



Department of the Environment  
for Northern Ireland

# *Northern Ireland Seat Belt Survey*

## *Report*

### *Cars*

*April 2006*



**Prepared by  
Central Survey Unit  
on behalf of DoE**

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## Notation

The following symbols are used :-

No responses in category	– cell is empty
Value of category is less than 0.5%	- cell is 0%

- Note:
- a) For categories with a cell total less than 100, counts are shown instead of percentages. All counts are shown in square brackets.
  - b) Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding

## **Background to the Survey**

This is the seventeenth in a series of Seat Belt Surveys. The series, which began in 1994, has been conducted biannually, in April and October. However, from April 1997 the survey has been conducted on an annual basis in April of each year, with the exception of 2001 when a survey was carried out in both April and October.

Data for this report was collected from 15 sites throughout Northern Ireland, consisting of 6 rural, 3 motorway and 6 urban locations.

Fieldwork involved observing stationary traffic and recording details such as gender, estimated age and whether a restraint was being used for any car occupants. Recording took place in eight half hour sessions between 08:30 and 17:00 on Tuesday 25th and Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2006. In total 15,499 cars were observed and details of 23,211 occupants recorded.

## Summary of Key Results from NI Seat Belt Surveys 1994 - 2006

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	Apr 2001	Oct 2001	Apr 2002	Apr 2003	Apr 2004	Apr 2005	Apr 2006
<b>% of car occupants wearing seatbelts</b>														
Driver	88	85	85	85	87	86	87	86	88	90	90	91	93	93
Front Seat	88	86	85	86	88	86	87	86	89	89	89	90	92	93
Back Seat	52	50	51	56	61	62	65	67	71	72	75	77	81	85
Of which:														
Under 1 year	96	96	97	95	96	93	97	98	97	95	97	98	98	96
1-4 years	70	65	72	78	78	78	82	86	86	85	87	88	92	96
5-9 years	50	49	50	54	61	62	68	65	73	71	75	77	82	84
10-13 years	47	47	47	51	58	65	65	68	70	72	75	78	82	86
<b>Overall Wearing Rate %</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>Occupancy Rate</b>														
Front Seat Passengers	0.41	0.39	0.40	0.40	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.38	0.36	0.37	0.37	0.36	0.35
Back Seat Passengers	0.27	0.24	0.24	0.23	0.21	0.20	0.21	0.20	0.18	0.17	0.17	0.16	0.15	0.15

## **Summary**

### **Restraint wearing rates**

Ninety-three percent of car occupants used a restraint. Drivers (93%) and front seat passengers (93%) were more likely to use a restraint than back seat passengers (85%) (See tables 2-5).

### **Change since April 2005**

The percentage of car occupants using a restraint increased to 93%, back seat passenger rates increased from 81% to 85%, and driver and front seat wearing rates both increased to 93%. (See figures 6-8).

### **Survey trends**

Results for the April 2006 Seat Belt Survey have followed a similar pattern to those of previous surveys. Wearing rates overall have improved since 1994, driver wearing rates have been fairly consistent since the survey began in 1994, as have front seat wearing rates. Back seat wearing rates have increased from 52% in 1994 to a high of 85% in 2006. (See figures 6-8).

### **Comparison with Great Britain (check)**

Car occupants in Northern Ireland were less likely to use a restraint than those in Great Britain. According to the latest figures available (for April 2006) the wearing rates for Great Britain were 93% for drivers, 94% for front seat passengers and 83% for back seat passengers. This last figure has risen considerably from 63% in April 1997.

### **Road Type**

Drivers were slightly less likely to use a restraint on urban roads (93%) than motorways and rural roads (both 94%). Front seat passengers were most likely to be restrained on rural (93%) and urban roads (93%) than the motorways (91%). Back seat passengers wearing rates varied from a high of 90% on rural roads to 85% on urban roads and 75% on motorways (see tables 7, 9-10).

### **Gender**

Female drivers and front seat passengers were more likely than males to use a restraint. There was little difference in the overall level of back seat restraint usage by gender (see tables 11, 13-14).

## **Adults**

Older drivers were more likely to wear seat belts, 95% of drivers aged 60+ were restrained compared to 93% of drivers aged 17 – 29 and 30 - 59 (see table 15).

## **Children**

The majority of children (95% of ages 1-4, 90% of ages 5-9 and 92% of ages 10-13) were restrained when travelling as front seat passengers. However, 14% of children aged 10-13, 16% of those aged 5-9, and 4% of those aged 1-4 were unrestrained when travelling in the back of a car (see tables 17-18).

