

2025

Annual report

MISSOURI SAFETY CENTER

University of Central Missouri
Warrensburg, MO 64093

www.mosafetycenter.com
msc@ucmo.edu

660-543-4834



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MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR DIRECTOR

The Missouri Safety Center has gone through several changes over the last year including staffing changes, increased involvement in state and national activities related to grants and national organizations, continued expanded enrollment in our police academy, and the legalization of medical and recreational cannabis in Missouri. All of these issues have impacted our programs we have continued to enhance the reputation of our work and the quality services we provide. Some of these activities include

- Expanded quality training opportunities including Field Training Officer classes, Police Driving Instructor courses, and the use of our DriveSafe MTS (Mobile Training Simulator).
- Collaboration with state and national agencies on our Law Enforcement Phlebotomy Program (LEPP)
- Improved internal mechanisms for our team communication and engagement
- Reduction of programs that are not strategically aligned with the goals of the MSC
- Extended grant opportunities with outside agencies
- Established partnerships with peer institutions

We continue to strive to meet the UCM's commitment of *Redefining What's Possible* through all of the programs and services we offer to all of our participants, whether UCM students or external partners.

Data from this report covers federal and state fiscal years.



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ABOUT THE MISSOURI SAFETY CENTER

The Missouri Safety Center is an organization dedicated to injury prevention specifically in the area of highway and traffic safety. It draws together a variety of resources in a common effort that serves state and local agencies, business, industry, safety professionals, University personnel and the public-at-large. It utilizes a staff of specialists and the services of the University to provide leadership and a unified program in public safety education, occupant protection, and enforcement. Center activities include programs of instruction, research, publications, public information, as well as conferences and special services. We are committed to improving public safety throughout the state and nation.



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OUR CURRENT GOALS

- Coordinate with Missouri's state and local agencies, professional organizations, business and industry professionals to meet their safety awareness and training needs, as well as other public safety issues.
- Expand the number of programs offered and the diversity of target populations served to meet changing safety needs and to remain in the forefront of safety technology.
- Encourage Center staff to maintain close working relationships with safety professionals, safety organizations, and public safety agencies to develop more responsive safety programming.
- Promote interdisciplinary activities with other University faculty, staff, and students in grant and research activities, safety training programs, and other cooperative initiatives.
- Expand programming not offered by other entities that enhances MSC reputation and inclusive activities including the Women in Criminal Justice Summit held in 2025 and 2026.



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OUR STRATEGIC
PLAN

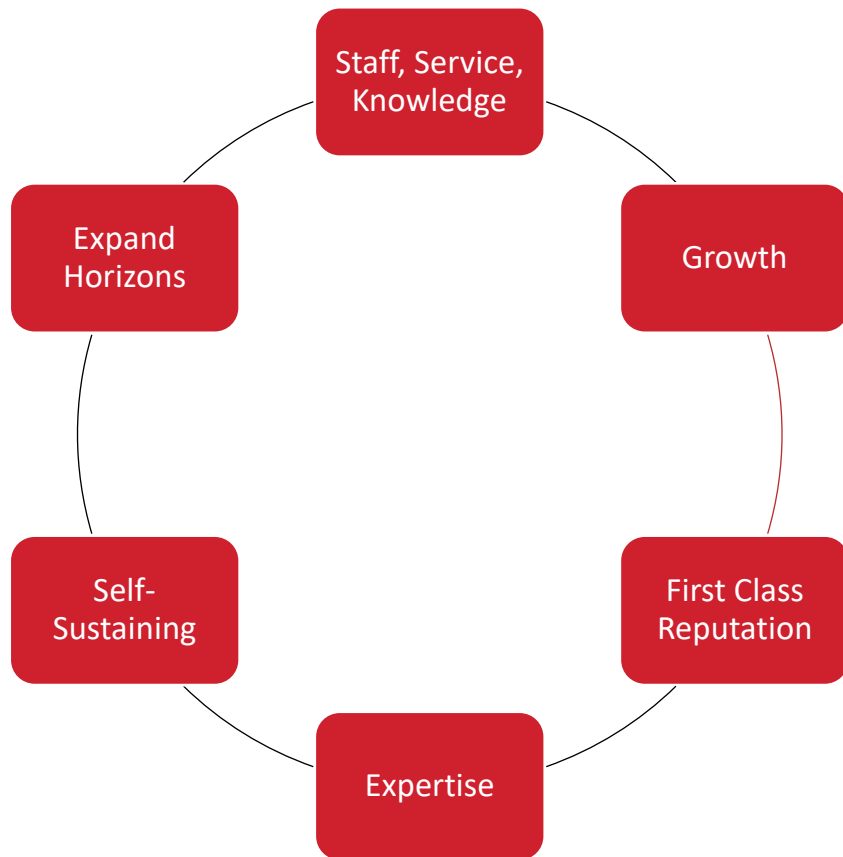
Through our strategic planning process, we identified a number of different stakeholders to continue to build relationships with and new partners to advance future goals for our organization:

