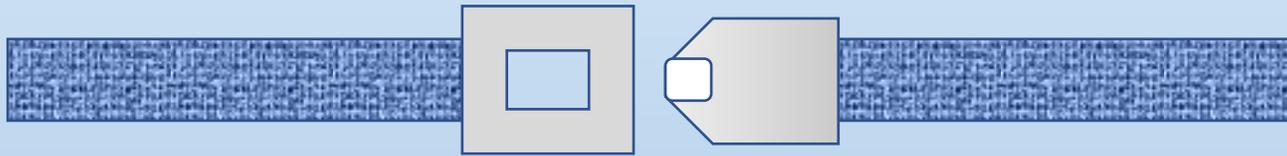
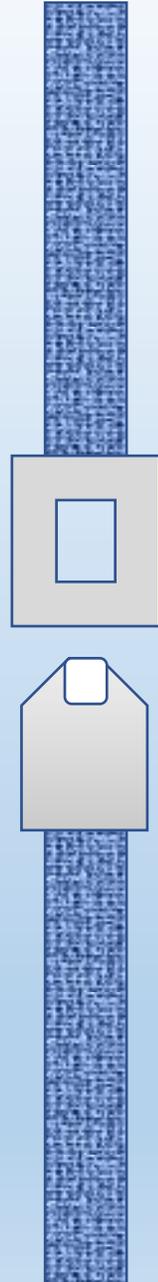


Law Enforcement Survey



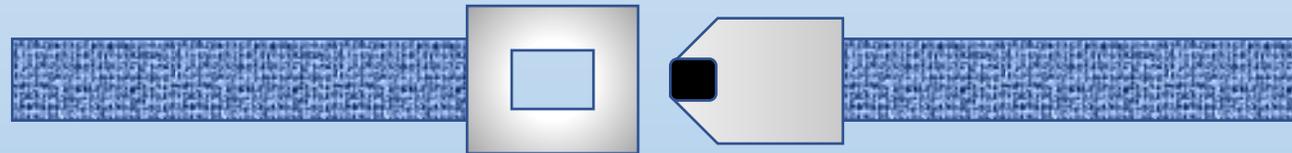
Florida Occupant Protection Coalition
September 2 through September 3, 2020

Law Enforcement Survey on Occupant Protection



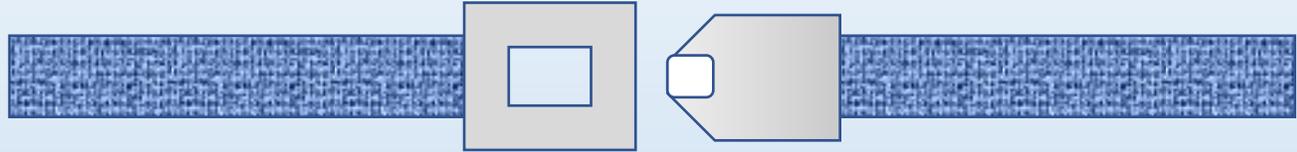
- The Law Enforcement Survey on Occupant Protection was developed as a result of the Florida Occupant Protection Coalition Strategic Action Plan.
- The Law Enforcement Occupant Protection survey was first completed in August of 2018 and received 546 submissions.
- The survey was sent to Law Enforcement again in June/July of 2020 and has received 629 responses.
- The web link to the survey was distributed to law enforcement throughout the State of Florida using the Florida Law Enforcement Liaison Program and its seven Law Enforcement Liaisons.

- The survey began with a statement letting the respondents know what information we desired to collect and why. The survey statement, informed respondents that the survey was anonymous and that there were no risks associated with the survey. The survey statement provided contact information for anyone who may have had any questions or concerns.



Survey Statement

Survey Statement



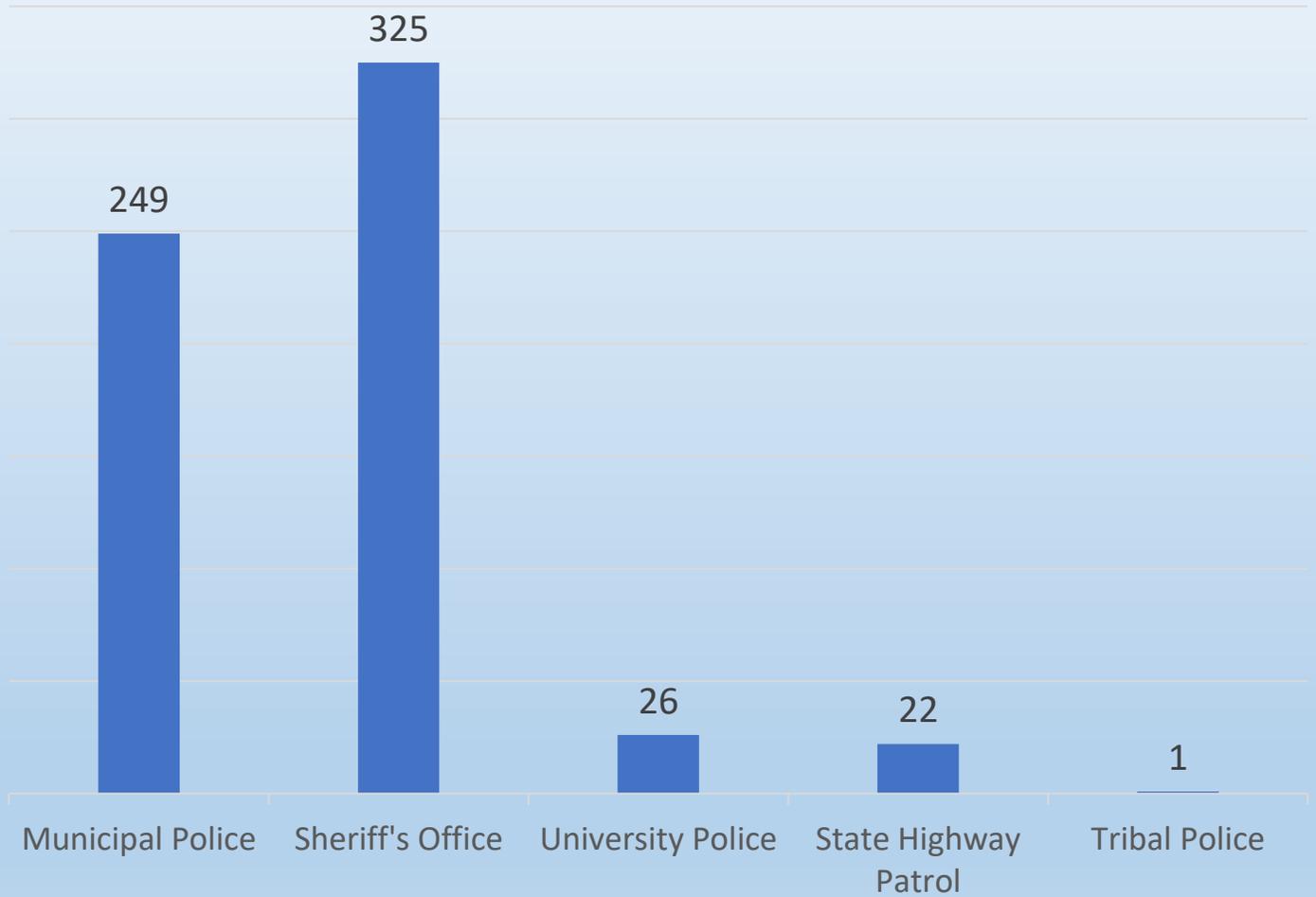
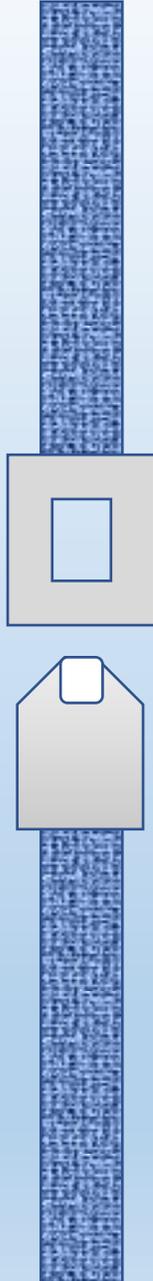
- *We are requesting your response to this survey because as a Law Enforcement Professional we are interested in your opinions. We are conducting some research on occupant protection issues and we value your opinion. Your answers will help us gain a better understanding of law enforcement needs with respect to occupant protection and child restraint usage.*
- *The survey will only take a few minutes to complete. By completing the survey, you are giving your consent for your answers to be included in the study. Your participation in this study is voluntary and you are free to withdraw your participation at any time. Your participation is appreciated. The results from this study will be used for research only and your answers will remain anonymous. Any personal information such as an IP address will remain confidential and will not be shared with anyone.*
- *This survey has been approved by the Florida Law Enforcement Liaison Program. There are no risks associated with participating in this study.*
- *If you have any questions about this research project, please contact us by telephone at District 4 LEL Charles Kane by phone at 850-459-5897 or email at Dist4@floridalel.info.*
- *Thank you for your participation.*

Question 1

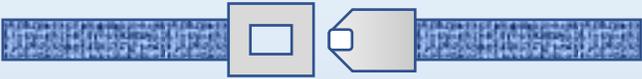


What type of Agency?

- Municipal Police
- Sheriff's Office
- State Highway Patrol
- University Police
- Tribal Police
- Other Law Enforcement Agency (Fill In)

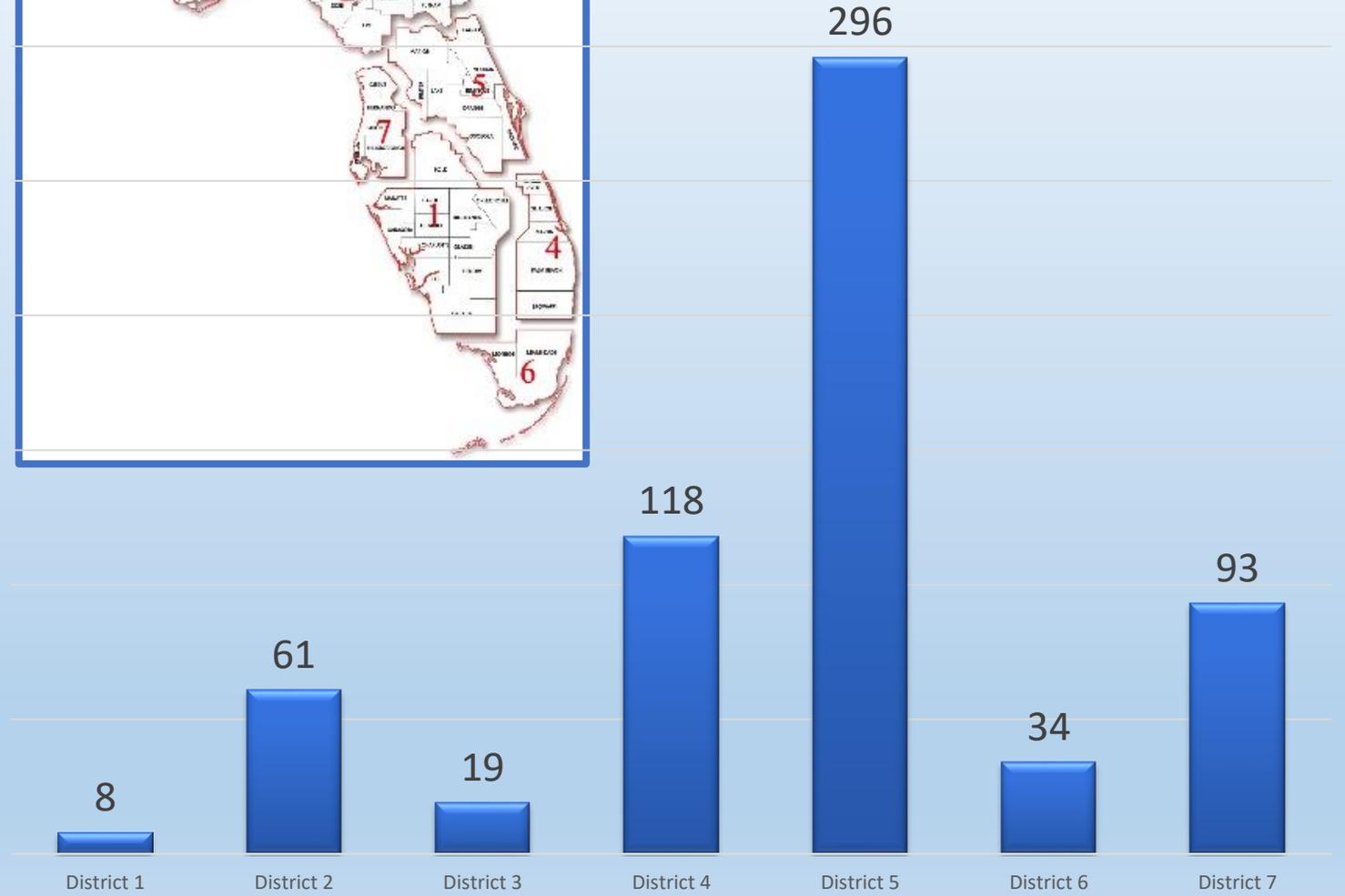
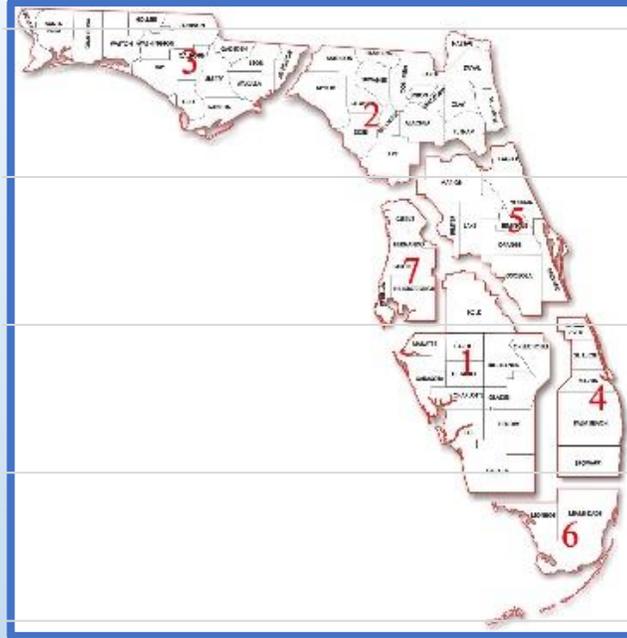
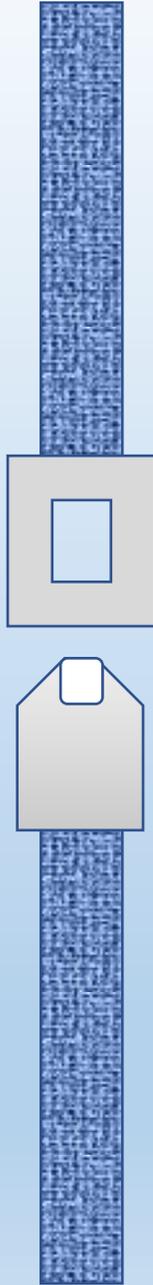


