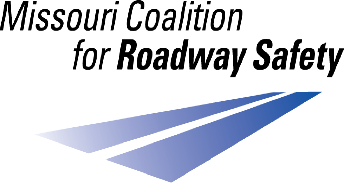
**Ste. Genevieve County and   
Ste. Genevieve, MO**

***Crash Data and Primary Seat Belt Ordinance Information***

* The Missouri Department of Transportation and the Missouri Safety Center compiled a teen seat belt survey in 2024. Ste. Genevieve Senior High School was surveyed and it was determined that 65% of teenage drivers and passengers wore their seat belts.
* In 2024, the national average for seat belt use was 91.2% ([*NHTSA*](https://www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/seat-belts#nhtsa-in-action)). The average in Missouri in 2024 was 87%. ([*Save MO Lives*](https://www.savemolives.com/mcrs/occupant-protection))
* Preliminary reports indicate that 955 people lost their lives on Missouri’s roads in 2024. 360 fatalities were not wearing a seat belt. ([*Save MO Lives*](https://www.savemolives.com/mcrs/dashboards))
* Primary enforcement laws are more effective at getting people to buckle up. In 2020, observed front-seat occupant belt use rates were 5 percentage points higher in states with primary enforcement than in other states (91 vs. 86 percent) ([*National Center for Statistics and Analysis, 2021*](https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813072.pdf)).
* All of Missouri’s neighboring states (except Nebraska) have a primary seat belt law, which means that their law enforcement officers can stop motorists for no other reason than they aren’t wearing their seat belt. Unfortunately, the state law in Missouri does not allow police officers to do this and is therefore called a “secondary seat belt law”. ([*IIHS*](https://www.iihs.org/topics/seat-belts%23:~:text=Weast%2C%202018).-,Laws,and%20the%20District%20of%20Columbia.)%20)) However, as of February 2023, 70 cities and 1 county in Missouri have adopted seat belt ordinances that allow their police officers to stop motorists for seat belt violations without the need for other traffic violations. Ste. Genevieve County does not have any towns with a Primary Seat Belt Ordinance.
* Wearing seat belts and properly buckling children into age- and size-appropriate car seats and booster seats can reduce the risk for serious injury and death in a crash by at least half. ([*CDC*](https://www.cdc.gov/seat-belts/facts/index.html))
* Research shows primary enforcement seat belt laws make a big difference in getting more people to buckle up and reducing the risk of dying in a crash. Observed seat belt use in 2022 was 92% in states with primary enforcement laws and 90% in states with secondary enforcement laws or no seat belt laws. ([*CDC*](https://www.cdc.gov/seat-belts/facts/index.html))
* Data regarding the economic and societal impact of motor vehicle crashes can be found here: <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813403>
* From [savemolives.com](http://www.savemolives.com)
  + 62.83% of vehicle occupants killed in 2024 Missouri traffic crashes were unrestrained.
  + 67% of children younger than 13 killed in 2023 Missouri traffic crashes were unrestrained.
  + From 2020-2024, there were 8 unbelted fatalities in Ste. Genevieve County. 61.54 % of vehicle occupant fatalities were unbuckled.
  + In Ste. Genevieve specifically, there were 0unbelted fatalities from 2020-2024.
  + If everyone in Missouri buckled up, an estimated 235 lives would be saved each year.

From MoDOT’s Transportation Management System:

***Ste. Genevieve County Crash Totals, 2020-2024***Fatal Crashes- 21  
Serious Injury Crashes- 68  
Minor Injury Crashes- 263  
Property Damage Only- 1,328  
Total Crashes- 1,680

***Ste. Genevieve County Personal Injury Totals, 2020-2024***Fatalities- 21  
Serious Injuries- 77  
Minor Injuries- 374

***Ste. Genevieve Crash Totals, 2020-2024***  
Fatal Crashes- 0  
Serious Injury Crashes- 6  
Minor Injury Crashes- 17  
Property Damage Only- 241  
Total Crashes- 264

***Ste. Genevieve Personal Injury Totals, 2020-2024***  
Fatalities- 0  
Serious Injuries- 7  
Minor Injuries- 21

If you would like additional data, please contact your regional Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety representative.