

Northern Ireland Seat Belt Survey April 2007

September 2007





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Technical Notes

- 1. Any statements in this report regarding differences between groups, such as males and females are statistically significant at the 5% significance level. This significance level is the criteria for judging whether differences between groups might have arisen by chance. The most common criteria is the 5% level, i.e. the probability being one in twenty that a difference might have arisen by chance.
- 2. The percentages quoted in this report are quoted to the nearest whole number. As a result, not all percentages may add to 100 due to this rounding.
- 3. The wearing rates quoted include seatbelt and child restraint where applicable.

Notation

4. The following symbols are used:

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

Note:

a) For categories with a cell total less then 100, counts are shown instead of percentages. All counts are shown in square brackets.

Background to the Survey

This is the eighteenth in a series of Seat Belt Surveys. The series, which began in 1994, had been conducted biannually, in April and October. However, since 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 were 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 24th and Saturday 28th April 2007. In total 16,364 cars were observed and details of 25,121 occupants recorded.

Summary

Overall restraint wearing rates in 2007

Ninety-five percent of car occupants observed used a restraint. Ninety-five percent of drivers and front seat passengers were a restraint, so too did ninety percent of back seat passengers (see tables 3-6).

Restraint wearing rates by type of site in 2007

Ninety-five percent of drivers on urban roads and motorways were restrained. Ninety-six percent of drivers on rural roads were restrained. Front seat passengers observed wearing rate was 95% on rural and urban roads, and 93% on motorways. Back seat passengers observed wearing rates varied from 93% on rural roads to 89% on urban roads and 86% on motorways (see tables 7-9).

Restraint wearing rates by gender in 2007

Ninety-seven percent of female and 94% of male drivers were restrained. With regard to front seat passengers, 96% of females and 92% of males were restrained (see tables 10-12).

Adult restraint wearing rates in 2007

Ninety six percent of drivers aged 60+, and 95% of drivers aged 17-29 and 30-59 were restrained (see tables 13-15).

Child restraint wearing rates in 2007

Eight percent of children aged 10-13, and 10% of those aged 5-9 were unrestrained when travelling in the back of a car (see tables 14-15).

Wearing rates by whether driver is restrained 2007

When the driver wore a seat belt, the wearing rate of front seat passengers was 96%. When the driver was not wearing a seat belt, 59% of front seat passengers were restrained (See tables 19-20).

Mobile phone usage in 2007

This is the fifth Northern Ireland Seat Belt Survey that has observed the use of mobile phones by drivers. Just over 1.5% of drivers were using a mobile phone (1.2% were using a hand-held phone and 0.4% were using a hands-free phone) (see tables 24-28).

Survey trends

Wearing rates overall have improved since 1994. Driver and front seat wearing rates have each increased from 88% to 95%. Back seat wearing rates have increased fairly consistently from 52% in 1994 to a high of 90% in 2007 (See table 1 and figures 5-9).

Comparison with Great Britain

According to the latest GB figures available (April 2006) the wearing rates were 93% for drivers, 95% for front seat passengers and 85% for back seat passengers. This last figure has risen considerably from 63% in April 1997. The 2007 Great Britain Seat Belt Survey was carried out in June 2007, however results are not yet available (See figures 5-9).

Table 1: Summary of Key Results from NI Seat Belt Surveys 1994 – 2007

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	Apr- 01	Oct- 01	Apr- 02	Apr- 03	Apr- 04	Apr- 05	Apr- 06	Apr- 07
% of car occupants wearing seatbelts															
Driver	88	85	85	85	87	86	87	86	88	90	90	91	93	93	95
Front Seat	88	86	85	86	88	86	87	86	89	89	89	90	92	93	95
Back Seat	52	50	51	56	61	62	65	67	71	72	75	77	81	85	90
Of which:															
Under 1 year	96	96	97	95	96	93	97	98	97	95	97	98	98	96	98
1-4 years	70	65	72	78	78	78	82	86	86	85	87	88	92	96	96
5-9 years	50	49	50	54	61	62	68	65	73	71	75	77	82	84	90
10-13 years	47	47	47	51	58	65	65	68	70	72	75	78	82	86	92
Overall Wearing Rate %	82	80	80	81	84	83	84	84	87	88	88	89	91	93	95
Occupancy Rate															
Front Seat Passengers	0.41	0.39	0.4	0.4	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.38	0.36	0.37	0.37	0.36	0.35	0.37
Back Seat Passengers	0.27	0.24	0.24	0.23	0.21	0.2	0.21	0.2	0.18	0.17	0.17	0.16	0.15	0.15	0.17

