

NEWS RELEASE

Indiana Criminal Justice Institute



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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More than 17,000 Citations Issued During Statewide Enforcement

Law enforcement efforts help to catch criminals, create safer communities

Indianapolis, IN. – The Governor’s Council on Impaired & Dangerous Driving today announced that 17,736 citations were issued to unrestrained motorists during the statewide *Click It or Ticket* seat belt mobilization conducted May 15 – May 31. More than 250 law enforcement agencies participated in this enforcement effort designed to increase seat belt usage across the state.

While traffic safety related mobilizations such as *Click It or Ticket* focus on reminding motorists to wear their seat belts, these enforcement efforts also help to thwart criminal activity through increased police presence on roadways. As a result, officers have been successful in apprehending criminals during routine traffic enforcement, such as seat belt patrols and sobriety checkpoints.

“*Click It or Ticket* is about more than just wearing your seat belt,” said Neil Moore, executive director of the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI). “Our ultimate goal is to save lives in the Hoosier state. However, there are some added benefits to our traffic safety efforts that go beyond enforcing the use of seat belts,” he continued.

Numerous arrests were made during the mobilization for possession of illegal drugs such as cocaine and marijuana, as well as impaired driving and other felonies. In addition to receiving seat belt citations, motorists were also cited for improper use of child restraints and speeding.

“The results of this mobilization are a testament to the dedication of our participating law enforcement partners who through their proven efforts, are truly helping to make our roadways and communities safer,” Moore added.

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“Every Seat, Every Trip, Every Time.”

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T. Neil Moore, executive director

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During the two-week mobilization, 3,426 seat belt patrols were conducted by law enforcement agencies statewide. These agencies also conducted 41 patrols for impaired driving.

Below is a sample of significant events that occurred during the mobilization period from around the state.

County	Agency	Events
LaPorte	Michigan City Police Department	Stopped an unrestrained driver to discover he was unlicensed and in possession of cocaine. The suspect was arrested and charged.
Hendricks	Hendricks County Sheriff's Department	Two arrests for Operating While Intoxicated; 2 Driving While Suspended; 1 warrant was served on a driver; 1 runaway was captured and returned to her parent.

Regular seat belt use remains the single most effective way to protect people and reduce fatalities in motor vehicle crashes. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 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, SUVs, and minivans.

The Governor's Council on Impaired & Dangerous Driving serves as the public opinion catalyst and the implementing body for statewide action to reduce death and injury on Indiana roadways. The Council provides ongoing support to state and local traffic safety advocates.

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