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Utah Department of Public Safety  
Highway Safety Office

## TOGETHER FOR LIFE PROJECT

# LAW ENFORCEMENT BOOKLET

Increasing Seat Belt Use  
in Iron County



**MOST** adults in Utah **ALWAYS**  
wear their seat belts.  
(Center for Health and Safety Culture, 2020)



As a leader  
in your community,  
we need your support to  
make this effort successful  
and improve the health  
and safety of our rural  
communities.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

While tremendous progress has been made in the protection of vehicle drivers and passengers, not using a seat belt remains a leading risk factor for death and serious injury in Utah.<sup>1</sup> Seat belts are used less frequently in rural areas of Utah than in urban areas.<sup>2</sup>

This booklet provides guidance for law enforcement leaders in Iron County, Utah on how to increase seat belt use in their communities. Actions focus on three key behaviors: increase seat belt use among law enforcement, promote consistent enforcement of seat belt laws, and increase public education about seat belt use.

The booklet includes background on why it is important to increase seat belt use, fact sheets about attitudes and behaviors of citizens in each county, and specific tools to increase seat belt use among law enforcement, promote consistent enforcement, and educate the public about the importance of always wearing a seat belt.

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1. Utah Department of Public Safety, Highway Safety Office. Utah Crash Data and Statistics, Salt Lake City, UT: Utah Department of Public Safety. Retrieved from <https://highwaysafety.utah.gov/crash-data/>
2. Perkins, MPH, Ron. (2019). *Utah observational surveys on seat belt use*

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## TOGETHER FOR LIFE — A CALL TO ACTION

In Utah over the past 7 years,  
unrestrained occupants were...

**24%**

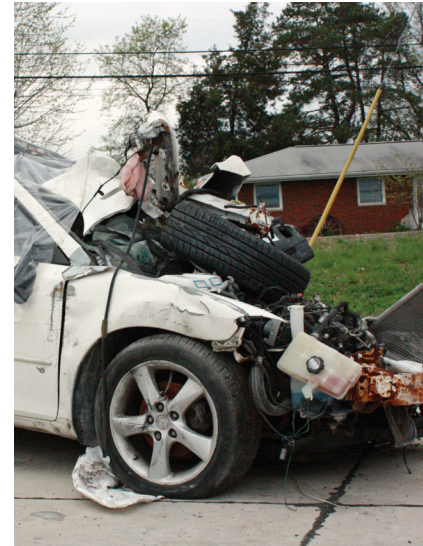
of crash deaths.\*

**over 14 times**

more likely to be killed than restrained crash occupants.\*

**55 times**

more likely to be fully ejected from a motor vehicle  
compared to restrained occupants.\*



While tremendous progress has been made in occupant protection, not using a seat belt remains a leading risk factor for death and serious injury in Utah.\*

Among roadway users in Utah, significant disparities exist between urban and rural rates of seat belt use.\* Rates of not using a seat belt are three-times higher in some rural areas compared to urban areas of the state.\*

The Utah Department of Public Safety has initiated a multi-year pilot project to increase seat belt use in several counties in rural Utah. This project engages a variety of stakeholders including leaders from public health, traffic safety, local government, education, private business, and of course, law enforcement.

**MOST Iron  
County Adults, 80%,  
STRONGLY AGREE:**

**“It is  
important  
to protect  
myself by  
ALWAYS  
wearing a  
seat belt.”**

*Utah Law Enforcement Survey  
on Seat Belt Use in Iron and  
Uintah Counties. Montana  
State University, Bozeman,  
Montana. (N=123)*

\* Utah Department of Public Safety, Highway Safety Office. Utah Crash Data and Statistics, Salt Lake City, UT: Utah Department of Public Safety. Retrieved from <https://highwaysafety.utah.gov/crash-data/>



## Together For Life—A Call to Action



Law enforcement plays a pivotal role in increasing seat belt use. Programs such as *Click It Or Ticket*, *Child Passenger Safety*, and the *Click-It Club* have been successful at achieving higher seat belt use in Utah's more urban areas. However, these efforts have not been as effective in rural environments. The Highway Safety Office recognizes the need for a different approach, one applicable to a rural setting.

**The purpose of this booklet is to provide law enforcement with tools to assist in this effort. These tools focus on three core actions:**

**SECTION A:** Increasing seat belt use among law enforcement

**SECTION B:** Promoting consistent enforcement of seat belt laws

**SECTION C:** Increasing public education about seat belt use

As a leader in your community, we need your support to make this effort successful and improve the health and safety of our rural communities.

**Two important surveys were completed as a part of this project.**

The first survey gathered beliefs and behaviors from adults in the two counties (Iron and Uintah) about seat belts and getting others to wear a seat belt.

The second survey gathered important information from law enforcement officers in the two counties about seat belts and enforcement. The Center for Health and Safety Culture developed a survey to better understand the behaviors, beliefs and enforcement practices of law enforcement officers in rural Utah regarding seat belts. The survey was conducted online between June and September 2020. An email was sent to each of the law enforcement leaders of the law enforcement agencies in these two counties. Approximately 199 officers were eligible to take the survey and 123 responded (62%).

The results of these surveys are referenced throughout this booklet and can be found in Appendices A and B.



## BOOKLET OVERVIEW

To promote the three key actions among law enforcement this booklet contains several components to support these actions.

### Fact Sheet

A fact sheet about your county is provided on page 8. This will help you and your officers better understand your community and will also help guide public education.

### SECTION A: Increase Seat Belt Use Among Law Enforcement

This section contains a summary of important values and beliefs that are shared among law enforcement officers in the three counties, a sample seat belt policy for your agency, and an action plan on how to make your policy effective. Getting all officers to ALWAYS wear a seat belt will improve safety for officers as well as model appropriate behaviors for community members.

### SECTION B: Promote Consistent Enforcement of Seat Belt Laws

This section contains a summary of important values and beliefs from both community members and officers that support consistent enforcement. Research clearly demonstrates that consistent enforcement increases seat belt use.\*

### SECTION C: Increase Public Education About Seat Belt Use

This section provides resources to help educate the public about the importance of always wearing a seat belt. These tools include talking points, ready-to-use text for news releases, interviews, or announcements, a **Together For Life Card** for distribution by officers during traffic stops or during special events, and Utah Safety Restraint Enforcement Guide. Law enforcement leaders have a powerful voice in the community and therefore can be effective public educators.

Between 2010 and 2019, 21% of fatalities among law enforcement officers in the U.S. involved vehicle crashes.

<https://nleomf.org/facts-figures/causes-of-law-enforcement-deaths>

\*Goodwin, A. H., Thomas, L. J., Hall, W. L., & Tucker, M. E. (2011). *Countermeasures That Work: A Highway Safety Countermeasure Guide For State Highway Safety Offices*

# FACTS ABOUT SEAT BELTS IN IRON COUNTY

## Seat Belts Reduce Fatalities and Serious Injuries

- Over the past 7 years, 24% of crash deaths have involved unrestrained occupants.<sup>1</sup>
- Unrestrained crash occupants were over 14 times more likely to be killed than restrained crash occupants.<sup>1</sup>
- Unrestrained occupants were 55 times more likely to be fully ejected from a motor vehicle compared to restrained occupants.<sup>1</sup>

### FACT IS:

#### MOST Adults Always Wear Seat Belts

	Iron
Observed Seat Belt Use, 2014 <sup>2</sup>	75%
Observed Seat Belt Use, 2015 <sup>2</sup>	76%
Observed Seat Belt Use, 2016 <sup>2</sup>	74%
Observed Seat Belt Use, 2017 <sup>2</sup>	76%
Observed Seat Belt Use, 2018 <sup>2</sup>	80%
Observed Seat Belt Use, 2019 <sup>2</sup>	84%
Self-Reported “Always” Wear a Seat Belt, 2019 <sup>3</sup>	71%

#### MOST Adults Believe Wearing Seat Belts Is Important

	Iron
Adults agree “it is important to protect myself by always wearing a seat belt” <sup>3</sup>	94%
Adults agree they should always wear a seat belt <sup>3</sup>	94%
Adults agree they want people they care about to always wear a seat belt <sup>3</sup>	95%
Adults report having a family rule about wearing a seat belt (among those with families) <sup>3</sup>	75%

#### MOST Adults Support Enforcement of Seat Belt Laws

	Iron
Adults who agreed that local law enforcement should enforce Utah seat belt laws <sup>3</sup>	66%

#### MOST Adults Believe It Is Their Responsibility As A Driver To Make Sure Others Are Wearing A Seat Belt.

	Iron
Adults who believe it is their responsibility to make sure others were wearing their seat belts when they are the driver <sup>3</sup>	75%

See Appendices A and B for more details on the Community Survey and Law Enforcement Survey.

1. Utah Department of Public Safety, Highway Safety Office. Utah Crash Data and Statistics, Salt Lake City, UT: Utah Department of Public Safety. Retrieved from <https://highwaysafety.utah.gov/crash-data/>
2. Perkins, MPH, Ron. (2019). *Utah observational surveys on seat belt use*
3. Center for Health and Safety Culture. (2020). *Utah Community Survey of adults on seat belt use in Iron and Uintah Counties*. Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana. (N=673)



## SECTION A

## INCREASE SEAT BELT USE AMONG LAW ENFORCEMENT

Overview



# INCREASE SEAT BELT USE AMONG LAW ENFORCEMENT

Self-reported seat belt use rates by law enforcement officers were LOWER than the OBSERVED use rates among the general population.<sup>1</sup>

Law enforcement officers are important role models in their communities. Their behaviors set a standard for others to follow. Increasing seat belt use among officers is an important step in increasing seat belt use among the general population.

Furthermore, not wearing a seat belt puts officers at greater risk for injury or even death in a work-related crash.

