were a total of 1477 observations. These observations included 1,348 drivers and 129 front seat passengers.

Figure 1 represents the seat belt use by the driver and front seat passenger. Of the 1,348 drivers, 50.2% were restrained, and 43.4% of the 129 front seat passengers were restrained.

![Figure 1](image)

**Figure 1**
Driver and Passenger Safety Belt Use  
(N= 1348 Driver, 129 Passenger)

Table 1 shows the restraint use by gender of the driver. Female drivers were restrained 60.7% of the time. In contrast, male drivers were restrained only 37.2% of the time.

**Table 1**
Driver's Restraint Use by Gender  
(N=1348)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Restrained</th>
<th>Not Restrained</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Frequency</td>
<td>Percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>453</td>
<td>60.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>224</td>
<td>37.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>677</td>
<td>50.2%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Each Murray State student, staff or faculty must have a parking permit tag to identify where they can park. A red tag identifies students commuting to the university from off campus; a blue tag identifies faculty/staff; a yellow, purple or brown tag identifies students living on campus; and a green tag identifies college courts. As shown in Figure 2, comparing staff and faculty to students, staff and faculty were more likely to be restrained.

![Figure 2](image)

**Figure 2**

*Overall Seatbelt Use by Vehicle Tag Color (N=1477)*

If the driver was restrained, 89.3% of the front seat passengers were also restrained. In contrast, when the driver was not restrained, 91.8% of the front seat passengers were also not restrained. Passenger's restraint use by driver's safety belt uses is illustrated in Figure 3.

![Figure 3](image)

**Figure 3**

*Passenger's Restraint Use by Driver's Belt Use (N=1477)*