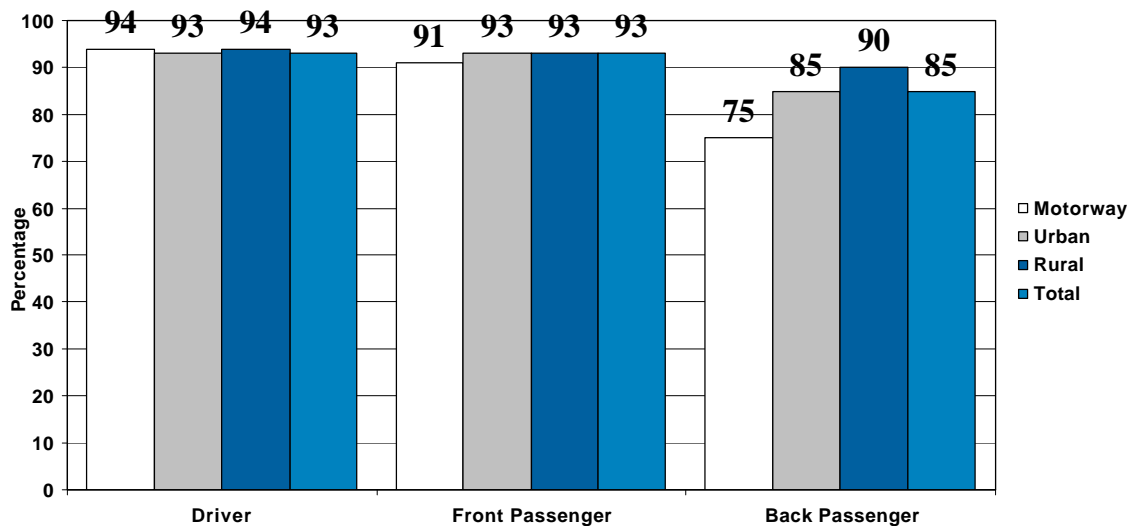
## **Mobile Phones**

This is the fourth Northern Ireland Seat Belt survey that has observed the use of mobile phones by drivers. Ninety-eight and a half percent of drivers (98.5%) were not using a mobile phone. Of the drivers that were using a phone 1.2% were using a hand-held phone and 0.2% were using a hands-free phone (see table 6). These figures were fairly consistent with those collected in April 2005.

## Main Findings

Almost two fifths of all vehicles (35%) contained front seat passengers. In addition there was an average of 15 back seat passengers per 100 vehicles (see table 1).

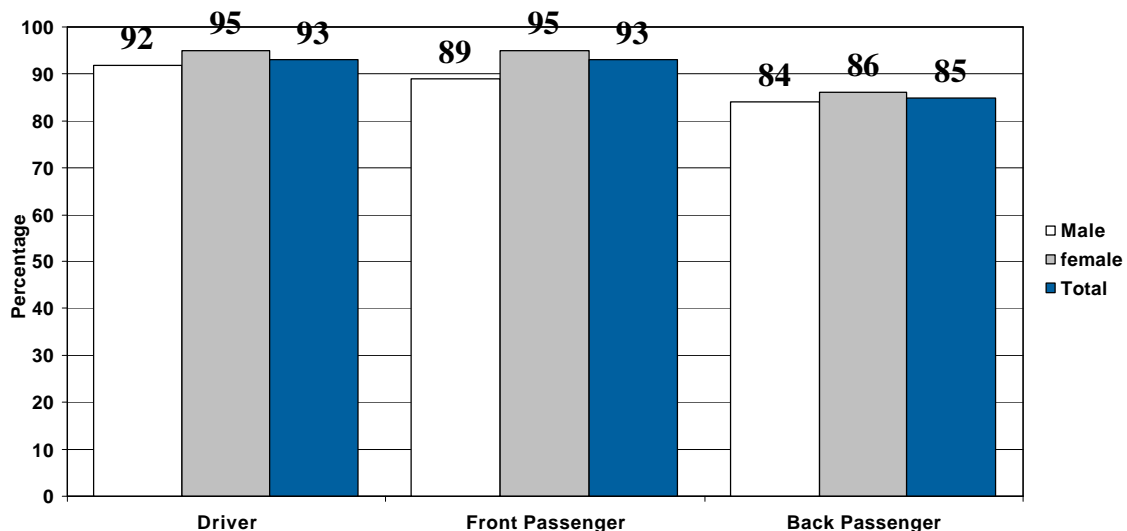
**Figure 1: Wearing rate of drivers, front seat passengers, and back seat passengers by type of site.**



In relation to type of site (motorway, urban, rural), the highest seat belt wearing rate was among rural and motorway drivers (both 94%) and urban and rural front seat passengers (93%). Back seat passengers were more likely to be restrained at rural sites (90%) (See figure 1).

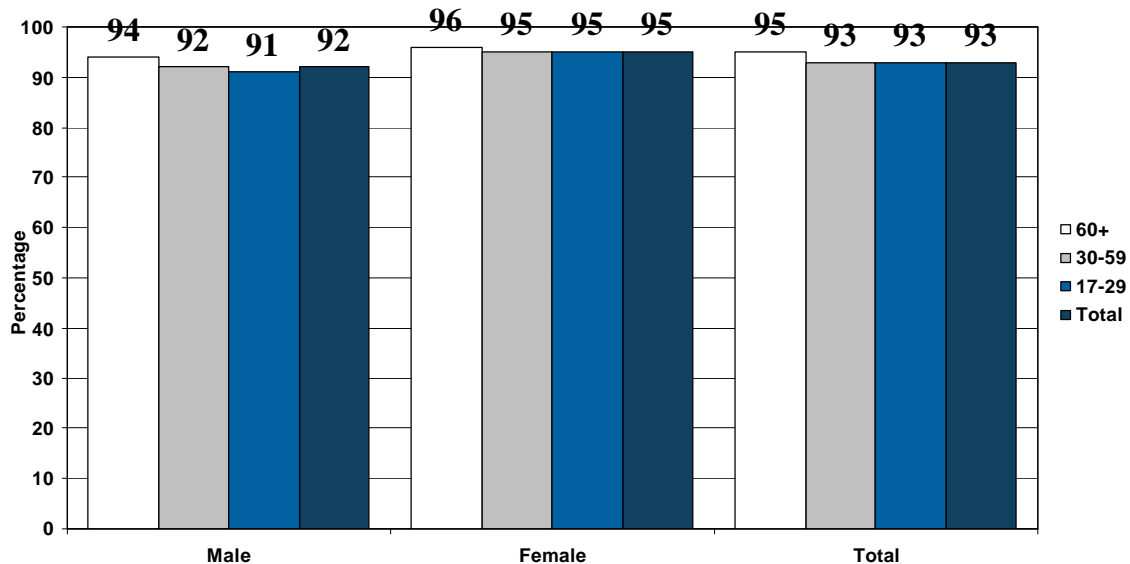
Both female drivers and front seat passengers had a higher rate of restraint usage than males. There was little difference between male and female restraint rates for back seat passengers (see figure 2).

