Facts on

Seat belt use while driving in Durham Region

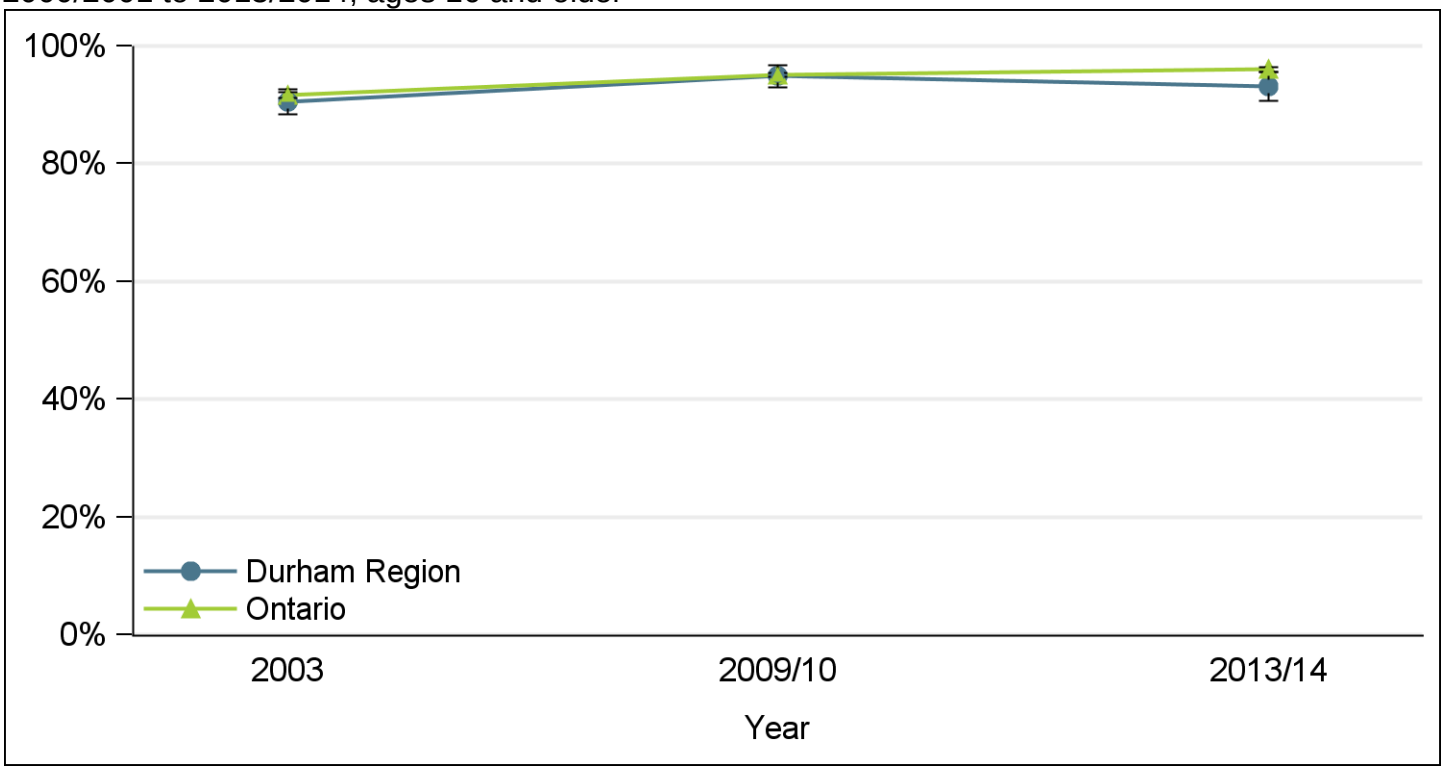
June 2017

Highlights

- In 2013/2014, 93 per cent of Durham Region drivers 16 and older reported always wearing their seat belt. Rates for both Durham Region and Ontario increased since 2003.
- Among the 36 Ontario public health units, the proportion of drivers who reported always wearing their seat belt ranged from 91 per cent to 98 per cent.
- Females were most likely to report always wearing their seat belt.

