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## **Review of the psychosocial and behavioural correlates of adult seat belt use**

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The use of a seat belt or restraint by motor vehicle occupants is a highly effective countermeasure against injury in the event of a crash. Legislative, enforcement, educational and technological initiatives have over time increased Australia's compliance across all motor vehicle occupants to around 98%, though unbelted occupants remain over-represented in fatal crashes. The use of seat belts by adult occupants was the focus of a recent *Austroads* investigation by the authors. This paper summarises the findings of one aspect of that report that being an extensive literature review of the psychosocial and behavioural correlates of adult seat belt use.

Recent national and international publications were sought by accessing a number of relevant databases including the Australian Transport Index, TRIS, ITRD, and PsychInfo. In addition, non-peer reviewed published and unpublished information was sought from relevant agencies and contacts.

There was reasonably strong and consistent evidence across a variety of data sources to show that seat belt use by adults is associated with a distinctive pattern of demographic, trip, and individual difference and behavioural factors. Unfortunately there was very little recent research that had been conducted in Australia. The main findings, along with a discussion of the methodological shortcomings, will be detailed.

The observed rate of non-use among crash involved persons in Australia warrants further research to better understand the factors associated with use and non-use at both a quantitative and qualitative level. Only then can we hope to develop and implement appropriate and effective countermeasures.