- Internal: The UCM Community, Missouri Safety Center Temporary Instructors, Missouri Safety Center Surveyors, Sponsors for our Missouri Motorcycle Safety Program, and our own MSC Staff
- External: Judges, prosecutors, high school students & parents, the motoring and general public in Missouri, youth, local, state, and national stakeholders, and the taxpayers
- Closely Associated: MoDOT, Missouri State Highway Patrol, Department of Revenue, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Missouri Department of Public Safety, other universities and colleges, the Warrensburg community, law enforcement/first responders/corrections, elected officials
- Others: Governors Highway Safety Administration, International Association of Chiefs of Police, Railroads, Agriculture Safety, Water Patrol, Missouri Sheriffs Association, Marijuana safety/research groups, Military
- Our strategic planning is in alignment with the University and adjusts to the changing needs of the UCM and MSC communities



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Strategic Planning Themes



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FUTURE GOALS

Based on our continued strategic planning themes, we have developed future goals for the Missouri Safety Center, our team, and the future of our work.

Missouri Safety Center Goal: Improve marketing of the programs and increase variety of programming related to public safety.

Missouri Safety Center Goal: Continue to retain our first-class reputation and be the “go to” department with a greater presence in state/national organizations through our recognized experts, relationships and networks, staff experience, diversity, expertise, and knowledge.

Missouri Safety Center Team: Take care of our customers and make a difference educating others and public safety through instruction and teaching, great customer service, dependability, and responsiveness.

Missouri Safety Center Programs, Facilities, & Team: Create a physical building environment with more resources, technology, classrooms, and a space for the entire team to work together on a daily basis.

Missouri Safety Center Future: Implement new courses, increase enrollment, and expand outreach through the identification of untapped markets (i.e. schools, GSHA, stakeholders, smaller departments, external communities outside Warrensburg) via promotion, market research, and being responsive to current events. Expand our teaching platforms utilizing the latest web-based technology, new classes, online training, and product/systems research (alcohol, drugs, technology, skid bike, etc.)



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FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

- The Missouri Safety Center is funded through several resources with the most significant being the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT). The fiscal year for MoDOT runs on the federal cycle of October 1 – September 30. This creates some challenges to the state fiscal year of July 1 – June 30; however, staff work with MoDOT and UCM financial guidelines to make the operation as smooth as possible.
- Grants for FY 2025 through MoDOT included:
 - Driver Improvement Program
 - Drug Impaired Driving & Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (DRE/SFST)
 - Drive Sober Enforcement Campaign
 - Occupant Protection Enforcement Campaign
 - Breath Alcohol Instrument Training
 - Ignition Interlock Device Program
 - Law Enforcement Liaison – Alcohol
 - Law Enforcement Liaison – Occupant Protection, HMV and Speed
 - Survey – Statewide Seat Belt
 - Survey – Teen High School
 - Law Enforcement Phlebotomy Program Training
- The total grant award from MoDOT for FY 2025 was \$2,247,239.79
- The total grant award from MoDOT for FY2026 is \$2,225,265.22
- Indirect costs are currently charged at 16.5% to the MoDOT grants



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FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

Grants for our Missouri Department of Transportation projects are due by March 1st annually. On March 1, 2026 Missouri Safety Center staff submitted 13 requests for grant funding for Fiscal Year 2027. MoDOT begins review of their budgets in April and award information should begin in August 2026.