**Figure 2: Wearing rate of drivers, front seat passengers, and back seat passengers by gender.**



With respect to age, the highest level of restraint usage among drivers overall was found in the 60+ age group (95%). Looking at figure 3 we can see that there is a rise from 91% of 17-29 year old male drivers to 94% of 60+ male drivers being restrained. There is less of a difference for female drivers with 95% of 17-29 year olds and 96% of 60+ year olds restrained (see figure 3).

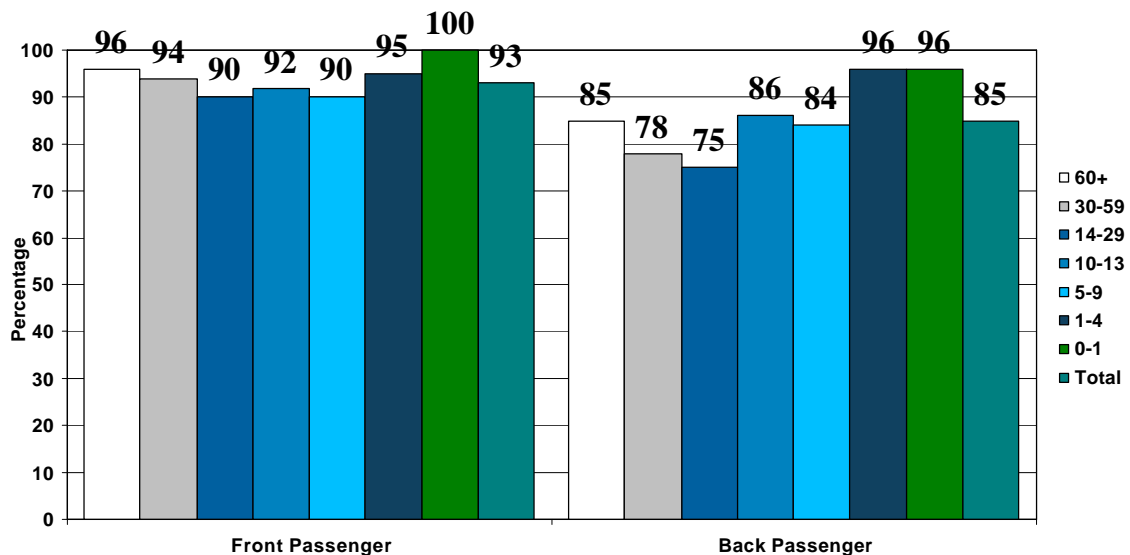
**Figure 3: Wearing rate of drivers by age and gender**



Front and rear seat passenger wearing rates followed a similar overall trend showing that older adults are more likely to wear a seat belt. Analysis shows that adult front seat female passengers over 60 had a high level of restraint use, as did those female 30-59 year olds (97% and 96% respectively - see table 21). The majority of child front seat passengers were restrained, 95% of those aged 1-4, 92% of 10-13 year olds and 90% of 5-9 year olds. Front seat passengers aged 0-1 had a particularly high level of restraint use (100%) (See table 17).

Child back seat passengers were far more likely than adult back seat passengers to be restrained. Ninety-six percent of back seat passengers under four years old were restrained. However only 84% of child back seat passengers aged 5-9 and 86% of those aged 10-13 were restrained (see figure 4).

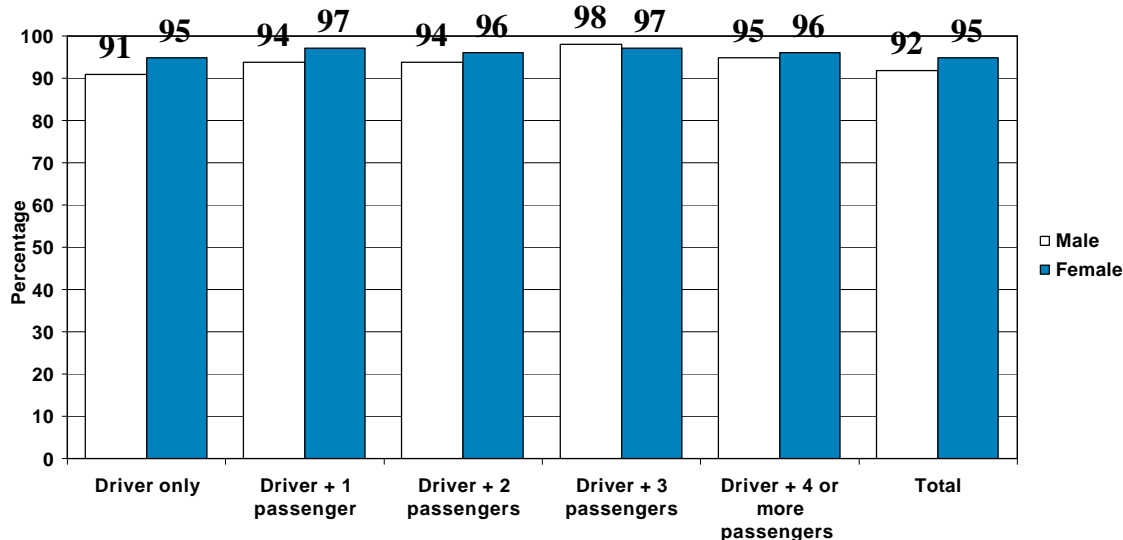
**Figure 4: Wearing rate of front seat passengers and back seat passengers by age.**





Whether the driver wore a seat belt appeared to have a marked effect on the wearing rates of other passengers. Where drivers were restrained, 95% of front seat passengers and 86% of back seat passengers were also restrained. Where drivers were unrestrained, only 58% of front seat passengers and 57% of back seat passengers were restrained (see table 23 and 24).

