

SAFETY Network

August 2019

Michigan.gov/ohsp

Michigan seat belt use rises to 94.4 percent

Michigan's seat belt use rate climbed slightly higher this year, rising from 93.4 percent in 2018 to 94.4 percent, according to recently-released results from a state-wide grant-funded observation study conducted by Michigan State University.

"Traffic safety programs like *Click It or Ticket* are meant to reduce traffic deaths and lessen the impact of injuries," said Michael L. Prince, director of the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP). "This campaign continues to remind motorists about Michigan's life-saving seat belt law. While the numbers are slowly heading in a positive direction, the goal is to

keep moving toward zero deaths on our roadways."

Since the state's all-time belt use record of 97.9 percent in 2009, use declined to 93 percent in 2013. With the increase to 94.4 percent, Michigan's use rate is the highest it has been since 2016.

Every 1 percent increase in seat belt use means an estimated fewer 10 traffic deaths and 100 fewer serious injuries.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), in 2018 seat belt use in the United States ranged from 76.4 percent in New Hampshire to 97.8 percent in Hawaii. The

nationwide seat belt use rate was 89.6 percent in 2018.

The direct observation survey also included driver use of electronic devices, encompassing both talking with a handheld or hands-free device and/or typing. The rate was slightly higher at 7.5 percent, than last year's 7.1 percent.

The NHTSA requires states to conduct annual seat belt observation surveys to determine belt usage.



Nearly 3,000 citations issued during the *Click It or Ticket* campaign

With Michigan's *Click It or Ticket* enforcement campaign now complete, preliminary reports indicate law enforcement officers from 109 local police departments, sheriff offices, and Michigan State Police (MSP) posts in 38 counties conducted 8,145 traffic stops resulting in 2,930 seat belt and child restraint citations between May 20–June 2.

In addition to issuing seat belt violations, officers during the *Click It or Ticket* campaign, issued 693 speeding citations, made 13 alcohol-related arrests, and 45 other felony arrests.

In one instance, a deputy from the Calhoun County Sheriff's office pulled over a **3,000** Continued on page 7 >

One Drive Sober holiday campaign ends, another to start

Stepped up drunk driving enforcement is a high priority in the summer, with the holidays and increased travel. The first *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over* campaign ran from July 1-14, including the Fourth of July holiday period. The next will run from August 14-September 2, including the Labor Day holiday period.

"Driving while impaired is completely preventable as are the deaths and injuries that result from this behavior," said Michael Prince, OHSP director. "These campaigns are

Drive Sober Continued on page 4 >



Assistant prosecuting attorneys honored

Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys Michael Kanaby and Sarah Pulda were both the recipients of this year’s David M. Schieber Award. The award is given annually to Michigan prosecutors who have made significant contributions in the fight against impaired driving. They were honored at the 2019 Mothers Against Drunk Driving/ OHSP Lifesaver Award Luncheon held in June in Mt. Pleasant.

Michael Kanaby is with the Kalamazoo County Prosecutor’s Office. In June 2016, five bicyclists were killed and four seriously injured when they were all hit by a truck driven by Charles Pickett Jr., who was under the influence of multiple controlled substances. Kanaby charged Pickett with 14 felony charges, including five counts of second degree murder. From day one, Kanaby maintained an open line of communication with the surviving victims and family members. His trial preparation involved reviewing hundreds of reports, dozens of pieces of evidence,