Other Grant Submissions

In 2024, UCM, through the Missouri Safety Center, partnered with the Western Illinois University Department of Psychology on a Department of Justice COPS grant for De-Escalation training. This grant includes the creation of de-escalation training for law enforcement with community input and engagement. As a subawardee, UCM was awarded \$289,301 including a 31.6% indirect rate for the project.

The Missouri Safety Center continues to apply for other grant opportunities including through the KC-Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety. These grants have brought funding for safety information to new UCM students and we are currently applying for a grant to provide driver safety education for underserved students at the alternative schools in several surrounding counties using the DriveSafe MTS (Mobile Training Simulator).



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MISSOURI MOTORCYCLE SAFETY PROGRAM

- The Missouri Safety Center continues responsibility for the Missouri Motorcycle Safety Program (MMSP) for the state through the Motorcycle Trust Fund. In years past, the MMSP has been funded at \$350,000. In FY2020, the funds were cut to \$275,000 due to revenue generation to the Trust Fund. Research indicated that court costs that fund the Trust Fund (\$1.00 for each criminal conviction in the state), were reduced due to COVID-19. It was also discovered there has been a reduction in collection demand from different courts so, while the fees are being assigned, they may not always be collected. Continued efforts are being researched to enhance the funds in the Trust Fund.
- The budget for FY2026 has been increased back to \$350,000 due to financial savings created through the program to have carryforward funding and through communication with the Office of the State Courts Administrator to re-engage the collection of these fees.



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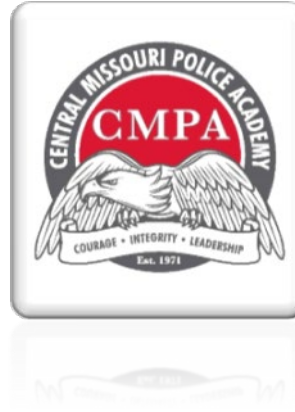
FEE-BASED PROGRAMS

- Fee-based services continue to be offered through a number of venues including:
 - Motorcycle Courses – Basic Rider Courses and Advanced Rider Courses
 - Field Training Officer
 - Driver Instructor Certification
 - Driver's Safety Education & Training
 - Police Basic and Advanced Driving
 - Instructor Development Training
 - Crash Investigation and Reconstruction
- We have removed programs that are no longer financially sound including our CDL 3rd Party Examiner and School Bus Train-the-Trainer programs. These programs have been picked up by other entities reducing the need for us to offer them.



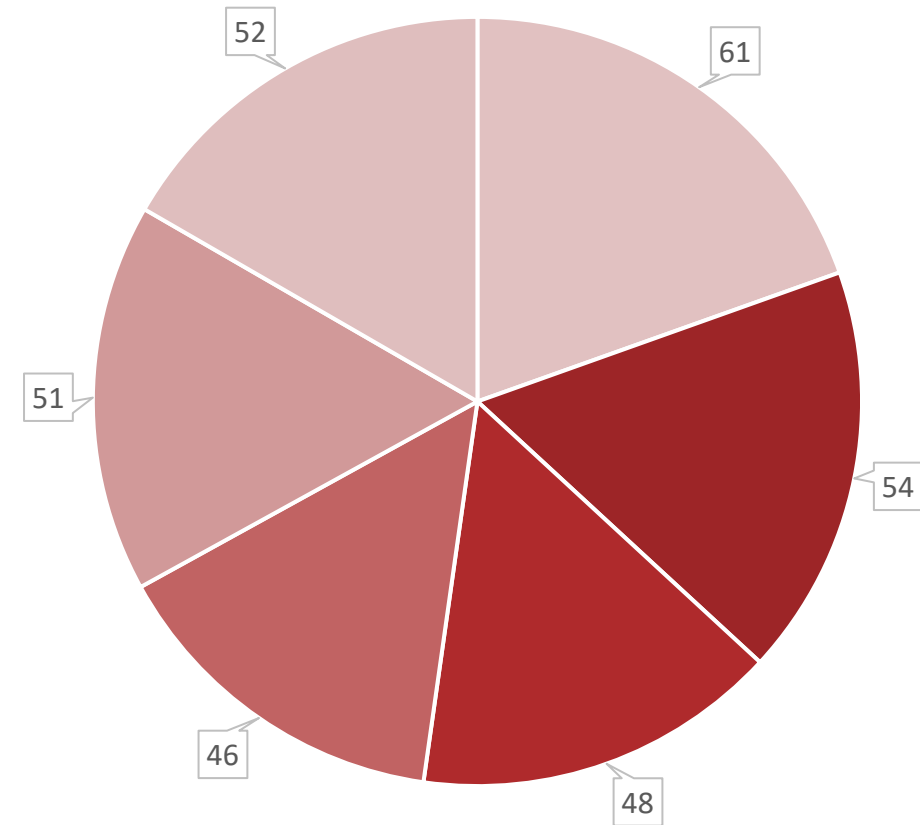
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THE NUMBERS



