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LIFE'S
JOURNEYS
FOR OVER
110 YEARS.

New Zealand
Automobile
Association



AA Election Call Series 2017 **1**

Still not clicking

Why the Government must make
seatbelts an urgent road safety priority



One click...100 lives

100 of the drivers and passengers who died in a crash in 2016 were not wearing a seatbelt.

As many as 50 could still be here with their families today if they had been. Disturbingly, this issue is getting worse. In the last three years the number of unrestrained deaths has nearly doubled.

If we could get every single driver and passenger to make it click our road toll would drop overnight.

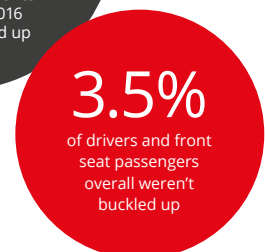
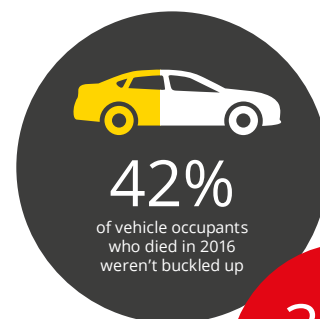
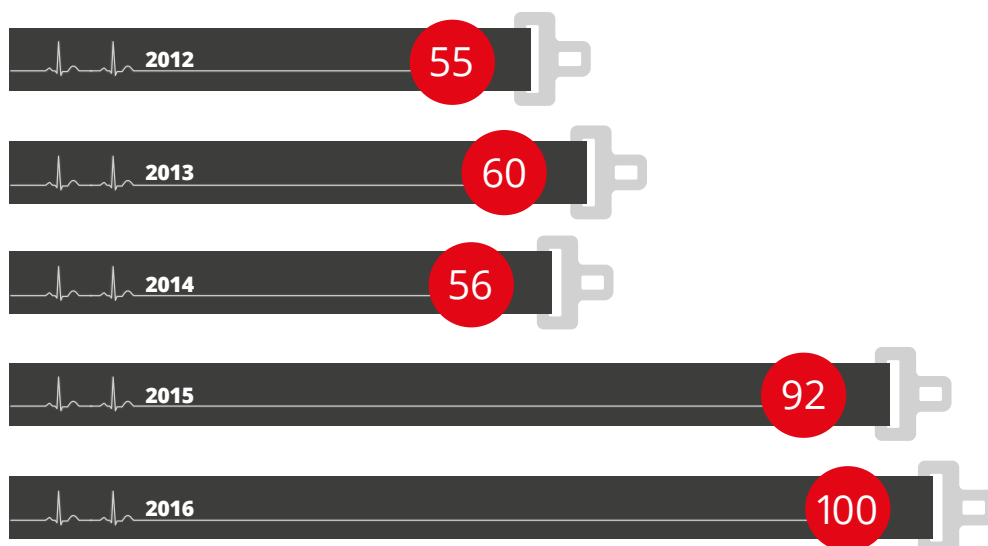
This is why the AA is calling for the next Government to make seatbelts an urgent road safety priority and seek ways to stop these unnecessary deaths.

We need to answer difficult questions about who is not wearing seatbelts? Why aren't they buckling up and what would change their behaviour?

The AA Research Foundation and several Government agencies have a joint project underway looking in detail at fatal crashes where someone was not wearing a seatbelt.

The AA is calling for the next Government to make seatbelts an urgent road safety priority

