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Click It or Ticket Kickoff event held at Community Safety Day 2023

UHRICHSVILLE- The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's 2023 *Click It or Ticket* national mobilization took place from May 22- June 4, 2023. To "kick off" this campaign, the Tuscarawas County Safe Communities Coalition and the Tuscarawas County Health Department hosted a family-friendly Community Safety Day at the Uhrichsville McDonald's on Saturday, May 20th, from 10 am – 12 pm. Representatives from the Safe Communities Coalition, along with other community partners, provided education on the dangers of driving unbelted and the importance of wearing a seat belt when riding in a vehicle. At this event the Tuscarawas County Health Department offered free car seat checks, bike helmets, and other safety items. Participating partners at the event included Empower Tusc, WBTC radio station, Uhrichsville Fire Department, Tuscarawas County Sheriff's Office, and the Ohio State Highway Patrol.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, in 2021, among young adults (ages 18 to 34) killed while riding in passenger vehicles, more than half (59%) were completely unrestrained. In 2022, unbelted driving was a factor in 89% of the 11 passenger vehicle occupants killed in Tuscarawas County. This is why the Safe Communities Coalition, the Tuscarawas County Health Department, and local law enforcement are working together to remind drivers that driving without a seat belt is not only illegal but is also a huge factor in fatal crashes.

Upcoming events for the Tuscarawas County Safe Communities Coalition include participation at the Cy Young Festival on June 23rd from 5-8 pm at Newcomerstown, Second Saturday on August 12th from 5-8 pm at Newcomerstown, and the *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over* kickoff event at Tuscarawas Valley Farmers Market on August 23rd from 3-7 pm at Dover.

For more information, contact Abbie Benton, Safe Communities Coordinator for the Tuscarawas County Health Department, at 330-343-5555 x1530.

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