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**Clinton County Health Department
Press Release
Traffic Safety Program
“Buckle Up New York” – May 2006- June 2006**

Clinton County Traffic Safety announces the start of the “Buckle Up New York, Click It...Or Ticket” seat belt campaign. This enforcement effort is intended to save lives by ensuring all motorists and their passengers wear their safety belts. Approximately 30 percent of highway deaths in New York State occur to occupants who are unrestrained. This two week spring enforcement will be a cooperative effort involving local, state and federal law enforcement agencies. At the local level this will involve the services of the Clinton County Sheriff’s Department, Plattsburgh City Police Department and University Police at SUNY Plattsburgh. This effort will include seatbelt checkpoints and additional patrols dedicated to enforcing New York’s mandatory seatbelt law. During last spring’s Buckle Up New York campaign, 252 tickets were issued during these multi-agency initiatives.

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for people age 15 to 34 in the United States. Safety belt use saves lives and prevents injuries. It is estimated that safety belts save the lives of more than 14,000 motorists each year and save about \$50 billion in medical care, lost productivity and other injury related costs nationwide. The months of May and June signal the end of school and the start of summer fun and family vacations. It is important for people to start off any trip, no matter how short or long, by fastening their seatbelts. In addition, this is an excellent time to demonstrate to our children the importance of buckling our safety belts. Driver restraint use is a strong predictor of child restraint use. A recent study by the American Academy of Pediatrics indicates that when drivers do buckle up, 87% of children riding with them are also restrained.

NEW YORK STATE LAW:

- All front seat passengers **must** wear seatbelts regardless of age.
- All rear seat passengers **must** wear seatbelts under the age of 16.
- All children under 4 years old **must** be properly restrained in a federally approved child safety seat.
- All children between the ages of 4 and 7 **must** be buckled with a lap and shoulder belt in booster seats or appropriate child safety restraints.

Endorsed by: _____
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