

Directions for the Florida Safety Belt Observational Form



1. HOW LONG TO OBSERVE

Observe at each location for a full 60 minutes. A fixed observation period translates to high volume roadways contributing more observation data than low volume roadways. That's the way the study is designed.

2. WHOM TO OBSERVE

- Front seat drivers and outboard passengers. If there are more than two occupants in the front seat, only observe the driver and the passenger (regardless of age) closest to the passenger-side door. Thus, if there are three occupants in the front seat, the observer would ignore the middle occupant.
- Code everyone in the driver's seat and the outboard passenger seat except children in child safety seats. Do include all other children including children in booster seats. Leave fields for passenger data blank only if there is no qualified passenger present.

3. RECORDING DATA

Each coding sheet contains room for 25 vehicles.

At the top of each coding sheet is a place for indicating the site code, site name (street/road/highway and identifier such as cross street or exit number), date, day of week, weather, and time of day. At the bottom of the sheet is a place to indicate page number and how many pages of site data there are. Make sure this is filled in accurately and completely for each coding sheet. For "location code", write in both the site number and the street/road location.

THE LOCATION CODE IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT.

Please place the coding forms in order in envelopes to return to PRG-South. Keep all the coding sheets for a county in one envelope. Within a county, try to place the coding sheets in order from lowest to highest intersection number. For each intersection, place the pages in order (e.g., 1 of 6, 2 of 6, 3 of 6, etc.).

4. CODES

- Vehicle:** Indicate the type of vehicle in which the person is riding.

C = Car	V = Van, minivan or other like vehicle	T = Truck, i.e., pickup truck with a separate bed, even if enclosed	S = Sport Utility Vehicle
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- Sex (S):** Note the gender of the person being observed, male (M) or female (F) or unsure (U).

- Age (A):** Note the age range of the person being observed.

C = Child age 15 or younger (passenger only)	Y = 16-34	M = 35-59	O = 60 years or older	U = Unsure
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- Race:** (R) Note the race of the person being observed.

W = White	B = Black	H = Hispanic	O = Other	U = Unsure
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- Restraint Use**

Safety belts: Code if the occupant is (Y) or is not (N) wearing a safety belt. **Code based on the shoulder belt.** If the shoulder belt is visible and properly positioned, code Y. If the person is adequately visible and no shoulder belt use is seen, code N. If you cannot see the person clearly enough to determine whether or not a shoulder belt is visible, code U (uncertain). In general, try to avoid the U code. If the shoulder belt is improperly fastened, i.e., looped behind the back or under the arm, code N for improper use.

5. RETURNING MATERIALS AFTER COMPLETING OBSERVATIONS

Make sure to return all materials back to the local CTST (Community Traffic Safety Team):

- Completed coding forms
- Site maps (Google maps are good)

Appendix B. Florida Safety Belt Observation Form

SITE NUMBER: _____ SITE: _____

NOTES: _____

DATE: _____ - _____ - _____ DAY OF WEEK: _____

WEATHER CONDITIONS
 1 Clear / Sunny 4 Fog
 2 Light Rain 5 Wet But Not
 3 Cloudy Raining

DIRECTION OF TRAFFIC FLOW (Circle one): N S E W

START TIME: _____ (Observation period will last exactly 60 minutes)

Veh. #	VEHICLE			DRIVER			PASSENGER		
	Vehicle C = car T = truck S = suv V = van	Sex M = male F = female U = unsure	Age Y = 16-34 M = 35-59 O = 60 or older U = unknown	Race W = White B = Black H = Hispanic O = Other U = unsure	Use Y = yes N = no U = unsure	Sex M = male F = female U = unsure	Age C = 6-15 Y = 16-34 M = 35-59 O = 60 or older U = unknown	Race W = White B = Black H = Hispanic O = Other U = unsure	Use Y = yes N = no U = unsure
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