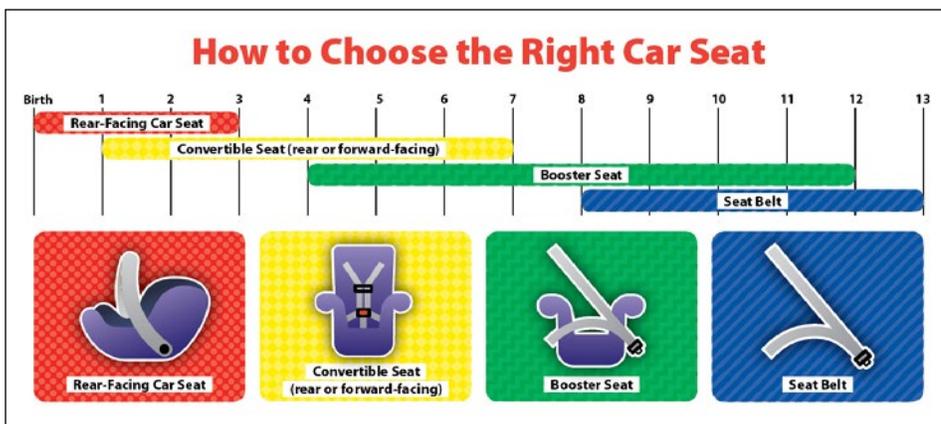
and interviewing numerous witnesses. Kanaby’s trial presentation included the use of PowerPoint imaging, a large map tracing Pickett’s course throughout the roads of Kalamazoo County leading up to his striking the bicyclists, and digital evidence provided by a law enforcement drone. It also used an expert witness regarding the impact of the numerous drugs found in Pickett’s blood and the devastating impact those drugs had on his driving ability. Pickett was convicted as charged.

Sarah E. Pulda is with the Ingham County Prosecutor’s Office. She went above and beyond the call of duty when advocating on behalf of 21-year-old victim Blair Beck, who was hit and killed while riding his motorcycle. The defendant had 5 ng of THC in her blood approximately four hours after the crash. The first day of trial coincided with the passage of recreational marijuana, which required intense education on the issues of marijuana and



Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutors Ken Stecker (L) and Kinga Canike (R) with award winners Sarah Pulda and Michael Kanaby.

driving. The jury convicted the defendant of Operating with the Presence of a Schedule 1 Drug Causing Death, and she was sentenced to prison for a minimum of 70 months, the top of the guidelines. The case was closely followed by local media.



Child Passenger Safety Week is September 15-21 and National Seat Check Saturday is September 21. For more, visit NHTSA.gov/TheRightSeat or NHTSA.gov/Protegidos.

Also, to order the new car seat flyer pictured above, contact Jessica Beyer at 517-636-4256 or Beyer1@michigan.gov. This new flyer is #2470 (English), #2471 (Arabic), and #2472 (Spanish). It replaces the older #2470 flyer titled “Rear-Facing Car Seats.”



More than 30 traffic safety professionals from across Michigan attended a Michigan Traffic Crash Facts seminar on July 10 at MSP Headquarters. Led by OHSP’s Jessica Riley and the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute’s Patrick Bowman, the class learned how to better use the crash query tool and publications section of the website. For more, go to www.michigantrafficcrashfacts.org.

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Don't travel without an emergency kit



With Michigan residents and visitors traveling this summer and upcoming Labor Day holiday, the MSP Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division (MSP/EMHSD) is encouraging motorists to place an emergency preparedness kit in their vehicles.

"Emergency planning is too often overlooked when planning summer travel," said Capt. Emmitt McGowan, deputy state director of Emergency Management and Homeland Security and commander of the MSP/EMHSD. "If we all take a little extra time planning for emergencies, we'll have a safer holiday."

Travel preparedness tips:

- Place a vehicle preparedness kit in your vehicle that includes a hand-crank radio, hand-crank flashlight, cell phone charger, blanket and extra clothes, tire repair kit and pump, flares, jumper cables and a "call police" or "help" sign.

- Know the weather-related emergencies and disasters common to your vacation destination and learn how weather warnings are communicated in the area.
- Monitor the weather forecast along travel routes.
- Have a map and familiarize yourself with the area of your destination. Do not rely on cell phones or computers as your only navigation source.
- Know safe shelter locations and evacuation routes at campgrounds, hotels or resorts.
- Develop an emergency communications plan for everyone traveling in your group and designate an out-of-area emergency contact in case your group is separated.
- Keep your vehicle's fuel tank above half full. Power outages may prevent you from refueling.

Download American Red Cross mobile apps to your smart phone. For more information, go to www.redcross.org/prepare/mobile-apps.

To learn more about being prepared before, during and after an emergency or disaster, follow the MSP/EMHSD on Twitter at twitter.com/MichEMHS or visit www.michigan.gov/miready.