**Figure 5: Wearing rate of drivers by gender and number of occupants in car**



In general, wearing rates of drivers overall also increased slightly as the number of occupants increased. This ranged from 92% with no passengers to 97% with three passengers in the car (see table 25).

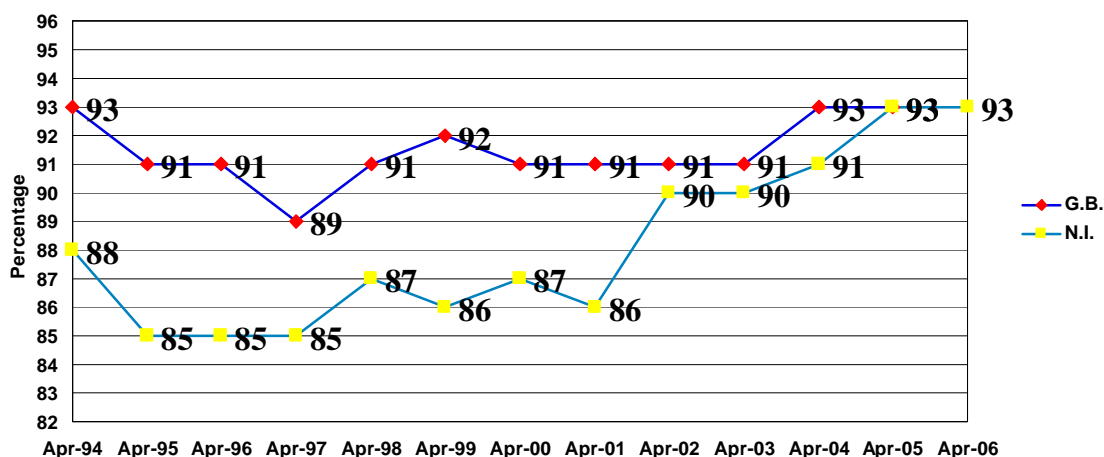
Male drivers were less likely than females to wear seat belts.

As the number of occupants increased, the likelihood of all occupants in the car being restrained decreased considerably. Only 59% of vehicles with five or more occupants had all occupants restrained, whereas 90% of those with two occupants had all occupants restrained (see table 27).

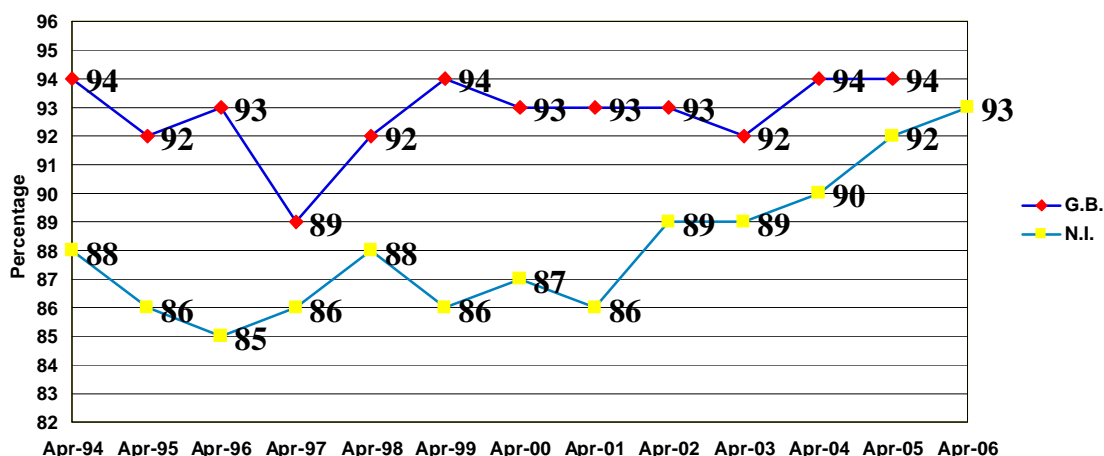
(This will be updated when the GB 2006 figures become available)

Figures 6-8 show a comparison of drivers and passengers wearing seat belts over the last 11 years for Northern Ireland and Great Britain. Driver wearing rates are the same in both Northern Ireland and Great Britain (both 93%). Overall car occupants wearing rates are also very similar. In Great Britain wearing rates were, x% for drivers, x% for front seat passengers and x% for back seat passengers, compared to Northern Ireland figures of 93%, 93% and 85% respectively in April 2006.

**Figure 6: Comparison of Driver Wearing Rates between Northern Ireland and Great Britain from April 1994 to April 2006**