For these reasons, a critical first step in improving seat belt use in your county is increasing seat belt use among officers. A recent survey of officers in your county (see Appendix B) revealed that 57% reported always wearing their seat belt when on duty – a level of use lower than the general population in this county.<sup>2</sup>

Interestingly, while many officers, (43%), are not always wearing their seat belts, support for wearing seat belts is extremely high:

- **MOST** officers, 64%, agree it is important to protect themselves by always wearing a seat belt.<sup>2</sup>
- **MOST** officers, 64%, agree they should always wear a seat belt.<sup>2</sup>

## Three-Step Strategy To Increase Seat Belt Use Among Law Enforcement

**STEP 1.** Clarify Agency Norms About Using Seat Belts

**STEP 2.** Codify Norms in Agency Policy

**STEP 3.** Enforce Agency Policy

### What are Norms?

Norms are values, beliefs or behaviors shared by most members of a group or community. Communities have norms; teams have norms; and workplaces have norms.

Examples of shared values include a commitment to safety, honesty and hard work. Shared beliefs may include expectations like officers should model legal behaviors, and shared behaviors may be that officers always wear a seat belt.

Norms are powerful because they provide guidance on how we fit in with the culture. Workplace norms are particularly powerful as they guide how new and existing employees will behave.

Norms are not the same as policies or rules. Policies and rules codify norms—they make norms explicit. However, we have all experienced a work environment where the norm in an organization contradicts the actual policy.

Norms are often misunderstood. For example, while most adults do NOT smoke cigarettes, high school students often perceive that most adults do smoke. That is, students think the norm is that most adults smoke—when in reality—that is NOT the norm. However, this misperception puts these students at greater risk for smoking.

1. Perkins, MPH, Ron. (2019). *Utah observational surveys on seat belt use*

2. Center for Health and Safety Culture. (2020). *Utah law enforcement survey on seat belt use in Iron County*. Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana. (n=88)

# SECTION A

## INCREASE SEAT BELT USE AMONG LAW ENFORCEMENT

### STEP 1. Clarify Agency Norms



The survey of law enforcement officers reveals misperceptions of norms among officers:

- While most officers (64%) strongly agree “it is important to protect myself by always wearing a seat belt,” **60% of officers did NOT believe most officers in their agency felt this way.\***

- While most officers (57%) report always wearing a seat belt while on duty, **75% of officers believe that MOST officers did NOT always wear a seat belt.\***

\*Center for Health and Safety Culture. (2020). *Utah law enforcement survey on seat belt use in Iron County*. Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana. (n=88)

## STEP 1:

# CLARIFY AGENCY NORMS ABOUT USING SEAT BELTS

The first step in increasing seat belt use among law enforcement is to clarify the agency’s norms. This process establishes an important foundation for policy and establishes clear expectations for behavior.

We have provided several tools to clarify norms:

### Print Media

Print media is available from your community coordinator. We encourage you to place the print media as soon as possible in areas of high visibility for your staff. The print media is designed to reach agency staff—not necessarily the public. Places like meeting rooms and lunch rooms are all appropriate locations. To contact your community coordinator, go to [www.togetherforlifeutah.org](http://www.togetherforlifeutah.org).

### Sample Emails

Two sample emails that can be sent to all staff are included on page 11. These emails reinforce the information on the posters and help clarify agency norms.

### Conversation Guide

While posters and emails are important to help share information, two-way communication is much more effective in changing beliefs. We strongly encourage you to engage staff in structured conversations about seat belt use to help establish a strong foundation for the policy. A straight-forward conversation guide is included on pages 12-13.

We recommend that you begin by engaging in this conversation with those you supervise. Then, have them repeat the process with their staff (until everyone in the agency has participated in a conversation). Having the conversations take place between supervisors and those they supervise increases clarity about agency expectations. Investing in this time will pay off in the long run by increasing adherence to the policy.

### Conversation Guide Directions:

1. Group size should be four people or smaller. If the group is larger than four people, break into smaller groups and allow additional time for groups to share thoughts between topics.
2. Provide a copy of pages 12 and 13 for all participants.
3. Discuss each topic in order. Spend about 7-10 minutes on each topic depending on group size (allow more time for groups of 3 or 4 and more time to share out with multiple groups).

## SECTION A

## INCREASE SEAT BELT USE AMONG LAW ENFORCEMENT

### STEP 1. Clarify Agency Norms



# DRAFT AGENCY EMAILS ABOUT ALWAYS WEARING A SEAT BELT

From: [agency-leader]  
To: All Staff  
RE: Seat Belt Use

As many of you know from responding to crashes, seat belts are very protective. Not only is it important for agency staff to wear seat belts for their own protection, but also to recognize that we model behaviors for our community members. Our actions speak louder than our words.

I was concerned to learn from the survey of law enforcement officers in our county that seat belt use rates among officers are lower than among the general population.\* This is based on observational studies of the general public.

We will be discussing seat belts and our agency policies at the next [meeting].

[signature]

\*Perkins, MPH, Ron. (2019). *Utah observational surveys on seat belt use*

From: [agency-leader]  
To: All Staff  
RE: Seat Belt Use

Improving the health and safety of our communities is one of our primary responsibilities. Towards this end, we will be focusing on seat belt use, which is a proven method of keeping vehicle occupants safe.

Some of you may have participated in a survey conducted among law enforcement officers in our county about seat belts. The survey revealed important information:

MOST officers, 64%, agree it is important to protect themselves by always wearing a seat belt;\* and,

MOST officers, 64%, agree they should always wear a seat belt.\*

Over the coming weeks and months, we will be engaging in various efforts to increase seat belt use among our staff. I encourage you to reflect on these results and your own choices about wearing a seat belt.

[signature]

\*Center for Health and Safety Culture. (2020). *Utah law enforcement survey on seat belt use in Iron County*. Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana. (n=88)



# CONVERSATION GUIDE ON ALWAYS WEARING A SEAT BELT

## Purpose

Clarify existing norms about seat belts; reveal gaps between values, beliefs and behaviors; and motivate action to change.

## Guidance

Active, two-way conversation is one of the best ways to foster lasting, sustainable change in beliefs and behaviors. We often have a tendency to move right to action (such as just creating a rule and telling everyone to follow it). However, if we spend time aligning values and beliefs (e.g., the why behind the rule), it will help the rule become naturally ingrained into the culture. There will be less resistance and push back, and compliance will be easier.

Conversations can occur between two people (a supervisor and supervisee) or among small groups. We strongly recommend keeping the group size to four people or fewer—smaller is more effective. It is critical that everyone is actively engaged in the conversation.

We strongly encourage you to invest at least 15-20 minutes for these conversations in one session (more time will be required if there are multiple small groups).

## Tips for Effective Conversations

- Encourage broad participation—don't allow one person to dominate, seek input from everyone.
- Build connections between various thoughts—listen for what is emerging.
- Provide enough time for meaningful engagement—this investment will pay off many times over in the future.

## Background on the Law Enforcement Survey

The Center for Health and Safety Culture developed a survey to better understand the behaviors, beliefs and enforcement practices of law enforcement officers in rural Utah regarding seat belts. The survey was conducted online between June to September 2020. An email was sent to law enforcement leaders in Iron County. Approximately 122 officers were eligible to take the survey, and 88 responded (72%).



## Topic #1.

### A recent survey of Law Enforcement officers in Iron County revealed:

- 82% of officers strongly agree they want people they care about to ALWAYS wear a seat belt.<sup>1</sup>
- 88% of officers report their family has a rule about ALWAYS wearing a seat belt.<sup>1</sup>
- 97% of officers report their agency has a policy about ALWAYS wearing a seat belt.<sup>1</sup>

## Questions

- > What do these results say about officers?
- > How do these results reflect officers in this agency?

[If there is more than one group, share key points from each group.]

## Topic #2.

### Three more results from the survey:

- 64% of officers agree "It is important to protect myself by always wearing a seat belt."<sup>1</sup>
- 64% of officers agree "I should always wear a seat belt."<sup>1</sup>
- AND YET 24% of officers report NOT wearing a seat belt in the past week while on duty (43% report not wearing a seat belt at least once in the past year while on duty).<sup>1</sup> Only 57% of officers report ALWAYS wearing a seat belt.<sup>1</sup>

## Questions

- > What surprises you about these results?
- > What factors may lead to the discrepancy between beliefs about seat belts and actually using a seat belt?

[If there is more than one group, share key points from each group.]

## Topic #3.

### One more observation:

- Seat belt use is higher among county citizens than among law enforcement officers.<sup>2</sup>

## Questions

- > Within your area of influence, what can you do to impact our use of seat belts as an agency?

[If there is more than one group, share key points from each group.]

1. Center for Health and Safety Culture. (2020). *Utah law enforcement survey on seat belt use in Iron County*. Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana. (n=88)
2. Center for Health and Safety Culture. (2020). *Utah Community survey of adults on seat belt use in Iron and Uintah Counties*. Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana. (N=673)

## SECTION A

## INCREASE SEAT BELT USE AMONG LAW ENFORCEMENT

### STEP 2. Codify Norms In Agency Policy



## STEP 2:

# CODIFY NORMS IN AGENCY POLICY

After clarifying your agency's norms with all staff, it is important to codify the agency's seat belt expectations in policy. Wearing a seat belt is an important component of safety and should be required by policy.

Review your current policy and make sure it is up-to-date. If you do not have a policy, several sample policies are provided on pages 16-21.

### Here are several important items to consider as you review your agency's policy:

- Does the policy assign responsibility to the driver for making sure everyone is wearing a seat belt?
- Does the policy make it clear that supervisors are expected to enforce the policy?
- Does the policy apply to all staff (not just officers)?
- Does the policy establish clear consequences for not wearing a seat belt?
- Does the policy encourage wearing a seat belt while off duty?

After updating your policy, make sure you share and discuss it with all staff. Provide an opportunity to clarify any questions. Engaging in dialogue about the policy will make it real and establish clear expectations.



## SECTION A

## INCREASE SEAT BELT USE AMONG LAW ENFORCEMENT

### STEP 3. Enforce Agency Policy



## STEP 3:

# ENFORCE AGENCY POLICY

To achieve high seat belt use, the policy must be enforced.