- Generated through:
 - Central Missouri Police Academy
 - Hold 2 academies per year
 - Two full-time academies on Warrensburg Campus
 - Students can generally get 18 hours of Credit for Prior Learning
 - Higher Learning Commission changes took place in 2020-2021 removing the UCM certificate and credit hours for this program
 - Missouri Safety Center took over administrative oversight of the CMPA in 2013
 - Average size of full-time academy classes has been between 25 - 27
 - New Blue Scholarship offered through state of Missouri has increased ability for cadets to participate and have funds available
 - Many cadets are sponsored at start of academy and 95% are hired at graduation date

Cadets Graduated



■ 2020 ■ 2021 ■ 2022 ■ 2023 ■ 2024 ■ 2025

Staff Responsible:

Tim Lowry, Director; Cindy Schroer, Asst. Director,
Corrie Bowling, Police Academy Coordinator

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THE NUMBERS - GRANTS

- Occupant Protection Enforcement
- Agencies are reimbursed for overtime hours worked by law enforcement officers during each campaign.
- Agencies must meet certain requirements regarding participation, recordkeeping, overtime policy, and others
- FY2025
 - 200 Issued Contracts
 - \$89,844.67 Paid
 - 140 Agencies Participated
 - 362 Officers
 - 2,164 Hours

Staff Responsible:

Debora Busker/Raymond Venable, Enforcement Coordinator
LaGena Spence, Assistant Director

Campaigns

- Click It or Ticket Seatbelt Campaign
- Youth Seat Belt Enforcement

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THE NUMBERS - GRANTS

- Drive Sober Campaign Enforcement
- Agencies are reimbursed for overtime hours worked by law enforcement officers during each campaign.
- Agencies must meet certain requirements regarding participation, recordkeeping, overtime policy, and others
- FY2025.
 - 315 Issued Contracts
 - \$372,694.31 Paid
 - 249 Agencies Participated
 - 843 Officers
 - 9745 Hours

Staff Responsible:

Deboraa Busker/Raymond Venable, Enforcement Coordinator

LaGena Spence, Assistant Director

Campaigns

- Holiday Enforcement
- Spring Impaired Driving Enforcement
- Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over Enforcement