Trend over time

Figure 1. Percentage of drivers who always wore their seat belt, Durham Region and Ontario, 2000/2001 to 2013/2014, ages 16 and older

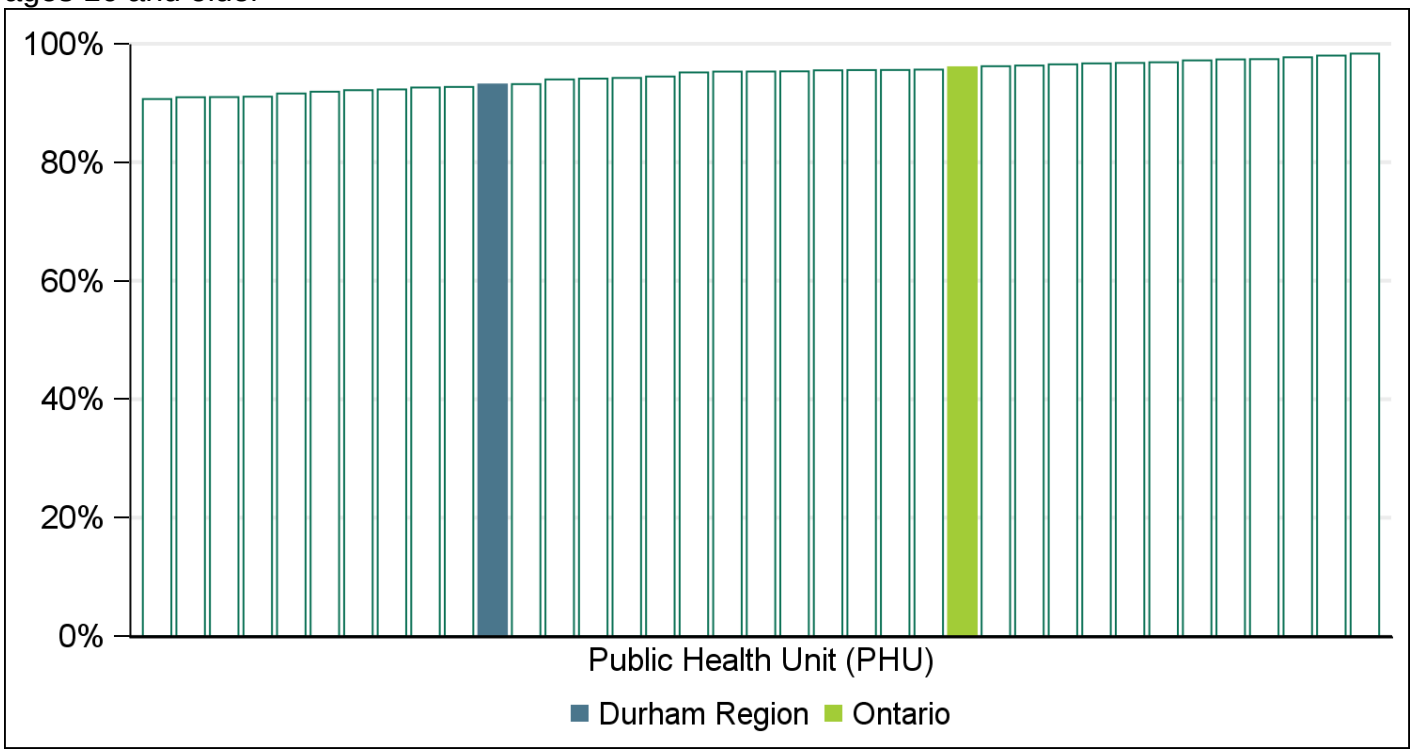


Place of residence	2003	2009/10	2013/14
Durham	90%	95%	93%
95 per cent CI (Durham)	88-93%	93-97%	91-96%
Ontario	92%	95%	96%
95 per cent CI (Ontario)	91-92%	95-95%	96-96%

In 2013/2014, 93 per cent of Durham Region drivers 16 and older reported always wearing their seat belt. This rate is lower than the rate observed for Ontario of 96 per cent. Figure 1 shows that rates for both Durham Region and Ontario increased since 2003.

