

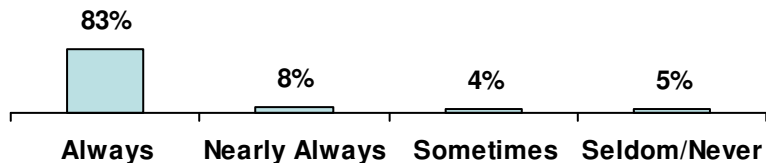
Vermont Adult Behavioral Risk Factor Survey

Data Brief – Seatbelt Use

Passenger use of seatbelts is the most effective way to reduce injuries and prevent death resulting from car accidents¹. From 2007 to 2009, there were approximately 13,000 emergency department visits², 1,000 hospitalizations², and 200 deaths³ among Vermont residents due to motor vehicle crashes.

In 2011, five percent of Vermont adults said they do not wear a seatbelt* when in a motor vehicle (Figure 1).

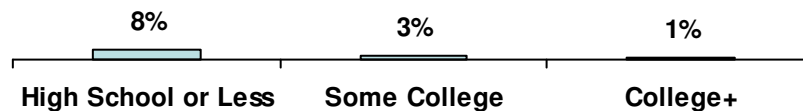
Figure 1: Frequency of Seatbelt Use



Identifying Vermonters Who Do Not Wear a Seatbelt:

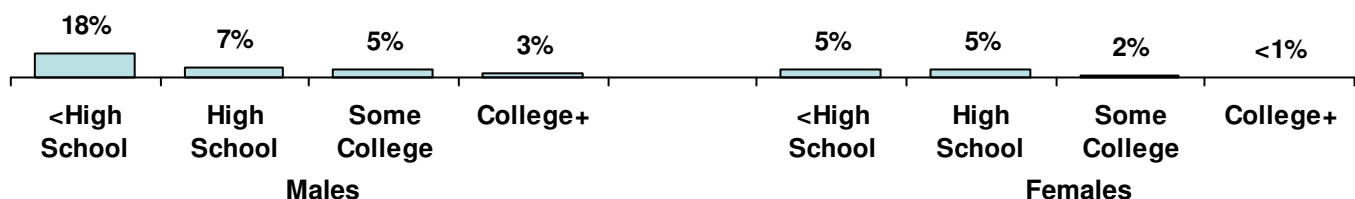
- Men are significantly more likely to not wear a seatbelt as compared to women (7% vs. 3%).
- Younger adults are more likely than older ones to be a non-seatbelt user; however none of the differences are statistically significant.
- Non-seatbelt use decreases with increasing education level. Those with a high school or less education are more than twice as likely as adults with more education to not wear a seatbelt. All differences by education level are statistically significant (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Non-Seatbelt Users by Education Level



- Among males and females, there are no significant differences by age in the use of seat belts.
- Males with a less than high school education are significantly more likely to be a non-seatbelt user than males with higher education, as well as all females – regardless of their age (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Non-Seatbelt Users, by Education Level and Gender



1. <http://www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/seatbelts/facts.html>

2. Vermont Uniform Hospital Discharge Data Set, 2007-2009

3. Vermont Vital Statistics, 2007-2009: <http://www.healthvermont.gov/research/index.aspx#vitalstats>

Note: all data in Figures 1-3 are from the 2011 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System.

