To determine if people are less likely to have a fatal accident if they are wearing a seatbelt, we need to compare the probability (or rate) of fatal accidents for those wearing a seatbelt versus those not wearing a seatbelt. This is best done by comparing the ratios of fatal accidents to the total number of accidents for each group.

Let's look at the options:

(A) Compare the ratios 510/412,878 and 1,601/164,128

- This compares the ratio of fatal accidents to nonfatal accidents for each group. This is not the most appropriate comparison because it does not consider the total number of accidents (fatal + nonfatal) for each group.

(B) Compare the ratios 510/577,006 and 1,601/577,006

- This compares the ratio of fatal accidents to the total number of accidents (both fatal and nonfatal) in the entire dataset. This is not appropriate because it does not account for the different group sizes (seatbelt vs. no seatbelt).

(C) Compare the numbers 510 and 1,601

- This simply compares the raw counts of fatal accidents, which does not take into account the different sizes of the groups (seatbelt vs. no seatbelt).

The most appropriate comparison is to look at the rate of fatal accidents per total number of accidents for each group. This is given by:

- For seatbelt users: 510/412,878 (fatal accidents / total accidents for seatbelt users)

- For non-seatbelt users: 1,601/164,128 (fatal accidents / total accidents for non-seatbelt users)

Therefore, the correct answer is:

(A) Compare the ratios 510/412,878 and 1,601/164,128