Provincial Comparison

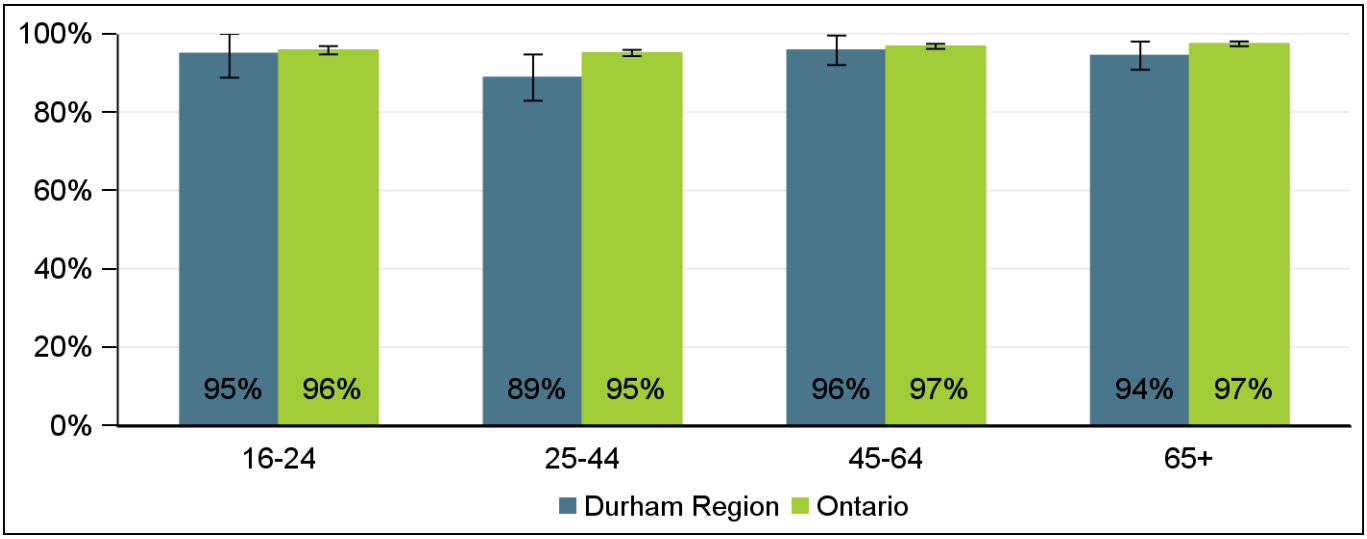
Figure 2. Percentage of drivers who always wore their seat belt, by public health unit, 2013/2014, ages 16 and older



For 2013/2014, the percentage of drivers who reported always wearing their seat belt ranged by public health unit from 91 per cent to 98 per cent. The rate for Durham Region was in the lower end of this range at 93 per cent, see Figure 2 above.

Seat belt use while driving and the determinants of health

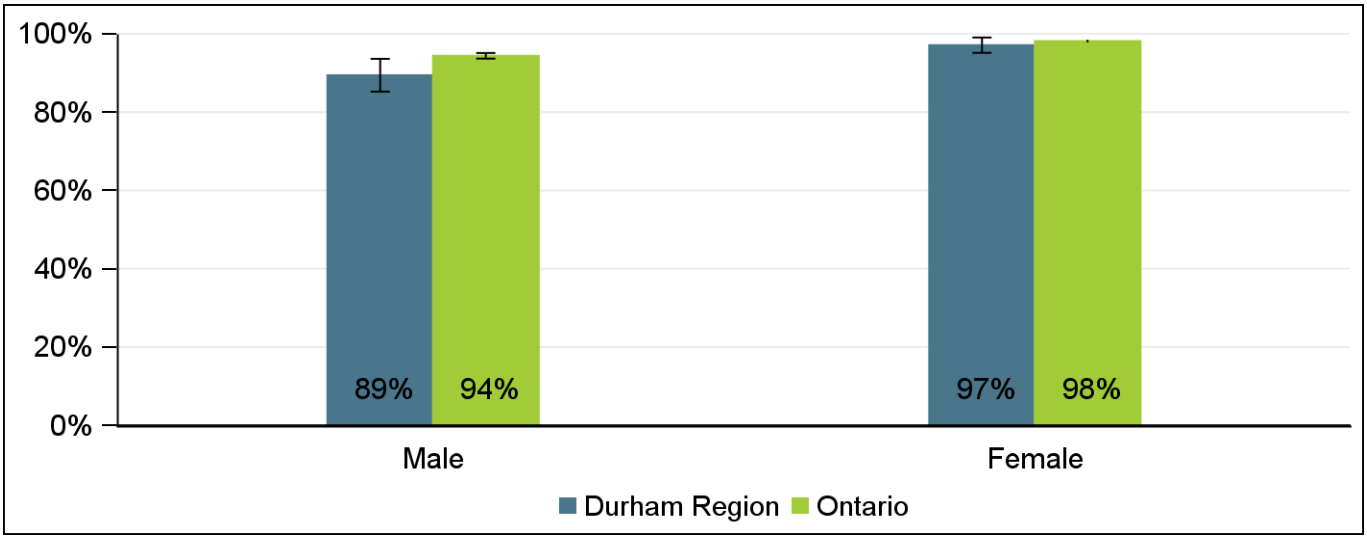
Figure 3. Percentage of drivers who always wore their seat belt, by age group, 2013/2014, ages 16 and older



