



Make sure your seatbelt catches you!

It might surprise you to hear that not wearing a seatbelt is still too common and causes a lot of deaths on our roads.

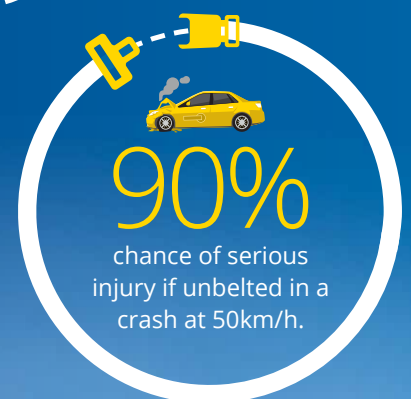
In recent years up to 30% of all vehicle occupant deaths have been people not buckled up, which equates to 90-100 lives lost a year. Authorities believe up to half of these people would have survived if they had been wearing one.

Even in a crash at 50km/h you will have nearly a 90% chance of suffering a serious injury if you aren't wearing a seatbelt¹.

Who isn't wearing their seatbelt?

An AA Research Foundation study² in 2017 looked into whether there are particular groups of people who don't use seatbelts.

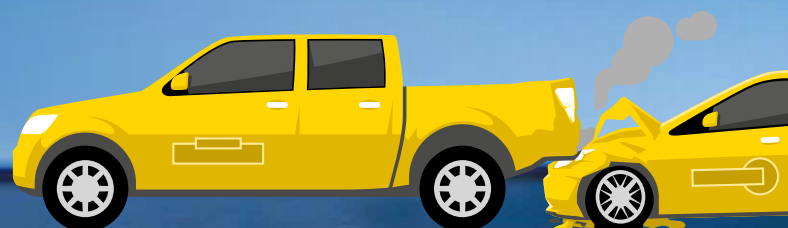
The study analysed 200 crashes that happened between 2011 and 2015 which involved the death of someone not belted up. Researchers looked at the deceased person's traffic offence history, demographic information about them and a wide range of other factors involved in the crash. They identified five distinct groups of people who are more likely to die in crashes not belted up.



People driving for work are one of the high-risk groups for not belting up.

¹ D.J. Gabauer, H.C. Gaber (2006). Comparison of Delta-v and occupant impact velocity crash severity metrics using event data recorders. Centre for Injury Biomechanics Virginia Tech Blacksburg, Virginia.

² This research was also supported financially and in kind by the Ministry of Transport, NZ Transport Agency, Accident Compensation Corporation and NZ Police.



You're at higher risk if you³:



Work in a primary industry (agriculture, forestry, fisheries) or a trade



Drive an older vehicle (maybe without a seatbelt reminder system)



Have previous traffic offences (particularly speeding, WOF or licence offences)



Drive a van or truck



Are male



Drive in rural areas

³ Other at risk groups discovered through this research included young and risky drivers, elderly and retired drivers, and overseas passengers. For the full research report: *Vehicle Occupants Not Wearing a Seatbelt*, 2017, aa.co.nz/about/aa-research-foundation

Don't fall for excuses like these...

- I'm only going a short distance
- I'm constantly in and out of the vehicle
- It's just not a habit
- I can't reach it easily
- Others in the vehicle aren't wearing one

How a seatbelt can save you

- In-vehicle restraints stop people from being thrown around inside or outside the vehicle.
- Whether you crash, or someone crashes into you, you'll suffer less severe injuries if you're restrained.

Even if you're
just driving
a short distance...



...always
buckle up!

Courses and free resources to help companies keep their drivers safe – aa.co.nz/dtffb

AA Motoring

Driving School

Fleet & Business



The information in this document is based on Driver Risk Awareness research funded through the AA Research Foundation

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Full reports

www.aa.co.nz/about/aa-research-foundation/programmes/

November 2018