GEORGIA TRAFFIC SAFETY QUICK FACTS: 2021

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 2021...

Speed-related **fatalities** represented **22% (391)** of all traffic fatalities that occurred on Georgia roadways in 2021.



Alcohol-impaired and/or drug-related crashes increased by 14%, from 8,500 in 2020 to 9,680 in 2021.

54% of all motor vehicle traffic crashes had at least one confirmed or suspected distracted driver.





For those passenger vehicle occupants who were fatally injured 52% were unrestrained.

Risky-driving-related fatalities increased by 41% from 2019 to 2021.

2020 1,053

1,089 2021

REDUCE YOUR RISK







DRIVE UNIMPAIRED (No Alcohol or Drugs)







WEAR YOUR SEATBELT

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. Use public transportation or call a taxi, ride-hailing service, or 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 notice you are getting drowsy, 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 a helmet while riding a motorcycle. It's your best defense against risky drivers.
- · Model good driving practices for your kids and passengers.





2021 QUICK FACTS

Crashes

- There were 1,670 fatal crashes that resulted in 1,797 traffic fatalities on Georgia roadways.
- Nearly half of all fatal crashes (49%) involved at least one driver that was engaged in a known reported risky driving behavior in 2021.
- While more speeding-related and alcohol/drug-related fatal crashes occurred in the Atlanta region and other urban counties, the rate of these fatal crashes per 100M VMT* was higher in rural counties.

Drivers

Speeding

- Across all speeding-related crashes, 78% of serious injuries and fatalities were among occupants in the speeding vehicle.
- 1 out of 5 speeding drivers involved in fatal crash had a previous speeding conviction.

Alcohol-Impaired

 Drivers involved in fatal crashes with a positive blood alcohol concentration (BAC) were 1.9 times more likely to be speeding and 3.2 times more likely to be unrestrained compared to drivers with no alcohol in their system.

Drug-Related

 15% of the fatal crashes involved at least one drugged driver resulting in 278 fatalities. 56% of drugged drivers tested positive for cannabinoids. (Drug-specific concentration levels are not equated with a degree of drug impairment)

Drowsy

 24% of reported drowsy-related crashes occurred in the early morning hours between 5:00 am and 7:59 am compared to the 14% that occurred between midnight and 2:59 am.

Distracted

 2 out of 3 confirmed distracted drivers involved in a crash were alone in their vehicle.

Seat Belt

 A higher proportion of seriously injured occupants were unrestrained in rural areas compared to other regions (31% vs 16%).

Lives Saved

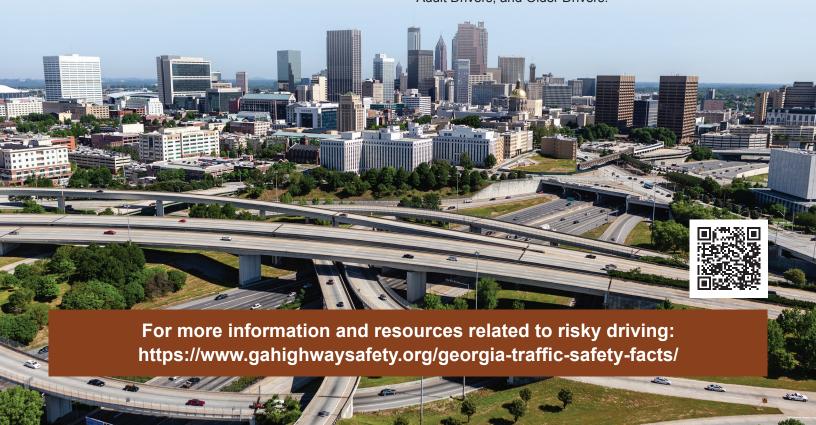
- Safety belt systems saved an estimated 701 lives for passenger vehicle occupants ages five years and older.
- Motorcycle helmet use resulted in an estimated 103 lives saved.

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/
- https://www.gahighwaysafety.org/georgia-traffic-safety-facts/

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.



^{*} Vehicle Miles Traveled