Association between age groups and seat belt use is significant for Ontario only.

Figure 3 shows that the majority of drivers in all age groups used their seat belts. Drivers aged 25-44 were less likely to always wear a seat belt compared to drivers of other age groups in Ontario. Seat belt use and age were not associated in Durham Region.

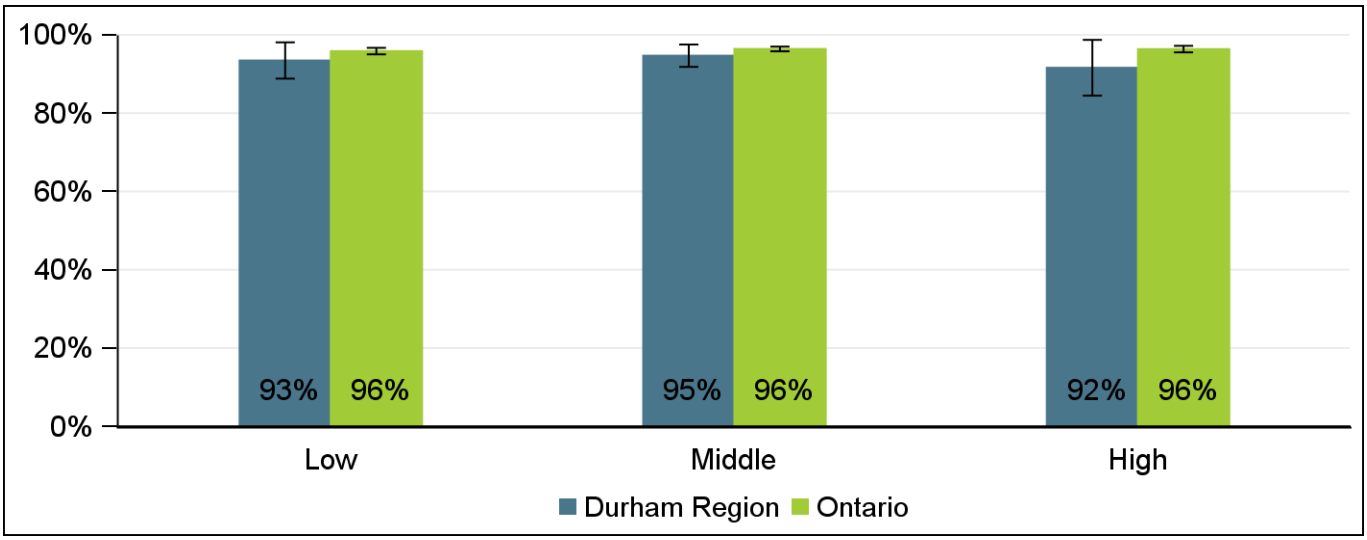
Figure 4. Percentage of drivers who always wore their seat belt, by sex, 2013/2014, ages 16 and older



Association between sex and seat belt use is significant for both Durham Region and Ontario.

The results in figure 4 above show that females were more likely than males to always wear their seat belt when driving. One in ten male drivers did not wear their seat belt every time they drove.

