



## 2009 FACT SHEET

- *Click It or Ticket* runs from May 4<sup>th</sup> - through May 30<sup>th</sup>. Motorists can expect to see increased traffic enforcement both day *and* night in the form of checkpoints and patrols as police statewide look for unbelted drivers and passengers.
- The goal of Click It or Ticket is to save lives and reduce injuries by getting more people to buckle up.
- Delaware's current seatbelt usage rate is at an all time high of 91%, and is higher than the national average of 83%.
- However, more than half (67%) of drivers and passengers who have been killed in vehicle crashes since January 1<sup>st</sup> were not buckled up.
- Officers will be on the lookout for those who violate Delaware's seat belt and child restraint laws. They will also be looking for impaired and aggressive drivers who by the very nature of their risky behavior are less likely to buckle up.
- 73% of the 2009 crashes where an unbelted person was killed were the result of speeding drivers, or those under the influence. Many of those killed were the risky drivers. There were only four "innocent victims" - two young children (ages 10 & 12) a 40 year old female and 43 year old male. They may have survived those crashes if they had been buckled up.
- More than a quarter of the unbelted victims were ejected from the vehicle...including one who was ejected through the front windshield.
- Delaware's law requires everyone in the vehicle, that includes the driver and all passengers, even those in the back seat, to buckle up. The fine for violations is \$25, plus court processing costs. Total fines could be \$40 or even more in some municipalities.
- Wearing a seat belt improves your chance of surviving a crash by approximately 50%.
- Seat belt use is approximately 10% lower at night than in the daytime, yet this is when a person's chance of being killed in a crash triples.