



## **LOUISIANA HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION NEWS RELEASE** **May 22, 2026**

### **Click It or Ticket: Record traffic, law enforcement on the road this Memorial Day**

**May 22, 2026** – A record-setting 39.1 million travelers will be on the road this Memorial Day weekend, and that includes Louisiana law enforcement officers who will be handing out citations for anyone caught not wearing a seat belt.

During the [Louisiana Highway Safety Commission's](#) Click It or Ticket campaign, troopers, deputies and police officers across the state will have special patrols that are specifically looking for unbelted individuals. Not wearing a seat belt is a primary offense in Louisiana, and a first-time offense carries a \$50 price tag.

“It pays to wear your seat belt, in more ways than one,” LHSC Executive Director Lisa Freeman said. “Besides saving you 50 bucks, it could save your life.”

People who do not wear their seat belts in Louisiana are disproportionately represented in fatality counts. The latest observational survey shows that fewer than 11% of drivers and passengers do not wear their seat belts, and yet, a whopping 56.6% of all driver and passenger fatalities from 2020 to 2024 were also not wearing their seat belts, according to data from the Center for Analytics and Research in Transportation Safety at LSU (CARTS).

Overall, 2,563 drivers and adult passengers were killed from 2020 to 2024. Of those individuals killed, 927 were wearing their seat belts properly, but 1,451 were not, according to CARTS.

Across the country, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that every 54 minutes, a driver or passenger not wearing a seat belt is killed.

“In Louisiana, we have witnessed a 24% decline in overall traffic fatalities from 2020 to 2024,” Freeman said. “Unfortunately, there was only a 13% drop in fatalities among people who are not belted. The bottom line is, wearing your seat belt greatly increases your chances of surviving a serious motor vehicle crash.”

During this Memorial Day holiday, there will be heavy traffic across the country, according to [AAA](#). More traffic means more chances that motor vehicle crashes will occur. In 2024, 9 people were killed and 657 were injured on Louisiana roads during this holiday, accord to CARTS.

“Seat belts are nothing to be casual about, and their importance isn’t limited to a long trip,” Freeman said. “You’re just as likely to get into a crash driving to the grocery store or to work. Wearing that seat belt can make a difference—actually, all the difference—in your life.”

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