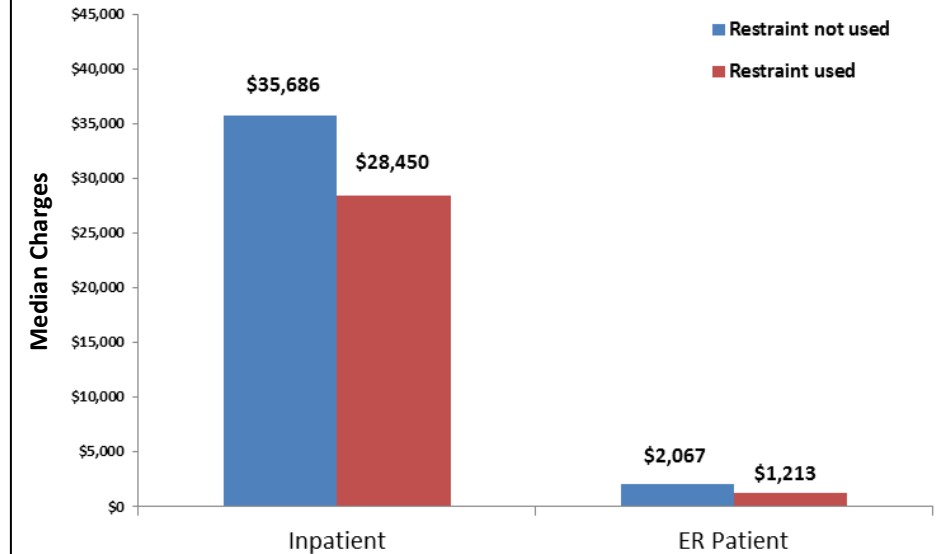


# Seat Belt Fact Sheet: Medical Charges 2008-2012

## After a motor vehicle crash:

- Restraint use saves on medical charges. Medical charges are higher for unrestrained motor vehicle occupants in a crash.
- The median hospital charges for an **unrestrained** occupant were **\$7,236 higher** compared to a restrained occupant (figure 1).
- Medical charges were **higher for unrestrained occupants** compared to restrained occupants, regardless of payer type (figure 2).

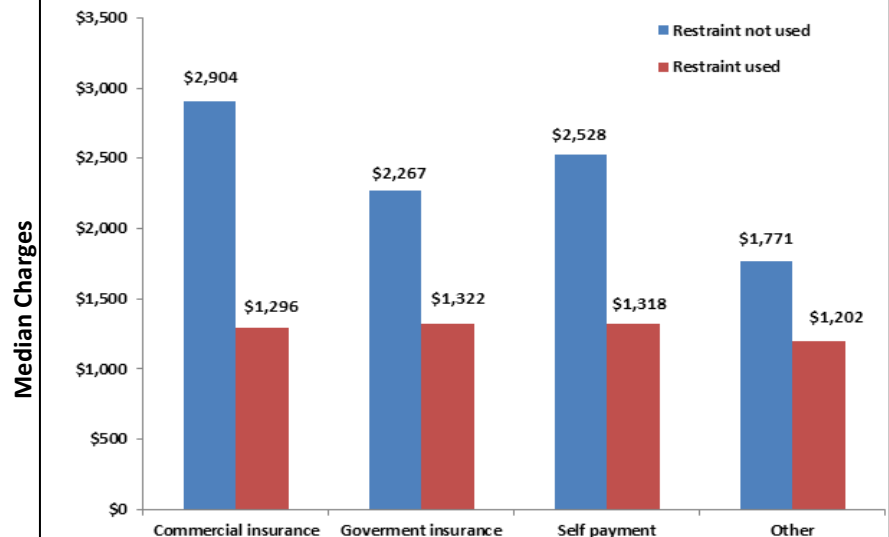
Figure 1: Median Hospital Charges by Restraint Use, Nebraska, 2008-2012



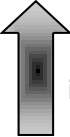
Source: NE CODES

**According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), traffic crashes cost Nebraska \$1.6 billion every year. That is \$952 for every resident of Nebraska, each year. (Source: NHTSA, Nebraska Primary Seat Belt Law Fact Sheet, January 2012)**

Figure 2: Median Hospital Charges by Payer Type, Nebraska 2008-2012



Source: NE CODES

 Hospitalizations from motor vehicle crashes increased from 8,904 in 2008 to 9,807 in 2012.

Hospital charges from motor vehicle crashes increased from \$69 billion (2008) to **\$98 billion** (2012) in Nebraska.

Source: NE CODES