

## Why everyone should wear a restraint

## All vehicle occupants including the driver and children are required by law to wear a restraint.

The Western Australian Road Traffic Code (2000) makes drivers responsible for ensuring that all passengers, regardless of age, are seated in a position that is fitted with a restraint and that the restraint is properly adjusted and securely fastened. There are penalties for drivers and passengers over the age of 16 years who are not wearing a restraint.

Wearing a restraint can reduce the risk of being killed in a road crash by up to 50%.<sup>1</sup>

**Drivers and passengers travelling without a restraint in a car are at least 10 times more likely to be killed** in a road crash than those wearing a restraint.<sup>2</sup>

Sitting in the back seat without a seatbelt is still a risk factor for being killed or seriously injured in a road crash.

**Passengers not wearing restraints can also kill or seriously injure others in the car** if the driver has to brake suddenly.

**Airbags are designed to work as supplements to restraints.** Without a restraint occupants may come into contact with airbags before they are fully deployed.

**Children up to 7 years of age** are now legally required to wear an approved car restraint.

Buckle up your children and yourself. It doesn't matter if you are only travelling a few kilometres – most road crashes happen close to home. Wear a restraint and avoid serious injury.





2 Data analysis Australia (2008). Analysis of Road Crash Statistics, 1999 to 2007.



<sup>1</sup> Elvik & Vaa (2004). The Handbook of Road Safety Measures. Elsevier