National motorcycle summit comes to Grand Rapids

Registration is open for the 2019 State Motorcycle Safety Administrators (SMSA) national summit, September 11-14, 2019 in Grand Rapids. SMSA's mission is to assist motorcycle safety programs through collaboration and partnerships and to implement comprehensive, data-driven safety programs and countermeasures to achieve a significant reduction in motorcyclist crashes, fatalities and injuries.

The summit is at the Crowne Plaza Grand Rapids Airport hotel. It includes a range day and a number of general and breakout sessions. Registration is open until August 30, but on-site registration is available. Click [here](#) to register. Last year's summit was in Sacramento, CA, and drew about 300 attendees.



2018 Traffic Safety Culture Index released

In June, the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety released the annual Traffic Safety Culture Index, a nationally representative survey. The survey was first conducted in 2008 and each year identifies and assesses key indicators regarding American drivers' attitudes toward behaviors regarding traffic safety. Some of the key findings in this year's report are:

A majority of drivers support laws restricting distracted driving, with almost 75 percent supporting a law against holding and talking on a cellphone and about 88 percent supporting a law against reading, typing, or sending a text or email while driving.

More than 85 percent of drivers consider speeding through a red light to be very or extremely dangerous, and 55

percent felt that the police would catch a driver for running a red light.

Most drivers (95.1 percent) perceive driving after drinking as very or extremely dangerous. However, almost 11 percent admitted to having done so in the past 30 days.

The complete report can be viewed at [here](#).

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More than 30 people attended the May 16th training in Dearborn, MI.

Law enforcement, public learn bike safety

The League of Michigan Bicyclists (LMB) hosted five training courses in May and June, teaching both law enforcement officers and community members safe bicycling practices. Gathering in Bay City, Dearborn, Marquette, Warren, and Kentwood, attendees learned about bicycle and pedestrian traffic laws, best

practices for education and enforcement of laws, engineering remedies, and the latest statistics on bicyclist/motorist crashes.

The LMB is planning two more training sessions in September, one in Charlevoix and one in Oakland County. For more information, visit lmb.org/bikepeded.

What's Ahead

AUGUST 2019

- 21 Drivers Age 20 and Younger Action Team meeting.** Horatio Earle Learning Center, 7575 Crowner Drive, Dimondale, 1:30 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 2019

- 11 Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Action Team meeting.** Michigan Center for Truck Safety, 1131 Centennial Way, Lansing, 9 a.m.
- 12 Senior Mobility and Safety Action Team meeting.** Horatio Earle Learning Center, 7575 Crowner Drive, Dimondale, 1:30 p.m.
- 24 Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Action Team meeting.** Horatio Earle Learning Center, 7575 Crowner Drive, Dimondale, 9 a.m.

Registration for S4SD now open

As the 2019-20 school year kicks off this month, registration for the *Strive for a Safer Drive* (S4SD) campaign has started. Schools can apply now through November 14th. The first 30 schools that apply by October 31st will receive a \$100 Visa gift card to use toward their project.

All Michigan high schools are eligible to apply and those selected will receive \$1,000 to create a student led traffic safety awareness campaign. Last year, 63 schools

participated and West Shore ESD Career and Technical Education Center (Mason County) finished in first place for the second year in a row.

S4SD is a teen driving initiative aimed at reducing serious crashes, injuries, and fatalities among Michigan teens. It is presented by Ford Driving Skills for Life and the OHSP.



Drive sober Continued from page 1 >

designed to inform the public that additional patrols will be out in force, and they should make alternate arrangements for transportation before drinking. There is absolutely zero tolerance for impaired driving in Michigan."

Preliminary crash data shows there were 14 fatal crashes and 15 fatalities over the 2019 Fourth of July holiday period, which included four days. Alcohol was a factor in one of those crashes. There were seven traffic fatalities during the one-day 2018 Fourth of July holiday.

