

VERMONT GOVERNOR'S HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAM

Monthly Newsletter

September / October 2016

Traffic fatalities continued to surge in first half of 2016

JOAN LOWY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Traffic fatalities were up 9 percent in the first six months of this year compared with the same period last year, continuing a surge in deaths that began two years ago as the economy improved and travel picked up, according to preliminary estimates released Tuesday by the National Safety Council.

An estimated 19,100 people were killed on U.S. roads from January through June, said the council, a congressionally chartered nonprofit that gets its data from state authorities. That's 18 percent more than two years ago at the six-month mark. About 2.2 million people also were seriously injured in the first half of this year. The council estimates the cost of these deaths and injuries at about \$205 billion.

At that rate, annual deaths could exceed 40,000 fatalities this year for the first time in nine years, the council said. More than 35,000 people were killed on U.S. roads last year, making it the deadliest driving year since 2008, when more than 37,000 were killed.

"Our complacency is killing us," said Deborah A.P. Hersman, the safety council's president and CEO. "Americans should demand change to prioritize safety actions and protect ourselves from one of the leading causes of preventable death." [Click here](#) to read the rest of "Traffic Fatalities Continued to Surge in 2016."

To get more information about our the current FFY17 grant's, programs, press releases, and national campaigns, please visit us on the web at ghsp.vermont.gov

New England Regional CPS Conference

The *New England Regional Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Conference* was held September 9th through the 11th. This was the first Regional Child Passenger Safety Conference hosted by the Vermont Department of Health's CPS program and the Governor's Highway Safety Program. The programming under this collaborative was designed to make travelling on roads safer for all New England children and families. National CPS experts, car seat manufacturers, and local leaders gathered to increase the knowledge and expertise of technicians, instructors, and partners.

The conference was preceded by Safe Travels for All Children: Transporting Children with Special Health Care Needs, a two-day course that is an enrichment course for already certified CPS technicians to teach them how children with special needs should be safely transported in vehicles. The New England region has expanded by 20 specially trained CPS technicians, who will now be able to better serve families with these installations.

After the conference, the Vermont CPS program hosted a community car seat check event to put their training to use. The event allowed an opportunity for local families to have a trained technician check to see if children were properly secured in the correct seat; the event also allowed local CPS technicians to work side-by-side with techs from other states.

Motor vehicle crashes (MVC) remain the leading cause of death in children ages 5 to 24, MCV's are the second leading cause of death in children 1-4 years of age, it is vital the community and families ensure that children are buckled correctly, and in seats that are installed correctly. The VT CPS program is working hard to help keep our children safe on the road.

From the 2016 NHTSA Campaign Calendar

October is ...

National "Teen Driver Safety Week"
October 16th - 23rd, 2016

Primary Message - *Teen Driving Issues.*

National "Halloween" October 31st, 2016



Primary Message - "Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving"

Twitter Chat: *Buzzed*

Our Mission Statement

Working toward the goal of "Zero Deaths" by promoting highway safety awareness through education and enforcement, thereby reducing crashes, saving lives, and improving the overall quality of life for those using Vermont's roadways.

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- Highway Safety at the Champlain Valley Fair
- Free Turn Off Texting Demo
- Teen Driver Facts
- Current Fatality Statistics and a link to "NHTSA data shows Traffic Death up 7.7% in 2015" report.

Why it is so important to get your crash reports to us ASAP

By Mario Dupigny-Giroux

We all know that crash data is important. With readily available data, issues can be resolved by using quick targeted enforcement and simple engineering treatments.

Quick crash data availability is also necessary for meeting federal requirements through the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) and Safety Net. Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) requires Vermont DMV to report certain commercial vehicle crashes within 90 days which includes the crash inspection period. The success of this effort affects funding awarded Vermont by FMCSA.

