



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Defiance County Safe Communities Seat Belt Checks “Click it or Ticket Event”

Defiance County Safe Communities Collation partners held a Click it or Ticket event between May 16-22, 2017. Three Defiance County High Schools participated and a total of 657 drivers and front seat passengers were checked for seat belt usage while pulling into the school parking lot. Individuals who were checked for seatbelt usage included both students and parents/guardians. Ninety-two percent of drivers and front seat passengers were wearing seat belts. There were a total of 52 drivers and front seat passengers unbelted. Approximately, 34 individuals who were not wearing seat belts were students. Defiance County Sheriff's offices and Ohio State Highway Patrol provided education to all students to emphasize the importance of seat belt usage. Incentives were sponsored by McDonalds and given to students who wore their seat belts.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's 2015 research, 58% of young adults ages 18 to 34 killed in crashes were unrestrained- one of the highest percentages for all age groups. Law enforcement agencies nationwide will be joining forces for the 2017 *Click it or Ticket* enforcement mobilization campaign held May 22- June 4. Defiance County Safe Communities Coalition continue to work with community agencies, local law enforcement and Defiance County high schools to spread the message that seat belts save lives.

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