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**RESULTS OF TRANSPORT CANADA'S JULY 2001 SURVEY
OF SEAT BELT USE IN CANADA**

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Road Safety and Motor Vehicle Regulation Directorate

Results of Transport Canada's July 2001 Survey of Seat Belt Use in Canada

The National Occupant Restraint Program is an important element of *Road Safety Vision 2010*—an ambitious partnership approved by federal, provincial and territorial Ministers of Transport to make Canada's roads the safest in the world. The objective of NORP is to achieve a national seat belt usage rate of 95 percent for all occupants in *light-duty vehicles* (passenger cars, passenger vans and light trucks). Transport Canada's contribution to this program of monitoring seat belt usage rates in Canada is done through conducting an annual survey. The latest national survey of seat belt use took place between July 16 and July 22, 2001.

Light-Duty Vehicles

For Canada as a whole, the estimated proportion of all occupants of *light-duty vehicles* using seat belts is unchanged at 90 percent for the last three years (see Table 1). This estimate is accurate within ± 0.6 percent, 19 times out of 20 in repeated samples.

Other highlights of the 2001 survey of all occupants of *light-duty vehicles* for individual provinces and territories (in rounded percentages) are as follows:

- Five provinces have a seat belt use rate of 90 percent or more, same as last year.
- Ontario leads the country with a usage rate of 93 percent, followed by Newfoundland and Saskatchewan at a rate of 92 percent, New Brunswick and British Columbia both at a rate of 91 percent.
- Seat belt wearing rates for other provinces and territories are: Quebec at 89 percent; Nova Scotia at 88 percent; Prince Edward Island at 87 percent; Alberta at 85 percent; Manitoba at 82 percent; Yukon at 78 percent; the Northwest Territories at 63 percent and Nunavut at 13 percent.

The high national wearing rate is the result of increased safety awareness by the motoring public as well as concerted efforts in the areas of policy-making, safety promotion and enforcement by the provincial and territorial governments, police forces and road safety associations.

Light Trucks and Passenger Vans

Table 3 presents the survey results of seat belt use by type of vehicle. As in previous surveys, this year's survey distinguished *passenger vans* from *light trucks*. The national results show that the use of seat belts by all occupants is 91 percent in *passenger vans* and 83 percent in *light trucks*. *Light trucks* and *passenger vans* account for 32.7 percent of the vehicles included in the survey.

Age Group

Table 4 presents the survey results of seat belt use by age group of vehicle occupants.

Within each category of vehicle, the use of seat belts by drivers increases as the age of the driver increases—the older the driver, the higher the seat belt use rate.

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Table 1: Estimates of seat belt use from annual surveys 1993-2001 *

Prov./ Terr.	Percentage of all Occupants Wearing Seat Belts in Light-Duty Vehicles**							
	1993 June (%)	1994 June (%)	1996 June (%)	1997 July (%)	1998 June (%)	1999 June (%)	2000 July (%)	2001 July (%)
Nfld.	94.5	93.6	91.9	92.4	86.4	82.9	92.7	92.1
P.E.I.	77.8	84.5	87.5	82.6	82.7	88.5	85.7	86.7
N.S.	83.5	83.2	88.2	87.1	88.5	86.6	86.5	88.0
N.B.	82.1	84.9	86.6	86.5	87.9	85.9	91.5	91.4
Que.	88.8	89.8	90.3	91.7	92.3	93.0	91.4	89.0
Ont.	79.4	86.3	89.9	89.2	89.1	91.0	91.7	92.5
Man.	80.2	82.6	82.4	84.8	84.4	85.3	84.2	82.3
Sask.	89.4	87.7	89.6	91.7	89.7	88.2	90.0	91.7
Alta.	81.0	83.1	85.1	83.7	82.4	89.3	87.2	84.9
B.C.	86.4	88.3	88.7	89.4	89.7	89.2	88.7	90.8
Y.T.	72.8	68.2	81.2	83.4	82.1	82.1	79.3	78.1
N.W.T.	51.5	67.4	54.9	64.3	52.6	61.1	60.7	62.7
Nunavut								13.4
Canada	83.4	86.8	88.7	88.9	88.7	90.1	90.1	89.9

* Some jurisdictions have laws exempting certain individuals from wearing seat belts.