Question 2



FDOT District

- District 1
- District 2
- District 3
- District 4
- District 5
- District 6
- District 7



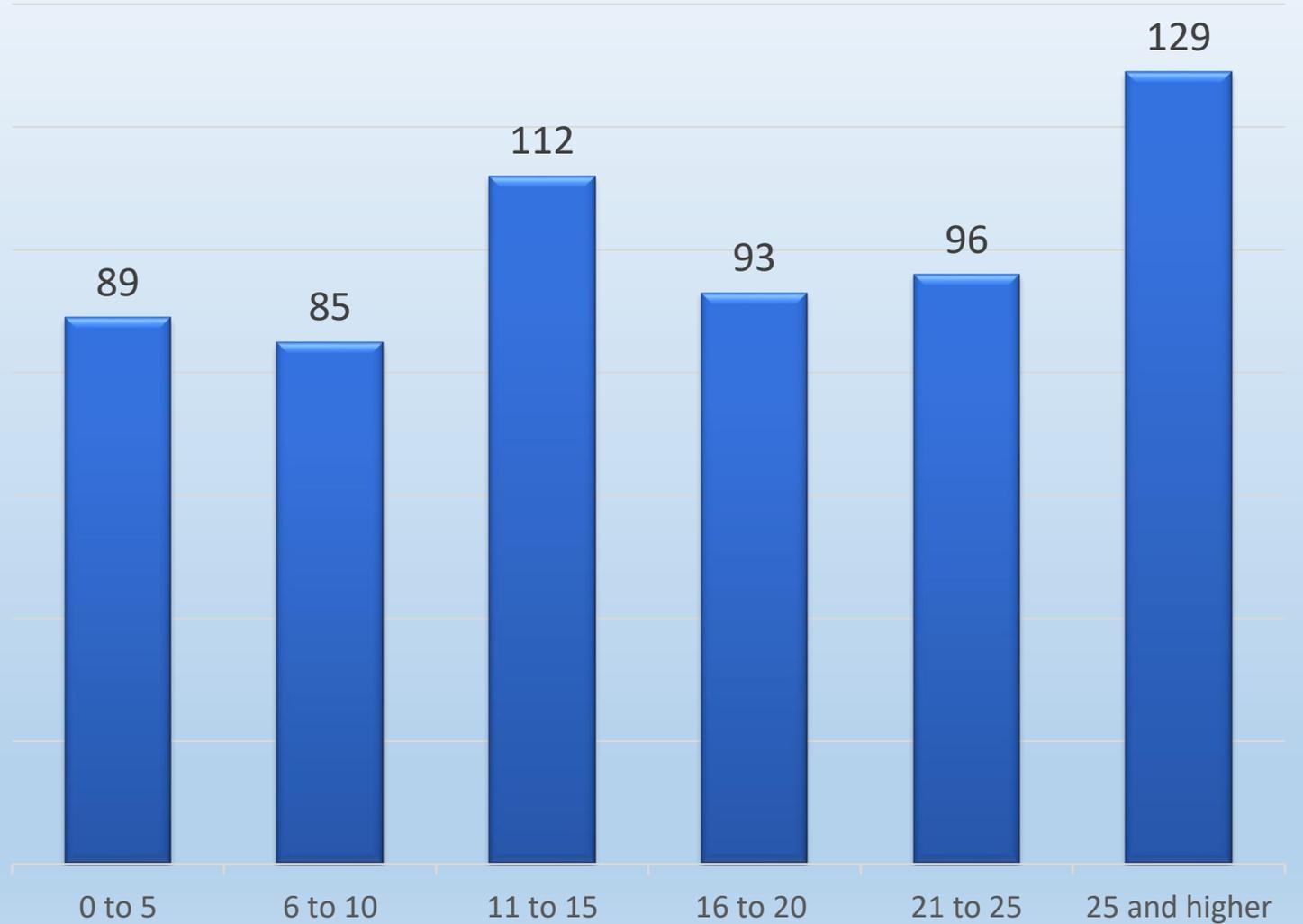
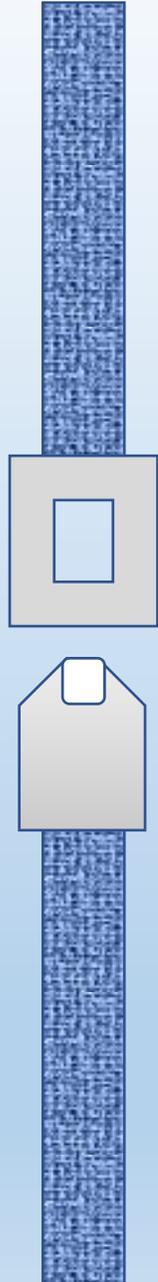
629 Responses

Question 3



How many years of experience do you have in law enforcement?

- Average Years of experience was 17.36



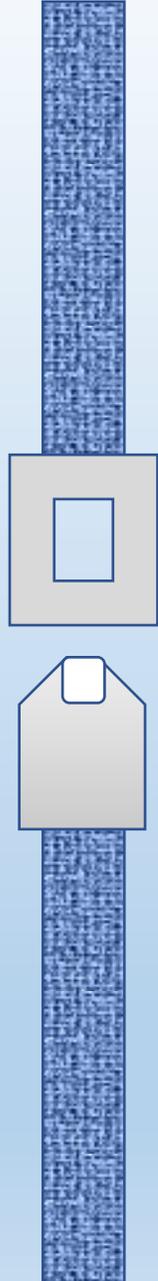
604 Responses

Question 4



Are you aware of your agency or City/State/County policy requiring a safety belt use while operating an agency vehicle?

- Yes
- No
- Not Sure



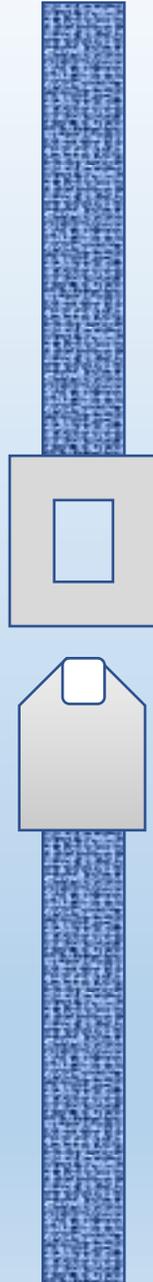
623 Responses

Question 5A



5A. Do you wear a safety belt on duty? (Matrix)

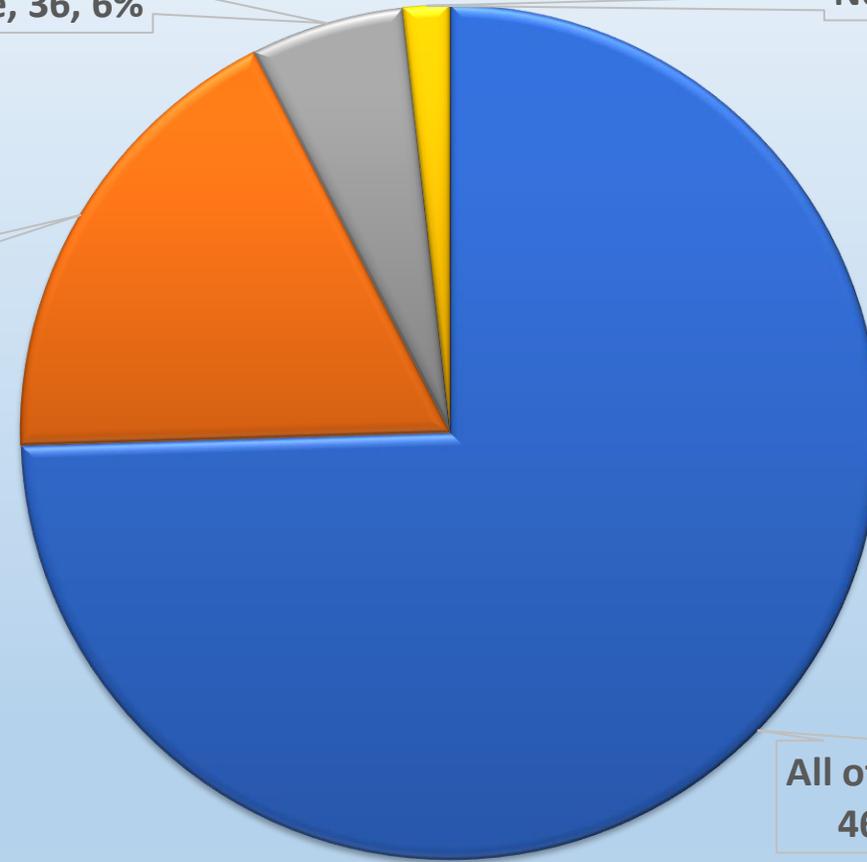
- All of the time
- Most of the time
- Some of the time
- Never



Most of the
time, 112, 18%

Some of the
time, 36, 6%

Never, 11, 2%



All of the time,
465, 74%

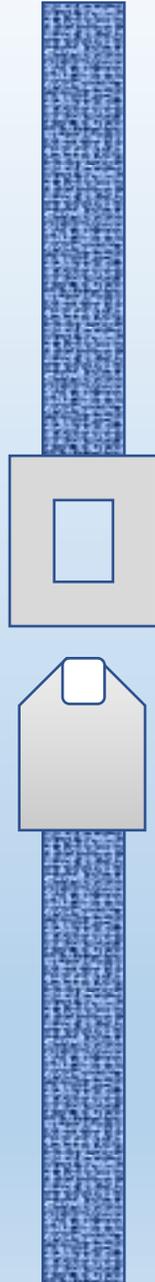
624 Responses

Question 5A



5A. Do you wear a safety belt on duty?