### Here are a few tips:

- Reinforce expectations about following the policy with supervisors.
- Include a section on following policies in annual performance evaluations.
- Revisit the policy on a regular basis during safety briefings and trainings.



## SECTION A

## INCREASE SEAT BELT USE AMONG LAW ENFORCEMENT

### STEP 3. Enforce Agency Policy



### Sample Policy #1\*

# UTAH DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY POLICY MANUAL

## Seat Belt Procedure

### 1022.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

To establish the Utah Department of Public Safety's policy regarding the use of safety belts and child safety by employees. The use of seat belts and other safety restraints significantly reduces the chance of death or injury in case of a traffic collision. This policy establishes guidelines for seat belt and child safety seat use to promote maximum operator and passenger safety, thus reducing the possibility of death or injury as the result of a motor vehicle crash. This policy will apply to all employees operating or riding in Department vehicles (Utah Code 41-6a-1803).

### 1022.2 WEARING OF SAFETY RESTRAINTS

The Department recognizes the lifesaving benefit of occupant restraint usage. All employees should wear properly adjusted safety restraints when operating or riding in Department-owned, leased or rented vehicles and while operating or riding in privately owned vehicles while on duty. The driver is responsible for ensuring all occupants, including non-employees, are in compliance with this policy.

It is the intent of this policy that all employees wear seat belts whenever possible. However, sworn officers may dispense with wearing safety restraints in specific tactical situations or when it reasonably appears that, due to unusual circumstances, wearing a seat belt would hinder rather than increase safety.

All persons occupying the front or rear seat of a police vehicle shall wear available safety restraints unless physical conditions would prevent such from being applied (Utah Code 41-6a-1803(2)).

### 1022.3 TRANSPORTING CHILDREN

A passenger of a police vehicle younger than 8-years of age should be secured using a child restraint device in the manner prescribed by the manufacturer of the device. (Utah Code 41-6a-1803(1)(a)(ii)). A passenger under 8-years of age who is 57-inches tall or taller is exempt from the requirement to be in a child restraint device and should use a properly adjusted and fastened safety belt as required for passengers 8-years of age up to 16-years of age as described below (Utah Code 41-6a-1803(1)(b)). Members of the department who are rendering assistance to the public in an emergency or unusual situation are permitted to transport a



# SECTION A

## INCREASE SEAT BELT USE AMONG LAW ENFORCEMENT

### STEP 3. Enforce Agency Policy



child a short distance in a state vehicle without using an approved child safety seat, if none is readily available.

A passenger of a police vehicle 8-years of age up to 16-years of age should be secured in a properly adjusted and fastened safety belt (Utah Code 41-6a-1803(1)(a)(iii)).

Rear-seat passengers in a cage-equipped vehicle may have reduced clearance, which requires careful seating and positioning of seat belts. Due to this reduced clearance, children and the child restraint system or booster seat should be secured properly in the front seat of these vehicles, provided this positioning meets the vehicle and child restraint system manufacturer's design and use recommendations. In the event that small stature adults or a child under 12 years of age is transported in the front seat of a vehicle, the passenger side airbag should be deactivated. In the event this is not possible, officers should consider arranging for alternative transportation.

### 1022.4 TRANSPORTING PRISONERS

Whenever possible, prisoners should be secured in the prisoner restraint system in the rear seat of the patrol vehicle or, when a prisoner restraint system is not available, by seat belts. The prisoner should be in a seating position for which seat belts are not intended to be a substitute for handcuffs or other appendage restraints.

### 1022.5 INOPERABLE SEAT BELTS

No person shall operate a Department vehicle in which the seat belt in the driver's position is inoperable. No person shall be transported in a seating position in which the seat belt is inoperable.

No person shall modify, remove, deactivate or otherwise tamper with the vehicle safety belts, except for vehicle maintenance and repair staff who shall do so only with the express authorization of the Superintendent-Colonel.

Employees who discover an inoperable restraint system shall report the defect to the appropriate supervisor. Prompt action will be taken to replace or repair the system.

### 1022.6 SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES

Supervisors who become aware of a violation of the policy should immediately issue to the violating employee a written letter of warning. A copy of this letter of warning should be signed by the employee acknowledging receipt of a copy of the letter, and a copy of the letter will be placed in the employee's permanent personnel file. Subsequent violations will result in progressive disciplinary action being taken which could potentially result in a loss of employment.

Employees are strongly encouraged to use safety belts and child seats at all times when driving or riding in vehicles, even in situations not covered by this policy.

\* Utah Department of Public Safety (2017): Title 53. Public Safety Code retrieved from [le.utah.gov](http://le.utah.gov)

# SECTION A

## INCREASE SEAT BELT USE AMONG LAW ENFORCEMENT

### STEP 3. Enforce Agency Policy



### Sample Policy #2\*

#### I. Purpose:

To establish a policy to assure maximum operator and passenger safety, thus minimizing the possibility of death or injury as a result of motor vehicle crashes. This policy will apply to all personnel operating or riding in department vehicles.

#### II. Discussion:

Research clearly indicates that the use of safety belts has a significant effect in reducing the number of deaths and severity of injuries resulting from traffic crashes. A law enforcement officer's chance of being involved in a motor vehicle accident is approximately two to ten times greater than that of the general public. The use of safety restraints reduces this risk of death and serious injury and assists officers in maintaining proper control of their vehicles in pursuit and/or emergency high speed operations.

#### III. Policy:

To assure the safety of all personnel, safety belts shall be worn by drivers and passengers in all vehicles owned, leased or rented by the department at all times. This also applies to the operation of privately owned or other vehicles if used on duty.

#### IV. Recommendation:

It is strongly recommended that safety belts be utilized by department personnel and their families at all times in vehicles while in an off duty capacity, to further reduce the risk of death or injury.

#### V. Procedure:

- A) Department personnel shall use the safety belts installed by the vehicle manufacturer, properly adjusted and securely fastened, when operating or riding in any vehicle so equipped if used while on duty.
- B) Lap belts shall be properly secured in those vehicles equipped with automatic safety belt systems that require the lap portion of the belt be manually secured.
- C) The drivers of the vehicles are responsible for ensuring compliance by all occupants of the vehicles they are operating. Approved child safety restraints shall be used for all children of age, size or weight for which such restraints are prescribed by law.
- D) No person shall operate a department vehicle in which any safety belt in the driver's seating position is inoperable. No person shall be transported in a seating position in which the safety restraint is inoperable.

# SECTION A

## INCREASE SEAT BELT USE AMONG LAW ENFORCEMENT

### STEP 3. Enforce Agency Policy



- E) No person shall modify, remove, deactivate or otherwise tamper with the vehicle safety belts except for vehicle maintenance and repair and not without the express authorization of the Chief of Police.
- F) Personnel who discover an inoperable restraint system shall report the defect to the appropriate supervisor. Prompt action will be taken to replace or repair the system.
- G) Whenever possible, all prisoners are required to be secured in the vehicle by a safety belt in all seating positions for which safety belts are provided by the vehicle manufacturer. Caution: Prisoners that are handcuffed in front have the ability to release the handcuffs using the safety restraint latch plate.
- H) Officers operating in an undercover capacity may be exempt only if the officers believe that the use of the safety belt will compromise their identity.
- I) When arriving at an emergency call or making a vehicle traffic stop, the operator may remove the safety restraint just prior to stopping for quick exit. Caution should be exercised to ensure that during the traffic stop the violator is in fact going to stop. This prevents becoming involved in a pursuit without the use of a safety belt.

#### DRIVER AND/OR PASSENGER NEGLIGENCE

If negligence or noncompliance with the requirements of this order is displayed, appropriate corrective or disciplinary action shall be initiated as prescribed by department policies.

This order went into effect on XXXX.

\* Commonwealth of Massachusetts. (2017) International Association of Chiefs of Police Model Safety Belt Use Policy. Retrieved from: [www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov)

# SECTION A

## INCREASE SEAT BELT USE AMONG LAW ENFORCEMENT

### STEP 3. Enforce Agency Policy



### Sample Policy #3\*

## SAN FRANCISCO POLICE DEPARTMENT

This order establishes policy to help ensure maximum operator and passenger safety, minimizing the possibility of death or injury resulting from motor vehicle crashes.

### I. Introduction

Research clearly shows that the use of safety belts has a significant effect in reducing the number of deaths and the severity of injuries resulting from motor vehicle crashes. A law enforcement officer's chance of being involved in a motor vehicle crash is two to ten times greater than that of the general public. The use of safety restraints reduces the risk of death and serious injury and assists officers in maintaining proper control of their vehicles in pursuit and/or emergency high speed operations.

### II. Policy

- A. **USE OF SEATBELTS.** It is the policy of the San Francisco Police Department to ensure the safety of all personnel and their families. In accordance with California Vehicle Code Section 27315, safety belts shall be worn by drivers and passengers in all vehicles owned, leased or rented by the Department when in motion. This also applies to the operation of privately owned or other vehicles used on duty. Department personnel shall use properly adjusted and securely fastened safety belts when operating or riding in vehicles so equipped.
- B. **DRIVERS RESPONSIBILITY.** The vehicle's driver is responsible for ensuring compliance by all passengers.
- C. **TRANSPORTING CHILDREN.** Approved child safety restraints shall be used when transporting children under the age of four years or weighing less than 40 pounds.
- D. **OPERATION OF DEPARTMENT VEHICLES.** No person shall ever operate a Department vehicle or transport anyone when he/she does not have an operable seat belt.
- E. **TRANSPORTING ARRESTED PERSONS.** A person under arrest and being transported in a department vehicle is required to be secured by a safety belt where provided by the vehicle manufacturer. Officers are exempt from this policy when:
  - 1. The rear seat belts have been removed
  - 2. The prisoner is resisting or combative and the officer's safety would be jeopardized by attempting to secure a safety belt around the prisoner. If available, a wagon should be used to transport such prisoners.