** Light-duty vehicles include passenger cars, passenger vans and light trucks.

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Table 2: Estimates of seat belt use from annual surveys 1992-2001*

Prov./ Terr.	Percentage of Passenger Car Drivers Wearing Seat Belts										
	1992	1993	1993	1994	1994	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
	Oct. (%)	June (%)	Oct. (%)	June (%)	Oct. (%)	June (%)	July (%)	June (%)	June (%)	July (%)	July (%)
Nfld.	94.8	96.7	97.5	95.7	95.7	94.3	95.2	90.8	86.9	94.3	93.3
P.E.I.	81.4	83.4	81.5	90.2	90.5	91.8	88.0	88.0	92.6	88.3	90.7
N.S.	86.3	87.4	86.3	87.0	90.5	91.2	90.1	91.2	89.8	88.4	90.0
N.B.	81.3	85.6	86.2	88.9	92.1	89.5	91.9	91.8	89.6	93.3	93.1
Que.	91.8	92.6	92.6	92.1	94.4	93.2	93.8	94.7	94.9	93.7	91.3
Ont.	84.1	84.0	83.6	88.8	91.0	92.3	91.4	91.5	92.4	93.6	94.0
Man.	80.2	82.9	83.3	86.1	85.8	85.0	87.3	87.6	87.9	87.1	84.5
Sask.	93.8	93.7	95.4	92.7	92.7	94.0	93.9	94.1	91.7	93.1	94.8
Alta.	84.8	86.6	88.3	87.8	88.5	89.8	87.5	87.8	91.6	89.9	86.5
B.C.	90.6	91.4	91.3	92.7	92.0	92.6	92.0	93.2	92.0	90.6	93.0
Y.T.	84.0	80.8	78.3	67.6	79.2	87.5	87.0	92.2	89.5	78.3	79.7
N.W.T.	69.5	59.8	60.2	75.5	77.9	57.8	73.0	54.6	64.4	64.4	67.8
Nunavut											29.2
Canada	87.1	87.8	87.8	90.1	91.6	91.9	91.5	91.9	92.3	92.2	91.8

* Seat belt laws in some jurisdictions can exempt certain individuals from wearing seat belts.

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Table 3: Estimates of seat belt use from July 2001 survey, by type of vehicles and by driver and all occupants*

Prov./ Terr.	Passenger Cars		Passenger Vans**		Light Trucks		Total L-D Vehicles***	
	Driver	All Occ.****	Driver	All Occ.****	Driver	All Occ.****	Driver	All Occ.****
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Nfld.	93.3	92.0	92.9	92.8	88.6	88.1	93.0	92.1
P.E.I.	90.7	87.9	91.0	91.3	73.8	72.4	88.3	86.7
N.S.	90.0	89.4	86.1	86.7	74.0	72.9	88.3	88.0
N.B.	93.1	91.9	91.9	92.6	84.1	84.2	91.9	91.4
Que.	91.3	88.8	90.8	90.1	85.9	87.0	91.0	89.0
Ont.	94.0	92.6	94.1	93.6	85.1	84.5	93.5	92.5
Man.	84.5	83.1	83.3	84.0	69.2	67.2	83.2	82.3
Sask.	94.8	93.0	92.9	91.5	86.4	83.2	93.5	91.7
Alta.	86.5	85.6	85.6	85.3	77.7	77.0	85.6	84.9
B.C.	93.0	91.1	91.8	91.2	87.1	86.2	92.2	90.8
Y.T.	79.7	78.9	78.9	78.9	73.1	73.3	78.3	78.1
N.W.T.	67.8	65.9	65.9	64.0	52.2	50.9	64.0	62.7
Nunavut	29.2	23.0	15.9	16.0	5.5	5.7	13.5	13.4
Canada	91.8	90.2	91.5	91.0	83.9	83.4	91.1	89.9

* Seat belt laws in some jurisdictions can exempt certain individuals from wearing seat belts.

