



## **Factsheet: New Jersey Seatbelt Laws**

- On January 18, 2010, new seat belt legislation was signed into New Jersey law requiring all occupants to buckle up, regardless of their seating position in a vehicle. The law is effective immediately.
- This new seatbelt law allows police to issue summonses directly to unbuckled back seat occupants who are 18 years of age and older when the vehicle they are riding in is stopped for another violation.
- The driver is responsible for proper seat belt use by all occupants who are under the age of 18. This applies to all passengers who are between the age of 8 and 18 as well as each driver and front seat passenger of an automobile operated on a street or highway.
- Riding in a motor vehicle without a seatbelt is a Secondary Offence, meaning that you would first have to be pulled over for a Primary Offence such as speeding or other moving violation.
- All motor vehicle occupants are required to wear a properly adjusted and fastened seat belt system, regardless of adult age or seating position.
- New Jersey seat belt laws apply to all passenger vehicles including vans, pickup trucks and SUV's, that are required to be equipped with seat belts.

## **New Jersey's Child Passenger Law:**

- Children up to age 8 (or 80 pounds) must ride in a safety or booster seat in the rear seat of the vehicle. If there is no rear seat, the child must sit in the front seat secured by a child safety seat or booster seat.
- Children under age 8 who weigh more than 80 pounds must wear a seat belt anywhere in the vehicle.
- Passengers between ages 8 and 18 (regardless of weight) must wear a seat belt anywhere inside a vehicle.