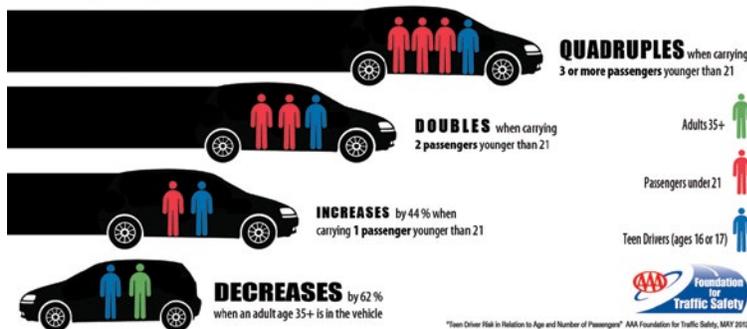
The 2018 Labor Day holiday period saw 12 fatalities over a 3-day holiday period.

The *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over* campaign is supported with federal traffic safety funds provided by the U.S. Department of Transportation and the NHTSA and coordinated by the OHSP.

Teen Drivers Risk Death with Young Passengers

A 16- or 17-year-old driver's **RISK OF BEING KILLED IN A CRASH** increases when there are young passengers in the vehicle.

Compared to driving without any passengers, **THE RISK:**





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The MI Officer Phone App is available

By Kinga Canike and Ken Stecker

The Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan, in conjunction with the OHSP, has developed a phone app to be used roadside by law enforcement officers. The app is called “MI Officer.”

A committee of safety professionals met on a regular basis for over a year to plan the “MI Officer” app. Individuals on this committee included Michigan’s two traffic safety resource prosecutors (TSRPs) as well as representatives from the OHSP, Secretary of State, and MSP. These individuals gathered content that was passed on to a software developer who created the app.

The motivation behind the app was to help law enforcement keep up with

Instead of fumbling through papers in their scout cars, this app puts all that information at their fingertips.

the times. Police officers are expected to know the law. Instead of fumbling through papers in their scout cars, this app puts all that information at their fingertips. The app contains links to resources officers use on a daily basis. Some of these links include the Michigan Vehicle Code, Michigan’s Traffic Crash Report Instruction Manual, and the Michigan Penal Code. Other topics covered are underage drinking, Standardized Field Sobriety Tests, and commercial motor vehicles. Both the medical and recreational marijuana laws are also in the app.

The app, which may be downloaded by anyone, is a warehouse of legal resources. It does not offer any legal advice nor does it editorialize on any law. All the information contained in the app is public information.

The committee hopes the app will adapt with the changing times. For this reason, the committee will continue to meet quarterly to review old content and add new and relevant information. The section “Hot Topics” has been added to the app to help with this effort.

The app is free of charge and may be downloaded on either an Apple or Android smartphone. Feedback from both prosecutors and law enforcement officers has been very positive. One example of this comes from St. Clair County Chief Assistant Prosecutor Stephen Guilliat who stated, “After learning about the MI Officer iPhone app, I downloaded it and find it extremely helpful. I have included it in our training and have attached the applicable slides that are being shown to our local law enforcement—we are strongly encouraging they download this useful app as well.” The app is also being used by magistrates, probation officers, and other traffic safety professionals. As of July 2018, the app has been downloaded more than 4,000 times.

The “MI Officer” app has also just recently undergone a face lift. The initial interface screen went from a utilitarian interface to one that is more engaging. This was done with the goal of enhancing the overall user experience and making the app more user friendly. In addition, the use of color and logos have been added to the app as well as the ability to save links to a favorites section. A more sophisticated menu system also makes it easier to navigate the material on the app.

For more information contact your TSRPs, Kenneth Stecker and Kinga Canike, at 517-334-6060 or email at steckerk@michigan.gov and canikek@michigan.gov.



Staff Profile

JEAN SHATTUCK
Accounting Technician



Jean has been with the OHSP since August 2011 and has worked for the state for 34 years. Jean and her husband Jon have been married 30 years and have three children, Nick, Kellie, and Clara. Her dedication to the job led to her being selected for the MSP employee spotlight for the month of August 2019.

What do you like most about your job?

I like the variety and being able to solve problems.

What are you most proud of at work?

Surviving SIGMA! And being able to contribute to the overall integrity of the OHSP.

What are your interests or hobbies?

Walking and spending time with my family and friends.

What is your favorite vacation spot?

Two of my kids are moving out of state this summer so my new favorite places to visit will be Portland, OR, and Knoxville, TN.

What’s something people don’t know about you?

I coached 7th grade girls’ basketball for 12 years. Also, I love to dance and have seven siblings.



