

# VERMONT GOVERNOR'S HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAM

Monthly Newsletter

August / September 2016

## Labor Day, Remember: *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over*

In 2015, our nation lost over 35,000 lives on our roadways, 57 of those were in Vermont. Impairment by alcohol, drugs or both were a contributing factor in almost half of last year's fatal crashes in Vermont.

This Labor Day weekend, families and friends will be celebrating the end of the summer. Sadly, this festive time has also become a dangerous time for America's roads, as many drunk drivers get behind the wheel after celebrating. For this reason, Vermont law enforcement is partnering with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the Governor's Highway Safety Program (GHSP) to stop drunk drivers and help save lives. The high-visibility national enforcement campaign, *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over*, runs August 19-September 5, 2016. During this period, local, state and county law enforcement will be increasing patrols in order to prevent and detect drunk driving. Increased state and national... [Read more](#) at GHSP.Vermont.gov, Press Releases page.

## Not Buckling Up, Driving Impaired and Speeding Leading to Increased Highway Fatalities

MONTPELIER, Vt. – August 26, 2016— Highway fatalities to date on Vermont roads have nearly doubled compared to this time last year, with the majority of fatal crashes involving non-use or improper seatbelt usage, speeding, and/or driving under the influence of alcohol, drugs or both, according to the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans).

Deaths on Vermont roads increased by 68 percent in the first six months of 2016, compared to the same period in 2015. The United States lost over 35,000 lives on our roadways in 2015 – 57 of those were in Vermont. To date this year, 40 lives have been lost... [Read more](#) at GHSP.Vermont.gov, Press Releases page.

## GHSP FFY16 Grant Reminders

As the deadline for the Governor's Highway Safety Program's FFY16 Grant Year approaches (September 30th), we would like to share a few friendly reminders and requirements for our Highway Safety Partners. Please be sure that:

- ◆ You ARE SPENDING all of your FFY16 program funds. September 30th is the deadline to spend these funds.
- ◆ You track your expenses and that they are up to date,
- ◆ You have sent all your quarterly progress reports (First, Second and Third Quarter) to us here at Governors Highway Safety,
- ◆ Your ending program goals match up with your initial projected goals listed in your approved grant proposal. If they do not match up, please explain the reasoning in the final report.

All documents, including the final progress report and financial reimbursement forms, must be received here at the Governors Highway Safety Program within 30 days of the end of the FFY (end of October).

If you have any questions about these reminders, please feel free to contact your program's coordinator, [Betsy Ross](#), [Evelyn McFarlane](#), or [James Baraw](#).

Our programs are a success as a result of your outstanding support. Thank you!

## From the 2016 NHTSA Campaign Calendar

August is ...

***"Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over"***

National Mobilization  
Aug 17th to Sept 5th



Twitter: *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over.*

September is ...

***"Back to School Safety Month"***

Primary Message - *Walk, Bike, and Ride to School Safely.*

***"Child Passenger Safety Week"***

September 18th –24th.

***"National Seat Check Saturday,***

***September 24th"***

Twitter: *Child Passenger Safety*

## 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*

## In This Issue

- Labor Day Weekend Campaign
- Not Buckling Up, Driving Impaired and Speeding
- FFY16 Grant Closeout Reminders
- Campaign Calendar
- Dangers of Drowsy Driving
- CPS Conference Information
- CPS Crash Facts
- Life Savers, Highway Hero's Nominees Wanted
- Current Fatality Statistics and a link to "NHTSA data shows Traffic Death up 7.7% in 2015" report.

## New Report Spotlights Dangers of Drowsy Driving

New analysis reveals annual societal cost estimated at \$109 billion

WASHINGTON, D.C. - August 8, 2016 – In today's fast-paced society, Americans are sacrificing sleep, which too often leads to tragic consequences on our roadways. A new report from the Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA), [Wake Up Call! Understanding Drowsy Driving and What States Can Do](#), points out that nearly 83.6 million sleep-deprived Americans are driving every day. And it's taking a toll – an estimated 5,000 lives were lost in drowsy driving-related crashes last year. The report was funded through a grant from State Farm® with guidance from an [expert panel](#).

