

# **2017 Safety Belt Use In Florida**

Preusser Research Group, Inc. Presentation

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# Survey Background

A Portion of Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Funding Comes from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)

## NHTSA Requires FDOT to Complete an Annual Statewide Survey of Safety Belt Use

- Adheres to Federal Register Guidelines
- Uses a design approved by the National Center for Statistics and Analysis (NCSA)

## What is the Survey Designed to Do?

- Give a single **statewide estimate** of (daytime) safety belt usage
- Provide some information on characteristics of belt use
- Provide a yardstick for measuring change over time

# Survey Background

Statewide surveys (under NHTSA oversight) have been conducted annually for about 20 years

Over the last decade, surveys in Florida done both before and after CIOT

A single statewide survey was conducted in 2017 (June: Post CIOT)

The 2017 survey is comparable to surveys past

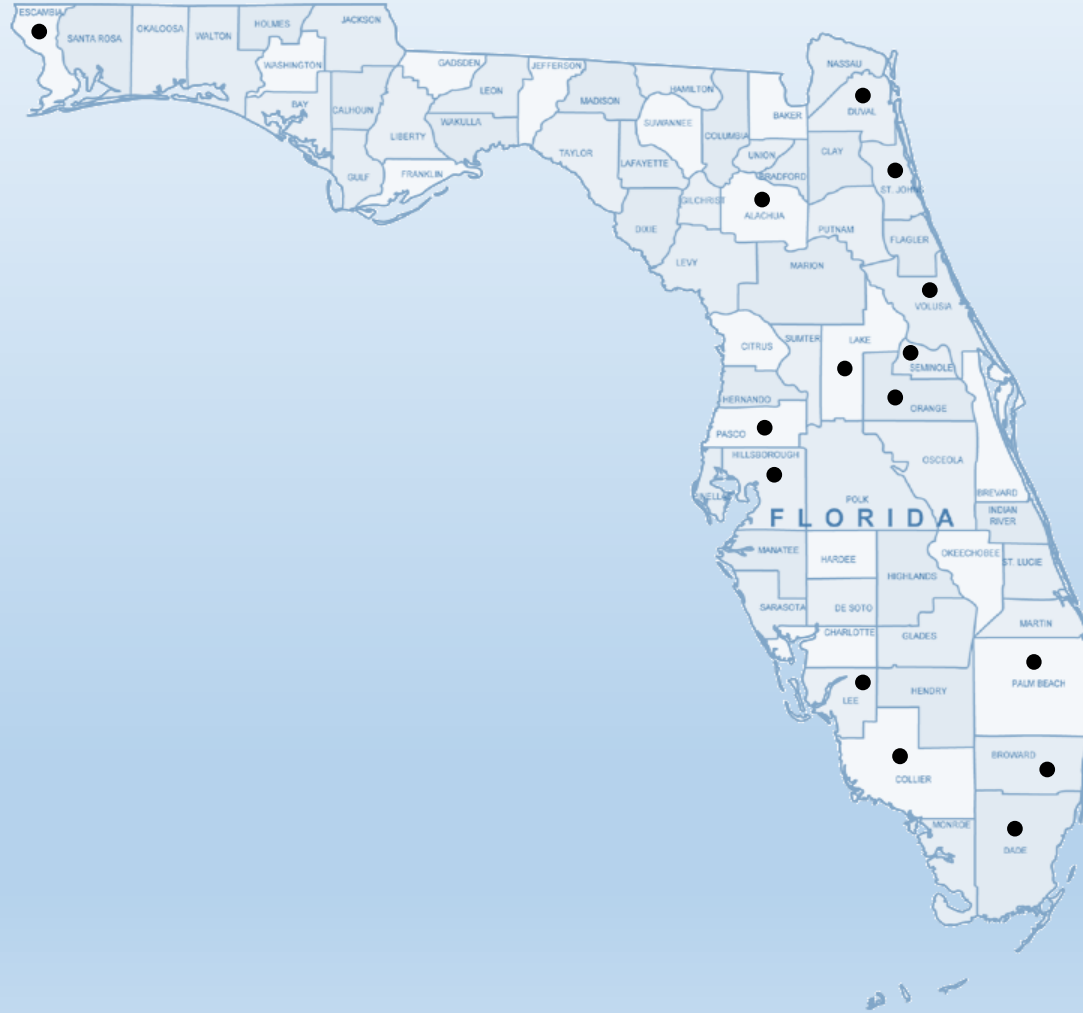
- Provides a single estimate of statewide belt for front-seat, outboard, occupants
- The same NCSA approved design was used since year 2012
  - 165 observation sites \ across 15 counties
- However, the 2017 survey used all new survey sites
- Resampling the sites is required by NHTSA every 5 years

# Methodology

- The 2017 “resampled” sites were based on the most recent traffic fatality counts
- These sites were selected randomly to represent all traffic on various types of roadways around the State
- One-hour observations took place at each site
- All daylight hours; 7 a.m. – 6 p.m.
- All days of week
- Observers recorded information on: vehicle type, driver sex, driver race, driver age, and driver safety belt use. Observers also recorded information on passenger sex, race, age, and belt use, when an outboard passenger was present in the front seat of the vehicle
- The 2017 survey effort began June 2<sup>nd</sup> and was completed on June 8<sup>th</sup>

# Counties Included in Statewide Safety Belt Survey

- Escambia
- Alachua
- Duval
- St. Johns
- Volusia
- Seminole
- Lake
- Orange
- Hillsborough
- Pasco
- Lee
- Collier
- Palm Beach
- Broward
- Miami-Dade



