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Online Maryland Traffic Safety Poll Ready for Public Input

Annual Survey Asks Marylanders About Driving Behavior, Safety Concerns

WHAT: Maryland drivers can take the free, annual online state survey about their driving safety, starting Monday, June 16, 2008. The Web-based anonymous survey, developed by the University of Maryland for the Maryland Department of Transportation, Highway Safety Office, lets Maryland drivers answer questions about their driving behavior and concerns about traffic safety in the state. The survey can be found at <http://www.marylanddriversurvey.com>, and takes only 10-15 minutes to complete. It will be available online until August 10, 2008. Results will be analyzed and released to the public.

The survey results will help the local Community Traffic Safety Program (CTSP) coordinators define the needs and issues of their county. "These results along with other data, such as crashes, injuries and arrests, help the Maryland Highway Safety Office plan and monitor traffic safety programs that are designed to be specific to particular communities," says survey designer Kenneth Beck, professor in the University of Maryland, College Park, School of Public Health. "The highway safety concerns for a large metropolitan community, such as Montgomery or Prince George's county, are likely to be different from a smaller or more rural communities, or even counties on the Eastern Shore."

Last year, more than 4,100 people took the survey. Results included:

- 75 percent of respondents were concerned about speeding and aggressive driving in their community.
- More than 60 percent were concerned about other people who use cell phones while driving, yet almost 75 percent reported using a cell phone at least once when they drove in the last month.

When: June 16 - August 10, 2008

Media: Media can interview Professor Kenneth Beck, Department of Public and Community Health at the University of Maryland School of Public Health, 301-405-2527, kbeck1@umd.edu

Contact: To talk with Kenneth Beck, call Ellen Ternes, 301-405-4627, eternes@umd.edu

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See 2006 survey results at <http://www.newsdesk.umd.edu/sociss/release.cfm?ArticleID=1321>