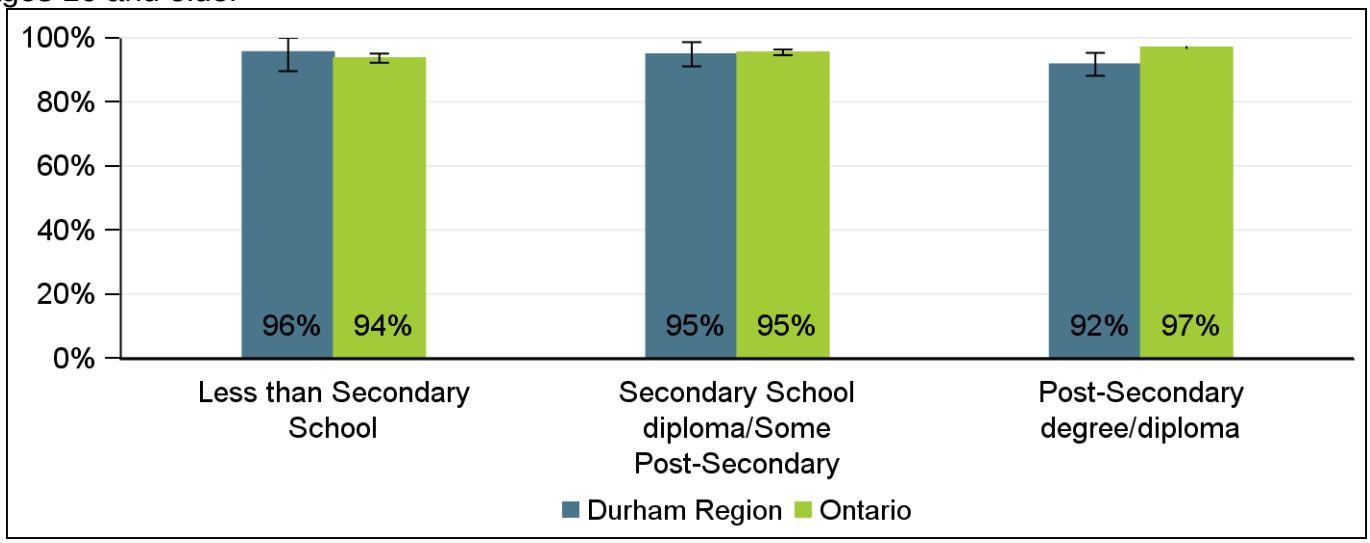
Figure 5. Percentage of drivers who always wore their seat belt, by income level, 2013/2014, ages 16 and older



Association between household income group and seat belt use is significant for Ontario only.

Seat belt use and household income level were not found to be associated.

Figure 6. Percentage of drivers who always wore their seat belt, by education level, 2013/2014, ages 16 and older



Association between education level and seat belt use is significant for Ontario only.

Figure 6 shows that seat belt use while driving increased as education level increased for Ontario drivers. Seat belt use and education level were not found to be associated in Durham Region.

Data Notes

Data Source: The Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) is a cross-sectional survey that collects information related to health status, health care utilization and health determinants for the Canadian population. It surveys a large sample of respondents and is designed to provide reliable estimates at the health region level. Since 2007, data are collected on an ongoing basis with annual releases, rather than every two years as was the case prior to 2007. The CCHS data are collected from persons aged 12 and over living in private dwellings, excluding individuals living on Indian Reserves and on Crown Lands, institutional residents, full-time members of the Canadian Forces, and residents of certain remote regions. Interviews are conducted using computer assisted interviewing, either in person or over the telephone.

Definitions and Survey Questions: Proportion of the population 16 years and older that reported wearing their seat belt when driving.

Data Analysis: The analysis used the CCHS share file obtained from the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. SAS version 9.4 was used to analyze the data. The final CCHS sampling weight formed the estimates. Error bars in the graphs represent the 95% confidence interval (CI) around the estimate. The true or actual estimate falls within the range of values 95 out of 100 times. All analyses excluded response options of “refusal”, “don't know”, “not stated” and “not applicable”, unless otherwise stated.

The seat belt use and the determinants of health analysis used the CCHS 2013/2014 dataset. A chi-square test with a p-value less than 0.05 determined statistical significance. A statistically significant difference between groups means that the association is not likely due to chance.

The income categories of low, middle and high came from a CCHS derived variable. The categories took into account total household income, the low income cut-off, household and community size. Low income groups the lowest 30 per cent, middle groups the middle 40 per cent, and high groups the highest 30 per cent of earners.