The VHSA and GHSP want to thank the law enforcement community for investigating crashes, processing and making the crash data available to others via the VTrans Web Crash repository. This is a remarkable effort that is often taken for granted. The average time from crash occurrence to crash data availability in Web Crash the past year (Sept 2015 to August 2016) was 34 days, with extremes as high as 135 days. At the next Chiefs and Sheriffs Annual Meeting in May 2017, your effort in submitting timely crash reports will be recognized when we honor agencies that are meeting a target threshold for 2016. Working together, we can make Vermont roads safer. Please contact [Mandy White](#) with the Office of Highway Safety at (802) 595-9341 with any questions.

Highway Safety at the Champlain Valley Fair

By Sue Clark, VHSA

For the 4th year, the VHSA partnered with the Vermont State Police to provide information and discuss current highway safety issues with the public. Over 30 volunteers cover the 10 day Fair period, working alongside State Troopers and "Monty", the vintage Vermont State Cruiser. Staff answer questions on correct installation of child passenger seats, cell phone laws, driver education and parent supervision, bicycle laws, and many others. Visitors are invited to take a turn at the spin wheel and win prizes. It's a great experience and fun to work with a wide variety of VHSA



VSP Sergeant Owen Ballenger and "Monty" take time to meet with a child.

VHSA / VSP booth at the Champlain Valley Exposition

partners including, but definitely not limited to AARP, Driver Educators, State and Federal Engineers, Department of Health, Local Motion, Youth Safety Council, Project RoadSafe, etc. Thank you to everyone!

Teen Driver Facts National "Teen Driver Safety Week"

- 33% of deaths among 13 to 19-year-olds in 2010 occurred in motor vehicle crashes.
- 16-year-olds have higher crash rates than drivers of any other age.
- 56% of teens said they talk on the phone while driving.
- Statistics show that 16 and 17-year-old driver death rates increase with each additional passenger.
- Teen drivers with involved parents are twice as likely to wear seat belts.
- More than 40% of teen auto deaths occur between the hours of 9 p.m. and 6 a.m.
- Talking on a cell phone can double the likelihood of an accident as well as slow a young driver's reaction time down to that of a 70-year-old.
- 1 in 5 of 16-year-old drivers has an accident within their first year of driving.
- 56% of teenagers rely on their parents to learn how to drive.
- Crash risk for teens increase incrementally with each mile per hour over the speed limit.

FFY16 Final Grant Reminder

Don't forget to send in your end of year "final" reports and your match amounts that are due for FFY16 closeout.

Schedule a Free "Turn Off Texting" Demo

The Youth Safety Council of Vermont is now scheduling free Turn Off Texting demonstrations for the autumn! Please feel free to [reserve a date](#).

This program is a hands-on educational experience for young drivers that makes the dangers of texting while driving lucidly apparent, and highlights the need for conscientious safety-related choices when behind the wheel. For more information, please contact the YSCV.

SAVE the DATE
VERMONT HIGHWAY SAFETY ALLIANCE 4TH ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 26, 2016
MOUNT SNOW RESORT, DOVER, VT

Join professionals in
to address highway safety issues

Education
Engineering
Enforcement
Emergency Services
Speed
Distraction
Infrastructure
Impaired Driving
Occupant Protection
Vulnerable Road Users



NO COST | INCLUDES LUNCH | HIGHWAYSAFETY.VERMONT.GOV

For more information about the VHSA Meeting and Conference, contact:

[Susan Clark](#)
Highway Safety Plan Coordinator
VT Agency of Transportation
One National Life Drive
Montpelier, VT 05633
(802) 828-3397

Deaths on Vermont Roadways

Year	Deaths
2008	73
2009	73
2010	71
2011	54
2012	77
2013	71
2014	44
2015	57

52 Deaths as of October 11th, 2016

[NHTSA data shows traffic deaths up 7.7 percent in 2015](#)

Governor's Highway Safety Program

Governor's Highway Safety Program
Agency of Transportation
One National Life Drive
Montpelier, Vermont 05633

Visit our Website...

www.ghsp.vermont.gov

If you have comments or suggestions for our newsletter, please send them to james.baraw@vermont.gov.

[Please add my name to the GHSP monthly newsletter mailing](#)