- All of the time
- Most of the time
- Some of the time
- Never



Free Response to question 5a if answer was “never”

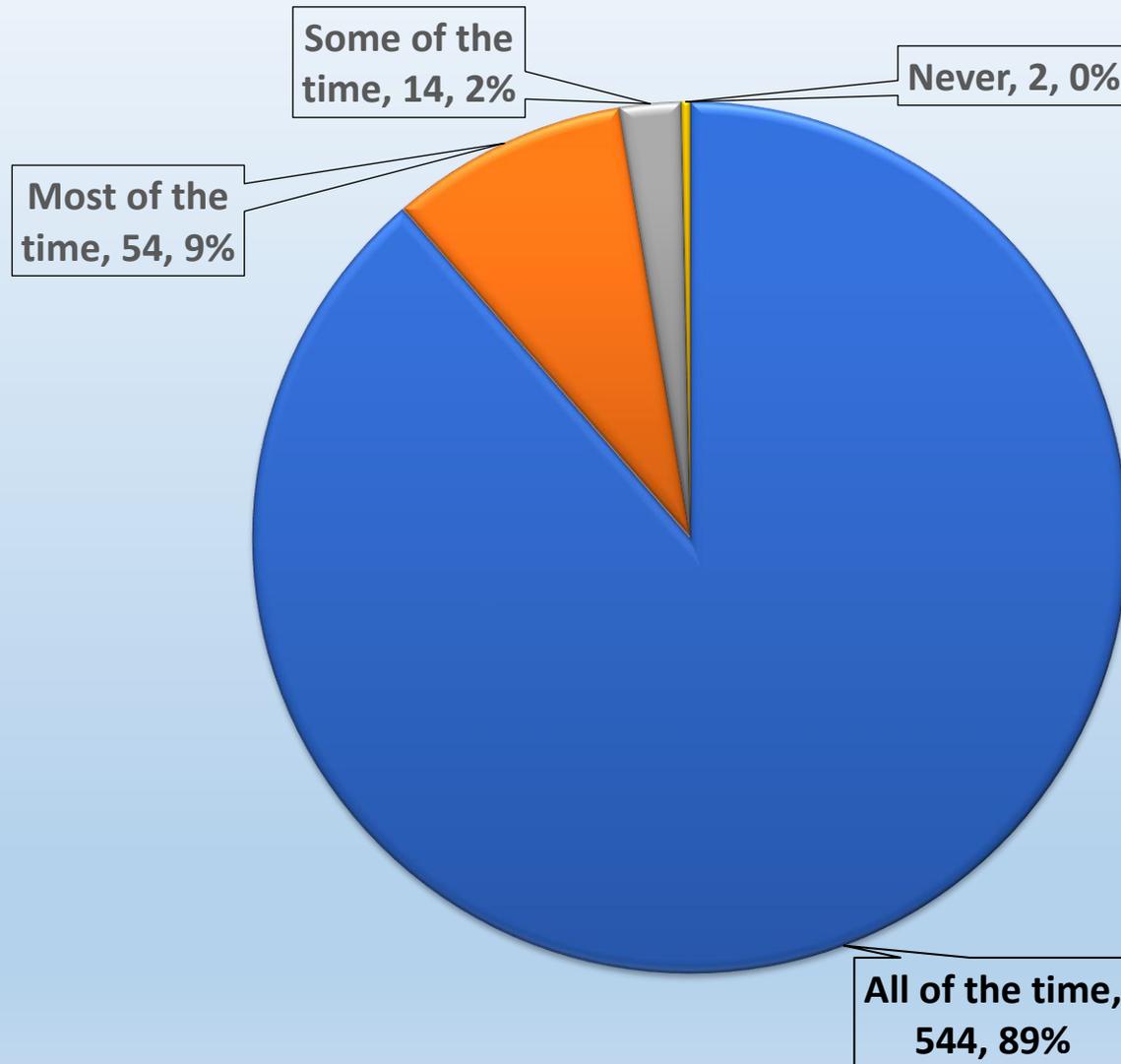
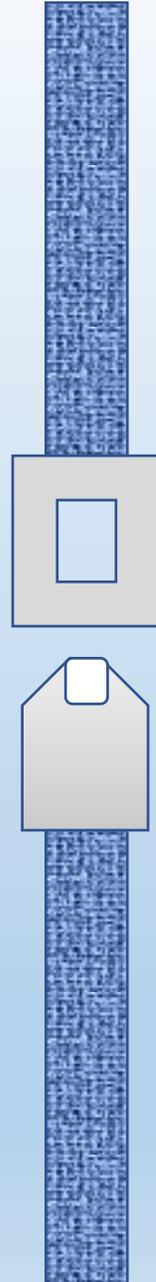
- Feel I am a target on duty and belt covers firearm
- too hard with vest can't exit quickly
- I feel restricted and less able to quickly react or respond to an unforeseen incident. The belt gets hooked on my gun and hit radio buttons. I try to wear it if I got on I95 for longer travel but locally I don't wear it .
- Difficult to manage with outer vest; i.e. (forget it's on because I can't feel it, gets caught on gear)
- work at courthouse. no assigned agency vehicle
- Feel it restricts me from responding to situations if I need to get out of my car quickly

Question 5B



5B. Do you wear a safety belt off duty? (Matrix)

- All of the time
- Most of the time
- Some of the time
- Never

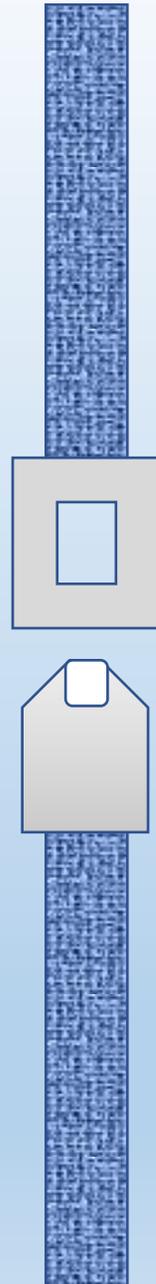


Question 5b



5B. Do you wear a safety belt off duty? (Matrix)

- All of the time
- Most of the time
- Some of the time
- Never



Free Response to question 5b if answer was “never”

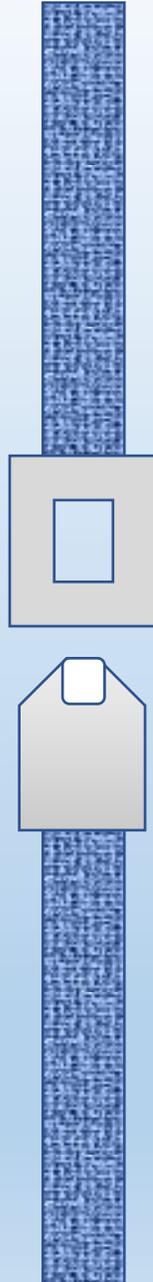
- It restricts my movement. I cannot sit still while driving.
- This was the only free response
 - It came from a municipal police officer with 22 years of experience
 - Believes use does not increase or decrease Officer Safety
 - Whose primary response to SB violation is issue warning
 - Whose primary response to CR violation is citation
 - Possesses average knowledge of SB law
 - Possesses average knowledge of CR law
 - Answered yes to all of the DYK questions

Question 6



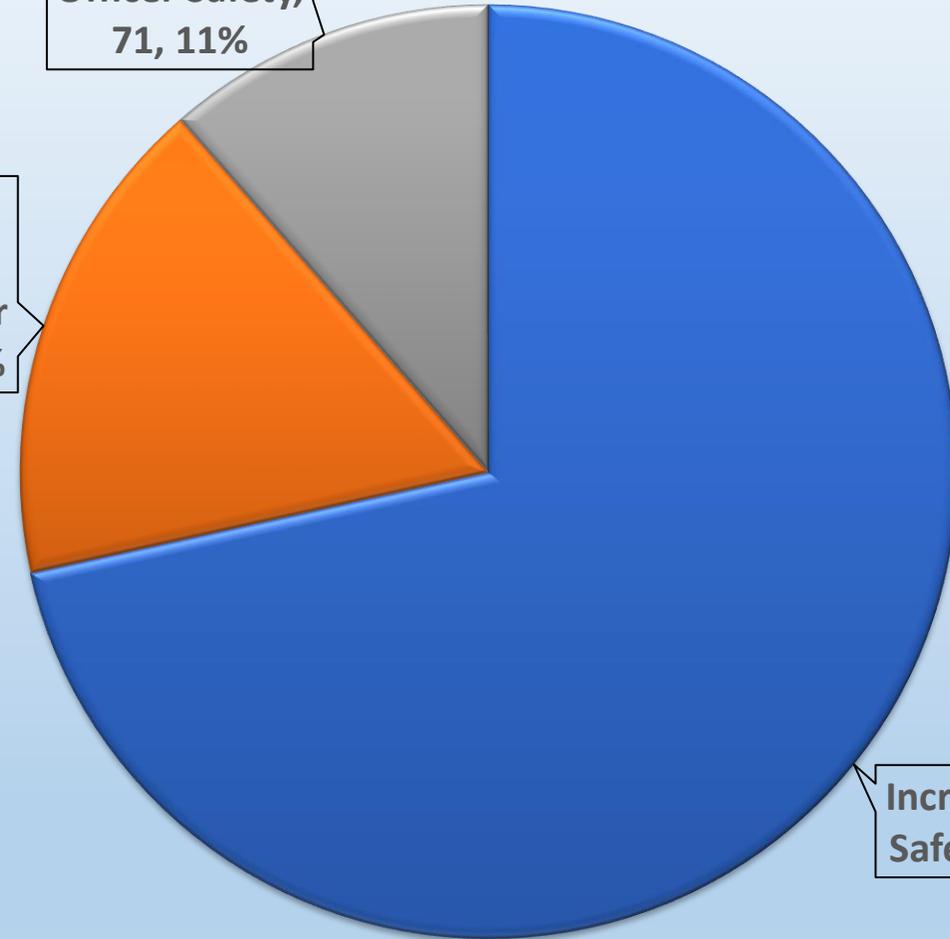
In your opinion, how does the use of a safety belt affect Officer Safety?

- Increases Officer Safety
- Does not Increase or Decrease Officer Safety
- Decreases Officer Safety



Does not Increase or Decrease Officer Safety, 106, 17%

Decreases Officer Safety, 71, 11%



Increases Officer Safety, 445, 72%

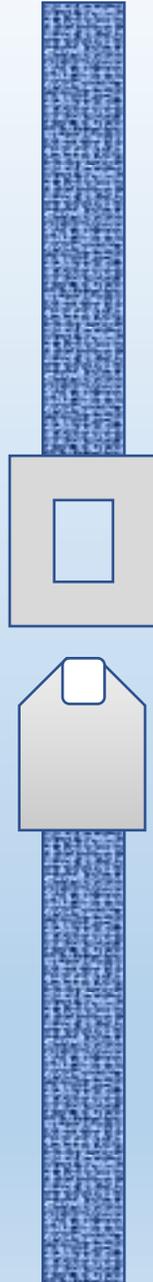
622 Responses

Question 7



What is your normal response to seat belt violations?

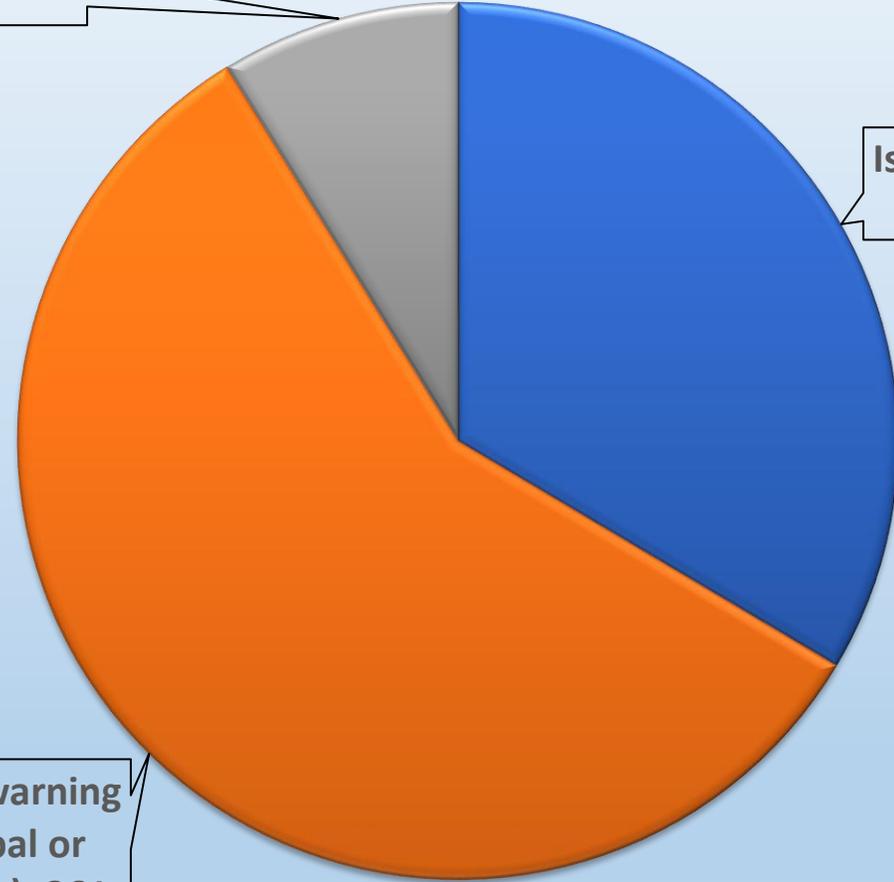
- Issue Citation
- Issue warning (verbal or written)
- Do not enforce