# Sample Information

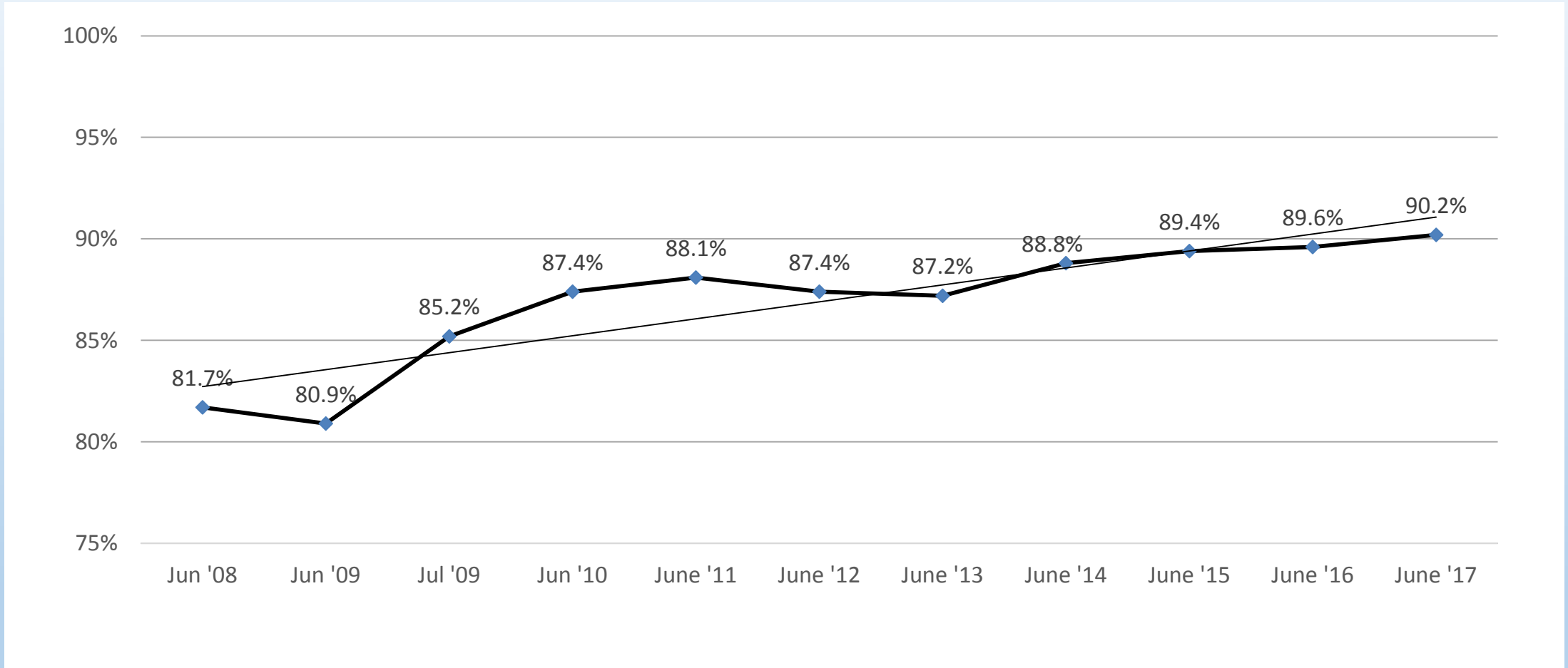
PRG observed belt use on 31,965 front seat occupants

|                                | (n)    | %   |
|--------------------------------|--------|-----|
| <b>Occupant Type</b>           |        |     |
| Drivers                        | 25,469 | 80% |
| Passengers                     | 6,496  | 20% |
|                                |        |     |
| <b>Occupant Sex</b>            |        |     |
| Male                           | 17,401 | 54% |
| Female                         | 14,537 | 45% |
| Other                          | Other  | <1% |
|                                |        |     |
| <b>Occupant Race/Ethnicity</b> |        |     |
| White                          | 21,339 | 67% |
| Black                          | 4,853  | 15% |
| Hispanic                       | 4,859  | 15% |
| Other                          | 820    | 3%  |

|                     | (n)    | %   |
|---------------------|--------|-----|
| <b>Vehicle Type</b> |        |     |
| Passenger Cars      | 15,689 | 49% |
| SUVs                | 8,989  | 28% |
| Vans                | 2,645  | 8%  |
| Pickup Trucks       | 4,642  | 15% |
|                     |        |     |
| <b>Road Type</b>    |        |     |
| Interstates         | 6,641  | 21% |
| Principal Arterials | 8,576  | 27% |
| Minor Arterials     | 8,242  | 26% |
| Collectors          | 5,458  | 17% |
| Local Roads         | 3,048  | 10% |
|                     |        |     |

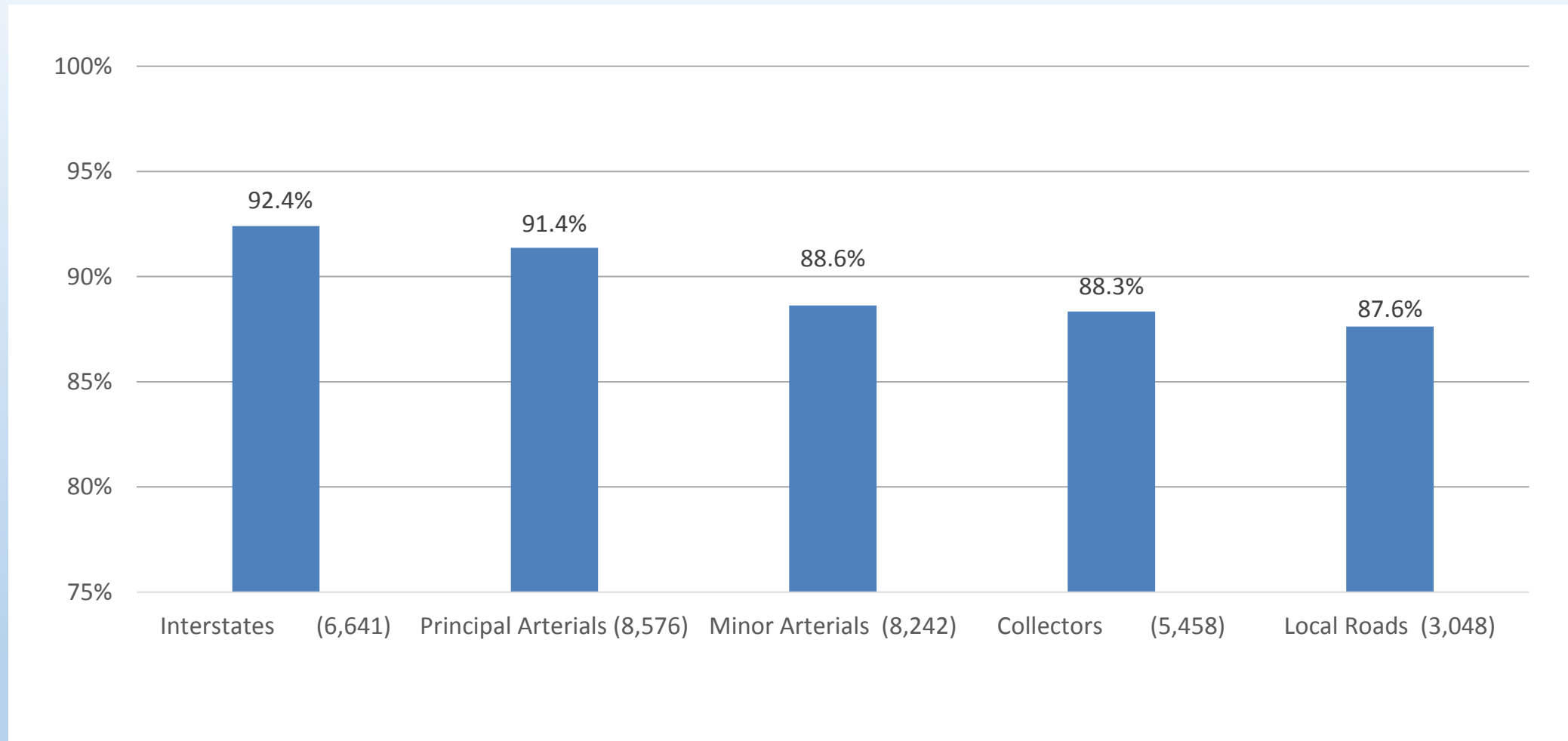
2017 statewide seat belt use rate is **90.2%**

