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### Seatbelt Safety Targets Local Drivers

Enhanced patrols, with an eye on seat belt usage by teenaged drivers, is coming to Horton, and all of Brown County, this month.

Calling it “an epidemic” in a press release, Horton Police Chief Beau Hasenohr says the focus will be areas around schools, with 51 teens, statewide, losing their lives in vehicle crashes during 2010. Seventy-five percent of those killed were not wearing a seat belt.

The statewide initiative, which begins Monday, will also see the participation of the Brown County Sheriff's Department(Play Audio :08 seconds)

That's Sheriff John Merchant who says that teens, with few years of driving experience, are most vulnerable to accidents when behind the wheel(Play Audio :18 seconds)

The program is sponsored by the Kansas Department of Transportation(Play Audio :23 seconds)

While teenaged drivers are the focus, Merchant says unbuckled adults, along with unrestrained young children, will also be targeted(Play Audio :13 seconds)

The enhanced patrolling effort is set to start on Monday, and will run for two weeks.