Do not enforce,
55, 9%

Issue warning
(verbal or
written), 361,
58%

Issue Citation,
210, 33%



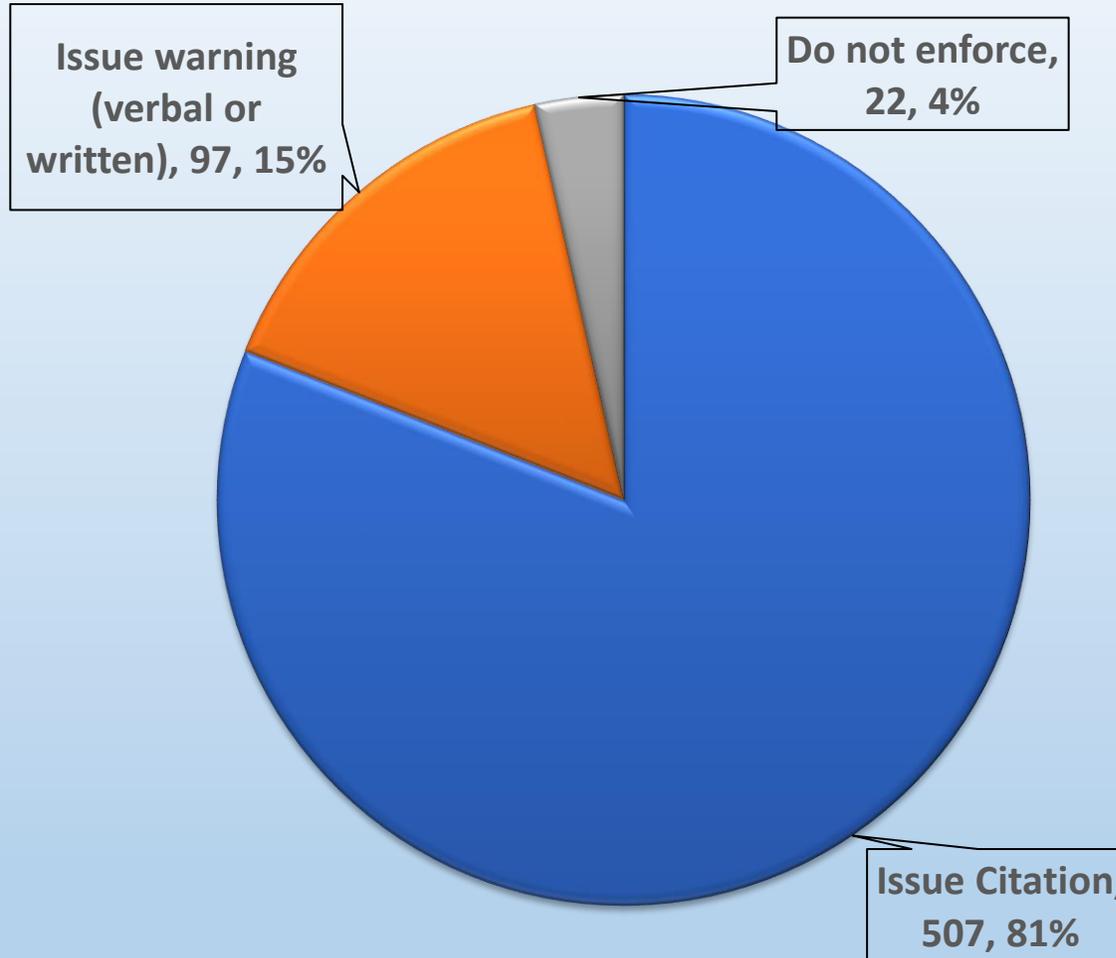
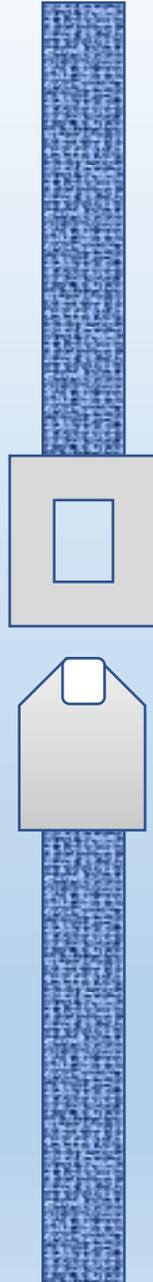
626 Responses

Question 8



What is your normal response to child restraint violations?

- Issue Citation
- Issue warning (verbal or written)
- Do not enforce



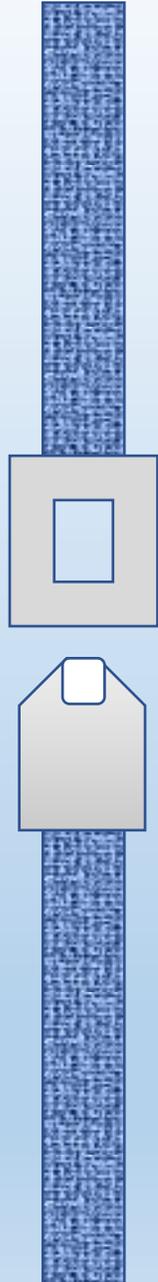
626 Responses

Question 9

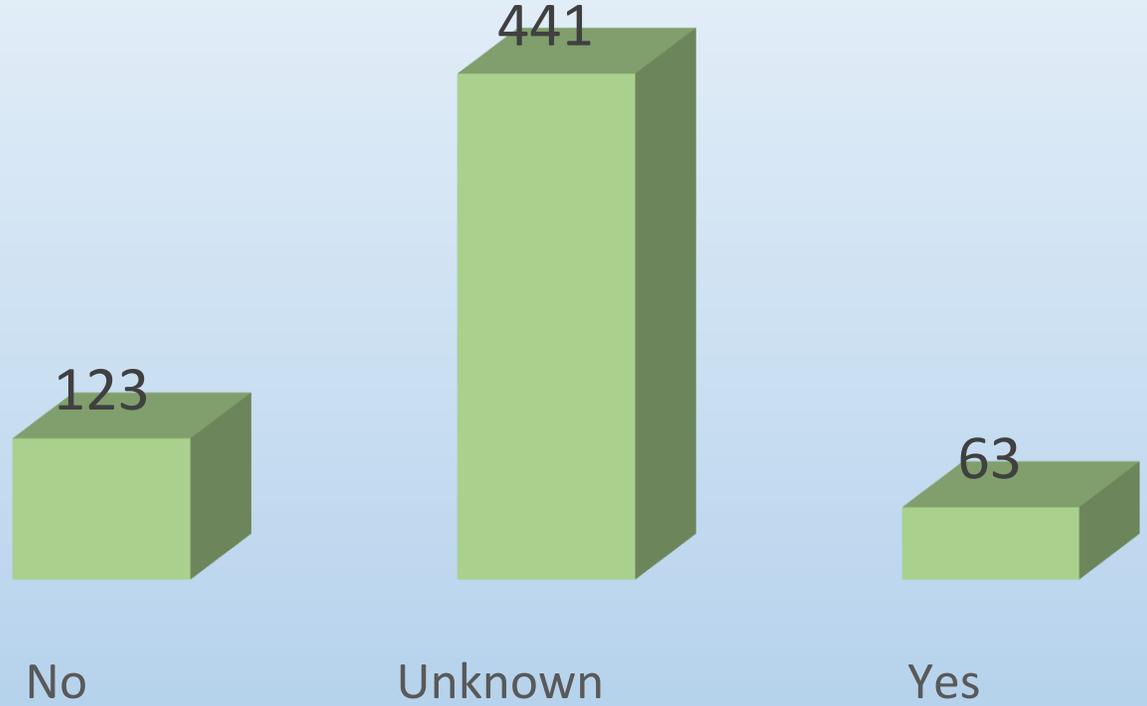


Are there diversion programs available in your jurisdiction for child restraint violators?

- Yes
- No
- Unknown



450
400
350
300
250
200
150
100
50
0



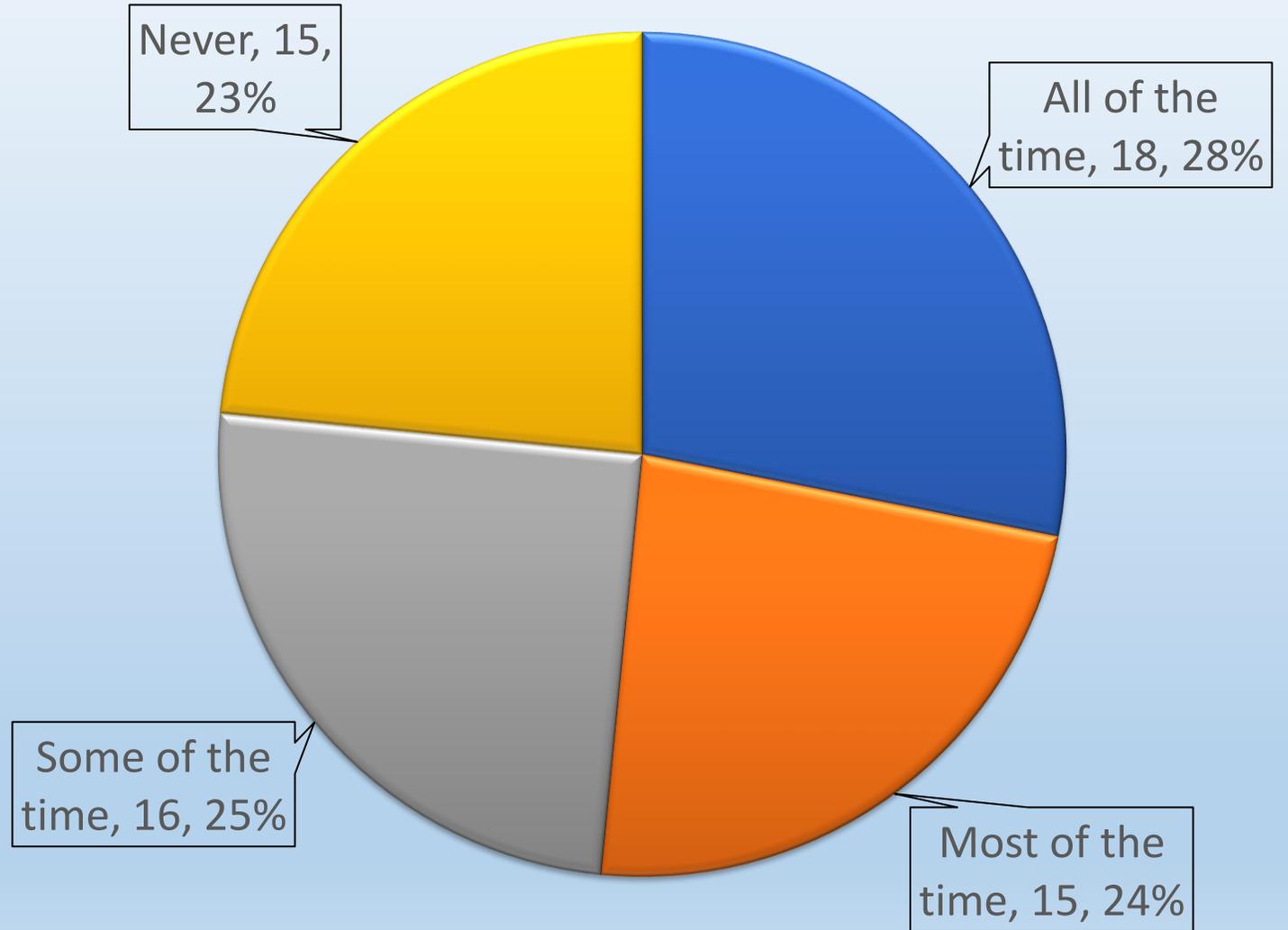
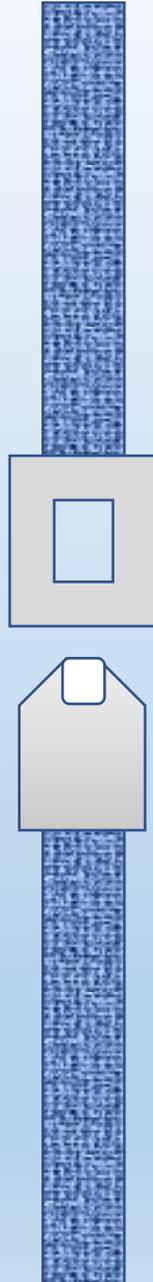
627 Responses

Question 10



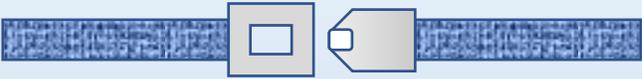
If diversion programs are available for child restraint violators, how often do you make referrals?