## SECTION A

## INCREASE SEAT BELT USE AMONG LAW ENFORCEMENT

### STEP 3. Enforce Agency Policy



3. The prisoner's size or build, coupled with vehicle configuration, create a hardship to accomplish the securing of the safety belt around the prisoner.

**F. REMOVAL OF SEAT BELTS.** When arriving at an emergency call, a potentially dangerous situation or making vehicle traffic stop officers may remove the safety restraint for a quick exit prior to stopping. In traffic stops, the officer must be reasonably sure that the violator is going to stop before removing the safety restraint to prevent the officers entering into a pursuit without using the safety belt.

#### **G. EXEMPTIONS FOR UNDERCOVER OFFICERS**

1. Officers functioning in an undercover capacity are exempt from this policy when:
  - a. The wearing of the belt could pose safety problems when the officer anticipates being in proximity to a suspect while conducting undercover operations
  - b. The wearing of the belt could compromise the officer's identity
2. This exemption is intended to facilitate the undercover narcotic or vice officers in conducting their duties when they are about to contact street dealers, prostitutes, etc. Officers working a plainclothes detail or on routine patrol are not exempted. Undercover officers merely in transit or on administrative assignment are not exempted.

**H. TRAINING.** Roll call video training will be provided prior to implementation of this order. A practical application training regarding seat belt usage will be provided in conjunction with roll call training to be conducted at the unit level. Additional training will be provided in future inservice training sessions.

- I. VIOLATIONS.** Noncompliance with the requirement of this order will result in appropriate corrective or disciplinary action as follows:
1. Verbal reminders for initial incidents
  2. Formal counseling, which could be included in PIP for repeated violations.
  3. Recommendation of discipline for patterns of noncompliance or refusal to wear a safety belt.

\* San Francisco Police Department (2017). Seat Belt Policy. Retrived from: <http://sanfranciscopolice.org>

# SECTION B

## PROMOTE CONSISTENT ENFORCEMENT OF SEAT BELT LAWS

Overview



**MOST Iron County Adults, 66%, AGREE that local law enforcement should enforce Utah seat belt laws.**

Center for Health and Safety Culture. (2020). *Utah Community Survey of adults on seat belt use in Iron and Uintah Counties*. Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana. (N=673)

Research has shown that consistent, visible enforcement of seat belt laws increases seat belt use.

Most adults support enforcement of Utah’s seat belt laws and most officers in this county (66%) agree that local law enforcement should enforce Utah seat belt laws.\* However, many officers report inconsistent enforcement:

- Only 50% report always enforcing the law when in a situation with a child younger than age 8 who was in violation.\*
- Only 36% report always enforcing the law when in a situation with a child (age 8 to 18) who was in violation.\*
- Only 16% of officers report always enforcing Utah’s seat belt laws when in a situation with an adult who was in violation.\*

### Two-Step Strategy To Promote Seat Belt Enforcement

**STEP 1.** Clarify Agency Norms about Seat Belt Enforcement

**STEP 2.** Community Outreach

\*Center for Health and Safety Culture. (2020). *Utah law enforcement survey on seat belt use in Iron County*. Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana. (n=88)



## SECTION B

## PROMOTE CONSISTENT ENFORCEMENT OF SEAT BELT LAWS

### STEP 1. Clarify Agency Norms



## STEP 1:

# CLARIFY AGENCY NORMS ABOUT SEAT BELT ENFORCEMENT

The first step in increasing seat belt enforcement is to clarify the agency's norms. This process establishes clear expectations and clarifies misperceptions that some officers may have about what most officers are doing.

The survey of law enforcement officers reveals misperceptions of norms among officers:

- Many officers, (51%), do NOT believe their supervisor strongly agrees that Utah seat belt laws should be enforced.\*
- MOST officers, (69%), report enforcing Utah's seat belt laws with adults more than half the time they were in a situation with an adult who was in violation; however, 30% believe that MOST officers in their agency don't enforce the laws.\*
- Officers who report not wearing a seat belt themselves are LESS likely to enforce Utah's seat belt laws.\*

Several tools to clarify norms are provided:

### Print Media

We encourage you to place the print media as soon as possible in areas of high visibility for your staff. The print media is designed to reach agency staff—not necessarily the public. Places like meeting rooms and lunch rooms are all appropriate locations.

### Sample Emails

Two sample emails that can be sent to all staff are included on page 24. These emails reinforce the information on the posters and help clarify agency norms.

### Conversation Guide

While posters and emails are important to help share information, two-way communication is more effective in changing beliefs. We strongly encourage you to engage staff in structured conversations about consistent enforcement. A simple conversation guide is included on pages 25 and 26. We recommend engaging in this conversation with those whom you supervise. Then have them repeat the process with their staff (until everyone in the agency has participated in a conversation). Having the conversations take place between supervisors and their staff increases clarity about agency expectations.

#### Conversation Guide Directions:

1. Group size should be four people or smaller. If the group is larger than four people, break into smaller groups and allow additional time for groups to share thoughts between topics.
2. Provide a copy of pages 25 and 26 for all participants.
3. Discuss each topic in order. Spend about 7-10 minutes on each topic depending on group size (allow more time for groups of 3 or 4 and more time to share out with multiple groups).

\*Center for Health and Safety Culture. (2020). *Utah law enforcement survey on seat belt use in Iron County*. Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana. (n=88)

## SECTION B

### PROMOTE CONSISTENT ENFORCEMENT OF SEAT BELT LAWS

#### STEP 1. Clarify Agency Norms



# DRAFT AGENCY EMAILS ABOUT CONSISTENT ENFORCEMENT OF UTAH'S SEAT BELT LAWS

From: [agency-leader]

To: All Staff

RE: Consistent enforcement of Utah's seat belt laws

Improving the health and safety of our communities is one of our primary responsibilities. In our efforts to increase seat belt use by staff and residents, we are expanding our focus beyond our own use of seat belts to address consistent enforcement.

Some of you may have participated in a survey conducted among law enforcement officers in our county about seat belts. The survey reveals important information:

- MOST officers, 66%, agree law enforcement should enforce Utah's seat belt laws; and,\*
- MOST adults in our community, over 66%, agree that local law enforcement should enforce Utah's seat belt laws.\*

While MOST officers are enforcing these laws, there is room for improvement.

Over the coming weeks and months, we will be engaging in various efforts to increase consistent seat belt enforcement among our staff. I encourage you to reflect on these results and your own choices about enforcing Utah's seat belt laws.

\* Center for Health and Safety Culture. (2020). *Utah law enforcement survey on seat belt use in Iron County*. Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana. (n=88)

From: [agency-leader]

To: All Staff

RE: Seat Belt Enforcement

As many of you know from responding to crashes, seat belts are very protective. Unrestrained crash occupants are over 14 times more likely to be killed than restrained crash occupants.<sup>1</sup>

Consistent enforcement of Utah's seat belt laws will increase seat belt use in our community. While most adults in our community are wearing their seat belts, many are not. Our enforcement behaviors will make a difference in the safety of our community.

Most officers (69%) are enforcing Utah's seat belt laws more than half the time with an adult who is in violation; however, this leaves officers who are not.<sup>2</sup> Clearly, we can improve our enforcement consistency. Please consistently enforce Utah's seat belt laws.

[signature]

1. Utah Department of Public Safety, Highway Safety Office. Utah Crash Data and Statistics, Salt Lake City, UT: Utah Department of Public Safety. Retrieved from <https://highwaysafety.utah.gov/crash-data/>
2. Center for Health and Safety Culture. (2020). *Utah law enforcement survey on seat belt use in Iron County*. Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana. (n=88)





# CONVERSATION GUIDE ON CONSISTENT ENFORCEMENT OF UTAH'S SEAT BELT LAWS

## Purpose

Clarify existing norms about seat belt enforcement; reveal gaps between values, beliefs and behaviors; and motivate consistent enforcement.

## Guidance

Active, two-way conversation is one of the best ways to foster lasting, sustainable change in beliefs and behaviors. We often have a tendency to move right to action (such as just creating a rule and telling everyone to follow it). However, spending time aligning values and beliefs (e.g., the why behind the rule) will help the rule become naturally integrated into the culture. There will be less resistance and push back, and compliance will be easier.

Conversations can occur between two people (a supervisor and supervisee) or among small groups. We strongly recommend keeping the group size to four people or fewer—smaller is much better. It is critical that everyone is actively engaged in the conversation.

We strongly encourage you to invest at least 15-20 minutes for these conversations in each session (more time is required if there are multiple small groups).

## Tips for Effective Conversations

- Encourage broad participation—don't allow one person to dominate, seek input from everyone.
- Build connections between various thoughts—listen for what is emerging.
- Provide enough time for meaningful engagement—this investment will pay off many times over in the future.





**Topic #1.**  
**A recent survey of Law Enforcement officers in our county revealed:**

- 66% of officers agree that local law enforcement should enforce Utah’s seat belt laws.<sup>1</sup>
- 80% of officers agree that their agency supports enforcement of Utah’s seat belt laws.<sup>1</sup>
- Over 66% of adults agree that local law enforcement should enforce Utah’s seat belt laws.<sup>1</sup>

**Questions**

- > What do these results say about attitudes toward enforcing Utah’s seat belt laws?

[If there is more than one group, share key points from each group.]

**Topic #2.**  
**Three more results from the survey:**

- MOST officers, (69%), report enforcing seat belt laws with adults more than half the time.<sup>1</sup>
- However, 30% of officers did NOT believe MOST officers did this.<sup>1</sup>
- And 59% did NOT strongly agree that their agency has made it clear that they are expected to enforce Utah’s seat belt laws for adults.<sup>1</sup>

**Questions**

- > What surprises you about these results?
- > What factors may lead to the discrepancy between beliefs about consistently enforcing these laws and actual enforcement behaviors?

[If there is more than one group, share key points from each group.]