Main Findings

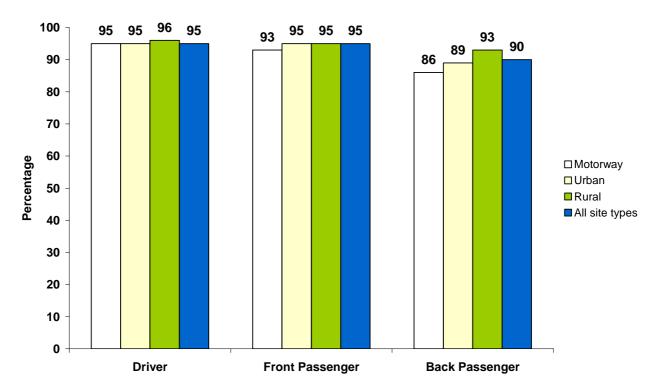
Occupancy rates 2007

Almost two fifths of all vehicles (37%) contained front seat passengers. In addition there was an average of 17 back seat passengers per 100 vehicles (see table 2).

Wearing rate by type of site 2007

Drivers are equally likely to wear a restraint, irrespective of the type of road they were travelling on. Front seat and back seat passengers were least likely to be restrained when travelling on motorways (see figure 1).

Figure 1: 2007 wearing rate of drivers, front seat passengers and back seat passengers by type of site



Wearing rate by gender 2007

Male and female back seat passengers are equally likely to be restrained. Female drivers and front seat passengers are more likely to be restrained than their male counterparts (see figure 2).

Percentage ■ Male ■ Female ■ Males and Females Driver Front Passenger **Back Passenger**

Figure 2: 2007 wearing rate of drivers, front seat passengers, and back seat passengers by gender

Driver wearing rate by age 2007

In adult age groups, restraint wearing rates are similar, irrespective of age of driver (see figure 3).

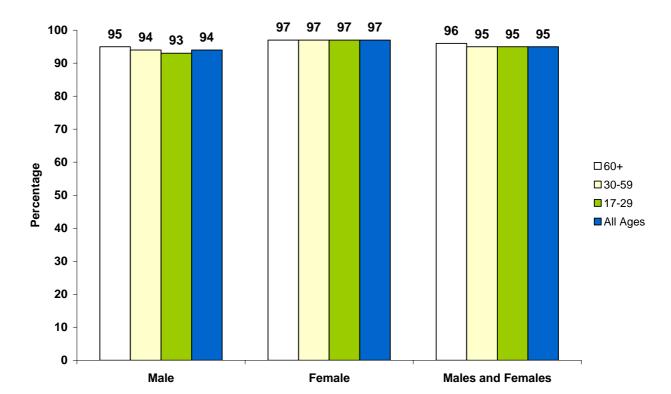


Figure 3: 2007 wearing rate of drivers by age and gender

Front and back seat passenger wearing rates by age 2007

While wearing rates for adult front seat passengers were similar to those observed for child front seat passengers, adult back seat passengers were less likely to wear a restraint than child back seat passengers (see figures 4 and 5).

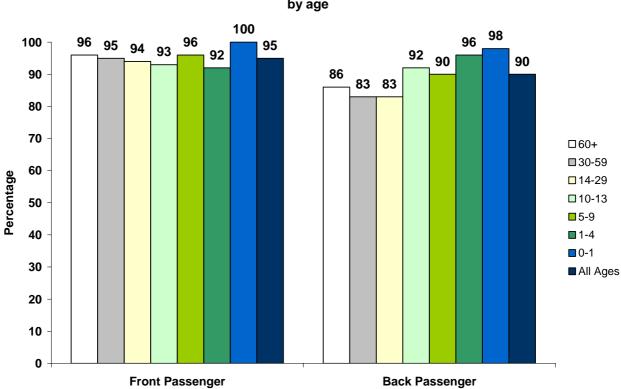
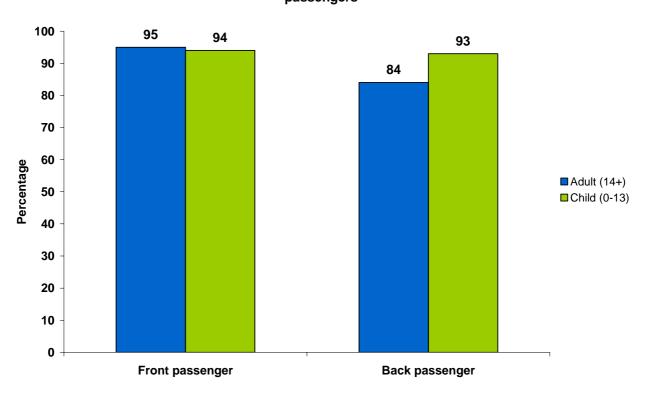