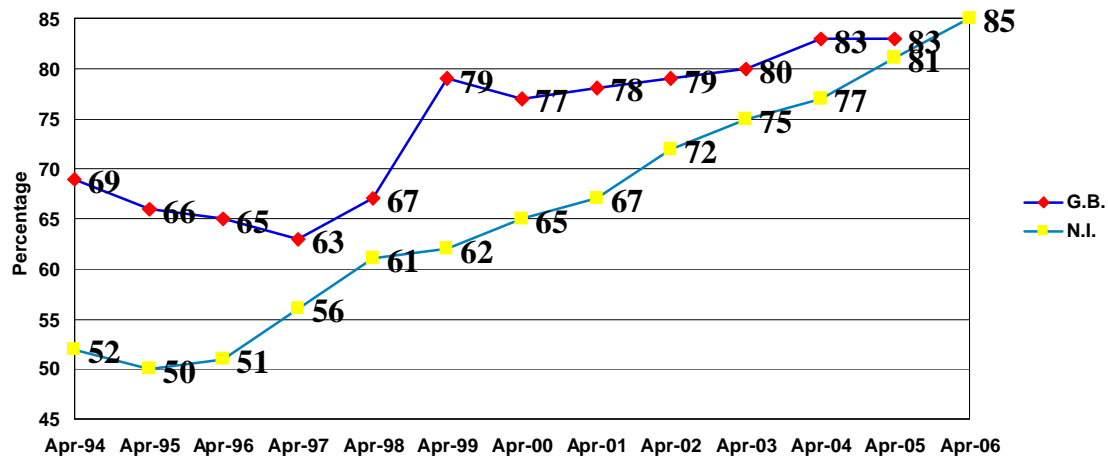


**Figure 7: Comparison of Front Seat Passenger Wearing Rates between Northern Ireland and Great Britain from April 1994 to April 2006**



In Northern Ireland back seat passenger wearing rates have risen to 85% continuing a steady rise from 50% in April 1995.

**Figure 8: Comparison of Back Seat Passenger Wearing Rates between Northern Ireland and Great Britain from April 1994 to April 2006**



(This will be updated when the GB 2006 figures become available)

In Great Britain nine Seat Belt surveys have observed the use of mobile phones to date, however in Northern Ireland this is only the fourth. x% of drivers in Great Britain were using a mobile phone in April 2006 (x% hand-held and x% hands-free). In Northern Ireland 1.5% of drivers were observed using a mobile phone in April 2003, 1.4% in 2004, 1.3% in 2005 and 1.4% in 2006.

**Table 1 Occupancy rates of cars**

<i>All cars</i> <i>Base = 100%</i>	Position of Passengers		Total
	Front Seat	Back Seat	Cases
	%	%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>15499</b>

NI Seat Belt Survey April 2006

*On average, there were 35 front seat passengers and 15 back seat passengers per 100 vehicles recorded at all sites (see table 1).*

**Table 2 Wearing rate (%) of drivers**

<i>All cars</i> <i>Base = 100%</i>	Type of restraint worn by driver			
	Seat Belt used	Seat Belt unused	Not fitted	Total
	%	%	%	Count
<b>Total</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>15499</b>

NI Seat Belt Survey April 2006

*The majority of drivers observed at all sites (93%) were restrained (see table 2).*

**Table 3 Wearing rate (%) of all front seat passengers**

<i>All cars</i> <i>Base = 100%</i>	Restraint usage				
	Seat Belt used	Child restraint used	Seat Belt unused	Not fitted	Total
	%	%	%	%	Count
<b>Total</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>5428</b>

NI Seat Belt Survey April 2006

*As with drivers, the majority of front seat passengers were restrained. On average 92% of front seat passengers wore a seat belt and 1% used a child restraint (See table 3).*

**Table 4 Wearing rate (%) of all back seat passengers**

<i>All cars</i> <i>Base = 100%</i>	Type of restraint worn				
	Seat Belt used	Child restraint	Restraint Unused	Not fitted	Total
	%	%	%	%	Count
<b>Total</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>2284</b>

NI Seat Belt Survey April 2006

*Eighty-five percent of all back seat passengers were restrained (see table 4).*

**Table 5 Wearing rate (%) of all car occupants**

<i>All cars</i> <i>Base = 100%</i>	Type of restraint worn				
	Seat Belt used	Child restraint used	Restraint Unused	Not fitted	Total
	%	%	%	%	Count
<b>Total</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>23211</b>

NI Seat Belt Survey April 2006

*Irrespective of their position in the car the majority of occupants (93%) were restrained. Of all occupants, 90% used a seat belt and 3% used a child restraint (see table 5).*

**Table 6 Proportion of drivers (%) observed using a mobile phone**

<i>All cars</i> <i>Base = 100%</i>	Type of phone			
	Hand-held	Hands-free	Neither	Total
	%	%	%	Count
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>.2%</b>	<b>98.5%</b>	<b>15499</b>

NI Seat Belt Survey April 2006

*Ninety-eight and a half percent of drivers (98.5%) were not using a mobile phone. Of the drivers that were using a mobile phone, 1.2% were using a hand-held phone and 0.2% were using a hands-free phone (see table 6).*

**Table 7 Wearing rate (%) of drivers by type of site**

<i>All cars</i> <i>Base = 100%</i>	Type of restraint worn by driver			
	Seat Belt Used	Seat Belt unused	Not fitted	Total
	%	%	%	Count
<b>Motorway</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>2781</b>
<b>Urban</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>5927</b>
<b>Rural</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>6791</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>15499</b>

NI Seat Belt Survey April 2006

*Levels of seat belt wearing by drivers were fairly consistent throughout the sites. Rural and motorway sites (both 94%) were slightly higher than urban sites (93%). (See table 7).*

**Table 8 Proportion of drivers (%) observed using a mobile phone by type of site**

<i>All cars</i> <i>Base = 100%</i>	Type of phone			
	Hand-held	Hands-free	Neither	Total
	%	%	%	Count
<b>Motorway</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>.3%</b>	<b>98.5%</b>	<b>2781</b>
<b>Urban</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>.2%</b>	<b>98.5%</b>	<b>5927</b>
<b>Rural</b>	<b>1.1%</b>	<b>.3%</b>	<b>98.6%</b>	<b>6791</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>.2%</b>	<b>98.5%</b>	<b>15499</b>

NI Seat Belt Survey April 2006

*The proportion of drivers using a mobile phone is higher in urban areas (see table 8).*

