

Click It or Ticket Fact Sheet and Talking Points

-According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), in 2005, 15,294 passenger vehicle occupants died in traffic crashes between the hours of 6:00pm-5:59am.

-Fifty nine percent (59%) of those killed were NOT wearing their seat belts at the time of the nighttime crash. That percentage is considerably higher than the 44 percent of passenger vehicle occupants who were unrestrained and killed during daytime hours.

-Regular seat belt use is the single most effective way to protect people and reduce fatalities in motor vehicle crashes.

-Nationally in 2005, 77 percent of the passenger vehicle occupants who were in fatal crashes and who were buckled up, survived the crash.

-When worn correctly, seat belts have proven to reduce the risk of fatal injury to front seat passenger car occupants by 45 percent - and by 60 percent in pickup trucks, SUV's , and mini-vans.

-Nearly one in five Americans (19 percent nationally) still fail to regularly wear their seat belts when driving or riding in a motor vehicle.

-In Virginia in 2006 there were 961 fatalities. Of those, 453 were unrestrained.

-The 2006 seat belt use rate in Virginia was 78.6%. This was a decline from 2005, which was recorded at 80.4%.

-In 2005 in Virginia, 136 people between the ages of 16-25 years died and were unrestrained.

-In 2005 in Virginia, there were 3,342 injuries of people between the ages of 16-25 years of age. These people were all unrestrained.

Nighttime Drivers, Young Males, and Teens Among Those Least Likely to Buckle Up and At Greatest Risk

-Men, especially younger men, are much less likely to buckle up. In 2005, 67 percent of male drivers and 74 percent of male passengers between the ages of 18-34 in passenger vehicles who were killed in crashes were NOT wearing their seat belts.

-According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), pickup truck drivers and passengers, particularly among young males, consistently have the lowest seat belt usage rates of all motorists.

-Nationally in 2006, the observed seat belt use rate in pickup trucks was only 74 percent compared to 82 percent in passenger cars and 84 percent in vans and SUV's.

-This lack of seat belt use is deadly. In 2005, 68 percent of pickup truck drivers and 71 percent of pickup truck passenger who were killed in traffic crashes were not buckled up.

-One of the deadliest outcomes in any vehicle crash occurs when passengers get ejected from the vehicle, with most ejections coming from a failure to wear seat belts.

-In fact, 75 percent of passenger vehicle occupants who were totally ejected from their vehicle in 2005 were killed. But only one in 100 drivers and passengers in fatal crashes who were wearing their seat belts were totally ejected.

-Motorists can increase the odds of survival in a rollover crash in a light truck by nearly 80 percent by wearing their seat belt.

-During 2005, more than one in ten (or 12.6 percent) of all drivers involved in fatal crashes across the U.S. were drivers between the ages of 15 and 20.

-An alarming 62 percent of teenage passenger vehicle occupants killed in fatal crashes during 2005 were NOT wearing a seat belt at the time of the crash.

-For more information-check out www.nhtsa.gov/link/ciot.htm