The extreme danger posed by tired drivers has prompted the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to expand its definition of impaired driving to include not only drunk, drugged and distracted, but also drowsy. In a newly available NHTSA estimate provided to GHSA for this report, the agency reveals the annual societal cost of fatigue-related fatal and injury crashes is a staggering \$109 billion, not including property damage.

[The GHSA report](#), which comes as U.S. motor vehicle deaths were up 7.7 percent nationwide in 2015, examines the cause and effect of drowsy driving as well as how states and others can best address it. Additionally, it discusses legislative, enforcement, education, and engineering countermeasures being employed as well as in-vehicle technologies that are... [Click Here](#) to read the remaining article on line at GHSA.org

To see more of our current GHSP Press Releases, visit the GHSP [Press Release](#) page.

### CPS Motor Vehicle Crash Facts 2016

#### Crash Data

- Motor vehicle crashes (MVCs) are the number one cause of unintentional death among children ages 1 to 19
- 2,912 children ages 19 and under died in MVC's in 2014 as occupants or drivers. The number and rate of deaths was 2 percent higher in 2014 than the previous year. Since 2000, however, there has been a 40 percent decrease in the annual number of fatalities and a 56 percent decrease in the death rate.
- Teenagers ages 15-19 years made up 73 percent (2,138) of motor vehicle occupant/driver fatalities among children in 2014. The teen fatality rate was ten times higher than he rates for younger children (10.2 per 100,000 population for teenagers versus 1.2 to 1.3 for children under 15 years). The teenage motor vehicle fatality rate increased 2 percent from 2013 to 2014
- Of the 451 children ages 8 and under who died in MVC's in 2014 116 (26 percent) were not restrained by an age-appropriate device such as infant car seat, booster seat or seat belt. This age group was responsible for 15 percent of childhood MV fatalities.

#### Child passenger safety restraints data

- When installed and used correctly, child safety seats can reduce fatal injury by up to 71 percent for infants and 54 percent for toddlers (ages 1 to 4).
  - It is estimated that 263 children were saved due to restraint use in 2013 alone
  - From 1975 through 2013, an estimated 10,421 lives were saved by child safety seats or adult seat belts for children ages 4 and under.
- In 2011, 98 percent of caregivers of children ages 8 and under used restraints when transporting their children. Almost half of these caregivers did not use the restraint correctly
- Only 32 percent of caregivers using rear - facing convertible car seats are very confident that they are using them correctly. (Source - [Safe Kids Worldwide](#))

## Life Savers, Highway Hero's Nominees Wanted

The State of Vermont, Governor's Highway Safety Program is proud to sponsor the 2016 annual *Life Savers, Highway Heroes Awards*. This awards ceremony brings together traffic safety advocates from all corners of the State. Representatives from law enforcement, education, engineering and emergency medical response will join together to recognize highway safety colleagues nominated by their peers for excellence in their particular disciplines. This year's event will be held at the VHSA Conference, held at Mount Snow on October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

Nominees are being sought in the categories of the "4-E's" of Law Enforcement, Education & Community Outreach, Engineering, and Emergency Medical Services.

For more specific information about Lifesavers or to nominate a *Highway Hero* please visit the [Lifesavers Webpage](#) or contact:

[Betsy Ross](#), Program Coordinator  
Governor's Highway Safety Program  
One National Life Drive – Third Floor  
Montpelier, VT 05633-5001  
802-585-9283 (Cell)

## 2016 New England CPS conference



For more information about the NE CPS Conference, contact:

[Tanya Wells](#)  
Injury Prevention Program  
Administrator  
Vermont Department of Health  
108 Cherry St., Ste 201  
Burlington, VT  
802-863-7596

or...

[Click here to register](#)

### Deaths on Vermont Roadways

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

41 Deaths as of  
August 31st, 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](http://www.ghsp.vermont.gov)

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If you have comments or suggestions for our newsletter, please send them to [james.baraw@vermont.gov](mailto:james.baraw@vermont.gov).