** Passenger Vans, which include passenger vans and light trucks with back seats.

*** Light-duty (L-D) vehicles, which include passenger cars, passenger vans and light trucks.

**** All occupants

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Table 4: Estimates of seat belt use from July 2001 survey, by type of vehicles and by age group of driver*

Prov./ Terr.	Passenger Cars			Passenger Vans**			Light Trucks			Total L-D Vehicles***		
	< 25 (%)	25-49 (%)	50+ (%)	< 25 (%)	25-49 (%)	50+ (%)	< 25 (%)	25-49 (%)	50+ (%)	< 25 (%)	25-49 (%)	50+ (%)
Nfld.	94.4	93.9	90.1	97.1	91.9	93.6	83.0	89.2	93.6	94.3	93.2	91.3
P.E.I.	85.0	92.6	90.9	82.3	90.2	96.0	70.6	72.9	77.1	83.1	89.3	89.1
N.S.	86.8	90.4	90.7	85.1	87.0	84.4	60.0	71.6	77.4	86.1	88.5	88.5
N.B.	88.9	93.6	93.1	68.0	92.4	91.7	93.9	82.6	85.2	88.1	92.1	92.2
Que.	92.0	91.6	90.2	100.0	90.9	88.3	94.2	82.5	91.9	92.6	91.2	89.9
Ont.	93.2	94.1	93.5	92.2	94.6	93.1	84.6	85.3	83.9	92.7	93.7	93.0
Man.	77.4	84.6	88.3	87.1	84.1	79.4	66.0	69.5	69.3	77.8	83.3	85.2
Sask.	94.2	94.2	96.4	90.1	92.5	94.2	77.7	85.2	89.9	93.1	92.8	95.1
Alta.	84.1	86.8	87.4	82.1	84.6	89.9	85.5	75.9	83.6	83.3	85.4	87.7
B.C.	88.2	93.0	94.7	82.3	92.1	92.2	79.5	88.6	87.1	86.8	92.4	93.6
Y.T.	75.7	79.4	82.7	59.6	81.1	78.7	59.5	77.2	69.4	68.9	79.9	79.3
N.W.T.	68.8	66.2	72.3	60.0	65.4	73.0	36.9	54.2	64.6	60.2	64.0	71.0
Nunavut	37.5	17.3	35.3	14.4	15.9	17.6	4.3	6.2	5.8	14.9	13.0	15.2
Canada	90.2	92.0	91.9	90.7	91.7	90.9	84.5	83.1	85.7	89.6	91.2	91.3

* Seat belt laws in some jurisdictions can exempt certain individuals from wearing seat belts.

** Passenger Vans, which include passenger vans and light trucks with back seats.

*** Light-duty (L-D) vehicles, which include passenger cars, passenger vans and light trucks.

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Table 5: Estimates of Seat Belt Use by Seating Position in Light-Duty Vehicles*

Prov./ Terr.	Percentage of Occupants Wearing Seat Belts in Light-Duty Vehicles**						
	Driver (%)	Front Centre (%)	Front Right (%)	Rear Left (%)	Rear Centre (%)	Rear Right (%)	All (%)
Nfld.	93.0	61.5	92.5	79.7	80.7	83.8	92.1
P.E.I.	88.3	51.4	84.6	80.2	95.4	79.3	86.7
N.S.	88.3	44.7	87.3	90.5	91.7	88.9	88.0
N.B.	91.9	66.0	92.7	84.2	84.3	90.3	91.4
Que.	91.0	31.5	91.4	71.1	61.7	72.5	89.0
Ont.	93.5	69.5	91.9	86.0	85.7	84.4	92.5
Man.	83.2	62.6	81.1	79.4	74.8	78.2	82.3
Sask.	93.5	58.7	90.1	84.1	85.3	83.8	91.7
Alta.	85.6	69.5	84.3	85.3	77.3	80.0	84.9
B.C.	92.2	35.3	91.2	85.2	65.7	78.7	90.8
Y.T.	78.3	55.7	78.4	77.7	77.5	80.8	78.1
N.W.T.	64.4	32.5	62.1	55.3	58.5	52.8	62.7
Nunavut	15.3	2.2	11.2	11.4	10.0	4.0	13.4
Canada	91.1	54.4	90.1	82.2	76.3	80.5	89.9

* Seat belt laws in some jurisdictions can exempt certain individuals from wearing seat belts.

** Light-duty vehicles include passenger cars, passenger vans and light trucks.

Survey Method

The July 2001 survey was undertaken at 243 sites selected by province and territory, community size and road type, and is comparable to the samples used in the previous national seat belt use surveys.

Information

To find out more about national road safety programs and initiatives, call Transport Canada's Information Centre toll free at **1-800-333-0371** or **(613) 998-8616** if you are calling from the National Capital area, or e-mail comments or questions to roadsafetywebmail@tc.gc.ca or via regular mail to:

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You can also visit the Transport Canada web site at www.tc.gc.ca

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