- All the time
- Most of the time
- Some of the time
- Never



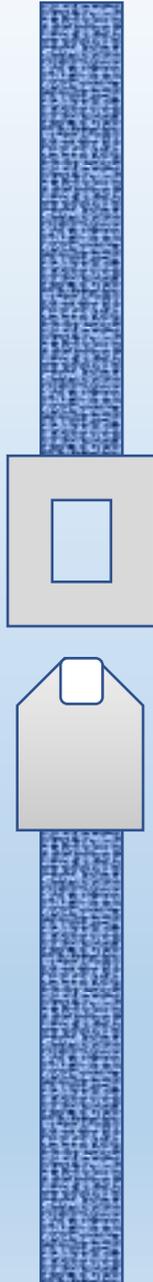
63 Responses

Question 11 A



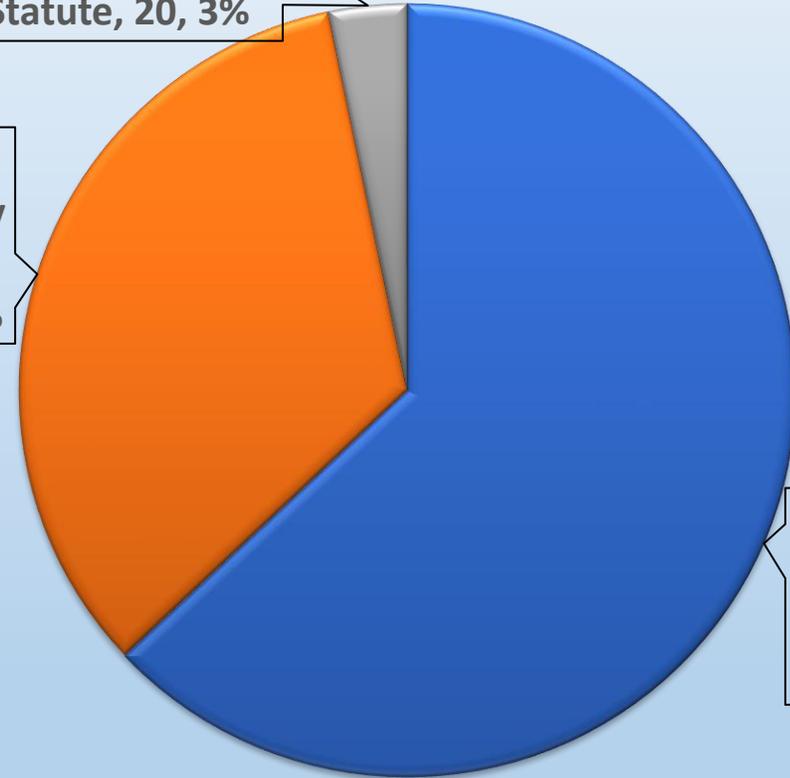
What is your knowledge of the enforcement options in the following areas? A. Safety Belt Enforcement

- Strong knowledge- No need to consult Statute
- Average knowledge - May need to consult Statute
- Less than average knowledge - Need to consult Statute



Average knowledge - May need to consult Statute, 207, 34%

Less than average knowledge - Need to consult Statute, 20, 3%



Strong knowledge - No need to consult Statute, 386, 63%

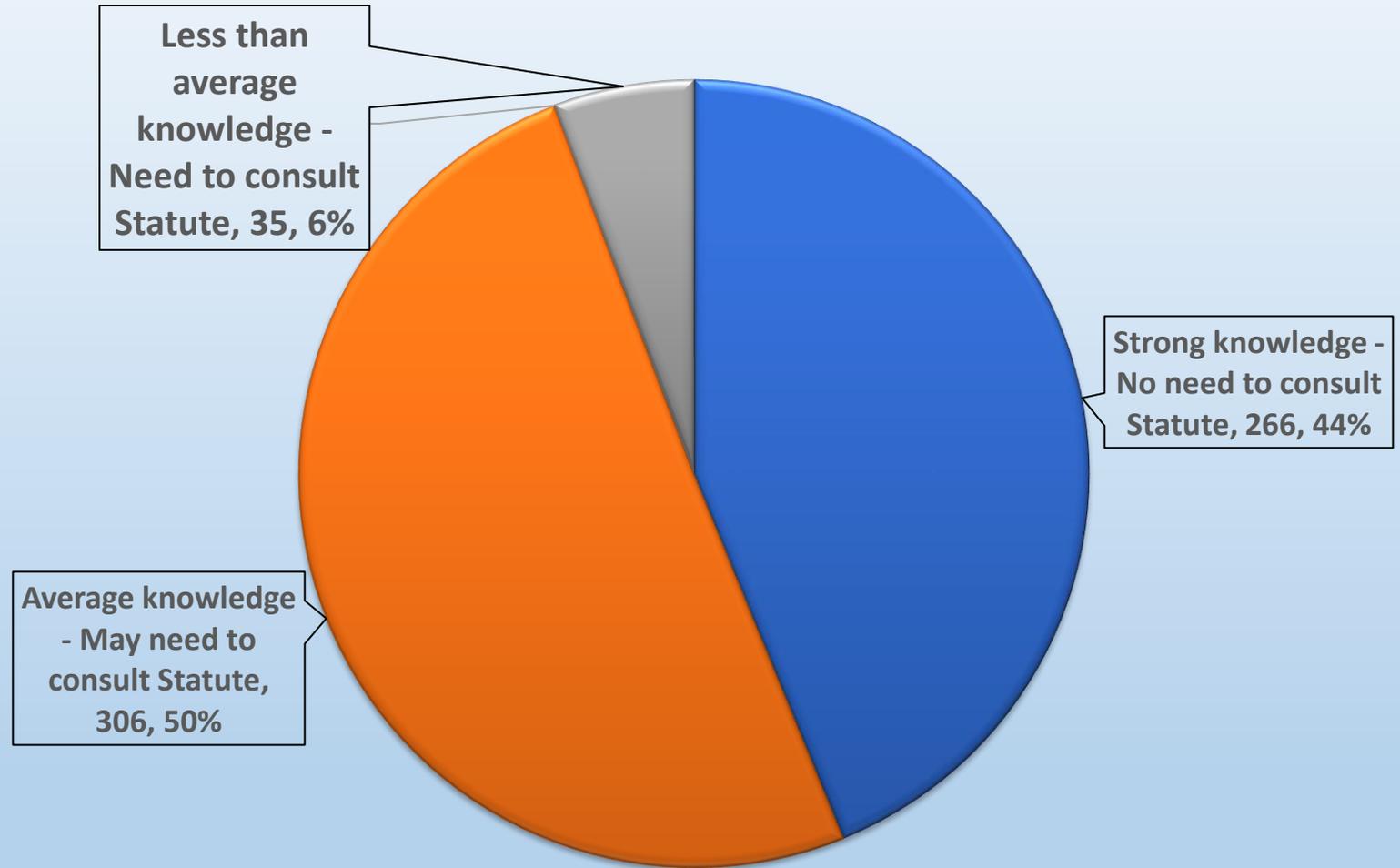
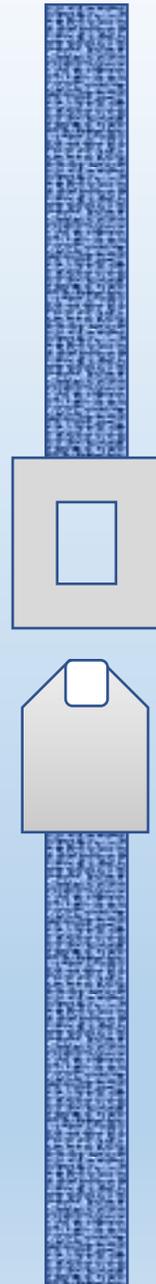
Question 11 B



What is your knowledge of the enforcement options in the following areas?

B. Child Restraint Enforcement (matrix)

- Strong knowledge- No need to consult Statute
- Average knowledge - May need to consult Statute
- Less than average knowledge - Need to consult Statute



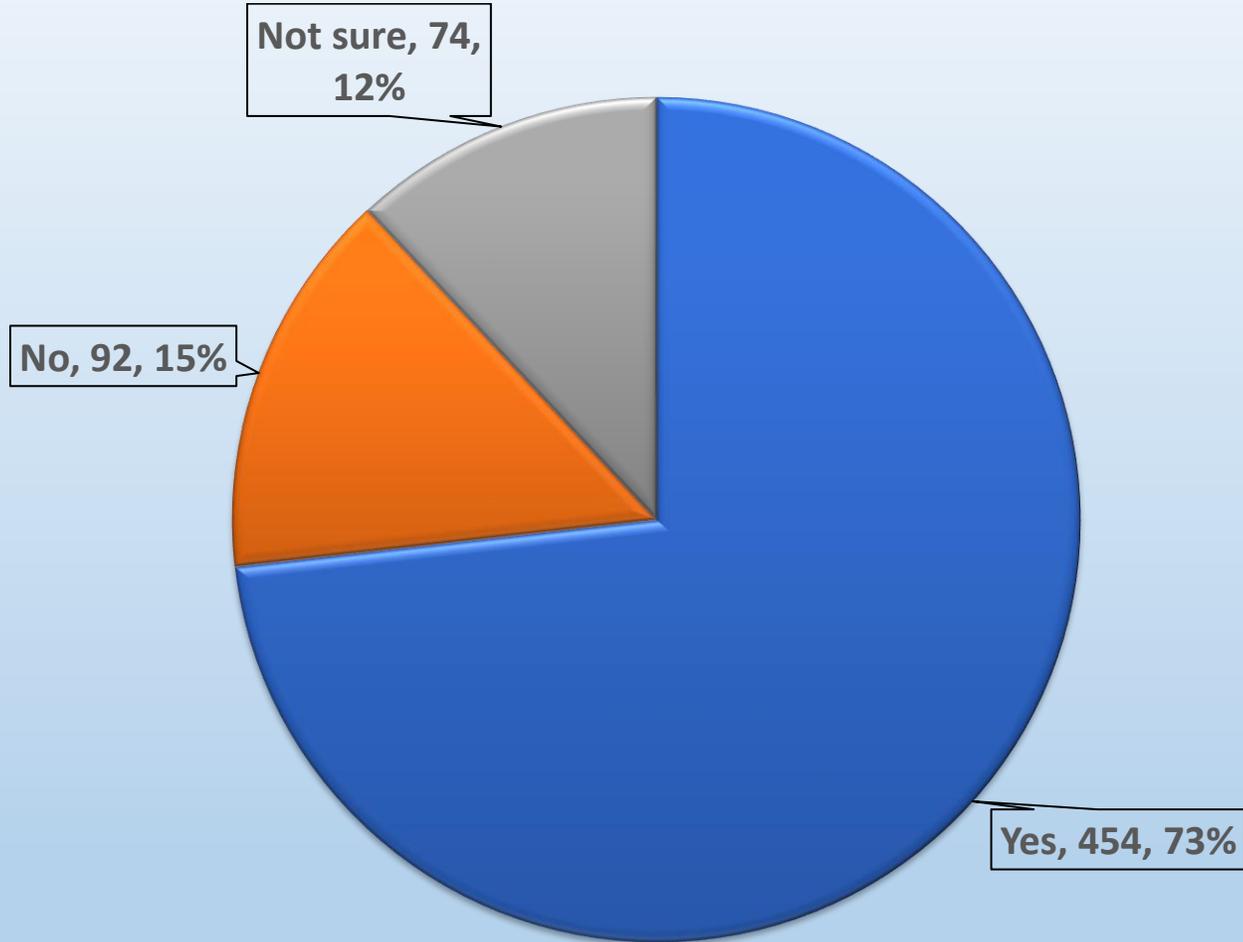
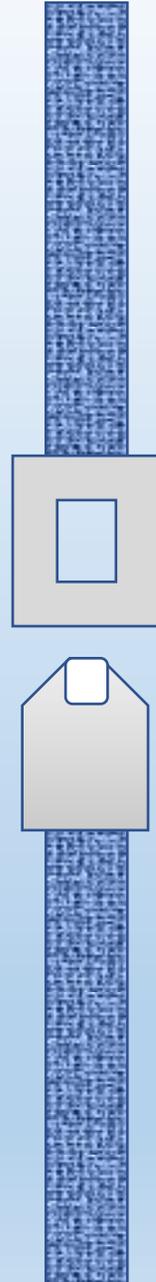
607 Responses

Question 12



Would you find a training video or self-guided PowerPoint presentation on Safety Belt and Child Restraint Enforcement helpful, if one was available?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

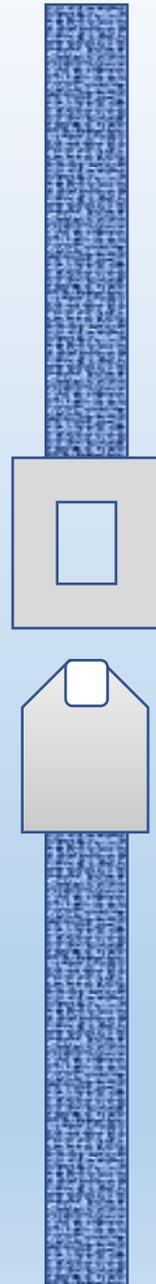


623 Responses

Question 13 A-F



Questions 13. A-F were designed to educate the respondent while answering the survey. The questions were culled from current published traffic safety materials.

