

# Northern Ireland Seat Belt Survey 2001

## Introduction

Survey data was collected at 15 sites throughout Northern Ireland. Of these 15 sites, six were located on rural roads, six on urban roads and three on motorways.

Fieldwork involved observing stationary traffic and recording details including gender, estimated age and whether a seat belt or child restraint was being used by car occupants. Recording took place between 08:30 and 17:30 on Tuesday 24 and Saturday 28 April 2001. In total 17,414 cars were observed and details of 27,256 occupants recorded.

## Key Points

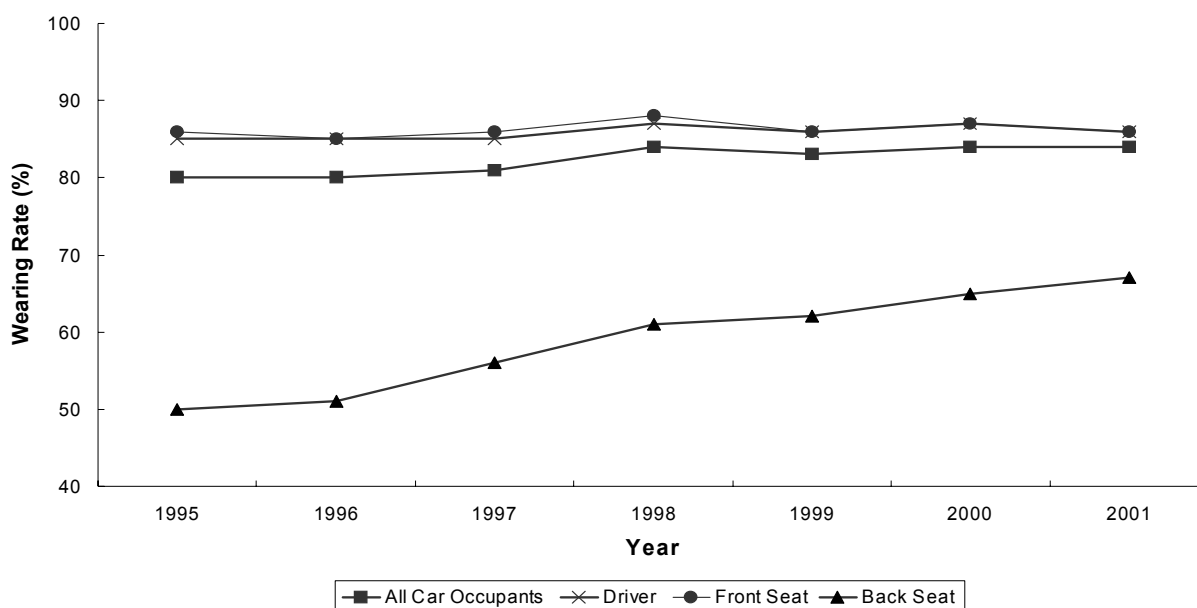
- ò **Seat Belt wearing rates** - Eighty-four percent of all car occupants used a seat belt. Drivers (86%) and front seat passengers (86%) were more likely to use a seat belt than back seat passengers (67%).
- ò **Change since April 2000** - The percentage of all car occupants (i.e. the overall wearing rate) using a seat belt remained unchanged at 84%. The back seat passenger wearing rate rose from 65% to 67%. Wearing rates for drivers and front seat passengers both decreased slightly, from 87% to 86%.
- ò **Survey Trends** - There has been a steady increase in overall wearing rates between 1995 and 2001, from 80% to 84%, while driver and front seat passenger wearing rates have remained fairly constant over the period. Back seat wearing rates have increased from 50% to 67% between 1995 and 2001.
- ò **Gender** - Among all car occupants, females were more likely than males to use a seat belt. The greatest difference was among front seat passengers, with 88% of females as compared to 76% of males wearing a seatbelt.
- ò **Adults** - Older drivers were more likely to wear seat belts. Some 89% of drivers aged 60+ were restrained compared to 86% of drivers aged 17 - 59. Both front and back seat passenger wearing rates also increased with age.
- ò **Children** - The majority of children (91% of children aged 1 - 4, 83% of ages 5 - 9 and 87% of ages 10 - 13) were restrained when travelling as front seat passengers. This compares with 86% of children aged 1-4, 65% of ages 5 - 9 and 68% of ages 10 - 13 who were restrained when travelling as back seat passengers.

## SUMMARY OF KEY RESULTS FROM NI SEAT BELT SURVEY\* 1994 - 2001

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
<b>% of car occupants wearing seat belts:</b>								
Driver	88%	85%	85%	85%	87%	86%	87%	86%
Front Seat	88%	86%	85%	86%	88%	86%	87%	86%
Back Seat	52%	50%	51%	56%	61%	62%	65%	67%
of which:								
Under 1 year	96%	96%	97%	95%	96%	93%	97%	98%
1 - 4 years	70%	65%	72%	78%	78%	78%	82%	86%
5 - 9 years	50%	49%	50%	54%	61%	62%	68%	65%
10 - 13 years	47%	47%	47%	51%	58%	65%	65%	68%
<b>Overall Wearing Rates</b>		<b>80%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>84%</b>
<b>Occupancy Rate</b>								
Front Seat passengers	0.41	0.39	0.40	0.40	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.37
Back Seat passengers	0.27	0.24	0.24	0.23	0.21	0.20	0.21	0.20

\* April surveys only. In 1994-1996 surveys were also conducted each October.

**Seat Belt Wearing Rates in NI (1995 - 2001)**



### Additional Information

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The Northern Ireland Seat Belt Survey 2001 Report is available on the web at the above address.