

SEATBELTS

YOUR RISK

Not wearing a seatbelt increases your risk of being killed or seriously injured. In more than 50% of fatal crashes in the NT since 2000, seatbelts were not worn when available.

Not wearing a seatbelt increases the chance of severe injury or death. Since 2000 on NT roads:

- 112 vehicle occupants who were not wearing seatbelts have died (51% of fatalities where a seatbelt was available).
- 276 were seriously injured (13% of serious injuries where a seatbelt was available).

The US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that seatbelts reduce the risk of death for front seat car occupants by approximately 50% (*NT Report, page 33*).

The NT Report found that the NT is the only state or territory where the *Traffic Regulations* permit children under 12 months to travel in vehicles without restraints.

The seriousness of this road safety issue means an urgent response is needed to change the culture of seatbelt use in the NT.

What should change

- The NT Report recommends creating a package of education and media campaigns, complemented by increased penalty and enforcement efforts. There should also be a high profile enforcement campaign at the time the new penalty begins (*NT Report, page 36*).
- The issue of carrying passengers, including children under 12 months, without seatbelts or restraints should be included in amendments to the NT *Traffic Regulations*.