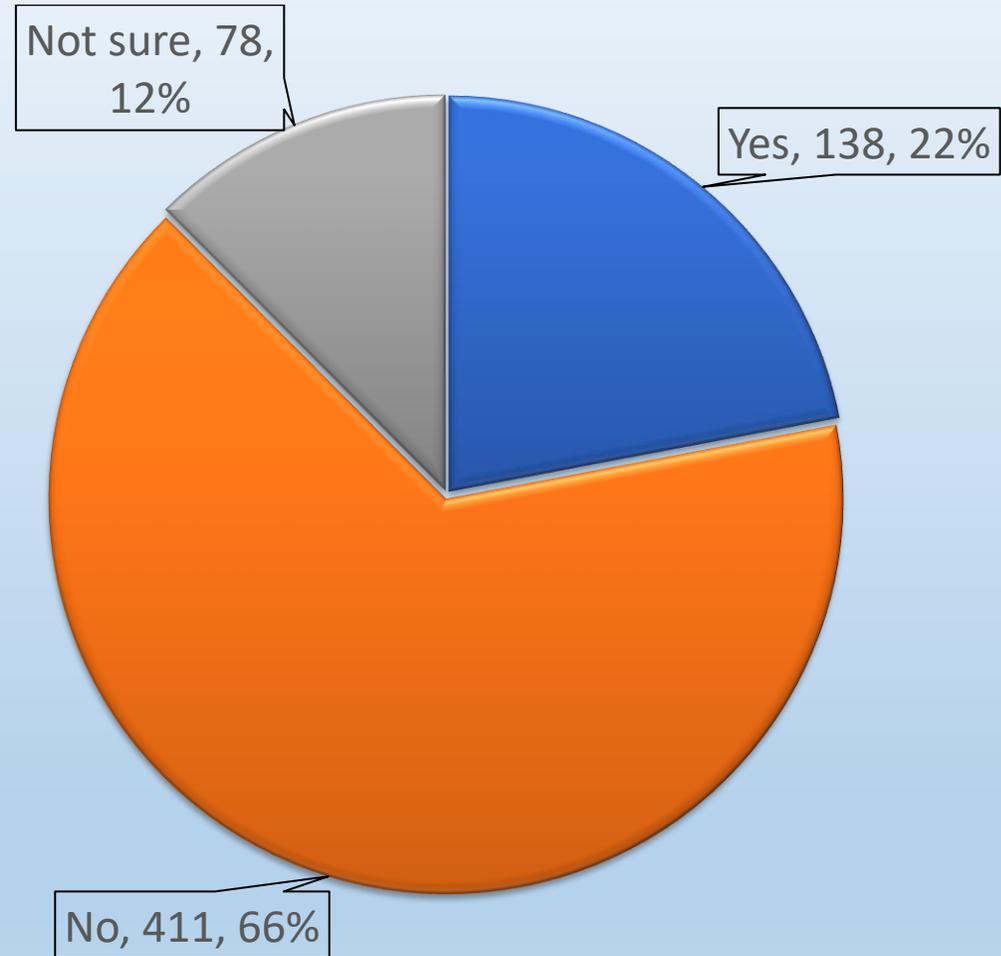
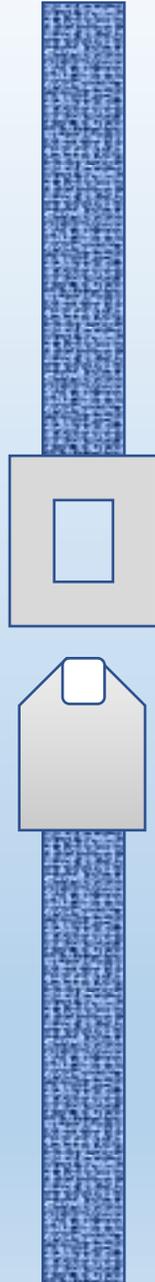


- A. Florida Safety Belt usage was just under 90% in 2018 at 89.9%
- B. Nearly half of all traffic fatalities are unbelted vehicle occupants
- C. 30% of all officers killed in 2019 were in vehicle crashes
- D. Airbags are designed to work with safety belts and not to replace them
- E. Wearing a safety belt correctly while riding in the front seat of a car, reduces your chances of a fatal injury by 45%
- F. Child restraint use drops by 40% when parents ride without their safety belts

Question 13 A



- Did you know?
- Florida Safety Belt usage was just under 90% in 2019 at 89.9%.

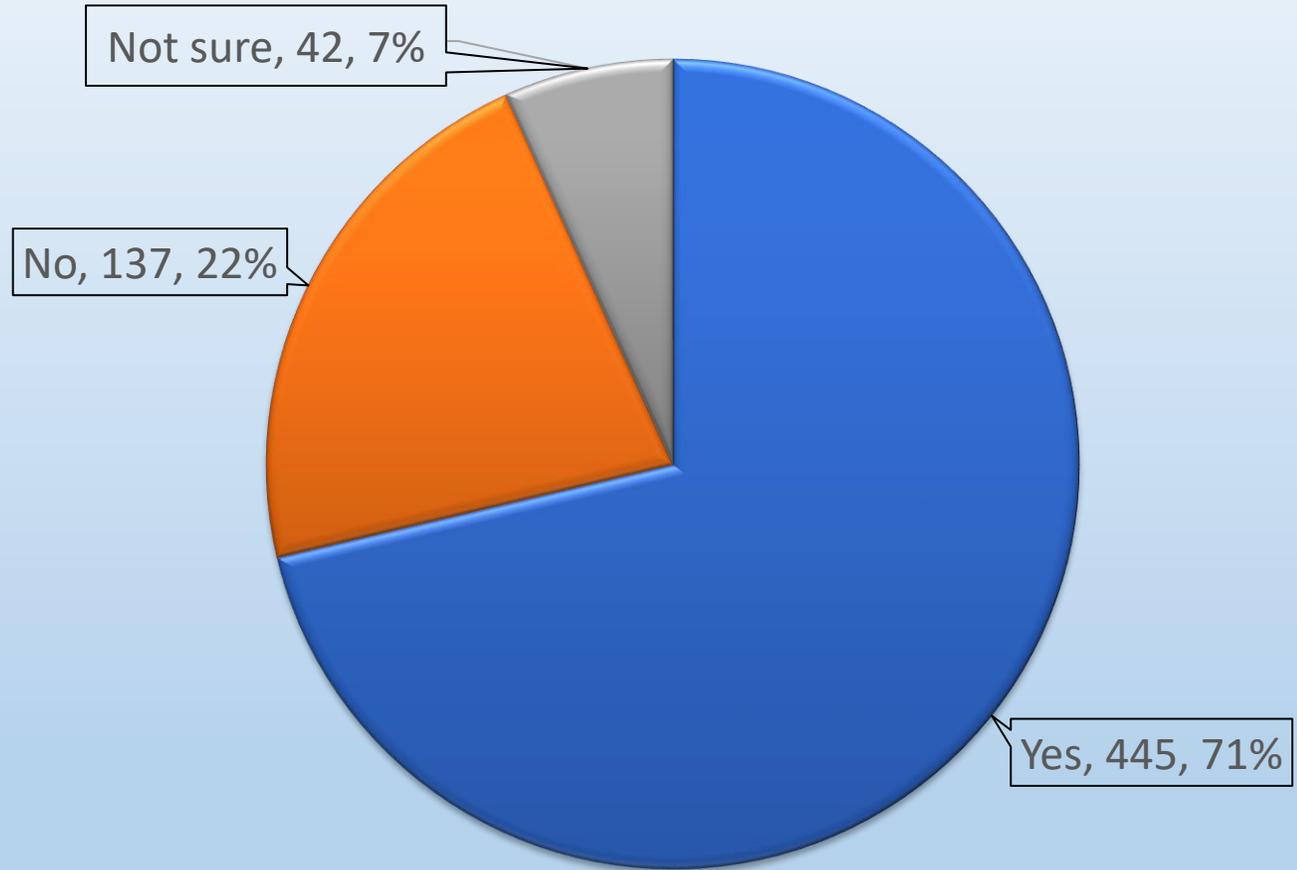
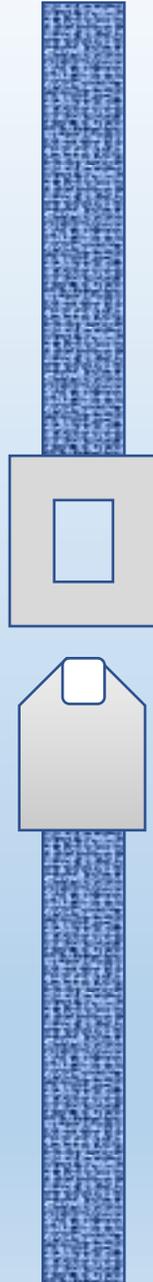


627 Responses

Question 13 B



- Did you know?
- Nearly half of all traffic fatalities are unbelted vehicle occupants

