



Q: What is the High Five Rural Traffic Safety Project?

A: A data-driven, multi-agency effort to increase seat belt use and reduce serious injury and fatal crashes on rural roads in Kentucky through the use of education, engineering and enforcement.

Q: Where in Kentucky will the program be focused?

A: In rural counties that KYTC crash data show have high fatal and severe injury rates.

Q: Don't most crashes occur on major roadways?

A: In 2024, 45% of fatalities in Kentucky occurred on rural roads and 80% of Kentucky roads are rural.

Q: What are the main causes of rural traffic crashes?

A: Most rural road crashes involve only one vehicle. Contributing factors include loss of control, lane departure, excessive speed, failure to yield, and impaired driving.

Q: What will be done to reduce crashes & save lives?

A: Through enforcement, media and community outreach efforts, participating local agencies in selected counties will educate drivers on the benefits of complying with traffic laws, especially Kentucky's primary seat belt law.

Q: Why is increasing seat belt usage so important?

A: Proper and regular seat belt use is the single most effective way to reduce deaths and injuries. Eighty-two percent of vehicle occupants ejected during a crash are killed.

Q: Can more be done to make rural roads safer?

A: Yes. The High Five project includes local and state engineers and traffic safety professionals working together to identify road hazards and make upgrades wherever possible.

*Data Sources:

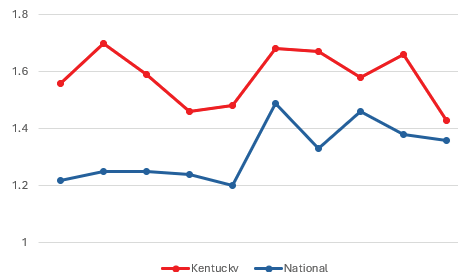
Kentucky Transportation Cabinet
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

The High Five Program is sponsored by:
Team Kentucky, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet,
Kentucky Office of Highway Safety, Kentucky State Police,
and the County Sheriff.

The High 5 Rural Traffic Safety Project recognizes:

- The chances of surviving a traffic crash are 45% higher when properly restrained in a seat belt.
- In the US, based on known restraint use in fatal crashes, 51% of rural passenger vehicle occupants killed in 2021 were unrestrained.
- Airbags are designed to work with seat belts. To protect yourself in a crash, always buckle up.
- While Kentucky's statewide seat belt usage is 88.5%, over 100,000 drivers plus 20,000 passengers are still unbelted on Kentucky roadways everyday.

Kentucky has higher fatality rate than the national average.



Rural Kentucky roadways have fatal crashes at a higher than average rate.

