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‘Click It or Ticket’ campaign to enforce seat belt, traffic safety laws through Memorial Day weekend

Deputies to conduct extra patrols May 22-June 4

LAWRENCE — While Douglas County drivers and passengers have historically been strong with buckling up, the county ranked lower than the state average in [a 2021 observational study](#) on seat belt usage. In better news, Douglas County did have a very high safety belt usage rate, 98.21 percent, among youth ages 0-17 in the 2022 Kansas Child Observational study.

The studies are an important reminder to buckle every time. The Douglas County Sheriff’s Office will join other law enforcement agencies across Kansas from May 22 to June 4, including during the busy Memorial Day weekend, in vigorously enforcing Kansas occupant restraint and other traffic laws as part of the 2023 Kansas “Click It or Ticket” campaign.

“We are proud of everyone in Douglas County who buckles up every time and sets an example for younger people to form strong habits. One person not buckling up increases the risk in case of a collision,” Sheriff Jay Armbrister said. “In the interest of saving lives, the Sheriff’s Office is committed to enforcing adult seat belt and child passenger safety laws, as well as other traffic infractions that make the need for seat belts such a necessity.”

Buckling up keeps drivers and passengers safe and secure inside your vehicle – especially by reducing the risk during a crash of a dangerous ejection from the vehicle and making sure air bags and other safety features can work effectively.

Extra deputies will patrol roads and highways in Douglas County during the campaign to enforce the Kansas Safety Belt Use Act and the Kansas Child Passenger Safety Act. These statutes require that all vehicle occupants must be appropriately restrained. The “Click It or Ticket” campaign’s goal is to drastically reduce the number of preventable deaths and injuries that occur when unbelted drivers and passengers are involved in traffic crashes.

Deputies as part of the extra patrols will also be seeking to remove impaired drivers from roads in Douglas County.

“Around Memorial Day weekend is a fun time for everyone as they celebrate the end of the school year and prepare for the arrival of summer, but it’s important to plan ahead every time, because you don’t want to ruin a good time. If you drink, don’t drive,” Armbrister said.

The Kansas Department of Transportation is supporting this activity with grant funding.

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