**Table 9 Wearing rate (%) of all front seat passengers by type of site**

<i>All cars</i> <i>Base = 100%</i>	Restraint usage				
	Seat Belt used	Child restraint used	Seat Belt unused	Not fitted	Total
	%	%	%	%	Count
<b>Motorway</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>972</b>
<b>Urban</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>2093</b>
<b>Rural</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>7%</b>		<b>2363</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>5428</b>

NI Seat Belt Survey April 2006

*The highest seat belt wearing rate for front seat passengers was recorded on rural (93%) and urban sites (93%), followed by motorway sites (91%) (See table 9).*

**Table 10 Wearing rate (%) of all back seat passengers by type of site**

<i>All cars</i> <i>Base = 100%</i>	Type of restraint worn				
	Seat Belt used	Child restraint used	Restraint unused	Not fitted	Total
	%	%	%	%	Count
<b>Motorway</b>	53%	22%	24%	0%	442
<b>Urban</b>	60%	25%	15%		807
<b>Rural</b>	65%	25%	10%		1035
<b>Total</b>	61%	24%	15%	0%	2284

NI Seat Belt Survey April 2006

*The lowest level of restraint usage by back seat passengers was recorded on motorway sites where 75% were restrained, compared to 90% on rural sites and 85% on urban sites (see table 10).*

**Table 11 Wearing rate (%) of drivers by gender**

<i>All cars</i> <i>Base = 100%</i>	Type of restraint worn by driver			
	Seat Belt used	Seat Belt Unused	Not fitted	Total
	%	%	%	Count
<b>Male</b>	92%	8%	0%	9046
<b>Female</b>	95%	4%	0%	6453
<b>Total</b>	93%	7%	0%	15499

NI Seat Belt Survey April 2006

*Ninety-five percent of female drivers were restrained compared to 92% of male drivers (see table 11). Nearly three-fifths (58%) of the drivers observed were male.*

**Table 12 Proportion of drivers (%) observed using a mobile phone by gender**

<i>All cars</i> <i>Base = 100%</i>	Type of phone			
	Hand-held	Hands-free	Neither	Total
	%	%	%	Count
<b>Male</b>	1.4%	.2%	98.4%	9046
<b>Female</b>	1.0%	.2%	98.7%	6453
<b>Total</b>	1.2%	.2%	98.5%	15499

NI Seat Belt Survey April 2006

*The level of drivers using a mobile phone is higher among males than females (see table 12).*

**Table 13 Wearing rate (%) of all front seat passengers by gender**

<i>All cars</i> <i>Base = 100%</i>	Type of restraint worn				
	Seat Belt Used	Child restraint used	Restraint Unused	Not fitted	Total
	%	%	%	%	Count
<b>Male</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1749</b>
<b>Female</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>3679</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>5428</b>

NI Seat Belt Survey April 2006

*Over two-thirds (68%) of front seat passengers were female. The pattern of high female driver restraint levels was repeated for front seat passengers. Five percent of female front seat passengers were unrestrained compared to 11% of males (see table 13).*

**Table 14 Wearing rate (%) of all back seat passengers by gender**

<i>All cars</i> <i>Base = 100%</i>	Type of restraint worn				
	Seat Belt Used	Child restraint used	Restraint Unused	Not fitted	Total
	%	%	%	%	Count
<b>Male</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1005</b>
<b>Female</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1279</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>2284</b>

NI Seat Belt Survey April 2006

*There was little difference in the overall level of back seat restraint usage by gender (see table 14).*



**Table 15 Wearing rate (%) of drivers by age**

<i>All cars</i> <i>Base = 100%</i>	Type of restraint worn by driver			
	Seat Belt used	Seat Belt Unused	Not Fitted	Total
	%	%	%	Count
<b>60+</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>2451</b>
<b>30-59</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>8494</b>
<b>17-29</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>4554</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>15499</b>

NI Seat Belt Survey April 2006

*Older drivers were more likely to wear seat belts. Ninety-five percent of drivers aged 60+ were restrained compared to 93% of 30-59 year olds and 17-29 year olds (see table 15).*

**Table 16 Proportion of drivers (%) observed using a mobile phone by age**

<i>All cars</i> <i>Base = 100%</i>	Type of phone			
	Hand-held	Hands-free	Neither	Total
	%	%	%	Count
<b>60+</b>	<b>.3%</b>	<b>.0%</b>	<b>99.6%</b>	<b>2451</b>
<b>30-59</b>	<b>1.1%</b>	<b>.3%</b>	<b>98.6%</b>	<b>8494</b>
<b>17-29</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>.3%</b>	<b>97.8%</b>	<b>4554</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>.2%</b>	<b>98.5%</b>	<b>15499</b>

NI Seat Belt Survey April 2006

*The highest level of hand-held phone use is in the 17-29 age-group. (See table 16).*

**Table 17 Wearing rate (%) of all front seat passengers by age**

<i>All cars</i> <i>Base = 100%</i>	Type of restraint worn				
	Seat Belt Used	Child restraint used	Restraint Unused	Not fitted	Total
	%	%	%	%	Count
<b>60+</b>	<b>96%</b>		<b>4%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1147</b>
<b>30-59</b>	<b>94%</b>		<b>6%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1982</b>
<b>14-29</b>	<b>90%</b>		<b>10%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1656</b>
<b>10-13</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>8%</b>		<b>251</b>
<b>5-9</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>10%</b>		<b>310</b>
<b>1-4</b>	<b>[29]</b>	<b>[23]</b>	<b>[3]</b>		<b>55</b>
<b>0-1</b>	<b>[2]</b>	<b>[25]</b>			<b>27</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>5428</b>

NI Seat Belt Survey April 2006

*The highest level of restraint usage by front seat passengers was in the 60+ age group (96%) and 30-59 age groups (94%). The lowest restraint rates was in the 5-9 and 14-29 age groups (90%) (See table 17).*

