

NEW MEXICO INJURY ATTORNEY BLOG

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10 Good Reasons to Wear a Seatbelt

There are many reasons to wear a seatbelt other than the laws requiring it. The top ten reasons for proper seatbelt use are apparent from the following statistics from a study at James Mason University:

1. One in five drivers are involved in an auto accident each year.
2. Auto accidents are the leading cause of death for those under the age of 45.
3. Close to 35,000 people die each year in auto accidents, half of whom would have been saved by the use of seatbelts.
4. For every one percent increase in the use of seatbelts, 172 lives are saved.
5. Seatbelts reduce auto accident fatalities by 60-70 percent.
6. A person is 25 times more likely to die when thrown from a vehicle.
7. Children are often killed by being crushed by unrestrained adults.
8. The most common injuries to children in car accidents are head injuries resulting in brain damage, traumatic brain injury, epilepsy or death.
9. Over 80% of child fatalities in auto accidents would have been prevented by the proper use of seatbelts or car seats. Unfortunately, less than ten percent of children are properly restrained.
10. Seatbelts may provide the greatest and only protection against DWI drivers. This is very important in New Mexico which historically has among the worst DWI problems in the country.

A seatbelt may very well save your life in the case of a car accident. If that is not enough, it may save your child. Just as importantly, it could minimize physical injuries. In New Mexico where drivers are chronically uninsured or underinsured, minimization of physical injuries may very well save you and your family from financial disaster. There many more good reasons for wearing a seatbelt and none that would suggest otherwise.

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