**Topic #3.**  
**One more observation:**

- Consistently enforcing seat belt laws will save lives.

**Questions**

- > Within your area of influence, what can you do to impact consistent enforcement in our agency?

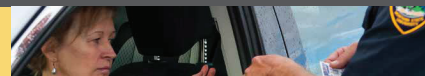
[If there is more than one group, share key points from each group.]

1. Center for Health and Safety Culture. (2020). *Utah law enforcement survey on seat belt use in Iron County*. Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana. (n=88)

## SECTION B

## PROMOTE CONSISTENT ENFORCEMENT OF SEAT BELT LAWS

### STEP 2. Community Outreach



## STEP 2:

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Promote year round enforcement by working with Utah Department of Public Safety to increase community outreach by integrating these events and programs into your agency's action plans.

The Utah Department of Public Safety has brochures, flyers, posters and other educational materials available to the public. To view and order materials, visit the website <http://publicsafety.utah.gov/> or contact its customer service specialist at 801-366-6040.

## CALENDAR OF ANNUAL SEAT BELT PROMOTION EVENTS

### February

#### Buckle Up For The Ones You Love

- Statewide Utah Highway Patrol
- Primary target: men, ages 18-54
- Secondary target: women and children
- Special emphasis: hard-core non-users

### March

#### Click It or Ticket — Day or Night

- Special focus: Weber and Salt Lake Counties
- Primary target: nighttime motorists
- Secondary target: men, ages 18-34

### May

#### Statewide Click It or Ticket

- Primary target: men, ages 18-34
- Secondary target: adults, ages 18-54
- Special emphasis: pickup truck occupants

### August

#### Rural Campaign Specific

- Box Elder, Sanpete, and San Juan Counties
- Primary target: men, ages 18-34
- Secondary target: adults, ages 18-54
- Special emphasis: pickup truck occupants

### November

#### Statewide Click It or Ticket

- Primary target: men, ages 18-34
- Secondary target: adults, ages 18-54
- Special emphasis: holiday travel



## SECTION B

## PROMOTE CONSISTENT ENFORCEMENT OF SEAT BELT LAWS

### STEP 2. Community Outreach



## PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES



*A Goal We Can All Live With*

What is an acceptable number of fatalities on the road for your loved ones? Of course, the answer is ZERO. Zero Fatalities is Utah's traffic safety program addressing the top five behaviors that are killing people on Utah's roads: drowsy driving, distracted driving, aggressive driving, impaired driving and not buckling up. Zero Fatalities provides presentations/assemblies to groups, schools, and businesses, free of charge.



Don't Drive Stupid targets the No. 1 killer of teens: motor vehicle crashes. In Utah, teens make up seven percent of all drivers; however, they are involved in nearly a quarter of all crashes. This does not have to be the case. To change these statistics and save lives, the Don't Drive Stupid program offers presentations and assemblies for Utah high schools and middle schools, peer-to-peer programs, video and calendar contests and resources at no charge.



Click It or Ticket is a nationwide enforcement campaign designed to increase seat belt use and reduce highway fatalities. The campaign encourages all motorists to always buckle up—every time, day and night. Currently, enforcement mobilizations are conducted in Utah during May and November but law enforcement officers are encouraged to enforce the state's safety belt law year round.

*For more information, contact the Utah Highway Safety Office at 801-366-6040.*



The Click It Club program aims to teach kids about the importance of wearing their seat belts properly (including booster seats), teach parents that they need to buckle kids before they leave the school property and whenever they are in a car, and use kids' influence to get their parents and other family members to buckle up.

*For more information about the program, call 801-366-6040.*



Buckle Up For Love is a program administered by the Utah Safety Council, which encourages concerned citizens to report unrestrained children by calling 1-800-887-KIDS. By providing the license plate number, the owner of the observed vehicle will receive life-saving information regarding their child.



The Hold On To Dear Life® campaign was established at Primary Children's Medical Center in 1991, to educate the community on how to keep children safe. Although the original campaign focused solely on child restraint/seat belt use and child abuse prevention, it has been broadened in the past few years to include the award winning Spot the Tot and other injury prevention topics.

*For more information, call 801-662-6580.*

## SECTION B

## PROMOTIONS TO INCREASE SEAT BELT USE AND ENFORCEMENT

### STEP 2. Community Outreach



## PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES



Even the toughest guys get broken. Teens are dying in truck crashes every day from not wearing their seat belts. Maybe this even happened to one of your friends. The fact of the matter is that if you live in a rural area, are a male, are a teen, and drive a truck, then you're in the group most likely to DIE in a car crash from not buckling your seat belt.

*For more information, call 801-273-6666 or toll-free 800-284-1131.*



Alive at 25 is a young-driver intervention program developed by the National Safety Council for drivers between 15 and 24 years of age. The program was implemented in Utah in 2007 and includes a 4.5-hour course that focuses on the decision-making processes and behaviors that young drivers and passengers display in a motor vehicle and is designed to prevent the No. 1 killer of teens: automobile crashes.

*For more information contact the Utah Safety Council at 801-746-7233 or call toll-free 800-933-5943.*



One of the goals of the Utah Highway Patrol (UHP) is to share critical safety information and teach principles of prevention in hopes to decrease death, injury, and property damage due to traffic crashes in Utah. Through the UHP's public information and education program, troopers are able to provide presentations at businesses and schools, be present at community events, and educate using a variety of tools and resources. The UHP also administers the Adopt-A-High School program, which targets schools across the state that have demonstrated low seat belt use rates among students.



The Seat Belt Convincer is a teaching tool utilized by the Utah Highway Patrol that features two separate single-occupancy carriages atop a 26-foot flatbed trailer. The steel frame carriages have drive trains that allow them to collide with each other at a speed of 5 mph, which mimics a head-on collision. The machine can be displayed at community events to help educate motorists about the importance of buckling up.

*To schedule the Convincer, contact Sergeant Matt Smith at 801-828-7514.*

## SECTION B

## PROMOTE CONSISTENT ENFORCEMENT OF SEAT BELT LAWS

### STEP 2. Community Outreach



## PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES



Safe Kids Utah is a statewide network of 14 coalitions and chapters that work to prevent unintentional childhood injury, the leading cause of death and disability for children ages 1 to 14. Safe Kids members educate families, provide safety devices to families in need and advocate for better laws to help keep children safe, healthy, and out of the emergency room.

For more information, contact the Utah Department of Health's Violence and Injury Prevention Program at 801-538-6852.



The Utah Safety Council works with this employer-based program to reduce traffic crashes, the primary cause of lost work time and employee fatalities. Utah NETS helps employers implement well-developed policies, dynamic workplace programs and community activities. Utah NETS can enhance the quality of life and reduce traffic crashes in your organization.

For more information contact the Utah Safety Council at 801-746-7233 or toll free at 800-933-5943.



Seat belts were designed for adults, not children. They can place a young child at risk of serious injury. Booster seats elevate the child so that the shoulder belt fits snugly over the middle of the shoulder and the center of the chest; the lap belt fits across the child's upper hips or upper thigh, not the stomach.



## SECTION B

## PROMOTE CONSISTENT ENFORCEMENT OF SEAT BELT LAWS

### STEP 2. Community Outreach



## TRAINING



The education of law enforcement officers regarding the risks and hazards to the motoring public as well as the profession is a key element to creating understanding of the critical role the use of occupant protection equipment plays in reducing injuries and fatalities in vehicle crashes. This 4 hour course provides the knowledge, skills and tools necessary to strengthen the ability of law enforcement officers and line supervisors to assist them in identifying and addressing occupant protection issues they are likely to encounter in the performance of their duties.

*For more information, contact Kerilee Burton at [kburton@utah.gov](mailto:kburton@utah.gov).*

### SAFE COMMUNITIES COALITIONS

Safe Communities Coalitions expand resources and partnerships, increase program visibility, and establish community ownership and support for roadway related injury prevention programs.

*For more information visit <http://publicsafety.utah.gov/highwaysafety/>*



The National Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Certification Training Program certifies individuals as child passenger safety technicians and instructors. Tens of thousands of individuals have been certified since the program began in 1997. CPS technicians and instructors put their knowledge to work through a variety of activities, including car seat checks where parents and caregivers receive education and hands-on assistance with the proper use of child restraint systems and safety belts.

*For more information, contact Kerilee Burton at 801-505-3315.*



Free, one-hour seminars on injury prevention and child passenger safety are provided for pediatricians, family physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, residents and reception and nursing staff. The seminars provide an opportunity for medical professionals to hear about new technology, products, best practice guidelines from the AAP and to meet with local safety specialists who can serve as a resource for parents regarding child safety. CME credit is available.

*For more information, contact Primary Children's Medical Center at 801-662-6580.*

### OPERATION KIDS: NEXT GENERATION

This 4 hour course was developed to create an awareness of child passenger safety and the importance of making child passenger safety enforcement and education a routine part of the daily duties of police officers as well as health care, EMS, fire and rescue personnel, and child care providers. Participants will learn how critical their role is in promoting child passenger safety and will learn to become more effective child passenger safety advocates and educators. Class participants will enhance their knowledge of the resources available for child passenger safety, including information sources, materials, and public assistance programs.

*For more information, contact Kerilee Burton at [kburton@utah.gov](mailto:kburton@utah.gov).*

## SECTION C

### INCREASE PUBLIC EDUCATION ABOUT SEAT BELT USE

#### Overview



Law enforcement officers have powerful voices. Many community members will be influenced by what officers say. Using these powerful voices to improve health and safety is a meaningful way to serve communities.

This section provides a variety of tools to support your efforts to educate your community about the importance of always wearing a seat belt.

#### These tools include:

- talking points;
- ready-to-use text for news releases, interviews, or announcements;
- an informational card that officers can hand out to citizens; and
- Utah Safety Restraint Enforcement Guide.