# Statewide Safety Belt Usage – Trend Line

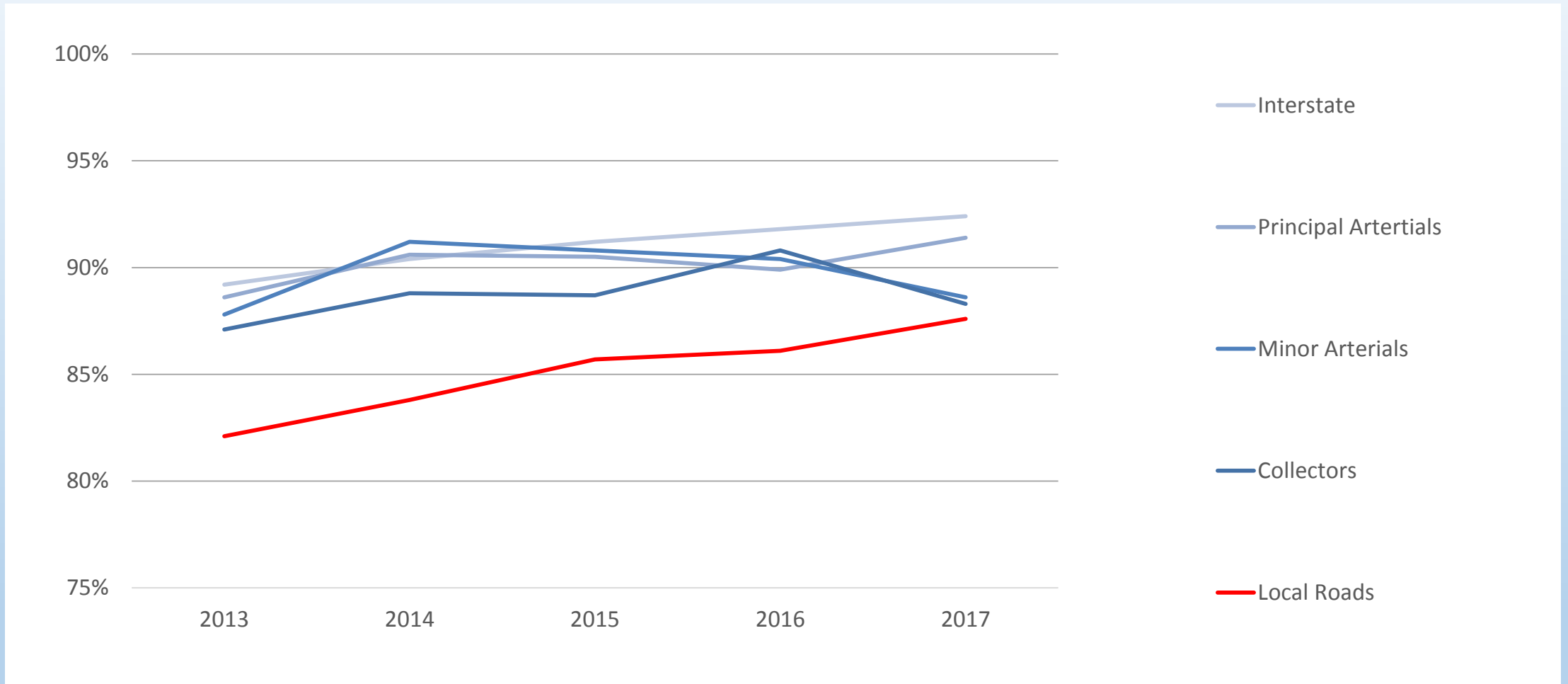




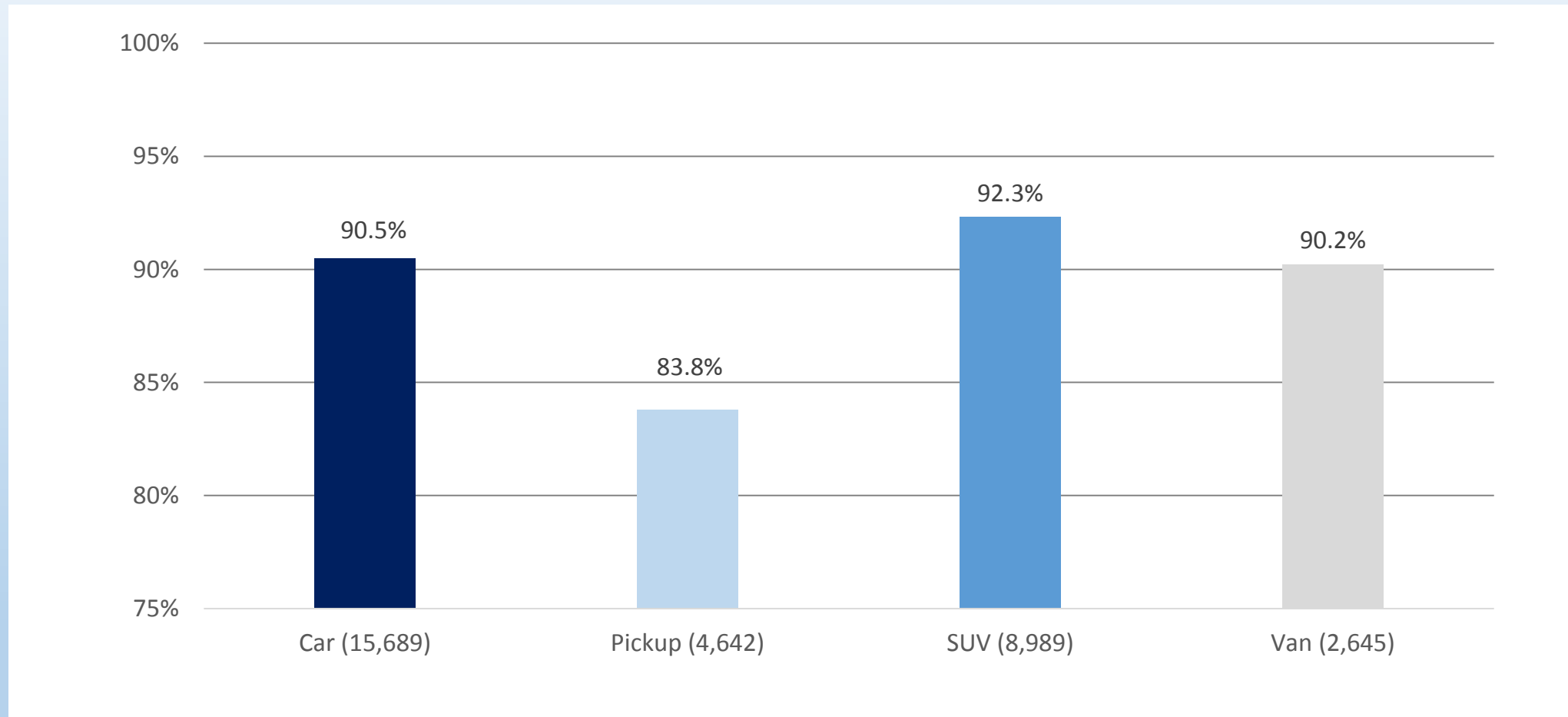
