

EAU CLAIRE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



MEDIA RELEASE

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SEATBELT ENFORCEMENT GRANT

Nationally, statistics show that 57% of people killed in traffic crashes and 24% of people who sustain incapacitating injuries in traffic crashes were not wearing their seatbelts. In Wisconsin seatbelt usage is at 87.4%, about 6 points lower than the national average.

The Eau Claire County Sheriff's Office, along with several other local agencies, has been awarded a grant through the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Safety. Beginning March 1st, extra deputies will be patrolling Eau Claire County and their primary focus will be the enforcement of Wisconsin's mandatory seatbelt law.

The Eau Claire County Sheriff's Office wants to remind drivers that every occupant of a vehicle is required to wear their seatbelt. Some believe that airbags will protect them in the event of a crash even if they're not wearing their seatbelts. Airbags are designed to work in conjunction with seatbelts to protect vehicle occupants. They are not a substitute for wearing a properly fastened seatbelt.