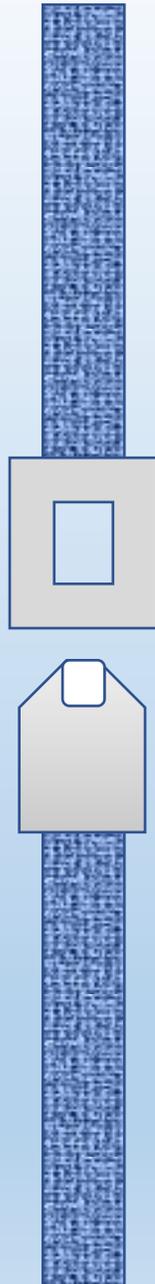


624 Responses

Question 13 C

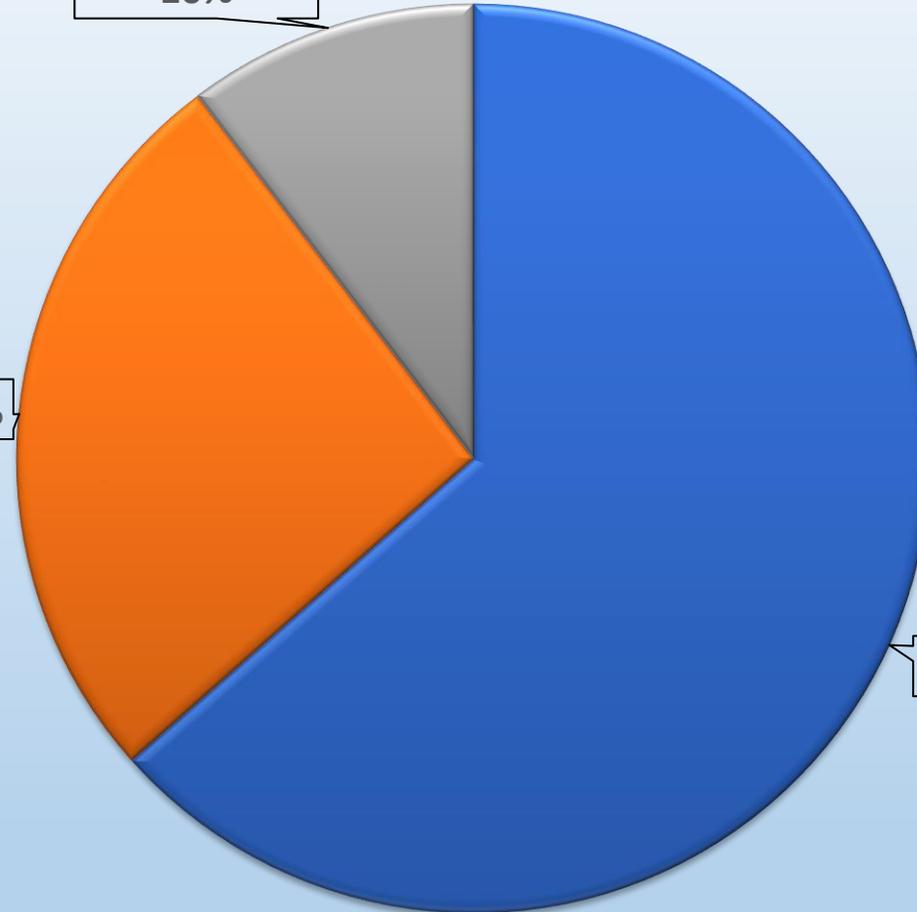


- Did you know?
- 30% of all officers killed in 2019 were in vehicle crashes



No, 163, 26%

Not sure, 64,
10%

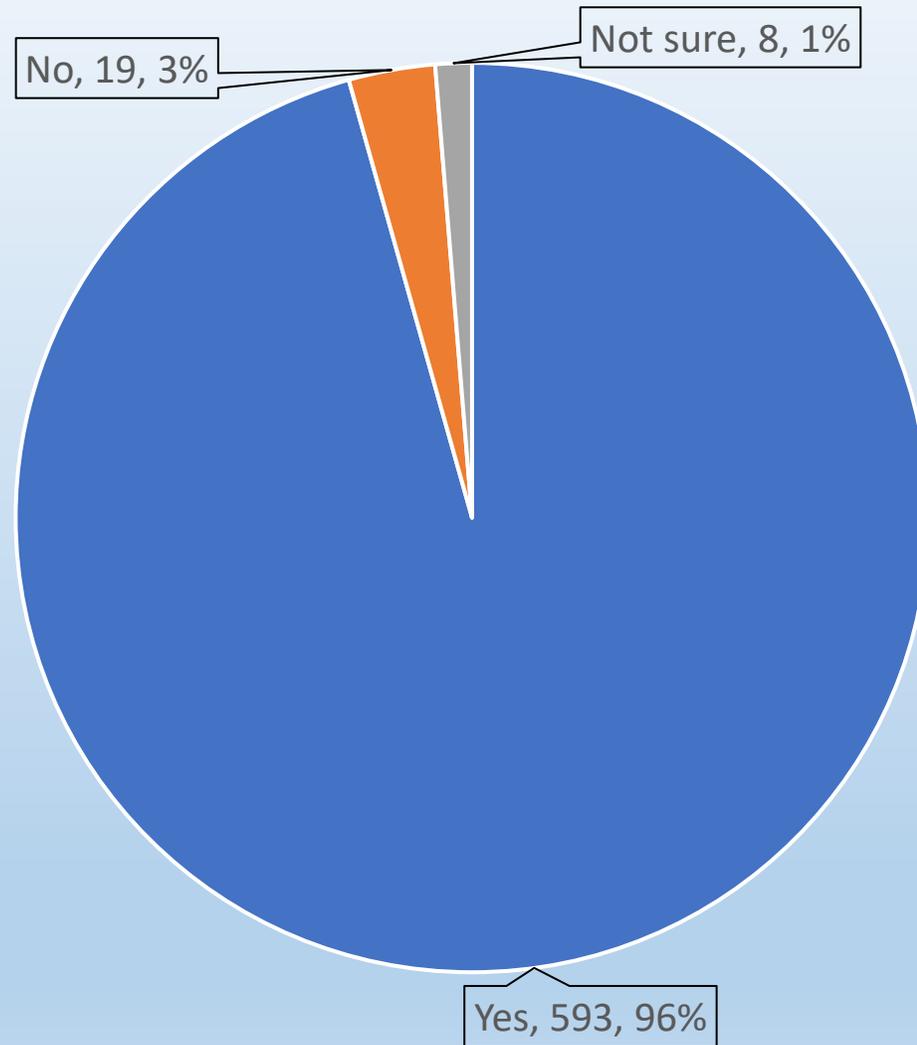
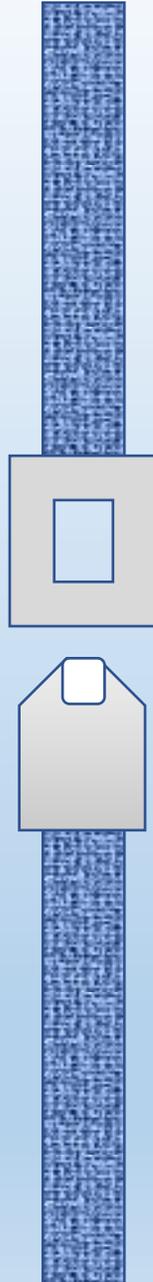


Yes, 394, 64%

Question 13 D



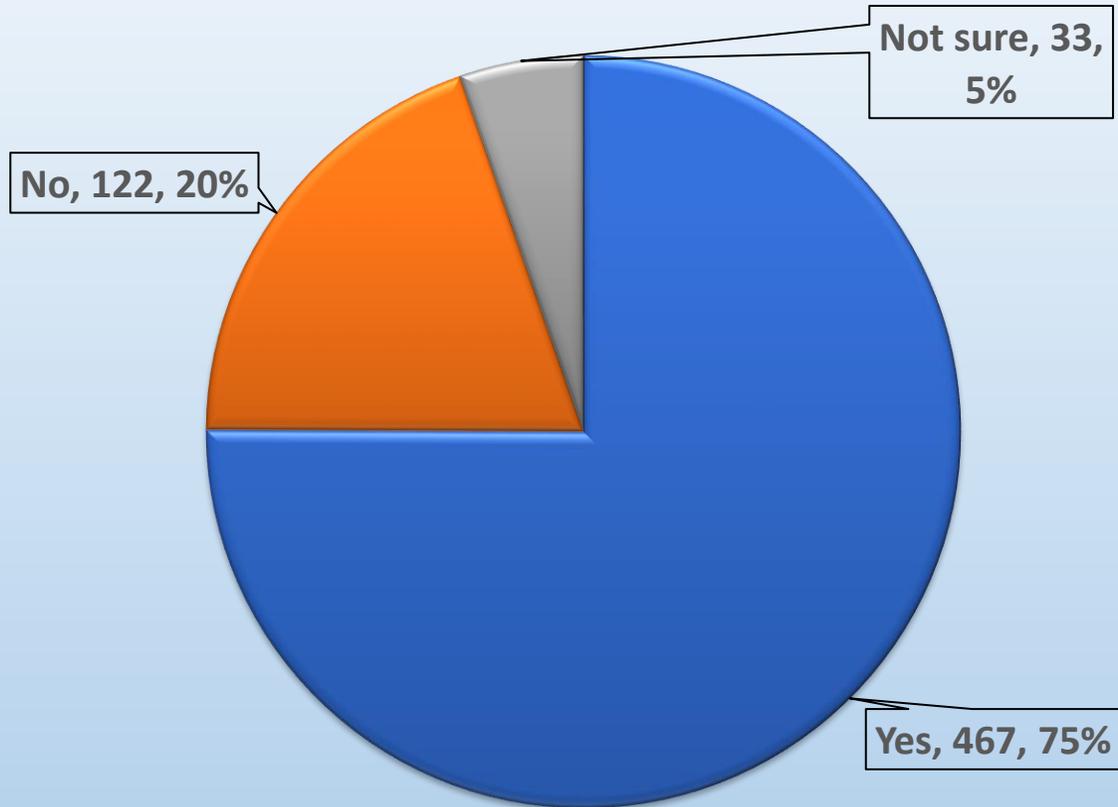
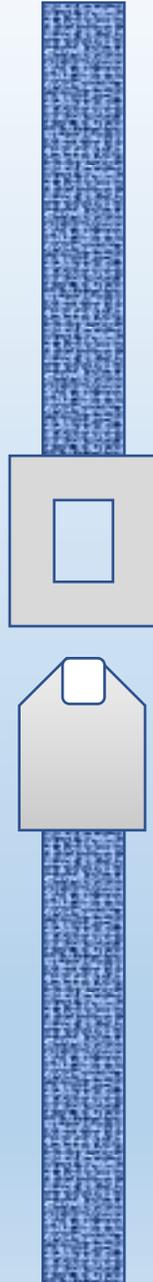
- Did you know?
- Airbags are designed to work with safety belts and not to replace them



Question 13 E



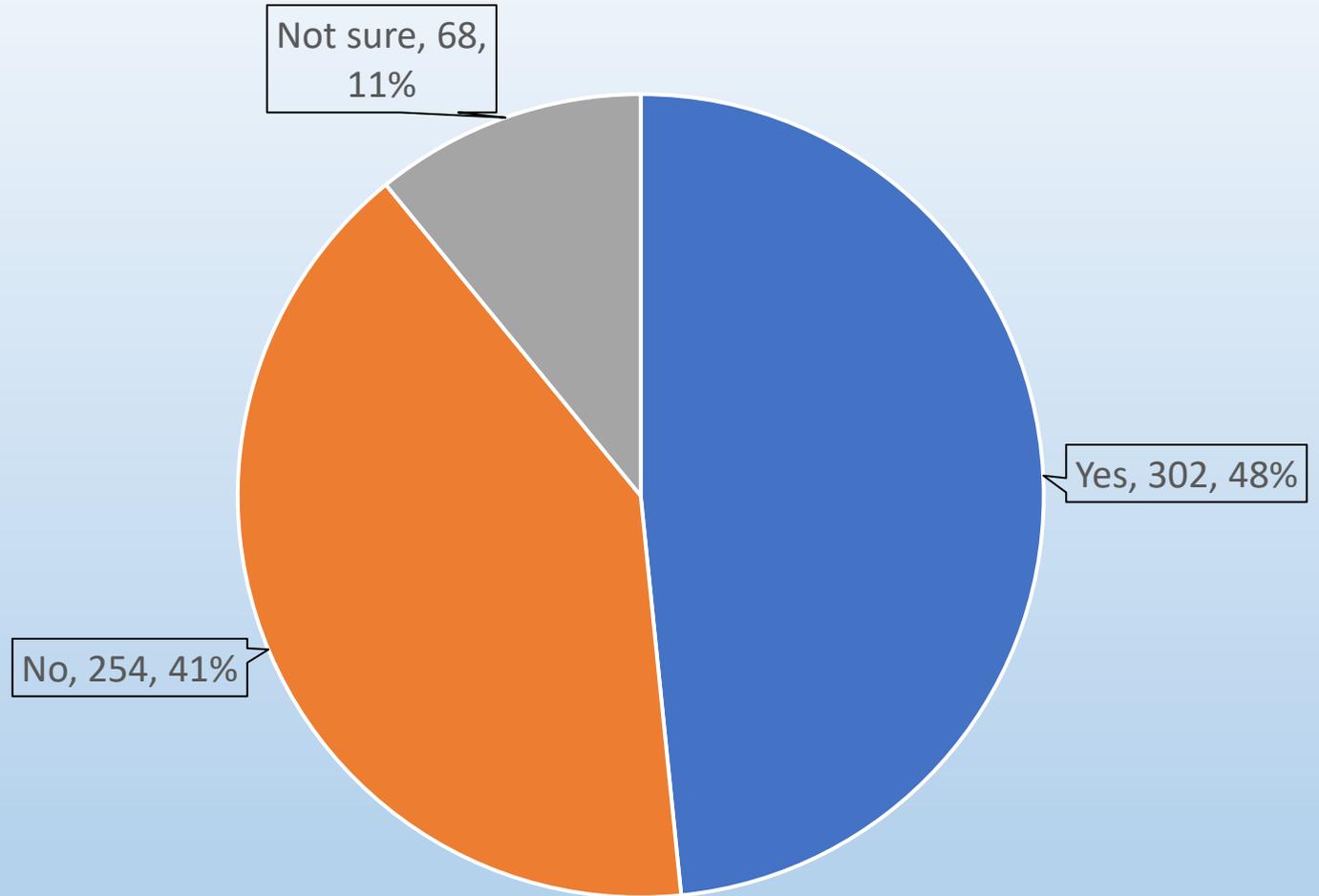
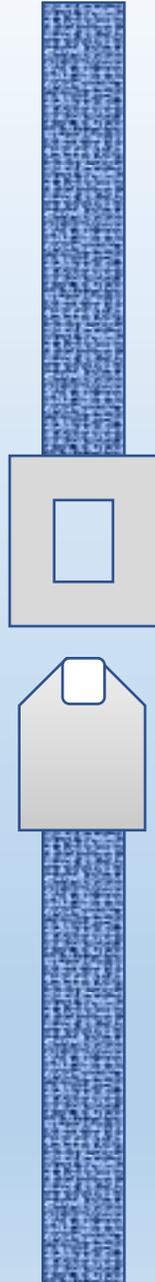
- Did you know?
- Wearing a safety belt correctly while riding in the front seat of a car, reduces your chances of a fatal injury by 45%



Question 13 F

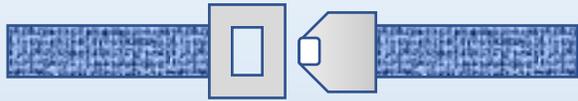


- Did you know?
- Child restraint use drops by 40% when parents ride without their safety belts

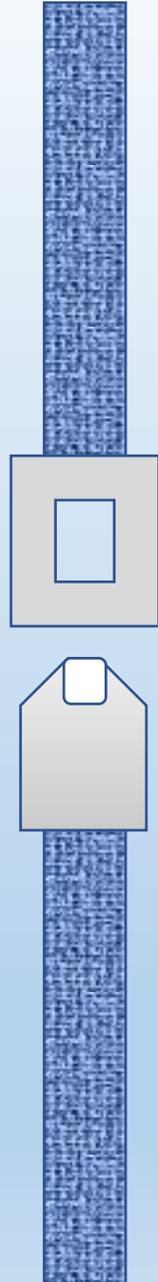


624 Responses

Question 13 A-F



- Average number of responses
- 623



Child restraint use drops by 40% when parents ride without their saefy belts -- Did you know?



