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"Click It Or Ticket" - California's New Campaign to Increase Seat Belt Use FACTS & FIGURES

- California's seat belt use rate is 90.4 percent – significantly higher than the national average of 80 percent. The top 10 states and U.S. Commonwealths are: 1-Arizona (95.3%); 2-Hawaii (95.1%); 3-Washington (94.2%); 4-Oregon (92.6%); 5-Michigan (90.5%); **6-California (90.4%)**; 7-Puerto Rico (90.1%); 8-New Mexico (89.7%); 9-Maryland (89.0%); 10-Washington, D.C. (87.1%).
- California's teen seat belt use rate is 82.6%.
- Approximately 3 million vehicle occupants remain unbelted in California.
- Part-time seat belt users substantially outnumber drivers who rarely or never wear their seat belts. Part-timers cited "they forgot" and only going a "short distance" as primary reasons for non-use. *NHTSA*
- The primary reasons for non-use among rarely or never drivers included "discomfort," "not wanting to be told what to do", "concerns about seat belts being dangerous," "absence of habit," and the simple claim "they just did not feel like wearing them." *NHTSA*
- Many part-time users and non-users fear getting a ticket with a fine more than they fear being injured or killed due to being unbelted in a crash. *NHTSA*
- Seat belts reduce a person's chances of dying in a crash by 50 percent. *NHTSA*
- In 2003, only 56 percent of all vehicle occupants killed in crashes were belted. *CHP SWITRS*
- Of the 1,268 vehicle occupants killed in California that were not wearing seat belts, half, or 634 people would be alive today had they simply buckled up (2003).
- The average inpatient costs for crash victims who were not using seat belts were 55 percent higher than for those who were belted. *NHTSA*
- Society annually pays an estimated \$26 billion for motor vehicle injuries and deaths experienced by unbelted vehicle occupants. Eighty-five percent of the lost productivity, taxes, insurance premiums and other costs of crashes are paid by society, not the individuals in the crash. *NHTSA*