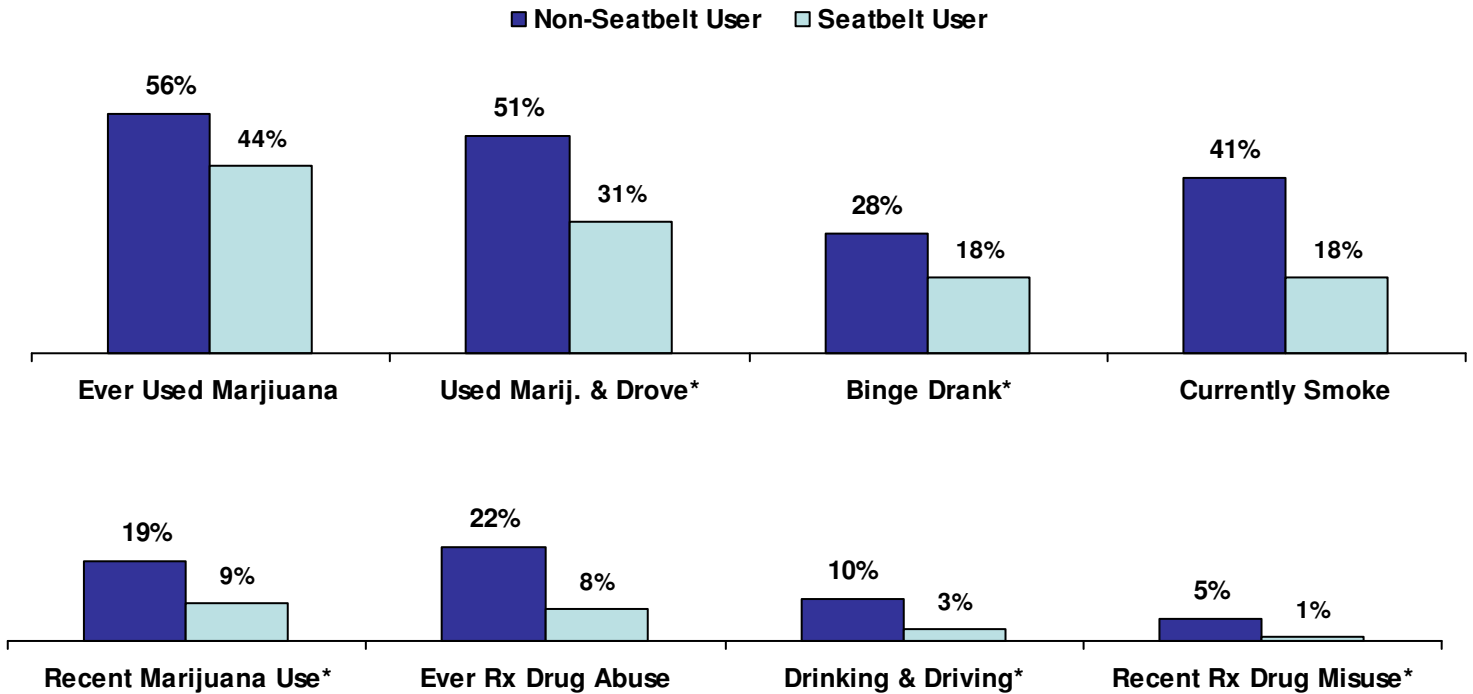
*Available responses to the question are always, nearly always, sometimes, seldom, and never. Responses of seldom and never were counted as “do not wear” a seatbelt

Differences in Risk Behavior: Seatbelt vs. Non-Seatbelt Users:

Generally, non-seatbelt users participate in other risk behaviors at higher rates than seatbelt users (Figure 4). The exception is any alcohol consumption in the previous month, where consumption is significantly higher among seatbelt users (66% vs. 53%).

All differences in risk behavior are significantly different between users and non-users of seatbelts, except that for drinking and driving during the past month. While the rate is higher among those who do not wear a seatbelt, it is statistically similar to that among those who wear a seatbelt.

Figure 4: Risk Behaviors by Seatbelt Use



*Refers to behavior or use in the last 30 days.

Note: Rx is used to indicate prescription.

Note: Binge drinking defined as five or more drinks on an occasion for men and four or more drinks for women.

Data Source: All data is from the 2011 BRFSS, except drinking and driving, which is from the 2010 BRFSS.

For more information on the BRFSS or to suggest ideas for future BRFSS Data Briefs, contact Jessie Hammond, M.P.H. (802-863-7663; Jessie.Hammond@state.vt.us).