

14 January 2022



REF: OIA-9223

Dear **Request made under the Official Information Act 1982**

Thank you for your email of 13 December 2021 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Could I please request figures for the annual number of road deaths where people were not using a seatbelt for each year of 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020.

These figures would obviously only be for drivers or passengers of motor vehicles and please exclude any deaths of people in a tractor or bus please.

The data you have requested is as follows:

Drivers and passengers killed who were not wearing a seatbelt.			
Year	drivers	passengers	Total drivers and passengers
2017	53	18	71
2018	43	22	65
2019	54	22	76
2020*	48	26	74
Total	198	88	286

* 2020 data is incomplete and is current from CAS as at 10/01/2022.

**Restraint use (seatbelt worn) recorded as 'No' or 'None available'.

It is important to note the following in relation to the information provided:

- This data is provided from the road traffic crash database; Crash Analysis System (CAS) version 2.2.0
- Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency maintains the Crash Analysis System which is updated once a Traffic Crash Report (TCR) is received from NZ Police sometime after the crash.
- Data is limited to fatal crashes for the years 2017 to 2020 as recorded in CAS to date - 10/01/2022.

- Data is limited to deaths where Driver or Passenger Restraint Use is recorded as 'No' or 'None available'. Drivers of motorbikes, cyclists, tractor drivers, and bus occupants have been excluded.
- Restraints includes seatbelts but may also include baby seats, harnesses and other restraints.
- A crash, to be recorded in CAS must have occurred on a road. The CAS definition of a road is any street, motorway or beach, or a place to which the public have access with a motor vehicle, whether as of right or not e.g. a public car park.
- Due to the police reporting time frame and subsequent data processing there is a lag from the time of a crash to full and correct crash records within CAS.
- Due to the nature of non-fatal crashes it is believed that these are under-reported, with the level of under-reporting decreasing with the severity of the crash.
- Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, NZ had a 4-level Alert system in place starting from 21 March 2020. The amount of traffic on the roads during level 4 lockdown (25 March to 27 April) was greatly reduced, which consequently reduced the number of road crashes, so data from this time will not align with previous trends.
- 2020 data is incomplete.

In line with Waka Kotahi policy, this response will soon be published on our website, with personal information removed.

If you would like to discuss this reply with Waka Kotahi, please contact Kerry Greig, Manager Data Services, by email to kerry.greig@nzta.govt.nz or by phone on 64-4-894 5251.

Yours sincerely



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