# 2017 Safety Belt Use By Road Type



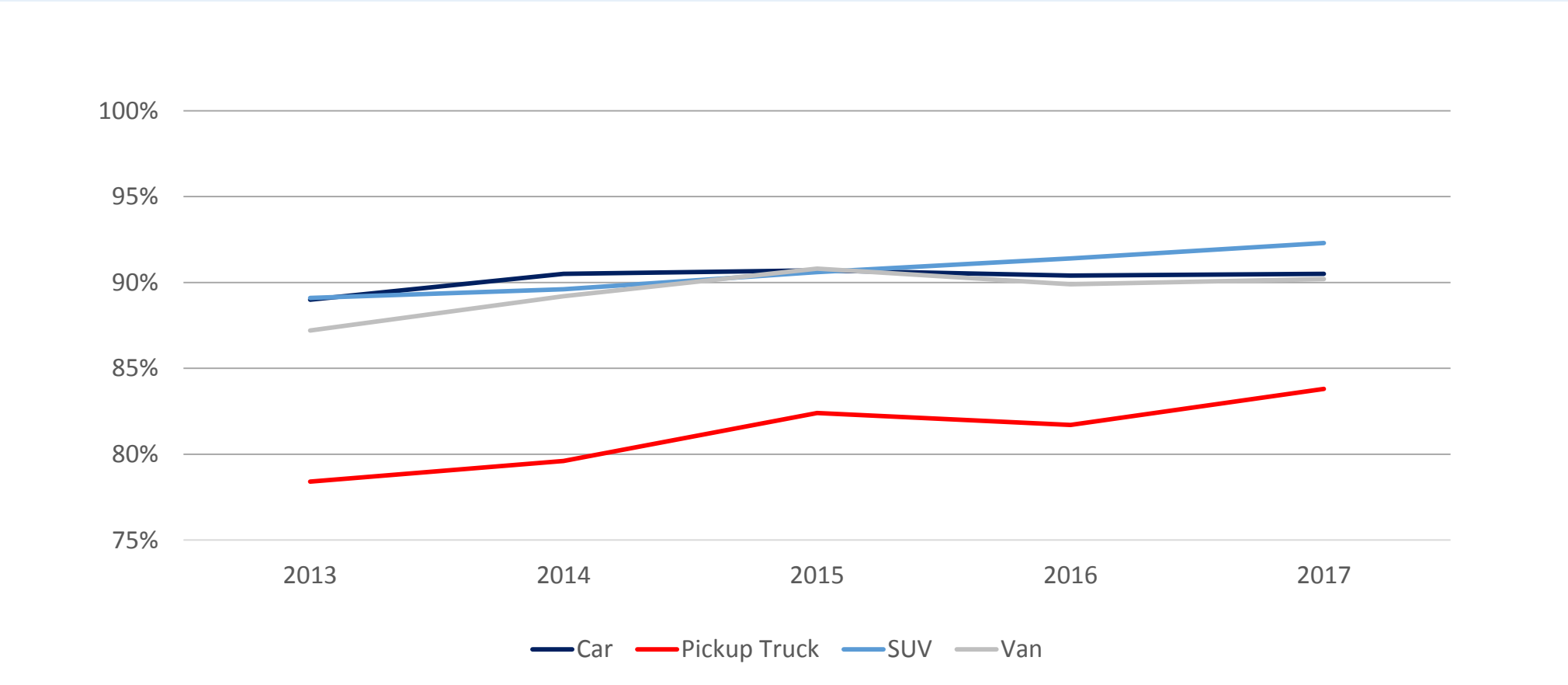
# Safety Belt Use by Road Type: 2013-2017