Figure 4: 2007 wearing rate of front seat passengers and back seat passengers by age

Figure 5: Wearing rate of adult (14+) and child (0-13) front and back seat passengers



The effect of driver wearing rates on passenger wearing rates 2007

When drivers were restrained, 96% of front seat passengers and 91% of back seat passengers were also restrained. When drivers were unrestrained, only 59% of front seat passengers and 64% of back seat passengers were restrained (see tables 19 and 20).

NI and GB seatbelt wearing rates

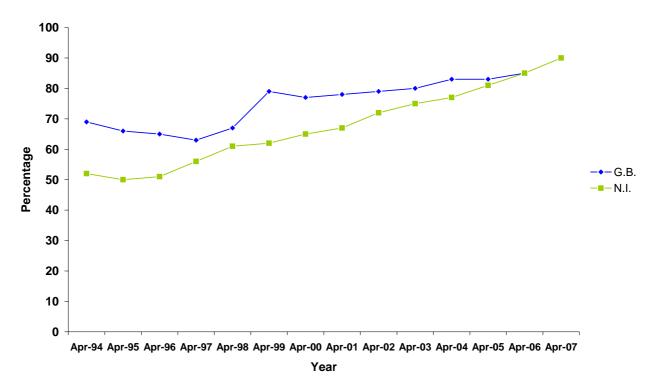
Figures 6-9 show a comparison of driver and passenger restraint wearing rates over the last 13 years for Northern Ireland and Great Britain. In Great Britain the observed wearing rate was 93% for drivers, 95% for front seat passengers and 85% for back seat passengers in April 2006 (latest figures available), compared to Northern Ireland figures of 95%, 95% and 90% respectively in April 2007.

100 90 80 70 60 Percentage -•- G.B. 50 -**■**- N.I. 40 30 20 10 0 Apr-94 Apr-95 Apr-96 Apr-97 Apr-98 Apr-99 Apr-00 Apr-01 Apr-02 Apr-03 Apr-04 Apr-05 Apr-06 Apr-07 Year

Figure 6: Comparison of Driver Wearing Rates between Northern Ireland and Great Britain from April 1994 to April 2007

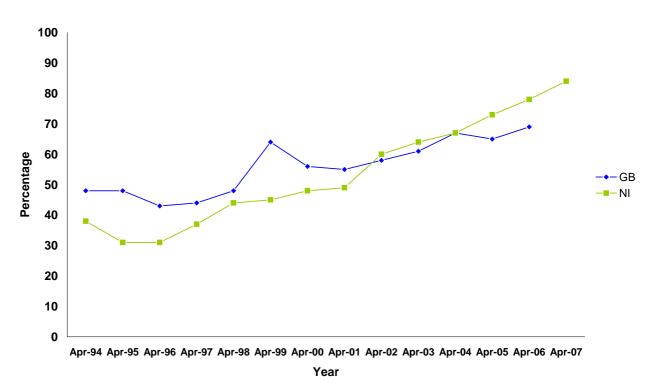
In Northern Ireland back seat passenger wearing rates have risen to 90% continuing a steady rise from 50% in April 1995 (see figure 7).

Figure 7: Comparison of Back Seat Passenger Wearing Rates between Northern Ireland and Great Britain from April 1994 to April 2007



Adult back seat passenger wearing rates in NI have more than doubled since 1994, having reached 84% in April 2007. Since April 2005, the wearing rate has been higher than that observed in GB (see figure 8).

