

Citation (ticket) data comparisons: nighttime seat belt patrols vs daytime seat belt patrols.

Nighttime seat belt patrols net more risky drivers.

When comparing nighttime seat belt enforcement patrol (NTSBE) ticket data to daytime seat belt patrol (CIOT 5/06) ticket data -- and calculating by “officer hour worked” -- the following information reflects the differences in patrol productivity:

	NTSBE 5/08	PRODUCTIVITY Citations per 100 hours of law enforcement activity:	CIOT 5/06	PRODUCTIVITY Citations per 100 hours of law enforcement activity:
HOURS WORKED	6248		11,731	
SEAT BELT CITATIONS	5069	81.11	9892	84.32
CHILD CAR SEAT	257	4.11	276	2.35
DUI	105	1.68	108	.92
FELONY ARREST	128	2.04	38	0.32
DRUG ARREST	67	1.07	150	1.27
OTHER ALCOHOL	65	1.04	68	0.57
DRIVE W/O LICENSE	444	7.10	794	6.76

- **Seat belt tickets** – Nighttime patrols netted 3% fewer seat belt tickets.
- **Child car seat citations** – Nighttime patrols netted 42% more child car seat citations.
- **DUIs** – There was a 45% increase in the rate of DUIs written during nighttime patrols.
- **Felony arrests** – There were six times more felony arrests with nighttime patrols.
- **Other alcohol** – There was a 45% increase in the number of “other alcohol” citations.

The theory behind nighttime seat belt patrols is that officers intercept more of the types of drivers who cause serious injury and fatality collisions. Ticket data (above) supports this hypothesis. The evaluation being conducted on the project by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration will shed more light on the differences between daytime and nighttime seat belt-focused, law enforcement activity.

In addition, a nighttime seat belt patrol is a stationary patrol that requires the work of numerous officers and one of these officers (the observer) does not write tickets. This was not taken into consideration when making the (above) calculations; therefore, productivity is arguably 25% higher with nighttime patrols.