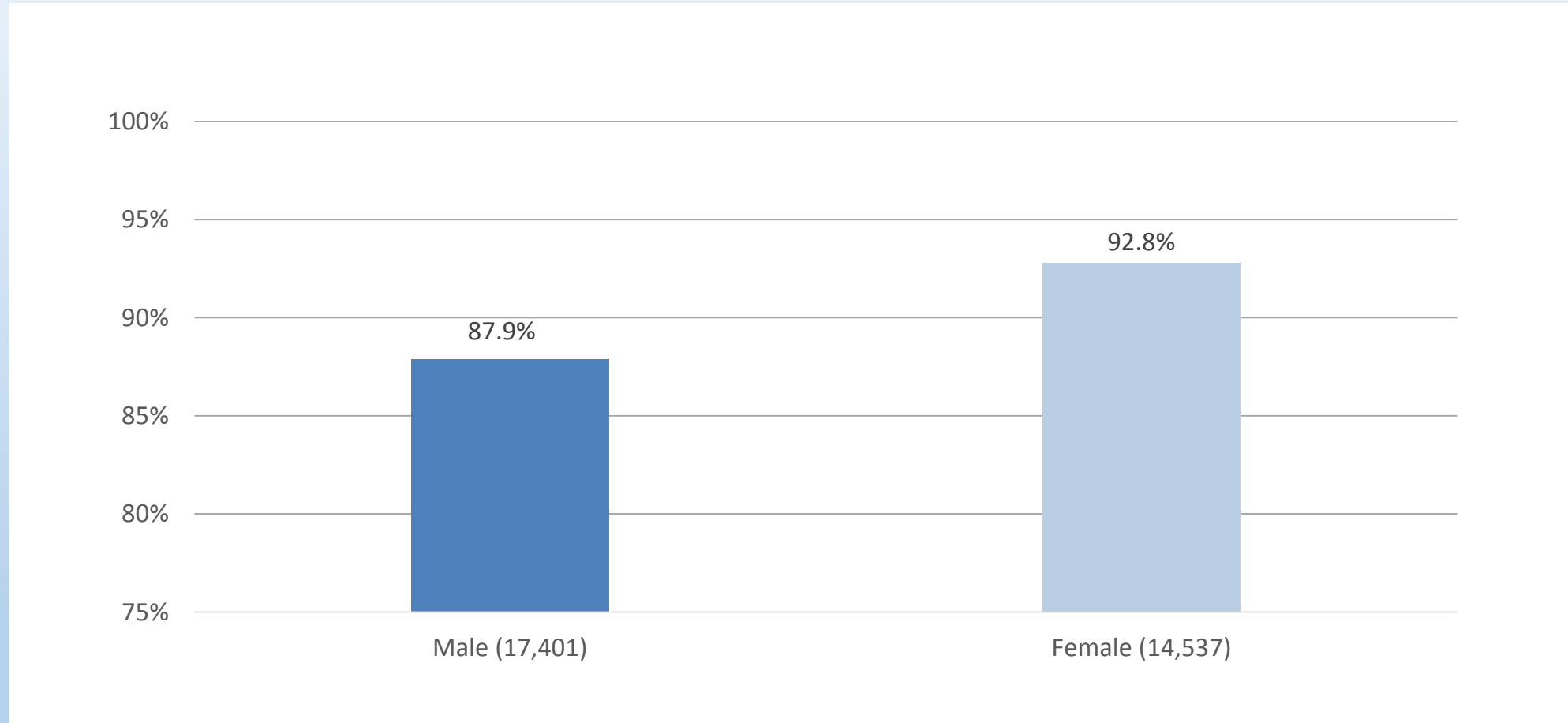
# 2017 Safety Belt Use Rates By Vehicle Type



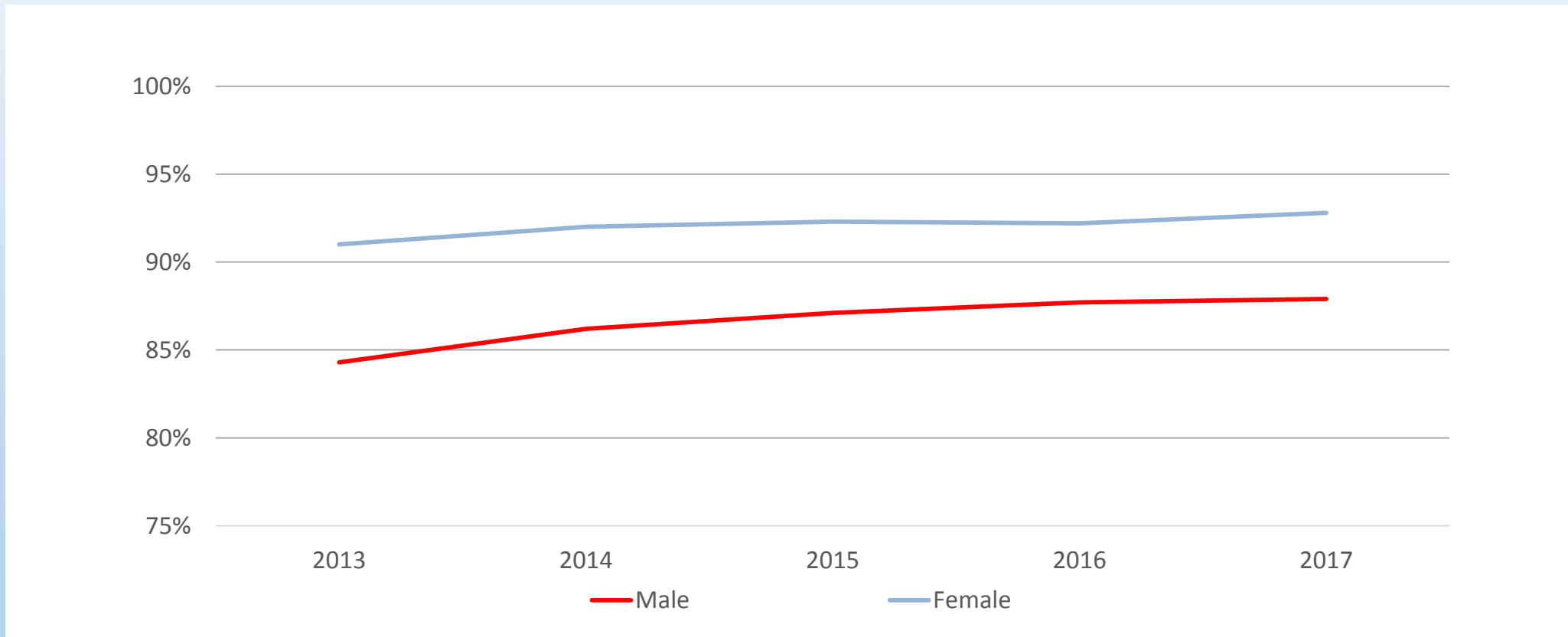
# Safety Belt Use Rate by Vehicle Type: 2013-2017