Wearing a safety belt correctly while riding in the front seat of a car, reduces your chances of a fatal injury by 45% -- Did you know?



Airbags are designed to work with safety belts and not to replace them -- Did you know?



30% of all officers killed in 2019 were in vehicle crashes -- Did you know?



Nearly half of all traffic fatalities are unbelted vehicle occupants -- Did you know?

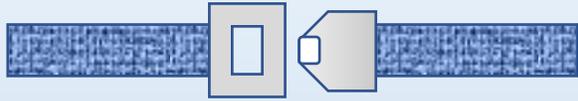


Florida Safety Belt usage was just under 90% in 2019 at 89.8% -- Did you know?

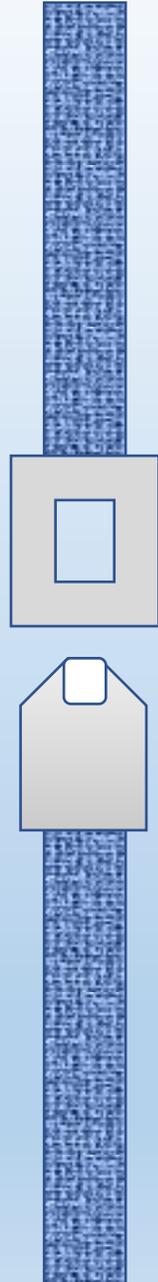


■ Yes ■ No ■ Unsure

Free Response



- The following pages are filled with comments from the free response field on the survey:



Free Response

A field was provided for respondents to provide feedback on the survey or to present any ideas for training materials or needs

I believe that safety belt usage has gone up over the last ten years as a direct result of the use of the Click it or ticket program which has been effective and should be continued. However, I strongly suspect that in light of the amount of civil unrest in recent years that you will observe a downward trend on the number of traffic citations being issued, IE lower statistics.

Thank you for all you do.

laws/rules for ages and weights of children regarding child seats would help.

Can we all like get together and have a BBQ?

would like more training

Thank you!

I would take any training or PSA material that you have that I could share on the department social media or hand out at traffic stops.

Seat Belts save lives.

I was involved in a major crash in my police vehicle in 2016. the vehicle was totaled. I was wearing my safety belt; it saved my life!

continue to enforce. great program

thank you for survey. hope we do more campaigns / click it or ticket operations. PowerPoint needed

I wear my seat belt most of the time when on duty because it increases officer safety; however, if traveling at a low rate of speed or through a residential neighborhood, wearing a seat belt could hinder officer safety. There are strong arguments for situations.

instead of a power point, id rather a rep come to the agency and show the proper usage of each safety device in a vehicle. power points are to often used and at times become very dull to keep track of what's happening.

My believe as a instructor at my Agency and for the State of Florida in regards to BDI,ADI,DATA courses. Any and all education PowerPoints and information introduced to all drivers/operators is highly important. These tools would decrease fatal crashes and serious injuries to ensure safety upon all operators and pedestrians.

Big on child safety restraints more than adult.

Lower the price of the ticket to \$10.00 and I would write almost one every time.

I am a civilian employee, so I don't actually stop violators.

Not sure if safety belts lower officer safety, I normally take my off as i arrive on a call to get out quicker in case it my turn into an ambush situation.

I try to wear a safety belt while at work however the patrol vehicle provided (Ford Taurus) does not physically allow me to use it based on my size (6'5 240 pounds). If issued a larger vehicle i would almost always wear my belt.

waste of time in response to an overreaction to a media story

I work in Corrections, so I do not know most the seat belt laws and regulations.

Safety belt and child restraint-based training would be an excellent training opportunity.

I agree the usage of seating restraints are beneficial for everyone of every age.

Occupants not wearing their seatbelts is nothing more than a peaceful protest against government oversight into personal decisions. If governmental agencies across the country are not going to arrest violent protesters, why should a peaceful protesters against seatbelts receive a citation.

I believe the Statutes in FL in regard to child safety is bare minimum and needs to be increased. A possibility would be to adopt Statutes similar to GA, to increase the requirements and penalties for child safety. People don't plan for accidents and it's really easy to neglect until you've seen that fatal child. Increase the laws!

- I do not wear a safety belt while slow rolling neighborhoods 25mph or less. This allows me to get out quick. Seat belt gets caught up in my duty belt. Had to change holster to keep it from snagging the rotating hood of the safety device. On roads 35 or greater speed limit I buckle up on duty.
- I write citations in crash investigations for adults. Seat belt law was tied to USDOT funds years back just like the 21 to drink alcohol.
- I can still ride a motorcycle without a helmet

I found this poll interesting because I am religious about wearing a seat belt off duty but when on duty, I will sometimes wear it. I think it has to do with a couple instances where I was responding to a hot call and when exiting the vehicle either forgot I had it on or partially got it off and ended up almost injuring myself.

I think a police officer wearing or not wearing a safety belt should be considered to be situational. For example, while patrolling neighborhoods at slower speeds where the potential to exit a vehicle quickly verses patrolling highways or interstates when the officer's speeds are higher.

I would like to clarify usage of safety belt while on duty in regard to officer safety. Due to the increase of ambush style situations it is a tactical disadvantage to utilize a safety belt 100% of the time while on duty. Additionally, I believe training would greatly improve officer's situational awareness and safety if given "belt or no belt" simulated on duty situations.

i wear seat belt at work all the time but when arriving a bad call or conducting traffic stop i take it off i don't want to get shot while taking my seat belt off the seat belts in a police Tahoe are to hard to take off fast i think mine is thanks

I wear my belt on the interstate when driving to work and home from work. I do not wear it in the city as it is a safety issue when on duty, it slows my ability to exit my vehicle in an emergency situation and restricts the availability of reaching my firearm if needed.

I personally use a seat belt unless in an area I think I will have to jump out at. I always use one in my personal vehicle. I also always enforce it with children. However, I do not issue citations for adults not wearing a belt. If they can ride a motorcycle with no helmet it does not make sense to me to force adults to wear a belt. I use it for PC to stop cars to look for other violations.

A training PowerPoint or online module would be beneficial to push out to officers throughout the agency as a reminder on the laws regarding seat belt usage. Additionally, if the specifics of child safety belts and car seats were clearly depicted, it would be highly beneficial. Overall, most officers know the general seat belt laws, but need a reminder here and there for the other laws.

YOUR SURVEY AND ANSWERS ARE TOO BROAD AND NEED ROOM ON EACH FOR EXPLANATION NOT THIS TYPE OF QUESTIONS WITH LEADING ANSWERS.

I believe if the fine was lower for the violation more citations would be issued for this violation.

I am a new traffic unit supervisor... would like any info that will help me further my knowledge in promoting traffic safety and enforcement in my agency...

Wearing a safety belt as a police officer enhances safety. The only negative part of it is remembering to remove the belt when not driving or removing the belt early prior to exiting the vehicle quickly. Officer safety becomes an issue when you are belted and parked.

The reason I don't enforce seatbelt violations is because I am in a detective unit in unmarked vehicle.

When arriving on a call for service I usually remove my seatbelt about 1/4 mile away. I do this to negate some of my officer safety concerns.

Do you wear a safety belt on duty? The question is too vague and should have a write in response. While patrolling or in any high-speed motion of the vehicle most officers choose to wear their seat belt. There are times that while on active patrols of neighborhoods, just before a final traffic stop and exiting the patrol vehicle a officer would prefer not to be belted for safety response.

Any video we can have officers watch would be great

In response to the question about violators of child restraint laws and when does an Officer choose to give a ticket or a warning; I strongly feel that it is depending upon the attitude of the driver. I also think that a diversion class is a good ideal as the step between a warning and a citation.

I wear belt in bad weather and Code 3 runs

The question about increased officer safety is situational. Obviously, seatbelts improve officer safety during routine driving, however, in a felony stop or other tactical situation, they are one more step an officer has to take before exiting their vehicle and drawing their firearm. I recently found this to be an issue with the current Dodge Charger Police Cruiser. As a right-handed officer, the seatbelt clasp rests under my holster. making it difficult to reach the release button quickly. Vehicle manufacturers should address this issue by using extended clasps which rise up above the level of the center console. Much like the Ford Taurus was.

Occupants not wearing their seatbelts is nothing more than a peaceful protest against government oversight into personal decisions. If governmental agencies across the country are not going to arrest violent protesters, why should a peaceful protesters against seatbelts receive a citation.

The question on citation or warning are dictated on a case by case basis. Sometimes officers' issue citations, other times they may issue a warning. I don't believe any officer uses an all or none approach. As the Agency head I would agree training on the dangers of not wearing occupant protection and the purpose of enforcement would be good training information, especially for newer officers. Could you provide information on diversion programs on the LEL website.

Training on seatbelt/ child restraint devices would be tremendously helpful. During the click it or ticket campaign, child restraint devices should be included in the campaign. It is not stressed in the click it or ticket campaign and I believe is just as important or more important.

-Officer safety seatbelts- Wearing a seatbelt in my opinion decreased officer safety with regards to human threats of violence but increases officer motor vehicle safety. I believe there should be a specially designed restraint system for police officers that considers placement of restraints and easy/emergency disconnect.

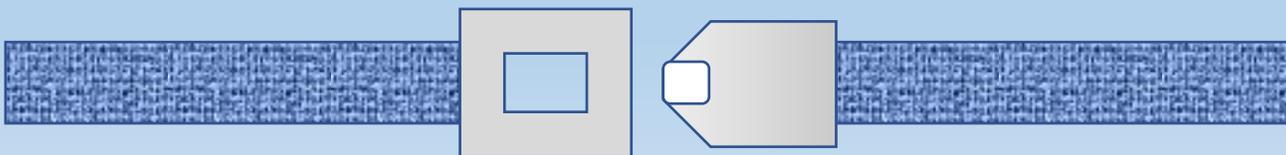
I have noticed that most parents do not know how to properly restrain their children inside of a car seat. The seat is present, but the restraints and base are either too loose, or not connected properly. I also see a lot of instances where the child will remove the restraints without the parent's knowledge.

Unfortunately, opinions vary greatly regarding the use of seat belts. Especially since the state has a law that gives operators of motorcycles discretion to use helmets, which one could argue have a greater role in preventing injury/death when the operator of a motorcycle is involved in a crash compared to a vehicle operator. As an officer, it is hard to argue with a citizen who brings up this point. I believe the state would have a better chance of 1) getting people to voluntarily wear seat belts and 2) getting officers to more often than not enforce seat belt violations if the state had a unified front regarding occupant / motorist safety regarding safety equipment usage.

As a police officer enforcing seat belt violations with the current laws in place, I use discretion in writing seat belt citations for adults and usually issue citations for child seat violations. Typically, I will address the seat belt violation via citation in lieu of issuing a citation for moving infraction as the seat belt citation is usually a cheaper citation than a moving violation.

During my on-duty times, I typically wear my seat belt while on patrol, especially in high traffic areas. If I'm in a residential neighborhood, a slow-moving area, or arriving to a scene, I take it off. Although I am keenly aware of the value of wearing a seat belt to ensure safety in a crash, I constantly evaluate my situation and determine the safety consequences of not wearing a seat belt verses the tactical need to rapidly evacuate my patrol car and use the seat belt accordingly.

I hope this helps in your research.



Questions

