



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**.

41% INCREASE

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



REDUCE YOUR RISK



SLOW DOWN



DRIVE UNIMPAIRED
(No Alcohol or Drugs)



STAY AWAKE
STAY FOCUSED



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. 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.



GOVERNOR'S
OFFICE OF
HIGHWAY
SAFETY

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.

* Vehicle Miles Traveled

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.



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