



SAFE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM OF PICKAWAY COUNTY

PRESS RELEASE

DATE: March 4, 2011

TO: Circleville Herald

FROM: Safe Communities of Pickaway County

RE: Recent Teen Seat Belt Surveys Bring Surprising Results

The "Save Face" Seat Belt Challenge among Pickaway County schools brought some surprising results once all the points were added for the standings in the recent surveys, the points given for improvement in seat belt use, and the deductions given to those who chose to use their cell phone while driving or texting while driving. The last seat belt challenge that was performed in November 2010, resulted in a 52% seat belt use rate among drivers who attend Pickaway County schools. The survey, completed the last full week of February 2011, showed an improvement of seat belt use for drivers and passengers to 62%.

"I am very pleased to see the students take part in this Challenge, however I am more pleased to see the overall use of seatbelts increase", noted Teresa C. Carper, Safe Communities of Pickaway County. "I have to note that the principals of these schools have been instrumental in making this program work."

Nationwide, Teens generally are more likely to not wear a seat belt and to be found to use their cell phones to talk or text while driving. Auto crashes are the number one killer of teens, and by simply wearing a seat belt you can increase your chances of survival by 50%.

"I congratulate the administrators and staff for their efforts to improve traffic safety in Pickaway County," noted Sheriff Dwight E. Radcliff. "We never want to see a fatality, but it is especially hard when it involves a young person."

The first seat belt survey gave Circleville High School the lead in the standings, however with a win for this survey and their overall improvement, Teays Valley is now in first place. The most notable improvement in the standing was Westfall High School who was in fourth place after the first round, and is currently in second place.

The next round of seat belt surveys will be announced as a time frame only. Students are encouraged to keep up the good work, since they will not know when someone is taking a survey at their school. By “Buckling Up Every Trip, Every Time”, they can ensure their safety and keep them in the competition.

For more information on the Seat Belt Challenge, visit the Pickaway County Sheriff’s website at www.pickawaysheriff.com. For information on Teen Driving Safety, visit the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration website at www.nhtsa.gov .