SAFETY Network

Partner Profile

MDOT TRAFFIC AND SAFETY ENGINEER BEN FELDHAUSEN



Feldhausen is a passionate advocate for traffic safety who has developed corridor advisory groups in many Upper Peninsula (U.P.) communities, innovative bicycle and pedestrian education demonstrations for elementary students, and a program that emphasizes distracted driving dangers for young drivers and driver's education students. He is currently serving his second term as chairman of the U. P. Traffic Safety Network and works regularly with law enforcement and other professionals to address strategic safety concerns.

He is an honors graduate who has served nearly 15 years on the Surveying Engineering Advisory Board at Michigan Technological University, and has volunteered countless hours to local youth sports, professional organizations and civic affairs. Feldhausen has been a featured speaker at conferences, business and community engagements and is a published author. His hobbies include outdoor activities, and his favorite pastime is ice fishing.

Feldhausen has promoted outdoor recreation and safety education with thousands of youngsters and recently joined the ice fishing Pro-Team with industry leader Clam Outdoors.

Ben Feldhausen, PS, PE is a Traffic and Safety Engineer for the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) in the Crystal Falls Transportation Service Center. He is professionally licensed as both an engineer and surveyor and has earned numerous certifications including for "At-Scene Traffic Crash Investigation" through the MSP. He is a recipient of an MDOT Simply Super Service award and is a member of the GTSAC's Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Action Team.



August 13, 2019
560

Traffic Deaths
in Michigan this Year



OHSP welcomes Jessica Beyer

Jessica Beyer is the new departmental technician in the Highway Safety Resource Materials Sub-Unit. Prior to joining MSP, Jessica conducted compliance audits and provided in-house accounting and project management oversight as the operations manager for an IT management and consulting firm.

Jessica recently went back to school and is in process of completing her degree in accounting. Jessica will be responsible for distribution of traffic safety materials. She currently resides in DeWitt with her fiancé, their two children, and dog.



Many schools will be starting at the end of August which means more school buses will be on the roads. Remember to treat their lights like traffic signals. When the red lights are flashing, stop! In 2018, there were 1,073 school bus involved crashes in Michigan. From those crashes, five people were killed.



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Pet alligator killed by vehicle

In June, a pet alligator escaped from its' home and was later struck and killed by a motor vehicle in Delta Township. The alligator, named "Wally," was 21-years-old and 5-feet long. The driver of the vehicle did not stop and has not been identified. Alligators are not native to Michigan but there is no state law prohibiting them as pets. Cities can restrict pet ownership.

The UD-10 traffic crash form has a section for animals that cause crashes. Deer, turkey, elk, moose, and bear are listed individually. If an animal other than those causes the crash, it is marked as either "other" or "unknown." In 2018, there were

1,724 crashes in Michigan marked as "other." Most of those being a cat or dog or other small animal like a raccoon running into the road.

Animal
1. Deer
2. Turkey
3. Elk
4. Moose
5. Bear
97. Animal (Other)
98. Animal (Unknown)

3,000 *Continued from page 1 >* vehicle for driving in the wrong lane, almost colliding head-on with another vehicle. Upon investigation, the driver had multiple warrants and was arrested for operating under the influence of alcohol. In another incident, a trooper from the MSP Wayland Post made one traffic stop that led to four misdemeanor arrests, three felony arrests, and four fugitive warrants.

"Thank you to all the law enforcement officers who are working hard to encourage seat belt use—every trip, every time," said Michael L. Prince, director of OHSP. "Motorists need to remember that buckling

up is the easiest thing they can do to reduce traffic fatalities and injuries on Michigan roads. Our goal is to save lives, not write tickets."

The *Click it or Ticket* effort is funded through federal highway safety grants and coordinated by the OHSP. Michigan law requires drivers, front seat passengers, and passengers age 15 and younger, in any seating position, to be buckled up. Children must be in a car seat or booster seat until they are 8 years old or 4'9" and children under 4 years old must be in the backseat.

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MICHIGAN TRAFFIC SAFETY
SUMMIT

**Summit topics due
September 13**

Send submissions to MSP-OHSP-Summit@michigan.gov