**Table 18 Wearing rate (%) of all back seat passengers by age**

<i>All cars</i> <i>Base = 100%</i>	Type of restraint worn				
	Seat Belt Used	Child restraint used	Restraint Unused	Not fitted	Total
	%	%	%	%	Count
<b>60+</b>	<b>85%</b>		<b>15%</b>		<b>163</b>
<b>30-59</b>	<b>78%</b>		<b>21%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>211</b>
<b>14-29</b>	<b>75%</b>		<b>17%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>445</b>
<b>10-13</b>	<b>86%</b>		<b>14%</b>		<b>293</b>
<b>5-9</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>16%</b>		<b>538</b>
<b>1-4</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>4%</b>		<b>515</b>
<b>0-1</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>4%</b>		<b>119</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>2284</b>

NI Seat Belt Survey April 2006

*Sixty-four percent of all back seat passengers were children (0 – 13 years). In this age bracket 96% of those under four years old, 86% of those aged 10-13 and 84% of the 5-9 year olds were restrained compared to 75% of back seat passengers aged 14 – 29 (see table 18).*

**Table 19 Wearing rate (%) of drivers by age and gender**

<i>Base = 100%</i>		Type of restraint worn			
		Seat Belt Used	Restraint Unused	Not fitted	Total
		%	%	%	Count
60+	Male	94%	6%	0%	1792
	Female	96%	4%		659
30 to 59	Male	92%	8%	0%	5233
	Female	95%	5%	0%	3261
17 to 29	Male	91%	9%	0%	2021
	Female	95%	5%	0%	2533
Male		92%	8%	0%	9046
Female		95%	4%	0%	6453

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*Almost three-quarters (73%) of drivers aged 60+ were male compared to under a half of those aged 17–29 (44%). Wearing rates of male drivers increased slightly with age. Ninety-four percent of male drivers aged 60+ were restrained compared to 91% of 17 – 29 year old males. (See table 19).*

**Table 20 Proportion of drivers (%) observed using a mobile phone by age and gender**

<i>Base = 100%</i>		Type of phone			
		Hand-held	Hands-free	Neither	Total
		%	%	%	Count
60+	Male	.3%	.1%	99.7%	1792
	Female	.5%		99.5%	659
30 to 59	Male	1.3%	.3%	98.4%	5233
	Female	.9%	.2%	99.0%	3261
17 to 29	Male	2.6%	.2%	97.2%	2021
	Female	1.4%	.4%	98.2%	2533
Male		1.4%	.2%	98.4%	9046
Female		1.0%	.2%	98.7%	6453

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*The highest level of hand-held phone use was by males in the 17 to 29 age group (see table 20).*

**Table 21 Wearing rate (%) of all front seat passengers by age and gender**

Base = 100%		Type of restraint worn				Total
		Seat Belt Used	Child restraint used	Restraint Unused	Not Fitted	Count
		%	%	%	%	
60+	Male	91%		8%	0%	238
	Female	97%		3%		909
30 to 59	Male	87%		13%		515
	Female	96%		4%	0%	1467
14 to 29	Male	87%		13%	0%	648
	Female	91%		9%		1008
10 to 13	Male	90%		10%		125
	Female	94%	1%	6%		126
5 to 9	Male	87%	4%	9%		182
	Female	87%	2%	12%		128
1 to 4	Male	[16]	[11]	[1]		28
	Female	[13]	[12]	[2]		27
0 to 1	Male	[1]	[12]			13
	Female	[1]	[13]			14
Male		87%	2%	11%	0%	1749
Female		94%	1%	5%	0%	3679

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*For all adult age groups, females were more likely to wear seat belts than males with a large difference occurring in the 30 - 59 year old category, with 96% of females and 87% of males restrained (see table 21).*

**Table 22 Wearing rate (%) of all back seat passengers by age and gender**

<i>Base = 100%</i>		Type of restrain worn				Total
		Seat Belt Used	Child restraint used	Restraint Unused	Not Fitted	Count
		%	%	%	%	
<b>60+</b>	<b>Male</b>	[22]		[6]		28
	<b>Female</b>	86%		14%		135
<b>30 to 59</b>	<b>Male</b>	[49]		[23]		72
	<b>Female</b>	83%		16%	1%	139
<b>14 to 29</b>	<b>Male</b>	68%		32%		201
	<b>Female</b>	80%		20%	0%	244
<b>10 to 13</b>	<b>Male</b>	84%		16%		129
	<b>Female</b>	87%		13%		164
<b>5 to 9</b>	<b>Male</b>	76%	10%	14%		283
	<b>Female</b>	77%	6%	17%		255
<b>1 to 4</b>	<b>Male</b>	18%	78%	4%		232
	<b>Female</b>	20%	75%	5%		283
<b>0 to 1</b>	<b>Male</b>	[1]	[59]			60
	<b>Female</b>		[54]	[5]		59
<b>Male</b>		57%	27%	16%		1005
<b>Female</b>		64%	22%	13%	0%	1279

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*The highest levels of restraint usage for both male and female back seat passengers were found in the younger age groups (0 – 13 years) (see table 22).*

**Table 23 Wearing rate (%) of all front seat passengers by wearing rate (%) of drivers**

<i>Base = 100%</i>		Front seat passenger restrained		Total
		Yes	No	Count
		%	%	
Whether driver restrained	Yes	95%	5%	5150
	No	58%	42%	278
	Total	93%	7%	5428

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The wearing rate of front seat passengers was higher when the driver was restrained (95%). When the driver was unrestrained, only 58% of front seat passengers were restrained (see table 23).