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THE NUMBERS

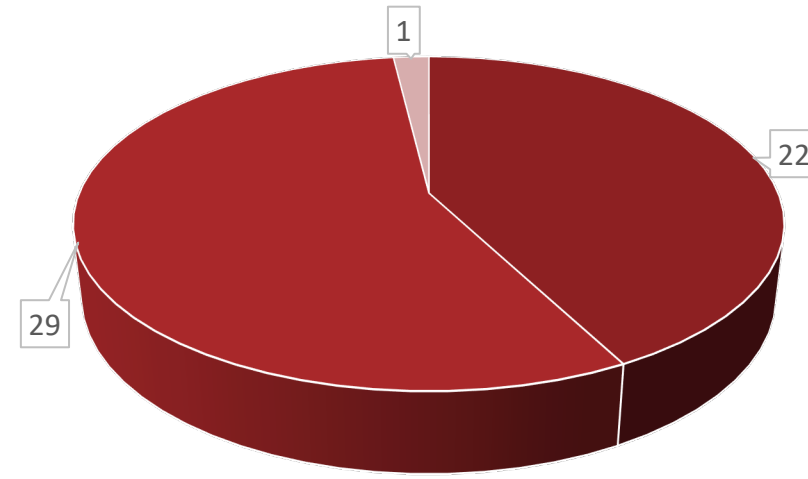
- Drug Impaired Driving/SFST – Drug Recognition Experts (DRE)
- Current Activities:
 - Active DREs: 180
 - Active DRE Instructors: 33
 - 2025 DRE Field Certifications (Philadelphia, PA): 22
 - 2025 SFST Instructor Training: 2 Classes – 22 new instructors
 - ARIDE Classes: 4 – 61 officers trained
 - DITEP Classes: 2 – 32 school personnel and officers trained
 - SFST Refreshers: 29 – 265 officers trained
 - Drugs That Impaired : 1 – 7 officers trained

Staff Responsible:

Robert Paul, Statewide DRE/SFST Coordinator

LaGena Spence, Assistant Director

Officers Trained



■ New DRE Certifications ■ Recertified DREs ■ DRE Schools Held

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THE NUMBERS

- Impaired Driving Countermeasures – Breath Alcohol Instrument Training (BAIT) & Lab Coordination
- Other activities:
 - Provided 9,700 mouthpieces for PBTs
 - Distributed 186 PBTs to agencies
 - 113 various breath alcohol instruments loaned to agencies
 - Participation in MOPS and LETSAC Conferences with table for instrument recertification and repair
 - Attended 10 different meetings/conferences for training activities

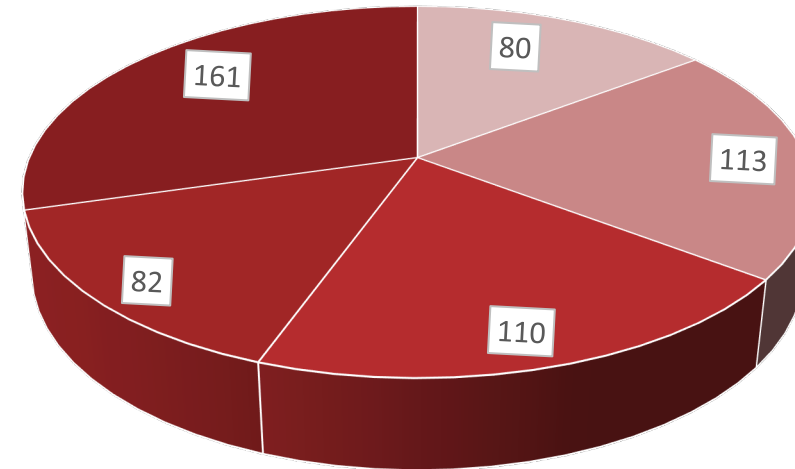
Staff Responsible:

Matt Bond, Program Manager

Ryan Schildknecht, BAIT Lab Coordinator

LaGena Spence, Senior Program Manager

Total Activities/Trained



- Conducted Calibration Checks & Proper Operation of Simulators
- Conducted Compliance Checks on Instruments
- Provide Academies/Agencies with Breath Alcohol Testing Instrumentation for training
- Type II Supervisors Trained with Labs
- Type III Operators Trained with Labs

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THE NUMBERS

- Impaired Driving Countermeasures – Ignition Interlock Device Program
- Activities:
 - Inspected Service Centers in 9 of the MSHP Troop Area
 - Monitored 80% of the 227 Ignition Interlock installation locations in Missouri
 - Completed IID field tests on 3 manufacturers using the MSC Ignition Interlock Ford Explorer
 - Answered 450 incoming IID calls
 - Received two (2) complaints to be investigated
 - Participated in Impaired Driving Subcommittee meetings
 - Attended conferences including Association for Ignition Interlock Program Administrators (AIIPA), Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA), Missouri Office of Prosecution Services (MOPS) DWI Conference, LETSAC, and Missouri Highway Safety and Traffic Conference