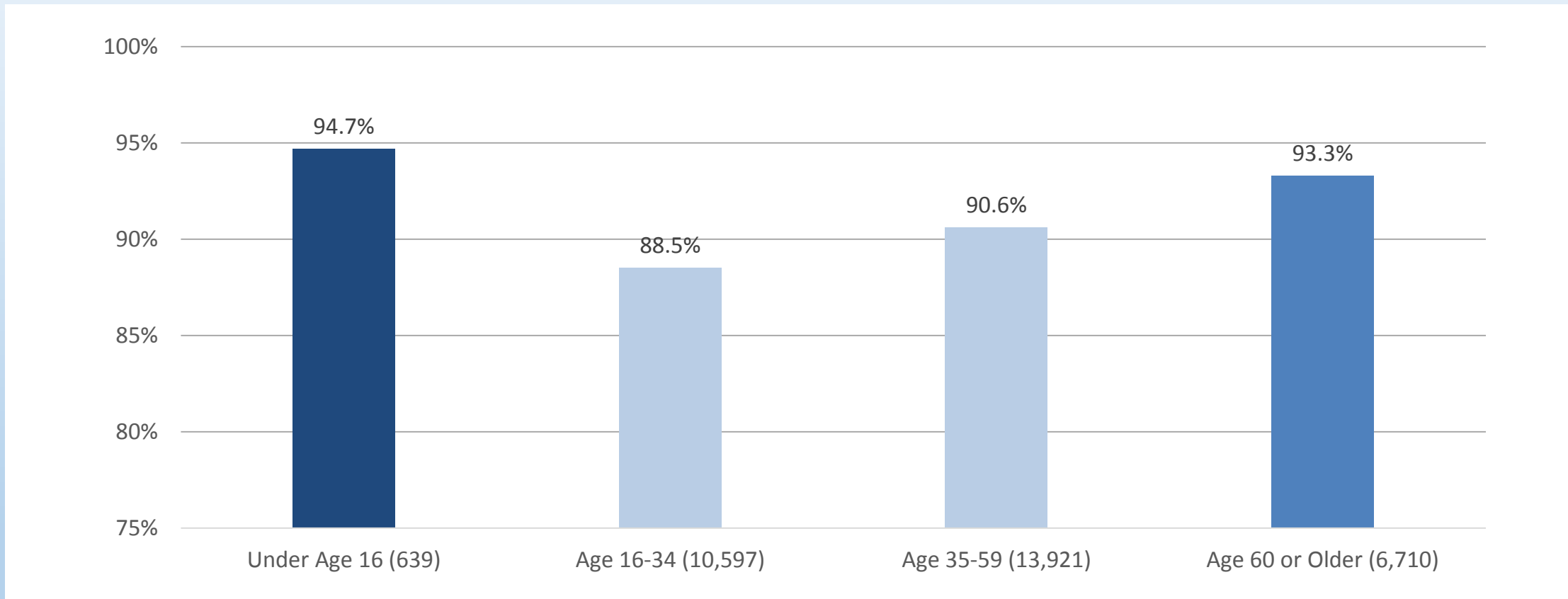
# 2017 Safety Belt Use by Sex of Occupant



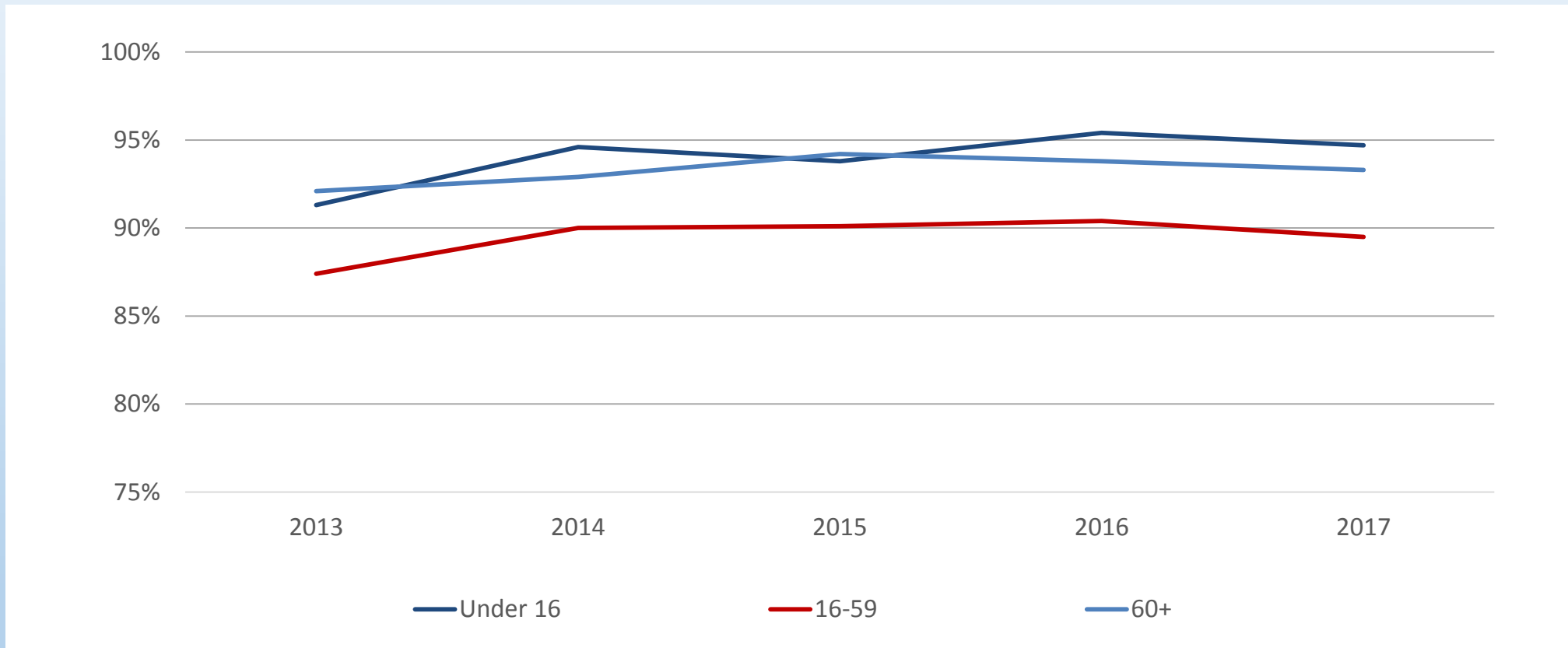
# Safety Belt Use by Sex of Occupant 2013-2017



