



GEORGIA TRAFFIC SAFETY QUICK FACTS: 2020

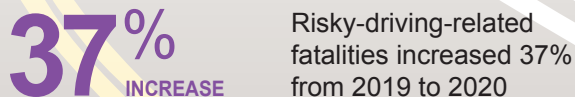
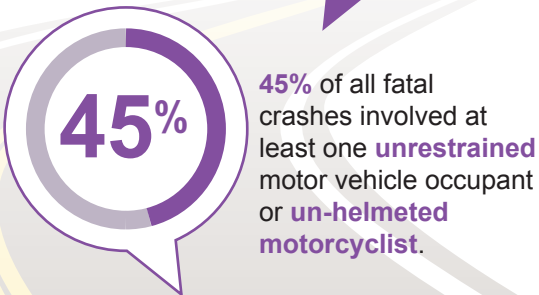
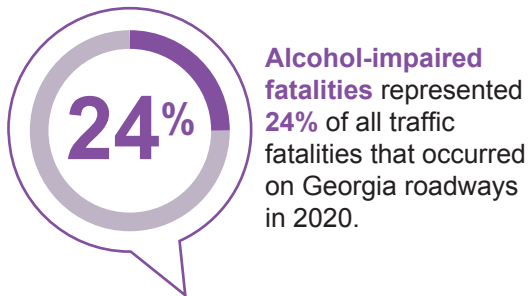
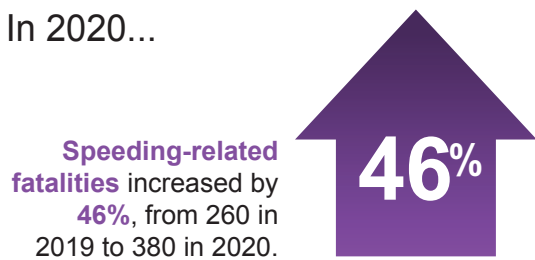
RISKY DRIVING

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

Risky driving refers to driver-related behaviors that contribute to the occurrence of traffic crashes or traffic-related injuries and fatalities. These behaviors include **speeding, alcohol impairment, drug use, distracted driving, drowsy driving, and not using a proper safety equipment** (seat belt or motorcycle helmet).

THE NUMBERS

In 2020...



REDUCE YOUR RISK



SLOW DOWN



DRIVE UNIMPAIRED
(No Alcohol or Drugs)



STAY FOCUSED
STAY AWAKE



WEAR YOUR SEATBELT



DRIVE ALERT

PREVENTION MEASURES

- **Adjust your driving accordingly.** Always adjust your speed based on pedestrian activity, weather and lighting conditions. If you are being tailgated, safely merge into the adjacent right lane, if this isn't an option, maintain a safe legal speed. If a speeding driver is tailgating you or trying to engage you in risky driving, use judgment to safely steer your vehicle out of the way.
- **Be a responsible driver.** If you drink, do not drive for any reason. Call a taxi, a ride-hailing service, or a sober friend.
- **Check medication labels.** Always check your prescription and over-the-counter medication labels to see if drowsiness or impairment could result from their use.
- **Stay Awake.** If you see signs of drowsiness for example crossing over roadway lines or hitting rumble strips, pull over for a rest or coffee, or find alternate transportation.
- **Drive Alert, Arrive Alive.** If you cannot devote your full attention to driving because of some other activity, it's a distraction. Instead of trying to attempt the risky distraction while driving, pull off the road and stop your vehicle in a safe place. To avoid temptation, power down or stow devices before heading out.
- **Always protect yourself and your passengers.** If you are driving a motor vehicle, ensure that you and all your passengers are buckled up properly. Wear helmets while riding a motorcycle. It's your best defense against risky drivers.
- **Increase parental/driver role modeling** of good driving practices.



2020 QUICK FACTS

Crashes

- There were **1,552 fatal crashes** that resulted in **1,664 traffic fatalities** on Georgia roadways.
- **40%** of fatal crashes involved a driver that was engaged in a risky driving behavior—a **28% increase** compared to 2019.
- While more speeding-related and alcohol/drug-related fatal crashes occurred in the Atlanta region and other urban counties, the **rate of fatal crashes** per 100M VMT was **higher in rural counties**.

Drivers

Speeding

- Across all speeding related crashes, **81%** of serious injuries and fatalities were among occupants in the speeding vehicle.
- **31%** of speeding drivers had a previous speeding conviction.

Alcohol-Impaired

- Drivers involved in fatal crashes with a positive blood alcohol concentration (BAC) were **2.3 times** more likely to be speeding and **4.3 times** more likely to be unrestrained compared to drivers with no alcohol in their system.

Drug-Related

- **23%** of the fatal crashes involved at least one drugged driver resulting in **331 fatalities**. (*Drug-specific concentration levels are not equated with a degree of drug impairment*)

Drowsy

- **23%** of reported drowsy-related crashes occurred in the early morning hours between **5:00 am and 7:59 am** compared to the 11% that occurred between **midnight and 2:59 am**.

Distracted

- **82%** of the distracted drivers involved in a crash were alone in their vehicle. *Georgia has a “Hands-free Law” that prohibits drivers from holding or supporting a phone with any part of their body while driving.*

Seat Belt / Helmet Use

- Rural areas have a higher proportion of unrestrained seriously injured occupants compared to other regions. (**31% vs 18%**)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Other general information on risky driving safety and traffic safety facts may be accessed at:

- [Appendix: Risky Driving Georgia Traffic Safety Facts](#)
- <https://www.gahighwaysafety.org/highway-safety/shsp/>

Other traffic safety facts are available online at the Georgia Governor’s Office of Highway Safety and Crash Outcomes Data Evaluation Systems (CODES): Traffic Safety During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, Distracted Drivers, Occupant Protection, Non-Motorist (Pedestrians and Bicyclists), Motorcycle Safety, Young Adult Drivers, and Older Drivers.



For more information and resources related to risky driving:
<https://www.gahighwaysafety.org/georgia-traffic-safety-facts/>