Staff Responsible:

LaGena Spence, Assistant Director

Matt Bond, Program Manager



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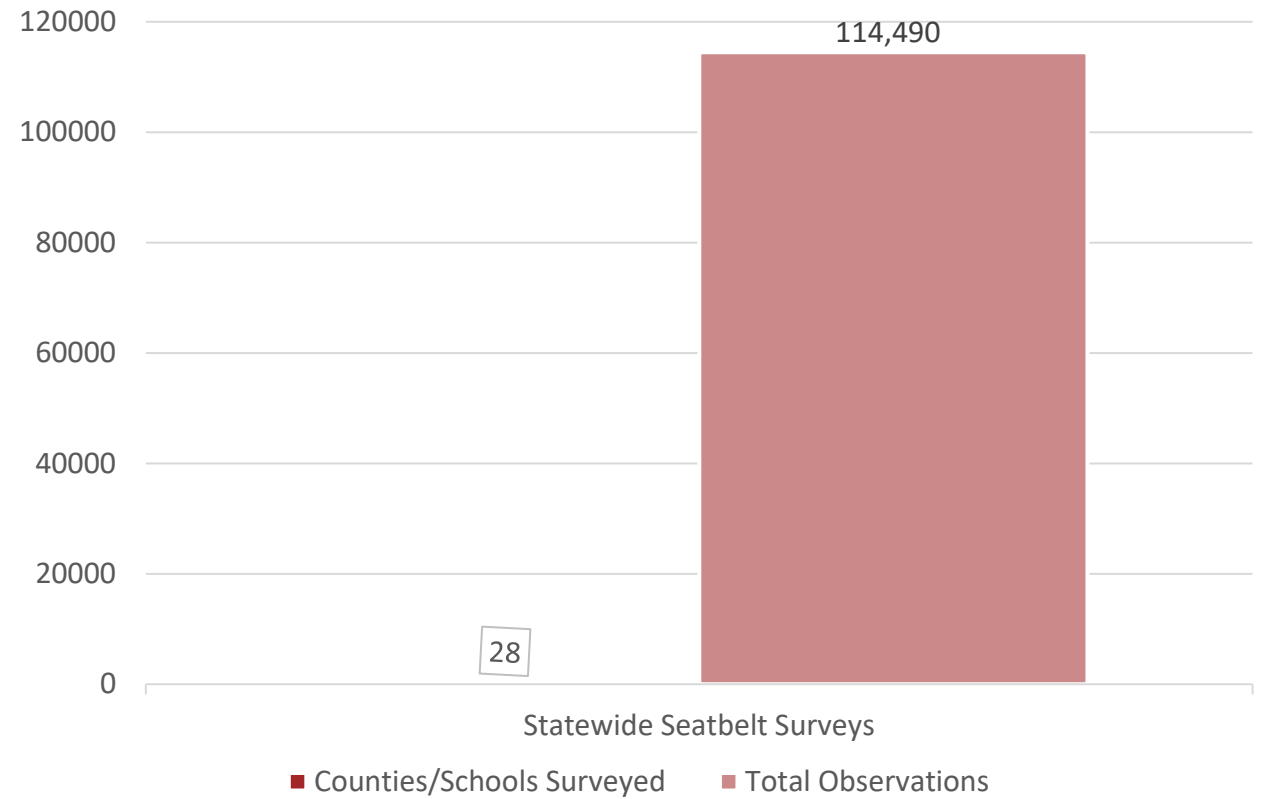
THE NUMBERS

- Statewide Safety Belt Survey
- High School (Youth) Seat Belt Survey
- Activities:
 - Annual Statewide Seatbelt survey
 - 28 Specific Counties Identified for completion
 - 560 Sites throughout the state surveyed
 - 42 Surveyors hired and trained
 - 114,490 observations conducted (90,760 drivers & 20,730 outboard front-seat passengers)
 - 88.5% Seatbelt usage observed