## SECTION C

### INCREASE PUBLIC EDUCATION ABOUT SEAT BELT USE

#### TOOL 1. Talking Points



## TOOL 1: TALKING POINTS

### Concerns:

- According to Utah crash statistics over the past 7 years, 24% of crash deaths in Utah have involved unrestrained occupants.<sup>1</sup>
- Unrestrained crash occupants were over 14 times more likely to be killed than restrained crash occupants.<sup>1</sup>
- Unrestrained occupants were 55 times more likely to be fully ejected from a motor vehicle compared to restrained occupants.<sup>1</sup>

### Reasons we can increase seat belt use in our county:

- Most adults in our county, over 94%, agree it is important to protect themselves by always wearing a seat belt.<sup>2</sup>
- Over 9 out of 10 adults in our county agree they want people they care about to always wear a seat belt.<sup>2</sup>
- Most adults in our county are wearing their seat belts.<sup>2</sup>



### Actions to increase seat belt use in our county:

Law enforcement is taking additional actions to address this issue:

- promoting increased seat belt use by our officers when on duty;
  - seeking consistent enforcement of Utah's seat belt laws; and
  - speaking out about this important public health issue.
- Utah's Department of Public Safety is using media in our county as a part of the Together for Life campaign.

### Here are three critical steps you can take:

1. Establish a family rule about always wearing a seat belt.
2. Encourage your workplace to establish a policy about always wearing a seat belt.
3. Whenever you are in a vehicle, make sure everyone always wears a seat belt.

1. Utah Department of Public Safety, Highway Safety Office. Utah Crash Data and Statistics, Salt Lake City, UT: Utah Department of Public Safety. Retrieved from <https://highwaysafety.utah.gov/crash-data/>
2. Center for Health and Safety Culture. (2020). *Utah community survey of adults on seat belt use in Iron and Uintah Counties*. Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana. (N=673)

## SECTION C

### INCREASE PUBLIC EDUCATION ABOUT SEAT BELT USE

#### TOOL 2. Ready-to-Use Text



## TOOL 2: READY-TO-USE TEXT

### Sample Statement: Public Safety and Seat Belts

To keep those we care about safe, one of the easiest steps we can take is to make sure they always wear a seat belt. Utah crash data show that unrestrained crash occupants were over 14 times more likely to be killed than restrained crash occupants.<sup>1</sup> Even while driving close to home and at slow speeds, vehicles can roll over. Seat belts are critical protection during a roll over.

We are encouraged by the fact that most people in our county always wear a seat belt.<sup>2</sup> However, we need to work together and make it sure it is everyone, all the time. Regretfully, our officers still respond to crashes in which people have been needlessly killed or seriously injured because they were not wearing a seat belt.

By working together on this issue, we can save lives, reduce our auto and health insurance rates, and protect those we care about. Speak up about seat belts. Make sure you and those you care about always wear a seat belt. And always ask others in the vehicle with you to buckle up.

### Sample Statement: After a Crash

Yesterday's car crash is another tragic example of how wearing a seat belt could have saved a life. While most adults in our community always wear a seat belt,<sup>2</sup> the individual in yesterday's crash was not. This fatality/serious injury is an important reminder for all of us to always wear a seat belt and to remind those we care about to always wear a seat belt.

### Sample Statement: Family Rules

Family rules about seat belts work! In a recent survey of Utah adults, adults who reported that their family has a rule about always wearing a seat belt were over four times more likely to always buckle up, as compared to families that did not have a rule.<sup>2</sup> Always wearing your seat belt, even on short trips, is one of the simplest ways to protect yourself. Utah crash data show that unrestrained crash occupants were over 14 times more likely to be killed than restrained crash occupants.<sup>1</sup>

### Sample Statement: Workplace Policies

Workplace policies requiring employees to always wear a seat belt are an effective tool that protect employees and help reduce potential costs for an employer. In a recent survey in our community, adults who indicated their workplace had a policy about always wearing a seat belt were 10% more likely to always buckle up, as compared to those who did not have a workplace policy.<sup>2</sup>

Utah crash data show that unrestrained crash occupants were over 14 times more likely to be killed than restrained crash occupants.<sup>1</sup> By requiring employees to always wear a seat belt even on short trips, employers can reduce the likelihood of serious injury or death for their employees. Improving the safety of employees just makes good business sense.

1. Utah Department of Public Safety, Highway Safety Office. Utah Crash Data and Statistics, Salt Lake City, UT: Utah Department of Public Safety. Retrieved from <https://highwaysafety.utah.gov/crash-data/>
2. Center for Health and Safety Culture. (2020). *Utah community survey of adults on seat belt use in Iron and Uintah Counties*. Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana. (N=673)

# SECTION C

## INCREASE PUBLIC EDUCATION ABOUT SEAT BELT USE

### TOOL 3. Informational Card



## TOOL 3: INFORMATIONAL CARD

The following card will be provided to your agency and can be distributed by officers during traffic stops or during special events. The card is based on an intervention shown to increase seat belt use.

**TOGETHER FOR LIFE**  
Iron

### Did you know?

Utah crash data show that unrestrained crash occupants were over 14 times more likely to be killed than restrained crash occupants.<sup>1</sup>

Seat belts are the best protection.

**MOST** Iron County adults, 95%, want people they care about to always wear a seat belt.<sup>2</sup>

**MOST** Iron County adults, 71%, always wear their seat belts.<sup>2</sup>

**MOST** Iron County adults, 75%, believe it is the driver's responsibility to make sure others are wearing their seat belts.<sup>2</sup>

[www.togetherforlifeutah.org](http://www.togetherforlifeutah.org)

### Choosing to be Together For Life

Is it important to...

Be a good role model for your children by always wearing a seat belt?

Not at all important — Important — Extremely important

Avoid being injured or killed in a traffic crash?

Not at all important — Important — Extremely important

Avoid getting a ticket?

Not at all important — Important — Extremely important

Avoid a lifelong disability?

Not at all important — Important — Extremely important

Know that people who care about you want you to always wear a seat belt?

Not at all important — Important — Extremely important

Follow your family rules about always wearing a seat belt?

Not at all important — Important — Extremely important

Follow your workplace rules about always wearing a seat belt?

Not at all important — Important — Extremely important

Which one is most important to you? Think about this every time the vehicle starts. Choose to be Together for Life. Always wear a seat belt.

[www.togetherforlifeutah.org](http://www.togetherforlifeutah.org)

1. Utah Department of Public Safety, Highway Safety Office, Utah Crash Data and Statistics, Salt Lake City, UT, Utah Department of Public Safety, retrieved from <https://highwaysafety.utah.gov/crash-data/>  
2. Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana, (n.d.). Utah community survey of adults' car seat belt use in Iron County, Ferrandus, W. G., Mitchell, P. M., Jamarska, A. S., Winter, M. R., Bullock, H., Donovan, J., ... Callon, T. (2008). Brief Motivational Intervention to Increase Self-reported Safety Belt Use among Emergency Department Patients. *Academic Emergency Medicine*, 15(5), 419-425. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1553-2712.2008.00096.x>

# SECTION C

## INCREASE PUBLIC EDUCATION ABOUT SEAT BELT USE

### TOOL 4. Utah Safety Restraint Enforcement Guide



## UTAH'S LAW TO SAVE LIVES

### UTAH SAFETY RESTRAINT ENFORCEMENT GUIDE

*Utah Traffic Code 41-6a-1803*

## IT'S ABOUT SAVING LIVES

Seat belts are the single **most effective** traffic safety device for preventing death and injury.

Seat belts help the driver **stay in the driver seat** to maintain control of the vehicle.

Seat belts **reduce the risk** of injury or death by 50% when used properly.

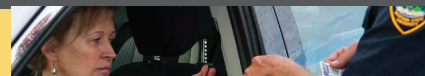
## UTAH PRIMARY SEAT BELT LAW

Violation of Law	First Offense	Second Offense
Driver	Written warning to driver	Citation may be issued to driver
Passenger(s) Ages 16 and Older	Written warning to passenger(s)	Citation may be issued to passenger(s)
Passenger Ages 8 to 15	Written warning to driver	Citation may be issued to driver
Passenger Under 8 Without Booster/Car Seat	Written warning to driver	Citation may be issued to driver
Penalty	Written warning	<b>Maximum fine: \$45</b> Non-moving violation, no points assessed
Exceptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-July 1966 vehicles without seat belts</li> <li>• Written verification from a licensed physician</li> <li>• All other seat belt positions are occupied</li> <li>• Only applies to seating position required to have seat belts</li> <li>• Children under 8 who are 57 inches tall or taller are exempt from the requirement to be in a child restraint</li> </ul>	
Seat Belt Safety Course	Fine is waived upon completion of an online 30-minute seat belt safety course. Contact the Utah Safety Council at 801-746-SAFE (7233), toll free 800-933-5943 or online at <a href="http://utahsafetycouncil.org">utahsafetycouncil.org</a> .	

## SECTION C

### INCREASE PUBLIC EDUCATION ABOUT SEAT BELT USE

#### TOOL 4. Utah Safety Restraint Enforcement Guide



## WHAT ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES NEED TO KNOW

#### WHAT'S CHANGED?

All seat belt violations became a primary offense for all ages. Enforcement action on a first offense is restricted to a written warning.

#### WHEN CAN AN OFFICER WRITE A CITATION?

A seat belt citation can be issued when the individual breaking the law has previously been issued a written warning for the same violation.

#### HOW ARE SEAT BELT WARNINGS BEING TRACKED?

Written seat belt warnings will be tracked in UCJIS, using the driver license inquiry screen accessed by the officer or dispatch. Warnings must be submitted electronically to the State.

#### CAN AN OFFICER ISSUE A CITATION FOR A SEAT BELT VIOLATION IF THE INDIVIDUAL IS STOPPED FOR A DIFFERENT OFFENSE?

Only after the first written warning is issued can a citation be given regardless of whether or not a motorist is stopped for a different offense. A verbal warning is not enough. A written electronic warning is required for tracking purposes.