Figure 8: Comparison of adult (14+) back seat passenger wearing rates between Northern Ireland and Great Britain



The percentage of backseat passengers wearing seatbelts has consistently been higher for child passengers than adult passengers, and has risen from 61% (1994) to 93% in 2007 (see figure 9).

Apr-94 Apr-95 Apr-96 Apr-97 Apr-98 Apr-99 Apr-00 Apr-01 Apr-02 Apr-03 Apr-04 Apr-05 Apr-06 Apr-07 Year

Figure 9: Comparison of child (0-13) back seat passenger wearing rates between NI and GB

NI and GB mobile phone use in cars

In Great Britain ten Seat Belt Surveys have observed the use of mobile phones to date, however in Northern Ireland this is only the fifth. Almost two percent (1.9%) of car drivers in Great Britain were using a mobile phone in April 2006 (1.25% hand-held and 0.65% hands-free). In Northern Ireland, 1.6% of drivers were observed using a mobile phone in April 2007.

Appendix 1: Detailed tables

Occupancy rates of cars 2007

Table 2: Occupancy rates of cars

All cars	Position of		
Base = 100%	Front Seat	Back Seat	
	%	%	Number of cars
Occupancy Rate	37%	17%	16,364

Overall wearing rates 2007

Table 3: Wearing rate (%) of drivers

	Type of restraint worn by driver						
All cars	Seat Belt used	Seat Belt unused	Not fitted				
Base = 100%	%	%	%	Number of drivers			
Wearing rate	95%	5%	0%	16,364			

Table 4: Wearing rate (%) of all front seat passengers

Restraint usage						
Seat Belt used	Child restraint used	Seat Belt unused	Not fitted			
0/2	0/2	0%	0/2	Number of Front seat Passengers		
				6,037		
		used used	Seat Belt used Child restraint used Unused % % %	Seat Belt used Child restraint used Seat Belt unused Not fitted % % % % % %		

Table 5: Wearing rate (%) of all back seat passengers

	Type of restraint worn						
All cars	Seat Belt used	Child restraint	Restraint Unused	Not fitted			
Base = 100%	%	%	%	%	Number of back seat passengers		
Wearing Rate	53%	37%	10%	0%	2,720		

Table 6: Wearing rate (%) of all car occupants

		Type of restraint worn						
All cars Base = 100%	Seat Belt used	Child restraint used	Restraint Unused	Not fitted				
	%	%	%	%	Number of occupants			
Wearing Rate	90%	4%	5%	0%	25,121			

Wearing rates by type of site 2007

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

	Type of restraint worn by driver							
All cars	Seat Belt Used Seat Belt unused		Not fitted					
Base = 100%	%	%	%	Number of drivers				
Motorway	95%	5%	0%	3,215				
Urban	95%	5%	0%	6,580				
Rural	96%	4%	0%	6,569				
All site types	95%	5%	0%	16,364				

Table 8: Wearing rate (%) of all front seat passengers by type of site

	Restraint usage						
All cars	Seat Belt used	Child restraint used	Seat Belt unused	Not fitted			
Base = 100%	%	%	%	%	Number of front seat passengers		
Motorway	91%	2%	7%	0%	1,188		
Urban	94%	1%	5%	0%	2,441		
Rural	94%	1%	5%	0%	2,408		
All site							
types	93%	1%	5%	0%	6,037		

Table 9: Wearing rate (%) of all back seat passengers by type of site

		rn			
All cars	Seat Belt used	Child restraint used	Restraint unused	Not fitted	
Base = 100%	%	%	%	%	Number of back seat passengers
Motorway	52%	34%	13%	1%	518
Urban	52%	37%	11%	0%	1,120
Rural	55%	38%	7%		1,082
All site					
types	53%	37%	10%	0%	2,720

Wearing rates by gender 2007

Table 10: Wearing rate (%) of drivers by gender

		Type of restraint worn by driver					
All cars	Seat Belt used	Seat Belt Unused	Not fitted				
Base = 100%	%	%	%	Number of drivers			
Male	94%	6%	0%	9,510			
Female	97%	3%	0%	6,854			
All drivers	95%	5%	0%	16,364			

