According to preliminary data, Georgia experienced 1,818 traffic fatalities on public roadways in 2021. The number of roadway fatalities increased by 9% (net 154 count increase) compared to the previous year. During the early months of 2020, Georgia initiated a statewide response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. As traveling patterns are returning to pre-pandemic norms, as shown by the statewide vehicle miles traveled, drivers and other roadway users are engaging in riskier behaviors, including speeding, driving under the influence of alcohol, and not using seat belts.

GOHS recognizes the need to address specific causes of motor vehicle fatalities across the following traffic safety performance measures: unrestrained fatalities, alcohol-related fatalities, pedestrian fatalities, speed-related fatalities, motorcyclist fatalities, and bicyclist fatalities. The figure below shows the trend of each measure across the past decade (2012-2021).

TRAFFIC SAFETY CORE PERFORMANCE MEASURE TRENDS (2012-2021\*)

\*2021 Preliminary numbers from Traffic Safety Research and Evaluation Group (TSREG) Preliminary Fatality Data

* **Unrestrained Fatalities:** The number of unrestrained passenger fatalities increased by 18 percent from 465 unrestrained fatalities in 2020 to 549 in 2021. Despite Georgia’s high observed seat belt use (94.9 percent in 2021), 45 percent of passenger vehicle occupants who were fatally injured in traffic crashes were unrestrained (549 out of 1,213) in 2021. In 2020, 43 percent of passenger vehicle occupants who were fatally injured in traffic crashes were unrestrained (465 out of 1,072).
* **Alcohol-Related Fatalities:** *Alcohol test results are imputed values; therefore, 2021 FARS and state preliminary data or estimates were unavailable at the time of reporting.* In 2020, there were 402 fatalities in motor vehicle traffic crashes involving drivers with BACs of .08 g/dL or higher. These alcohol-impaired driving fatalities accounted for 24 percent of all motor vehicle traffic fatalities in Georgia in 2020. Fatalities in alcohol-impaired-driving crashes increased by 13 percent (353 to 402 fatalities) from 2019 to 2020. The Georgia counties with the highest alcohol-related fatalities in 2020 were: Fulton (42), Dekalb (22), Gwinnett (18), Clayton (17), and Cobb (16).
* **Speed-Related Fatalities:** The number of speed-related fatalities increased by 46 percent, from 380 in 2020 to 422 in 2021. The proportion of speed-related fatalities increased from 17 percent in 2019 to 23 percent in 2021. Georgia counties with the highest number of speed-related fatalities in 2020 are Fulton (40), Dekalb (33), Clayton (17), and Richmond (17).
* **Pedestrian Fatalities:** In 2021, there were 318 pedestrians fatally injured in the state of Georgia – 17 percent of all traffic fatalities were pedestrians. The 318 pedestrian fatalities in 2021 is a 17 percent increase from the 279 pedestrian fatalities in 2020. The Georgia counties with the highest number of pedestrian fatalities in 2020 are Dekalb (53), Fulton (44), Clayton (20), Bibb (14), Chatham (14), and Gwinnett (14).
* **Motorcyclist Fatalities:** In 2021, there were 182 motorcyclists fatally injured in Georgia motor vehicle traffic crashes – a decrease of 5 percent from the 192 motorcyclists fatally injured in 2020. The number of un-helmeted motorcyclist fatalities increased by two in 2021 compared to 2020. The Georgia counties with the highest number of motorcyclist fatalities in 2020 are Dekalb (16), Cobb (14), Fulton (11), and Clayton (9).
* **Bicyclist Fatalities:** In 2021, there were 16 bicyclists fatally injured in the state of Georgia – a 50% reduction compared to 2020. The count of bicyclist fatalities decreased from 32 in 2020 to 16 in 2021. The Georgia counties with the highest number of bicyclist fatalities in 2020 are Bartow (2) and Lowndes (2).