#### CAN I ISSUE A CITATION ON THE FIRST OFFENSE FOR UNRESTRAINED PASSENGERS UNDER THE AGE OF 19?

No. The current law requires that warnings be issued for all passengers on the first offense, including children.

#### CAN YOU CITE AN OUT OF STATE DRIVER?

No. A warning must be issued unless an agency can show a written warning has been issued and entered into their RMS system. Warnings issued prior to May 12 do not apply to this requirement. Utah DLD cannot track warnings for out of State drivers.

#### WHAT IS THE PENALTY FOR A SEAT BELT CITATION?

The maximum fine is \$45. This fine is waived upon completion of an online 30-minute seat belt safety course that is available through the Utah Safety Council at [utahsafetycouncil.org](http://utahsafetycouncil.org). Inquirers may also call the Council at 801-746-SAFE (7233) or toll-free 800-933-5943 for more information.

#### WHEN IS THE LAW IN EFFECT?

May 12, 2015 through July 1, 2018. During these three years, a warning period will be used to educate the public about the life-saving benefits of buckling up. Our goal is to increase seat belt use throughout the state. Enforcement and education are critical to making this law permanent.

#### WHAT CAN LAW ENFORCEMENT DO TO HELP ENSURE SEAT BELT USE REMAINS A PRIMARY LAW?

Educate non-users on the benefits of wearing a seat belt, issue written warnings on the first offense and provide educational handouts to violators.

#### IF A PERSON HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY CITED OR WARNED FOR A SEAT BELT VIOLATION (PRIOR TO MAY 12), IS THAT CONSIDERED A WARNING?

Beginning May 12th the law becomes effective as does the warning period. All previous warnings and citations are irrelevant to the new law and warnings must be issued for the first violation.

**zero Fatalities**<sup>®</sup>  
A Goal We Can All Live With

A UDOT and DPS Program

CLICK IT  UTAH   
Everyone. Every Time.

# Key Findings Report



*Adult*

## *Iron County*

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Based on the 2020 Utah Community  
Survey of Adults on Seat Belt Use in Iron County

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Prepared for the  
Highway Safety Office,  
Utah Department of Public Safety





Center for Health and Safety Culture. (2020). *Utah community survey on seat belt use in Iron County*. Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana. (n=338)

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# Increasing Seat Belt Use in Rural Utah

## Executive Summary

The Utah Department of Public Safety's Highway Safety Office (HSO) has recognized that significant disparities exist between urban and rural rates of seat belt use among citizens of Utah. The Utah Seat Belt Observational Survey revealed that seat belts are used less frequently in rural areas of Utah than the statewide average in urban areas.<sup>1</sup> Driving or riding in a vehicle without a seat belt is a well-recognized contributing factor to fatality, serious injury, and harm associated with traffic crashes.

A recent survey conducted by the Center for Health and Safety Culture on behalf of the HSO revealed strong positive norms regarding protective behaviors and attitudes about seat belts among adults in two rural counties of Utah: Iron and Uintah.<sup>2</sup> However, many adults misperceived these positive norms.<sup>2</sup> For example, while most adults are wearing seat belts, many adults do not believe that MOST others in the communities are engaging in these protective behaviors.<sup>2</sup> Similarly, adults significantly underestimated the prevalence of protective beliefs and behaviors about seat belts among adults in the communities.<sup>2</sup>

Most adults support strong enforcement of seat belt laws and agree with encouraging others in the vehicle with them to wear their seat belts.<sup>2</sup> However, many adults misperceived these positive norms.<sup>2</sup> For example, while most adults strongly agreed that a driver has the responsibility to make sure others in the vehicle wear a seat belt, many did not believe that MOST adults in their community felt the same way.<sup>2</sup> Recommendations are made to correct misperceptions and address gaps in knowledge.

## Background

The Center for Health and Safety Culture developed a survey to better understand the behaviors, beliefs and attitudes of adults in rural Utah regarding seat belts. The survey was conducted using a telephone survey of a representative sample of households in Iron and Uintah Counties between September 26, 2020 and November 6, 2020. In Iron, 338 individuals responded. The results of this survey only represent the behaviors and beliefs of those adults in the two counties surveyed and cannot be generalized to adults in other counties in Utah or adults in other states.





## *Iron County Key Findings*

### **Seat Belt Use among Adults – Actual and Perceived Norms**

**In 2020, MOST adults in Iron County, 71%, report always wearing their seat belt. However, 85% perceived that most other adults in their county do NOT always wear their seat belt (Q4).**

- 72% report always wearing their seat belt when driving within a few miles of their home. However, 80% perceive that most other adults in their county do not always wear their seat belts (Q2).
- 91% report always wearing their seat belt when driving many miles from their home. However, 73% perceive that most other adults in their county do **not** always wear their seat belts (Q3).

### **Observational Studies Reveal Most Adults Wear Their Seat Belts**

**Observational studies completed in 2019 show MOST adults are wearing their seat belts.**

- In 2019, observational studies conducted in Iron County revealed that **84% of adults were wearing their seat belts.**<sup>1</sup>



## *Iron County Key Findings*

### **Most Adults Have Positive Beliefs about Wearing Seat Belts**

- **In 2020, MOST adults in Iron County, 80%, strongly agree that “it is important to protect myself by always wearing a seat belt.” However, 65% perceive that most other adults in their county do NOT strongly agree (Q6).**
  - 46% strongly or mostly agree that they wear a seat belt because they don’t want to get a ticket (Q7).
  - 78% strongly or mostly agree that they wear a seat belt because they want to set a good example for their children (Q8).
  - 65% strongly or mostly disagree that seat belts are just as likely to harm you as help you (Q9).
  - 82% strongly or mostly agree that people are less likely to be seriously injured or killed if they always wear their seat belt (Q10).
  - 82% strongly or mostly agree that seat belts help prevent lifelong disabilities such as paralysis, spinal cord injuries and serious brain injuries (Q11).
  - 88% strongly agree that parents should require their children to always use an appropriate child car seat or, when big enough, a seat belt (Q15).
- **In 2020, MOST adults in Iron County, 83%, strongly agree that they should always wear a seat belt (Q12).**
  - 86% strongly agree that they want people they care about to always wear a seat belt (Q13).
  - 80% strongly agree that “people who care about me want me to always wear a seat belt” (Q14).
  - 86% strongly or mostly agree that they are comfortable wearing their seat belt even if others in the vehicle are not (Q18).
- **In 2020, MOST adults in Iron County, 63%, indicate they are extremely likely to wear their seat belt every time they are in a vehicle. However, 88% perceive that most other adults in their county are NOT extremely likely (Q19).**



## *Iron County Key Findings*

### **Many Adults Have Family Rules and Workplace Policies about Wearing Seat Belts**

- In 2020, MOST adults in Iron County, 75%, indicate their family has a rule about always wearing a seat belt (23% said they do not have a family rule, 1% said they do not know, and 2% said they do not have a family) (Q20).
- In 2020, many adults in Iron County, 41%, indicate their workplace has a policy about always wearing a seat belt (22% said they do not have a workplace policy, 6% said they do not know, and 32% said they do not have a workplace) (Q21).

### **Most Adults Support Seat Belt Enforcement**

- MOST adults in Iron County, 66%, strongly or mostly agree that local law enforcement should enforce Utah seat belt laws (Q16).
  - However, 51% perceive that most other adults in the county would NOT feel the same way (Q17).
  - Among those surveyed, 26% indicate they would receive a ticket half the time or more often if they did not wear their seat belt at all for the next six months (Q22).



## *Iron County Key Findings*

### **Getting Others to Wear a Seat Belt: Actual and Perceived Norms**

- **In 2020, MOST adults in Iron County, 65%, report always making sure others were wearing their seat belt when they were the driver.** However, 90% **perceive that most other adults** in their county **did NOT always do this (Q23).**
  - **Some adults in Iron County, 46%, reported always making sure others were wearing their seat belt when they were the passenger (Q24).**
- **In 2020, MOST adults in Iron County, 85%, mostly or strongly agree that it was their responsibility to make sure others were wearing their seat belts when they were the driver.** However, 44% **perceive that most other adults** in their county **do NOT feel this way (Q25).**
  - 87% mostly or strongly agree that they are comfortable asking other people to wear their seat belts when they were the driver (Q26).
  - 59% mostly or strongly agree that they were comfortable asking other people to wear their seat belts when they are a passenger (Q27).
  - 63% report they are extremely likely to ask everyone in the vehicle to wear a seat belt when they were the driver. However, 88% perceived that most adults in their county were NOT extremely likely to do the same (Q28).
  - Only 34% report they are extremely likely to ask everyone in the vehicle to wear a seat belt when they were a passenger (Q29).

# Iron County Key Findings

## Recommended Next Steps

- ✓ **Correct misperceptions about seat belt use in the county.**
  - Seek to communicate to all citizens that MOST adults in the county are wearing seat belts.<sup>1</sup>
- ✓ **Take steps to bolster strategies to increase seat belt use in the county.**
  - Seek to communicate to all aspects of the community – elected officials, law enforcement leaders, business owners, schools, families and citizens, that
    - MOST adults believe it is important to always wear a seat belt;<sup>2</sup>
    - MOST adults want people they care about to always wear a seat belt;<sup>2</sup>
    - MOST adults support enforcement of Utah seat belt laws;<sup>2</sup>
    - MOST families have a family rule about always wearing a seat belt. <sup>2</sup>
- ✓ **Take steps to increase the likelihood that citizens will encourage others to wear their seat belts.**
  - Build on the existing strong positive norms outlined in this report:
    - MOST drivers make sure everyone is wearing a seat belt;<sup>2</sup>
    - MOST drivers believe it is their responsibility to make sure everyone is wearing a seat belt.<sup>2</sup>

## Questions to Foster Meaningful Dialogue<sup>3</sup>

### Questions to Focus Collective Attention

- What opportunities can you see that the data are revealing?
- What do we still need to learn about this issue?
- What would someone who had a very different set of beliefs than you do say about these data?