Staff Responsible:

LaGena Spence, Assistant Director

Total Observations



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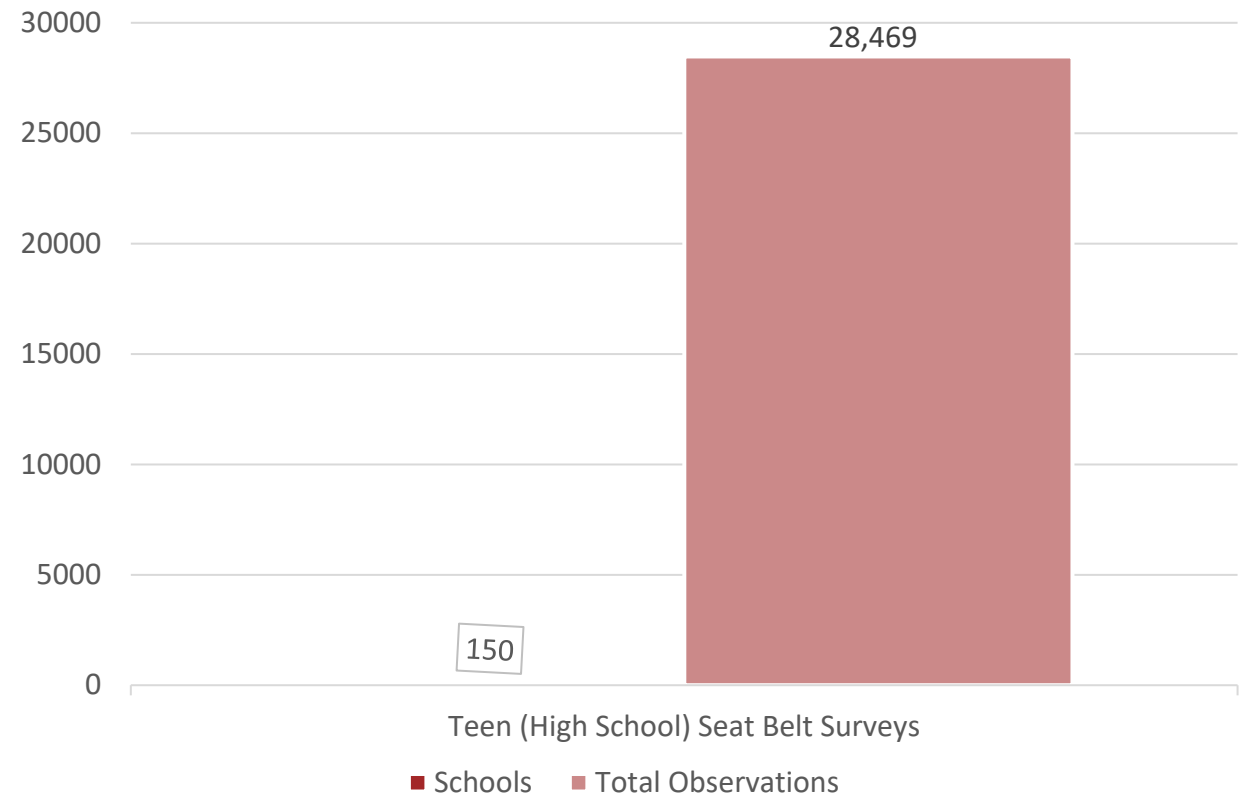
THE NUMBERS

- High School (Youth) Seat Belt Survey
- Activities:
 - Annual Statewide Seatbelt survey
 - 150 High School sites throughout the state surveyed
 - 30 Surveyors hired and trained
 - 28,469 observations conducted (10,901 teen drivers, 9,384 adult drivers, & 8,161 outboard front-seat passengers)
 - 74% Seatbelt usage observed

Staff Responsible:

LaGena Spence, Assistant Director

Total Observations



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THE NUMBERS

- *Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Hours*
- The Peace Officer Standards and Training Program (POST) is a regulatory program with responsibility for licensing peace officers, ensuring compliance with peace officer continuing education requirements, and conducting investigations for disciplining of peace officers.
- The Missouri Safety Center is a POST licensed Training Center and provider organization/agency of continuing education and we assist other agencies, departments, and individuals with POST requirements and approval.
- POST requires specific categories of training for each officer on an annual basis including:
 - Legal Studies
 - Technical Studies
 - Skill Development
 - Interpersonal Skills

The Missouri Safety Center's prime training months are March through October. POST classes are offered through grants, fee-based projects, the LETSAC Conference, and the annual MoDOT Highway Safety Conference.

January 1 – December 31, 2025

Total Number of Classes Presented	120
Total Number of Students Enrolled	3,464
Total Continuing Education Hours by Category	
Legal Studies	1,580
Technical Studies	6,908
Skill Development	3,116
Interpersonal	1,138

Peace Officer Standards and Training



Missouri Department of
Public Safety

Staff Responsible:

LaGena Spence, Assistant Director

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THE NUMBERS

- Missouri Motorcycle Safety Program (MMSP)
- The MMSP provides oversight to 16 motorcycle “sponsor” training sites
- There are 98 instructors employed throughout these sites
- UCM has its own site at the Highway Safety Instructional Park building that offers Basic Rider Courses and Advanced Rider Courses to community members and Whiteman Air Force Base riders

Staff Responsible:

Ray Pierce, Program Manager

George Tart, Program Coordinator



Courses

- Total Courses: 713
- Basic Rider Courses: 684
- Basic Rider Courses 3-Wheeler: 15
- Advanced Rider Courses: 3
- Rider Skills Lab (new course offering): 3



Students

- Total Students: 4,715
- Basic Rider Course Students: 3,473
- Harley Davidson Course Students: 1,007



Motorcycles

- State Loaned Motorcycles: 106
- Value of Loaned Motorcycles: \$212,000 (Kelly Blue Book average)

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OTHER ACTIVITIES

The Missouri Safety Center has worked to engage in rebuilding relationships with a number of organizations through attendance at conferences and participation in boards. MSC staff are active on the following boards and committees :

- Law Enforcement Traffic Safety Advisory Council (LETSAC) – Joanne Kurt-Hilditch, Board Member
- KC Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety Regional Coalition – Raymond Venable attending
- Accreditation Commission for Traffic Accident Reconstructionists (ACTAR) Board Member– Mike Perkins, MSC Temp Employee, represents UCM/Missouri Safety Center on this international board. UCM is the only institution of higher education on the Board.
- National Association of Women Highway Safety Leaders – Joanne Kurt-Hilditch, President; LaGena Spence – Member
- National FBI Academy Regional Group – Tim Lowry, Member
- International Association of Chiefs of Police, Drug Recognition Expert Section – Joanne Kurt-Hilditch, Member

Staff serve on a number of committees, including but not limited to:

- NHTSA Motorcycle Safety Subcommittee Ray Pierce, George Tart
- Occupant Protection Subcommittee: LaGena Spence – Member
- MCRS Impaired Driving Subcommittee: LaGena Spence – Member, Ryan Shildknecht – Member
- UCMO Partners in Prevention: Ryan Shildknecht, Member
- State Motorcycle Safety Association: Ray Pierce, George Tart

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FINAL THOUGHTS

The Missouri Safety Center has worked diligently over the past several years to create a team approach to its mission of reducing fatalities on our roadways. Our strategic plan has addressed ideas for growth and sustainability and a movement towards open communication.

We continue to use some old school approaches in maintaining relationships from the past, rebuilding relationships that may have been damaged, and creating new partnerships as we move to the future.

Despite transitions to the Missouri Safety Center team with personnel, we continue to build a strong organization dedicated to the work of the University and the collaborative projects we are committed to.



The Missouri Safety Center was awarded the Heart of MADD Award at the December 2025 Law Enforcement Recognition Award Ceremony for its work with impaired driving prevention and enforcement.



REDEFINING WHAT'S POSSIBLE

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