**Table 24 Wearing rate (%) of all back seat passengers by wearing rate (%) of drivers**

<i>Base = 100%</i>		Back seat passenger restrained		Total
		Yes	No	Count
		%	%	
Whether driver restrained	Yes	86%	14%	2191
	No	57%	43%	93
	Total	85%	15%	2284

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The wearing rate of back seat passengers was higher when the driver was restrained (86%). When the driver was unrestrained, only 57% of back seat passengers were restrained (see table 24).

**Table 25 Wearing rate (%) of drivers by number of occupants in car**

<i>Base = 100%</i>	Type of restraint worn by driver			
	Seat Belt used	Seat Belt Unused	Not fitted	Total
	%	%	%	Count
Driver only	92%	7%	0%	9622
Driver + 1 passenger	95%	5%	0%	4515
Driver + 2 passengers	95%	5%	0%	967
Driver + 3 passengers	97%	2%	0%	314
Driver + 4 or more passengers	95%	5%		81
Total	93%	7%	0%	15499

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The majority of cars (62%) had the driver as the only occupant while less than 1% had five or more occupants. Where a car had more than one passenger, the wearing rate was slightly higher than for car containing only a driver (See table 25).

**Table 26 Wearing rate (%) of all drivers by gender and number of occupants in car**

Base = 100%		Type of restraint worn by driver			Total
		Seat Belt Used	Seat Belt Unused	Not Fitted	Count
		%	%	%	
Driver only	Male	91%	9%	0%	5428
	Female	95%	5%	0%	4194
Driver + 1 passenger	Male	94%	6%	0%	2809
	Female	97%	3%		1706
Driver + 2 passengers	Male	94%	6%	0%	560
	Female	96%	4%		407
Driver + 3 passengers	Male	98%	2%		192
	Female	97%	2%	1%	122
Driver + 4 or more passengers	Male	[54]	[3]		57
	Female	[23]	[1]		24
Male		92%	8%	0%	9046
Female		95%	4%	0%	6453

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*In cars with a male driver only, the wearing rate was 91% whereas with the presence of passengers the rate rose to between 94% and 98%. Overall female drivers wearing rates were relatively unaffected by the presence of passengers (see table 26).*

**Table 27 Percentage of cars with occupants restrained by the number of occupants in the car**

Base = 100%	Percentage of restrained occupants						Total
	0	1	2	3	4	5+	Count
	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Driver only	8%	92%					9622
Driver + 1 passenger	2%	8%	90%				4515
Driver + 2 passengers	1%	5%	16%	78%			967
Driver + 3 passengers	0%	3%	7%	11%	79%		314
Driver + 4 or more passengers	2%	4%	12%	6%	16%	59%	81
Total	5%	60%	27%	5%	2%	0%	15499

NI Seat Belt Survey April 2006

*As the number of occupants in a car increased, the likelihood of all the occupants in it being restrained decreased considerably. Of vehicles with a driver only, 92% were restrained and those with 2 occupants, 90% had all occupants restrained. In contrast, in only 59% of cars with five or more occupants were all persons restrained (see table 27).*

## Appendix

### Numbers of cars observed by time of session and site

**Day: Tuesday**

Base = 100%	@/@/Time								Total
	08.30	09.30	10.30	11.30	02.00	03.00	04.00	05.00	
M1 at Broadway	85	75	69	61	73	73	71	79	586
M2 at Duncrue	83	83	77	77	84	77	78	83	642
M1 at Black s Road	16	29	37	44	43	51	48	51	319
Antrim Rd/D gall Park Ave	39	29	43	44	52	39	33	39	318
Knock Dual Carriageway	83	84	74	80	77	72	74	81	625
Saintfield Road	85	72	70	74	81	81	83	85	631
Derriaghy	72	71	71	71	74	72	74	85	590
Strand Rd, L derry	51	48	41	36	47	39	50	43	355
Anne St, Enniskillen	64	28	65	52	55	37	45	50	396
Milltown Rd/Shaw s Bridge	85	76	71	73	85	76	78	80	624
Banbridge	74	45	59	60	58	64	49	76	485
Hillhead Rd, Ballyclare	85	70	75	59	73	68	74	81	585
Ballysallagh Rd, Bangor	62	47	44	46	39	51	60	72	421
A505 Cookstown to Omagh	81	75	66	74	83	79	78	79	615
Carrickfergus/Greenisland	84	74	78	78	83	76	80	84	637
Total	1049	906	940	929	1007	955	975	1068	7829

NI Seat Belt Survey April 2006

**Day: Saturday**

Base = 100%	@/@/Time								Total
	08.30	09.30	10.30	11.30	02.00	03.00	04.00	05.00	
M1 at Broadway	79	75	75	78	73	78	73	82	613
M2 at Duncrue	61	47	50	53	31	18	19	21	300
M1 at Black s Road	16	32	46	45	50	46	46	40	321
Antrim Rd/D gall Park Ave	31	37	34	34	52	45	27	60	320
Knock Dual Carriageway	83	87	88	82	86	79	85	87	677
Saintfield Road	78	84	85	88	86	83	87	83	674
Derriaghy	78	78	78	85	78	85	81	83	646
Strand Rd, L derry	44	48	59	47	42	49	58	45	392
Anne St, Enniskillen	20	25	38	39	46	38	52	45	303
Milltown Rd/Shaw s Bridge	80	79	83	82	89	89	85	88	675
Banbridge	54	53	54	68	59	55	50	57	450
Hillhead Rd, Ballyclare	82	81	72	85	81	57	79	76	613
Ballysallagh Rd, Bangor	29	47	38	51	48	51	50	47	361
A505 Cookstown to Omagh	79	77	81	84	85	80	81	82	649
Carrickfergus/Greenisland	81	86	84	86	85	84	82	88	676
Total	895	936	965	1007	991	937	955	984	7670

NI Seat Belt Survey April 2006