Table 11: Wearing rate (%) of all front seat passengers by gender

	Type of restraint worn							
All cars	Seat Belt Used	Child restraint used	Restraint Unused	Not fitted				
Base = 100%	%	%	%	%	Number of front seat passengers			
Male	90%	2%	7%	0%	1,970			
Female	95%	1%	4%	0%	4,067			
All front seat								
passengers	93%	1%	5%	0%	6,037			

Table 12: Wearing rate (%) of all back seat passengers by gender

		Type of restraint worn									
All cars	Seat Belt Used	Child restraint used	Restraint Unused	Not fitted							
Base = 100%	%	%	%	%	Number of back seat passengers						
Male	51%	39%	10%	0%	1,195						
Female	56%	34%	10%	0%	1,525						
All back seat	520/	270/	100/	00/	2.720						
passengers	53%	37%	10%	0%	2,720						

Wearing rates by age 2007

Table 13: Wearing rate (%) of drivers by age

	Type of restraint worn by driver							
All cars	Seat Belt used	eat Belt used Seat Belt Unused						
Base = 100%	%	%	%	Number of drivers				
60+	96%	4%	0%	2,374				
30-59	95%	5%	0%	9,029				
17-29	95%	5%	0%	4,961				
All ages	95%	5%	0%	16,364				

Table 14: Wearing rate (%) of all front seat passengers by age

		Ty	pe of restraint wo	r n	
All cars Base = 100%	Seat Belt Used	Child restraint used	Restraint Unused	Not fitted	
2000	%	%	%	%	Number of front seat passengers
60+	96%		4%	0%	1,191
30-59	95%		5%	0%	2,344
14-29	94%		6%	0%	1,838
10-13	92%	1%	6%	0%	372
5-9	82%	14%	4%		227
1-4	[14]	[21]	[3]		38
0-1		[27]			27
All ages	93%	1%	5%	0%	6,037

Table 15: Wearing rate (%) of all back seat passengers by age

		Type of restraint worn								
All cars	Seat Belt Used	Child restraint used	Restraint Unused	Not fitted						
Base = 100%	%	%	%	%	Number of back seat passengers					
60+	86%		14%		169					
30-59	83%		17%	0%	263					
14-29	83%		17%		460					
10-13	87%	5%	8%		422					
5-9	48%	42%	10%	0%	615					
1-4	8%	88%	4%	0%	587					
0-1		98%	2%		204					
All ages	53%	37%	10%	0%	2,720					

Wearing rates by age and gender 2007

Table 16: Wearing rate (%) of drivers by age and gender

		Type of restraint worn						
Base = 100%		Seat Belt Used	Restraint Unused	Not fitted				
		%	% %		Number of drivers			
60+	Male	95%	4%	0%	1,723			
	Female	97%	3%	0%	651			
30 to 59	Male	94%	6%	0%	5,630			
	Female	97%	3%	0%	3,399			
17 to 29	Male	93%	7%	0%	2,157			
	Female	97%	3%	0%	2,804			
All Male drivers		94%	6%	0%	9,510			
All Females d	rivers	97%	3%	0%	6,854			

Table 17: Wearing rate (%) of all front seat passengers by age and gender

			Type of res	traint worn		
Base = 100%		Seat Belt Used %	Child restraint used	Restraint Unused	Not Fitted %	Number of front seat passengers
60+	Male	94%		6%	0%	272
	Female	96%		3%	0%	919
30 to 59	Male	92%		8%		669
	Female	96%		4%	0%	1,675
14 to 29	Male	91%		9%	0%	676
	Female	95%		5%	0%	1,162
10 to 13	Male	93%	1%	6%		189
	Female	92%	1%	7%	1%	183
5 to 9	Male	83%	14%	4%		132
	Female	[78]	[14]	[3]		95
1 to 4	Male	[7]	[11]			18
	Female	[7]	[10]	[3]		20
0 to 1	Male		[14]			14
	Female		[13]			13
All male front seat passengers		90%	2%	7%	0%	1,970
All female fron passengers	All female front seat passengers		1%	4%	0%	4,067

