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**MORE NEW YORK MOTORISTS ARE BUCKLING UP,
SEAT BELT USE IN THE STATE ON THE RISE, SAYS NYIA**

ALBANY, NY—An increasing number of New York motorists are buckling up, thanks largely to the state’s “Click It or Ticket” law, the New York Insurance Association (NYIA) reported.

In 2008, a record 89 percent of front seat occupants in New York buckled up—an increase of nearly six percent from the previous year. New Yorkers’ seat belt use outpaced the 2008 national average of 83 percent.

New York is among 30 states with a primary seat belt law, which means police officers are allowed to stop and ticket motorists solely for not using seat belts.

“Using a seat belt is the most important factor in a person surviving an auto accident,” said Ellen Melchionni, president of NYIA. Lap/shoulder belts reduce the risk of dying in a crash by one-half, she said, citing data from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.

The New York Insurance Association (NYIA®) is a state trade association that has represented the property and casualty insurance industry for over 125 years. For more information on NYIA, visit www.nyia.org.

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