Vehicle occupants killed who weren't wearing a seatbelt



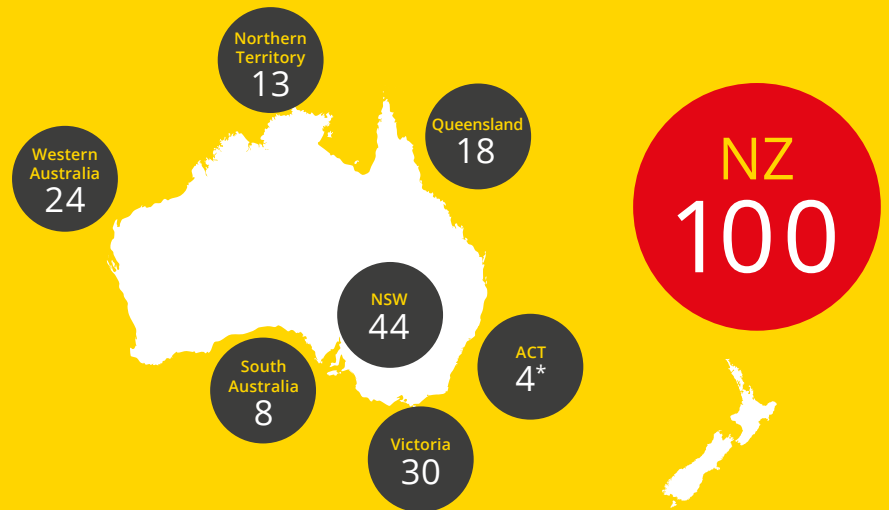
International comparisons

Internationally, New Zealand's rate of seatbelt wearing is similar to global road safety leaders yet our rate of deaths is much worse.

The three Australian states with bigger populations than New Zealand all had less than half the unrestrained deaths that we do. Queensland had just 18 unrestrained road deaths in 2016. We had 16 in the month of December.

Number of people killed not wearing a seatbelt in 2016

* only 2015 data available for ACT



Front-seat use of seatbelts	
Sweden	98%
Germany	98%
UK	97%
Netherlands	97%
Australia	97%
NZ	97%

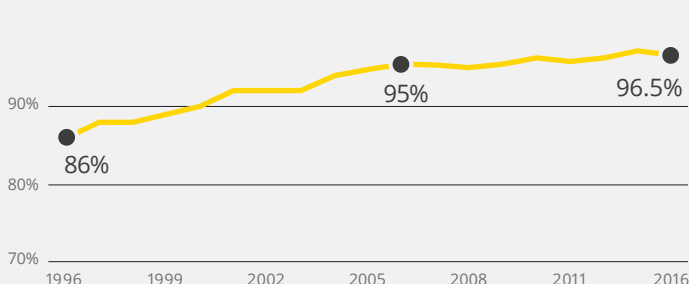
How many people aren't buckling up?

The most recent survey by the Ministry of Transport found 96.5% of people in front seats and 92% in back seats were wearing their seatbelts. These figures come from observing more than 90,000 drivers and passengers at hundreds of sites across the country and the long-term trend has shown increased rates of people buckling up.

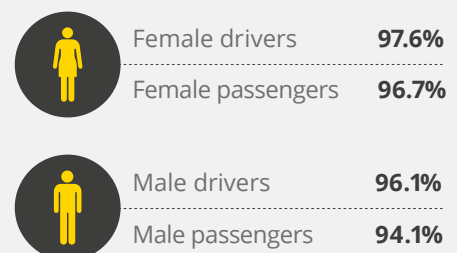
The number of people being caught by Police where someone in a vehicle is unrestrained has also dropped by more than 30% since 2009.

Unfortunately, the small percentages of those not wearing seatbelts still equate to tens of thousands of people not buckled up when they are in a vehicle.

NZ seatbelt-wearing rate for front seat



Front-seat use of seatbelts (2016)



Seatbelts and children

Motor vehicle crashes are the second leading cause of deaths through injury for New Zealand children.

On average each year about four children aged under 10 lose their lives as a passenger in a crash. More than 200 are injured.

There is no clear data on how many of the children killed or injured in a crash were not properly restrained but recent Ministry of Transport surveys found 3% to 5% of children under 10 were completely unrestrained while in a vehicle

A compounding issue is whether children are using an appropriate child restraint for their age and size.

The law requires children up to seven to be in a child restraint but the ideal is for young people to use some type of booster until they reach 148cm tall. People shorter than this risk injuries from a standard seatbelt if they are in a crash.

Auckland Transport checkpoints found that 68% of child restraints they inspected in vehicles had some type of fault and it can often be difficult for parents to know if they have installed a child seat correctly.



From 2011-15 there were

20
deaths and
1071

injuries among children under 10 while riding in a vehicle

3-5%

of children under 10 are not buckled up in any way



148cm

is the recommended height for children to use a standard seatbelt

Use of child restraints:

	Child restraint used	Adult seatbelt used	No restraint
Child under 5	93%	4%	3%
Child 5-9	26%	69%	5%

(Ministry of Transport surveys)



Making seatbelts an urgent road safety priority is the first of the AA's 2017 Election Calls.

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