

# AA Charitable Trust: Seatbelts Factsheet

## General

- 🚗 In 2023, one third (36%) of young car occupant fatalities were not wearing their seatbelt.
- 🚗 12% think it is not important to wear a seatbelt for journeys under 15 minutes either as a passenger or as a driver.
- 🚗 Seatbelts can reduce the risk of death by around 50%.
- 🚗 You can be fined up to £500 if you are caught not wearing a seatbelt or if a child under 14 is not wearing the correct seatbelt or in the correct car seat when you are driving.
- 🚗 The rate of seatbelt non-wearing fatalities for car occupants is highest for rear seat passengers (40%).
- 🚗 Weekends also show the highest rates of non-seatbelt wearing among car fatalities (28% Saturday; 30% Sunday).

## Drivers

- 🚗 Young car drivers are significantly over-represented as unbelted fatalities. 32% of drivers who died unbelted were aged 17-29, despite this age group only accounting for around 14% of driving licences.
- 🚗 The overwhelming majority of young car drivers who die while not wearing their seatbelt are male (95%).
- 🚗 Young male car drivers are 4 times more likely than young female car drivers to die not wearing their seatbelt (34% young male drivers die unbelted in car crashes compared to 8% of young female drivers).
- 🚗 Unbelted, young car driver fatalities are more likely to happen at night or evening (65%).
- 🚗 17% of new and learner drivers admit they have driven without their seatbelt.

## Passengers

- 🚗 Young people make up more than half (54%) of all car passengers who die unbelted and a sixth (14.2%) of all car passenger fatalities.
- 🚗 Almost half (48%) of young male car passengers who die in a crash are unbelted, compared to a third (36%) of their female contemporaries.
- 🚗 Three-quarters (74%) of young car passengers who die unbelted in a crash do so at night.
- 🚗 The rate of seatbelt non-wearing fatalities is highest for rear seat passengers.
- 🚗 Young car passengers are the most likely age group to not wear a seatbelt.
- 🚗 A quarter (24%) of new and learner drivers admit to driving unbelted passengers in their car.
- 🚗 A third of new and learner drivers admit to being driven as a passenger while not wearing their seatbelt.

Data sources: DfT Stats19 'Car occupant fatalities in reported road collisions 2019 to 2023: counts of seatbelt worn/not worn by sex, age, seating position and time of day'. All analysis based on crashes where seatbelt wearing status is known. Reported road casualties Great Britain: fatal 4 - seatbelt factsheet, 2023 - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)) Seatbelt wearing rates: England 2023 - GOV.UK (<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/national-travel-attitudes-study-ntas#road-safety-ntas05>) FirstCar Survey of 1,734 new and learner drivers June 2023 Reported road casualties Great Britain: fatal 4 - seatbelt factsheet, 2023 - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))