# 2017 Safety Belt Use Rate by Age of Occupant

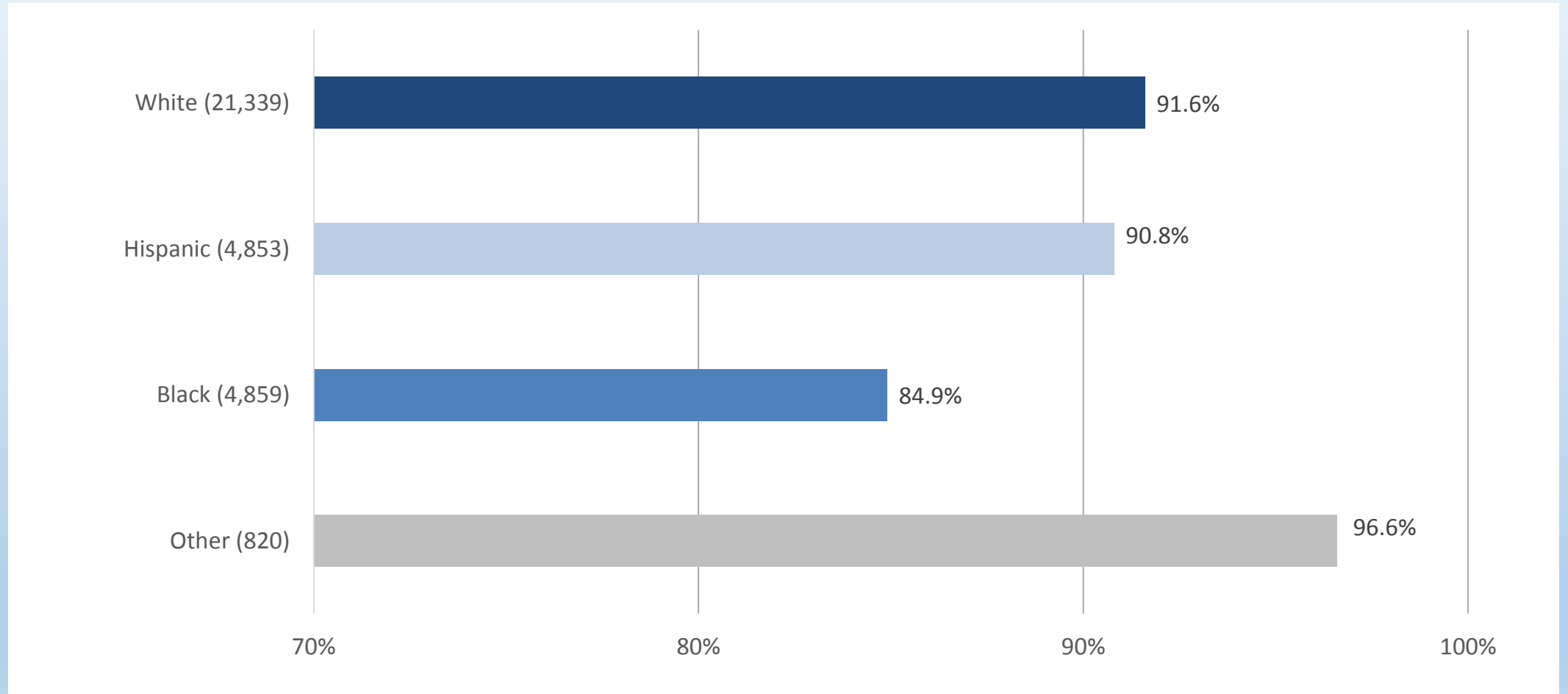


# Safety Belt Use Rate by Occupant Age: 2013-2017

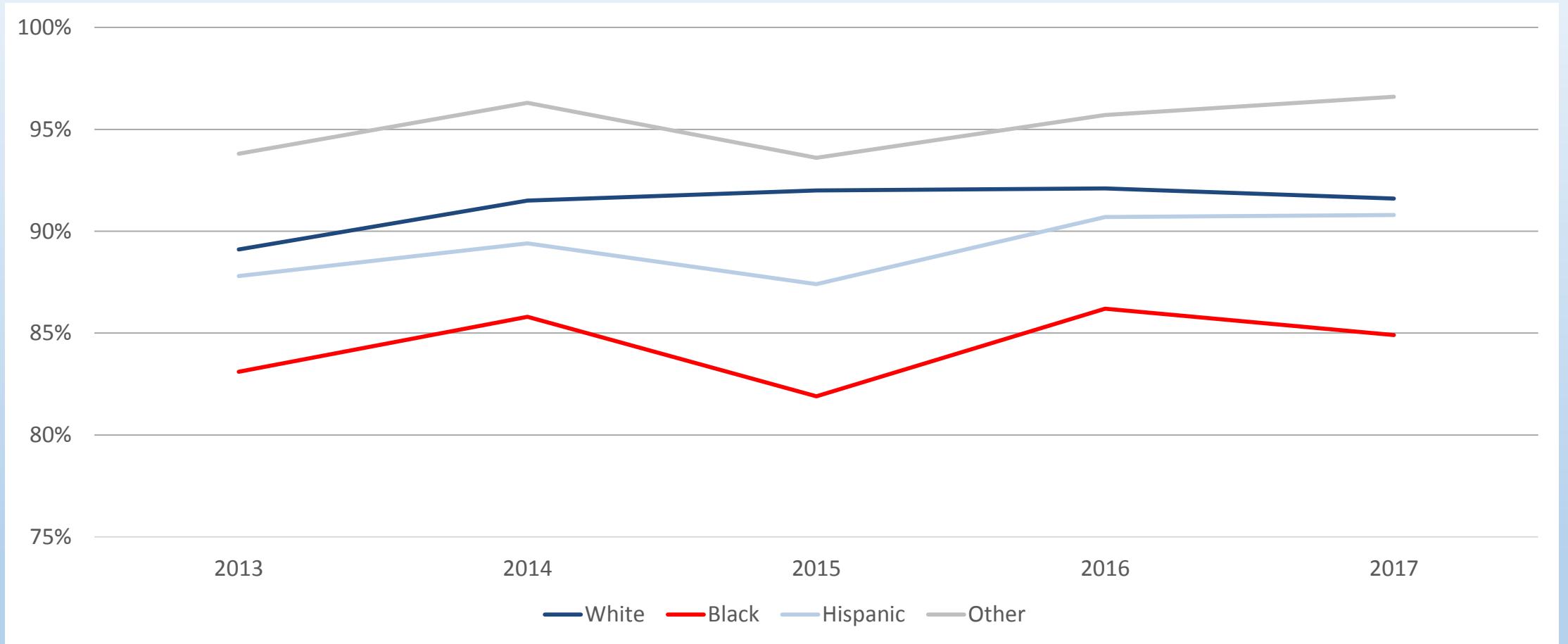




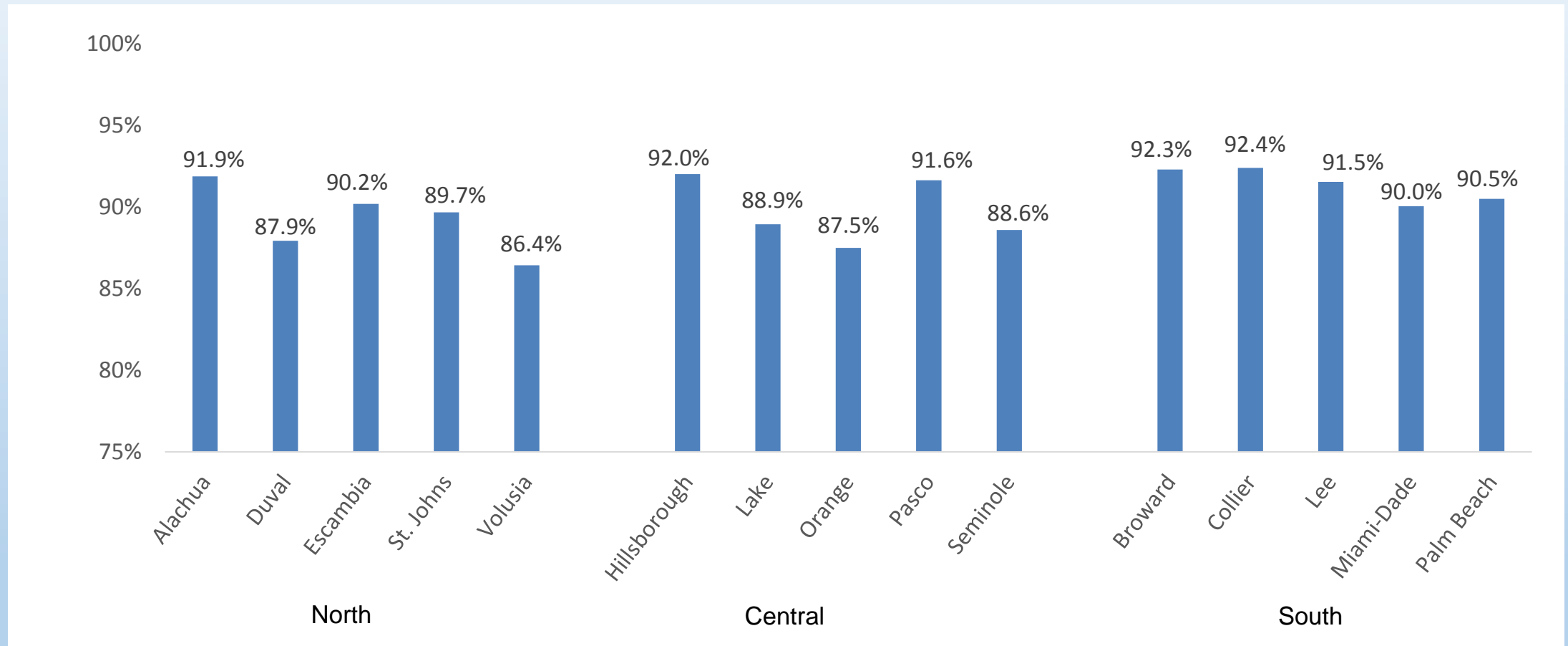
# 2017 Safety Belt Use Rate by Occupant Race/Ethnicity



# Safety Belt Usage by Occupant Race/Ethnicity: 2013-2017



# 2017 Safety Belt Use by Survey County



# Conclusion

- Florida's statewide safety belt use rate for 2017 is 90.2 percent
- For the first time, Florida topped 90 percent statewide usage
- Safety belt usage has generally shown an upward trend over time, increasing 8.5 percentage points since 2008 (81.7% to 90.2%)
- The 2017 results show that progress has been made but there is room for improvement
  - Local Roadways have lower belt use compared to higher volume roadways
  - Occupants in pickup trucks have a downward pull on the use rate
  - Male Occupants, Occupants Ages 16-34, and Black Occupants are lower use groups
- Occupant protection programs should seek to use proven countermeasures that work to address disproportionately low use groups