### Questions to Reveal Deeper Insights

- What has had real meaning for you from what you've seen in the data?
- What surprised you? What challenged you? What encouraged you?
- What needs clarification?
- What's been your major learning, insight, or discovery so far from these data?

### Questions to Create Forward Movement

- What's possible here?
- What will it take to create change?
- What needs our immediate attention going forward?

Adapted from Brown, Isaacs, and Community, 2005<sup>3</sup>

### References

1. Perkins, MPH, Ron. (2019). *Utah observational surveys of seat belt use*
2. Center for Health and Safety Culture. (2020). *Utah community survey of adults on seat belt use in Iron and Uintah Counties*. Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana. (N=673)
3. Brown, J., Isaacs, D., & Community, W.C. (2005). *The World Café: Shaping Our Futures Through Conversations That Matter (1st ed.)*. Berrett-Koehler Publishers.

# Key Findings Report



## *Law Enforcement*

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Based on the  
2020 Law Enforcement Survey  
on Seat Belt Use in Iron County

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Prepared for the  
Highway Safety Office,  
Utah Department of Public Safety





### **Recommended Citation**

Center for Health and Safety Culture. (2020). *Utah law enforcement survey on seat belt use in Iron and Uintah Counties*. Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana. (N=135)

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# Increasing Seat Belt Use in Rural Utah

## Executive Summary

The Utah Department of Public Safety's Highway Safety Office (HSO) has recognized that significant disparities exist between urban and rural rates of seat belt use among citizens of Utah. The Utah Seatbelt Observational Survey revealed that seat belts are used less frequently in rural areas of Utah than the statewide average in urban areas.<sup>1</sup> Driving or riding in a vehicle without a seat belt is a well-recognized contributing factor to fatality, serious injury, and harm associated with car crashes.

A recent survey conducted by the Center for Health and Safety Culture ([www.chsculture.org](http://www.chsculture.org)) on behalf of the HSO revealed strong positive norms regarding protective behaviors and attitudes about seat belts among law enforcement officers.<sup>2</sup> However, many officers misperceived these positive norms. For example, while most officers are wearing seat belts and enforcing seat belt laws, many officers do not believe that MOST officers are engaging in these protective behaviors. Similarly, officers significantly underestimated the use of seat belts by adults in their county.

Most officers support enforcement of Utah's seat belt laws. However, many officers did not strongly agree that they were clearly expected to enforce these laws, and many did not believe that most officers in their agency were enforcing the laws. Recommendations are made to correct misperceptions and address gaps in knowledge and a sense of support.

## Background

The Center for Health and Safety Culture developed a survey to better understand the behaviors, beliefs, and enforcement practices of law enforcement officers in rural Utah regarding seat belts. The internet-based survey was conducted between June and September 2020. An email was sent to each of the law enforcement leaders of the law enforcement agencies in Iron County (municipal police departments, sheriff office, and Utah Highway Patrol Section office) by the HSO law enforcement liaison. These leaders were asked to send an email to their officers requesting their participation. Approximately 122 officers were eligible to take



# Law Enforcement Key Findings

## Seat Belt Use Among Officers – Actual and Perceived Norms

MOST officers in Iron County usually or always wear their seat belts.

- MOST officers, 57%, reported always wearing their seat belts when on duty (Q2).
- MOST officers, 56%, reported usually or always wearing their seat belts when off duty (Q5).
  - Officers reported they were more likely to wear their seat belts while off duty and driving many miles from home than when off duty and driving within a few miles from home (Q3).

However, the overwhelming majority of officers believe that MOST people in their agency do NOT always wear their seat belt and believe MOST adults in their county do NOT always wear their seat belts.

- Most officers, 75%, did NOT believe that most people in their agency always wear their seat belts while on duty (Q2).
- Almost all officers surveyed, 97%, did NOT believe that most adults in their county always wear their seat belt. In fact, 42% believe that most adults wear their seat belts about half the time or less (Q5).

## Observational Studies Reveal Most Adults Wear Their Seat Belts

Observational studies completed in 2017, 2018 and 2019 show MOST adults are wearing their seat belts.

Table 1. Percentage of Adults Wearing Seat Belts Based on Observational Studies

	Percent Observed Using a Seat Belt		
	2017	2018	2019
Iron County	76%	80%	84%
Statewide	89%	89%	90%

(Perkins, 2019)



## *Law Enforcement Key Findings*

### **Most Officers Have Positive Beliefs About Wearing Seat Belts**

**MOST officers believe it is important to protect themselves by always wearing a seat belt.**

- MOST officers, 64%, strongly agree it is important to protect themselves by always wearing a seat belt (Q6).
  - However, 60% of officers did NOT believe that most people in their agency felt this way (Q6).
  - And, 86% of officers did NOT believe that most adults in their county felt this way (Q6).

**MOST officers believe they should always wear a seat belt and want people they care about to always wear a seat belt.**

- MOST officers, 69%, strongly agree they should always wear a seat belt (Q8).
- MOST officers, 82%, strongly agree they wanted people they care about to always wear a seat belt (Q8).
- MOST officers, 75%, strongly agree that people who care about them want them to always wear a seat belt (Q8).

**MOST officers believe seat belts enhance safety.**

- MOST officers, 72%, strongly agree that people are less likely to be seriously injured or killed if they always wear their seat belt (Q7).
- MOST officers, 72%, strongly or mostly disagree that seat belts are just as likely to harm you as help you (Q7).

**MOST officers wear seat belts to set a good example for others.**

- MOST officers, 56%, strongly or mostly agree they wear a seat belt to set a good example for their community (Q7).
- MOST officers, 85%, strongly agree they wear a seat belt to set a good example for their children (Q7).
- MOST officers, 81%, strongly agree they are comfortable wearing a seat belt even if others in the vehicle are not (Q10).





## *Law Enforcement Key Findings*

### **Challenges to Overcome**

**Many officers are not wearing their seat belts even though they report their agencies and families have policies and rules about always wearing a seat belt.**

- 36% of officers who reported they did not always wear a seat belt agreed it was because they have to be able to get out of their vehicle quickly (Q10).
- 40% of officers who reported they did not always wear a seat belt agreed it was difficult to always use a seat belt because of all the equipment they are wearing (Q10).
- MOST officers, 97%, reported their agency has a policy about always wearing a seat belt (Q12).
- Most officers, 77%, strongly agreed that their supervisor expects them to always wear a seat belt (Q8).
- Most officers, 84%, strongly agreed that their leader (e.g., Chief, Sheriff, Colonel) expects them to always wear a seat belt (Q8).
- MOST officers, 88%, reported their family has a rule about always wearing a seat belt (Q11).
- However, too many officers, 24%, reported not wearing a seat belt in the past week while on duty (Q1).

## Law Enforcement Key Findings

### Most Officers Support Seat Belt Enforcement

**MOST officers believe local law enforcement should enforce Utah seat belt laws; however, they do not believe others feel the same way.**

- MOST officers, 66%, strongly or mostly agree that local law enforcement should enforce Utah seat belt laws (Q9).
  - However, 34% of officers did NOT believe that MOST people in their agency felt this way (Q9).
  - And, 25% of officers did NOT believe that their supervisor felt this way (Q9).
  - And, 16% of officers did NOT believe that the highest leader in their agency felt this way (Q9).
  - And, 73% of officers did NOT believe that MOST adults in their county felt this way (Q9) even though most adults (82%) in Iron County do support enforcement.
    - Most adults (82%) in Iron County agree that local law enforcement should enforce Utah seat belt laws (Center for Health and Safety Culture, 2020).

**MOST officers believe their agency supports strong enforcement of Utah seat belt laws.**

- MOST officers, 80%, strongly or mostly agree that their agency supports enforcement of Utah's seat belt laws for adults (Q15).
  - However, many officers, 31%, did not agree that their supervisor has made it clear to them that they are expected to enforce Utah's seat belt laws for adults (Q15).

**While MOST officers reported enforcing the law in the past 12 months when they were in a situation with a seat belt violation, there are significant opportunities for improvement.**

- MOST officers, 69%, reported enforcing Utah's seat belt laws with adults more than half the time they were in a situation with an adult who was in violation (Q13).
  - However, 30% believe that MOST officers in their agency did not (13).
- MOST officers, 59%, reported usually or always enforcing Utah's seat belt laws when in a situation with a child (age 8 to 18) who was in violation (Q14).
- MOST officers, 72%, reported usually or always enforcing Utah's child restraint and booster seat laws when in a situation with a child younger than age 8 who was in violation (Q14).

# Law Enforcement Key Findings

## Recommended Next Steps

### Correct misperceptions about seat belt use in the agency and in the county.

- ✓ Seek to communicate to all officers that seat belts are expected to be used and that MOST officers and adults in the county are wearing seat belts.
- ✓ Use regular and consistent language with officers about the importance of wearing seat belts.
- ✓ Encourage officers to speak to citizens in their county about the importance of wearing seat belts.
- ✓ Encourage officers to remind citizens that wearing seat belts in the county is “the norm” – that is that most people wear seat belts.

### Take steps to bolster strategies to increase seat belt use in the county.

- ✓ Seek to communicate to all officers that:
  1. Enforcement of Utah seat belt laws is expected.
  2. MOST officers are enforcing seat belt laws.
  3. Consistent enforcement of seat belt laws will increase seat belt use in the county and thereby reduce injuries and save lives.

## Questions to Foster Meaningful Dialogue<sup>3</sup>

### Questions to Focus Collective Attention

- What opportunities can you see that the data are revealing?
- What do we still need to learn about this issue?
- What would someone who had a very different set of beliefs than you do say about these data?

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- What has had real meaning for you from what you’ve seen in the data?
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Adapted from Brown, Isaacs, and Community, 2005



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1. Perkins, MPH, Ron. (2019). *Utah observational surveys on seat belt use*
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