Table 18: Wearing rate (%) of all back seat passengers by age and gender

			Type of res	traint worn		
Base = 100%		Seat Belt Used	Child restraint used	Restraint Unused %	Not Fitted	Number of back seat passengers
60+	Male	[33]		[5]		38
	Female	85%		15%		131
30 to 59	Male	[60]		[23]	[1]	84
	Female	88%		12%		179
14 to 29	Male	80%		20%		204
	Female	86%		14%		256
10 to 13	Male	88%	7%	5%		201
	Female	87%	3%	10%		221
5 to 9	Male	49%	41%	10%		309
	Female	47%	43%	9%	1%	306
1 to 4	Male	8%	89%	3%		265
	Female	7%	87%	6%	0%	322
0 to 1	Male		[92]	[2]		94
	Female		98%	2%		110
All males back seat		51%	39%	10%	0%	1,195
All females back	s seat	56%	34%	10%	0%	1,525

Wearing rates by whether driver is restrained 2007

Table 19: Wearing rate (%) of all front seat passengers by wearing rate (%) of drivers

		Front seat pass		
Base = 100%		Yes	No %	Number of front seat passengers
	Yes	96%	4%	5,814
Whether driver	No	59%	41%	223
restrained	All drivers	95%	5%	6,037

Table 20: Wearing rate (%) of all back seat passengers by wearing rate (%) of drivers

		Back seat passe		
Base = 100%		Yes	No %	Number of back seat passengers
	Yes	91%	9%	2,639
Whether driver	No	64%	36%	81
restrained	All drivers	90%	10%	2,720

Driver wearing rates by number of occupants in car 2007

Table 21: Wearing rate (%) of drivers by number of occupants in car

	Type of restraint worn by driver						
Base = 100%	Seat Belt used	Seat Belt Unused	Not fitted				
	%	%	%	Number of drivers			
Driver only	94%	6%	0%	9,804			
Driver + 1 passenger	97%	3%	0%	4,965			
Driver + 2 passengers	97%	3%	0%	1,093			
Driver + 3 passengers	96%	4%		405			
Driver + 4 or more							
passengers	98%	2%		97			
All drivers	95%	5%	0%	16,364			

Table 22: Wearing rate (%) of all drivers by gender and number of occupants in car

		Type of	restraint worn b	y driver	
Base = 100%		Seat Belt Used	Seat Belt Unused	Not Fitted	Number of
		%	%	%	drivers
Driver only	Male	93%	7%	0%	<i>5,498</i>
	Female	97%	3%	0%	4,306
Driver + 1 passenger	Male	96%	4%	0%	3,045
	Female	97%	3%	0%	1,920
Driver + 2 passengers	Male	96%	4%	0%	649
	Female	98%	2%	0%	444
Driver + 3 passengers	Male	94%	6%		252
	Female	98%	2%		153
Driver + 4 or more passengers	Male	[64]	[2]		66
	Female	[31]			31
All male drivers		94%	6%	0%	9,510
All female drivers					
		97%	3%	0%	6,854

Table 23: Percentage of cars with occupants restrained by the number of occupants in the car

	Percentage of restrained occupants								
Base = 100%	0	1	2	3	4	5+			
	%	%	%	%	%	%	Number of drivers		
Driver only	6%	94%					9,804		
Driver + 1 passenger	1%	6%	92%				4,965		
Driver + 2 passengers	1%	3%	12%	84%			1,093		
Driver + 3 passengers	1%	1%	5%	10%	83%		405		
Driver + 4 or more									
passengers	1%	1%	7%	3%	5%	82%	97		
All drivers	4%	59%	29%	6%	2%	0%	16,364		

Mobile phones usage 2007

Table 24: Proportion of drivers (%) observed using a mobile phone

All cars Base = 100%	Type of phone							
	Hand-held	Hands-free	Neither					
	%	%	%	Number of drivers				
Proportion of								
drivers	1.2%	.4%	98.4%	16,364				

Table 25: Proportion of drivers (%) observed using a mobile phone by age

All cars Base = 100%	Type of phone							
	Hand-held	Hand-held Hands-free Neither						
	%	%	%	Number of drivers				
60+	.3%	.4%	99.4%	2,374				
30-59	1.0%	.5%	98.6%	9,029				
17-29	2.0%	.4%	97.7%	4,961				
All ages	1.2%	.4%	98.4%	16,364				

Table 26: Proportion of drivers (%) observed using a mobile phone by type of site

All cars Base = 100%	Type of phone							
	Hand-held	Hands-free	Neither					
	%	%	%	Number of drivers				
Motorway	.6%	.3%	99.0%	3,215				
Urban	1.5%	.2%	98.3%	6,580				
Rural	1.2%	.6%	98.2%	6,569				
All site types	1.2%	.4%	98.4%	16,364				

Table 27: Proportion of drivers (%) observed using a mobile phone by gender

	Type of phone							
All cars Base = 100%	Hand-held	Hands-free	Neither					
	%	%	%	Number of drivers				
Male	1.1%	.5%	98.4%	9,510				
Female	1.3%	.3%	98.4%	6,854				
All drivers	1.2%	.4%	98.4%	16,364				

Table 28: Proportion of drivers (%) observed using a mobile phone by age and gender

		Type of phone							
Base = 100%		Hand-held	Hands-free	Neither					
		%	% %		Number of drivers				
60+	Male	.2%	.5%	99.3%	1,723				
	Female	.3%	.2%	99.5%	651				
30 to 59	Male	.8%	.6%	98.7%	5,630				
	Female	1.3%	.3%	98.4%	3,399				
17 to 29	Male	2.4%	.5%	97.1%	2,157				
	Female	1.6%	.3%	98.1%	2,804				
All male drivers		1.1%	.5%	98.4%	9,510				
All female drive	ers	1.3%	.3%	98.4%	6,854				

Appendix 2

Number of cars observed by time of session and site

Day: Tuesday

Base = 100%	Time						Number of cars		
	08.30	09.30	10.30	11.30	14.00	15.00	16.00	17.00	recorded
M1 at Broadway	75	72	62	62	62	74	65	86	558
M2 at Duncrue	84	77	86	84	81	82	80	80	654
M1 at Black s Road	16	26	29	37	46	45	48	63	310
Antrim Rd/D gall Park Ave	46	32	51	41	55	60	55	61	401
Knock Dual Carriageway	76	74	74	76	73	76	76	78	603
Saintfield Road	81	79	78	75	81	73	81	80	628
Derriaghy	77	67	69	69	72	77	67	78	576
Strand Rd, L derry	56	46	55	45	46	35	43	45	371
Anne St, Enniskillen	83	79	79	63	81	77	85	62	609
Milltown Rd/Shaw s Bridge	82	<i>78</i>	83	76	<i>78</i>	81	85	74	637
Banbridge	81	51	44	52	51	58	64	81	482
Hillhead Rd, Ballyclare	80	81	59	51	58	73	61	84	547
Ballysallagh Rd, Bangor	53	25	50	32	49	45	58	69	381
A505 Cookstown to Omagh	82	73	74	79	79	77	73	76	613
Carrickfergus/Greenisland	83	80	71	76	79	73	81	82	625
All sites	1055	940	964	918	991	1006	1022	1099	7995

Day: Saturday

Base = 100%	Time						Number of cars		
	08.30	09.30	10.30	11.30	14.00	15.00	16.00	17.00	recorded
M1 at Broadway	76	75	82	<i>78</i>	86	77	80	85	639
M2 at Duncrue	88	81	88	87	83	88	84	79	678
M1 at Black s Road	24	26	51	67	41	53	61	53	376
Antrim Rd/D gall Park Ave	40	49	55	60	66	61	41	47	419
Knock Dual Carriageway	82	85	85	86	87	85	86	85	681
Saintfield Road	82	87	84	83	86	85	86	<i>78</i>	671
Derriaghy	75	75	83	76	<i>78</i>	81	80	82	630
Strand Rd, L derry	52	50	48	49	43	46	44	41	373
Anne St, Enniskillen	73	80	82	80	77	76	64	86	618
Milltown Rd/Shaw s Bridge	84	82	80	83	<i>79</i>	<i>87</i>	83	85	663
Banbridge	54	66	68	65	69	53	50	67	492
Hillhead Rd, Ballyclare	71	81	83	73	69	66	56	59	558
Ballysallagh Rd, Bangor	20	36	37	43	42	49	41	41	309
A505 Cookstown to Omagh	83	<i>78</i>	<i>78</i>	<i>78</i>	82	80	82	79	640
Carrickfergus/Greenisland	83	87	83	45	80	79	86	79	622
All sites	987	1038	1087	1053	1068	1066	1024	1046	8369