

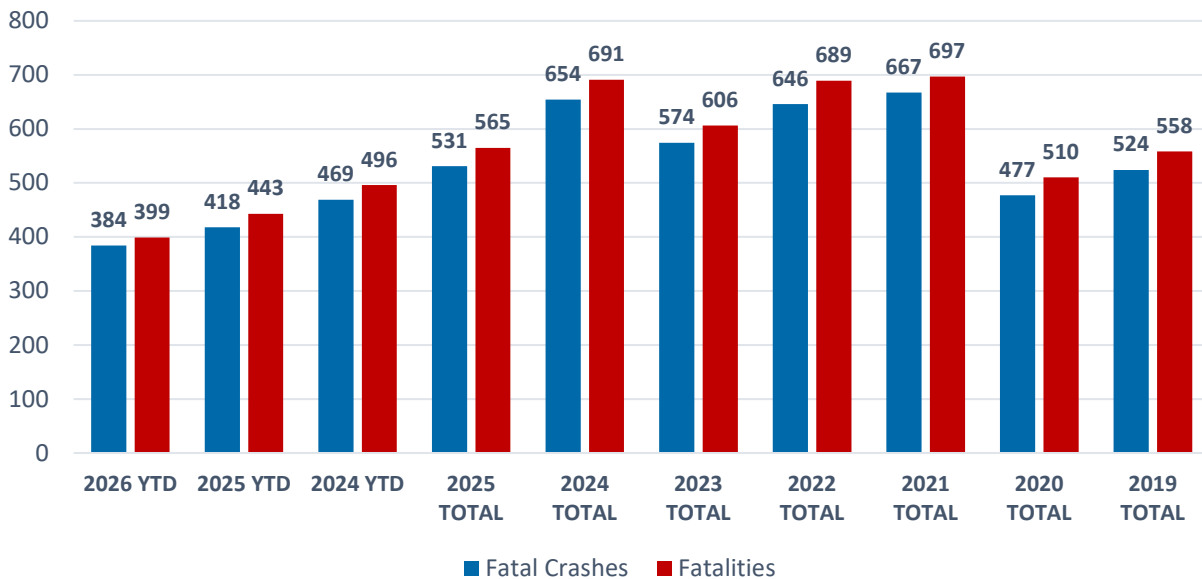


NEW JERSEY

Traffic Safety Bulletin

October 6, 2026

Year to Date — Statewide Fatal Crash Statistics



FATAL CRASHES	
2026	384
2025	418
2024	469
2025 TOTALS	531
2024	654
2023	574
2022	646
2021	667
2020	477

FATALITIES	
2026	399
2025	443
2024	496
2025 TOTALS	565
2024	691
2023	606
2022	689
2021	697
2020	510

- YTD Percentage Change 2025 – 2026: -9.9% (-44)
- TOTAL Percentage Change 2024 – 2025: -10.7% (-53)

Fatal crash data can be viewed as a barometer of the state's overall roadway health. Sustained traffic safety engagement and enforcement decrease the physical, emotional, and monetary victimization of the motoring public due to violent traffic collisions. Please join us in SAVING LIVES and REDUCING INJURIES from traffic crashes.



www.NJSafeRoads.com

— Moving Toward Zero Fatalities —





Pedestrian Safety Month

During October, USDOT and NHTSA celebrate National Pedestrian Safety Month. You can use any of the materials on this [page](#) to strengthen your pedestrian safety messaging.

- Whether walking to work, school, errands, or just for exercise, at some point in the day, everyone is a pedestrian.
- When it comes to keeping pedestrians safe, everyone has a responsibility — pedestrians, drivers, and all those who use our roads.

You can also download and use sample news releases and a social media kit throughout National Pedestrian Safety Month. [Pedestrian Safety Month](#)



Upcoming E-Bike Webinar

October 7! Join us for an e-bike safety webinar featuring panelists from our NJ Pedestrian and Bike Safety Coalition. Register here:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_owaZUbB3REGoVsr6vecN0A#/registration



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7



1:30-2:30 P.M.

Featuring a panel discussion and Q&A on important topics including:

- current and proposed New Jersey e-bike legislation
- rules of the road
- licensing and registration requirements
- helmet safety and proper fit
- common crash scenarios
- practical strategies for reducing injuries

Maureen Donnelly, MSN, NP-BC

Injury Prevention Coordinator
Safe Kids Southern NJ Coordinator,
Cooper University Health Care

Paul Mickiewicz

Program Manager,
New Jersey Bike & Walk Coalition

William G. Parenti, Chief of Police, Ret.

NJDHTS Law Enforcement Liaison,
Past President of the New Jersey State
Association of Chiefs of Police



REGISTER AT [BIANJ.ORG/WEBINARS](https://bianj.org/webinars)



Pedestrian Safety Enforcement (PSE) Training Opportunity

The PSE workshop will enable police departments to conduct PSE operations in their jurisdiction safely and effectively. Topics covered include **NJ pedestrian safety laws**, **the 3E approach to pedestrian safety** and **requirements to run an effective PSE operation that will withstand judicial scrutiny and minimize public pushback**.

PSE operations entail choosing an appropriate location, pre-operation evaluations and community outreach; safe and defensible operations; effective follow-up; and grant eligibility. The training consists of a classroom presentation (approx. 3 hours) and outdoor real-world practical application (approx. 1 hour).

***A Training Session will be offered on:
Tuesday, October 20, 2026. 10:00-2:00***

Fairfield 80 Office Center, First Floor Conference Room

55 Lane Road, Fairfield, NJ 07004

To register, email Shanni Jarvis at: sjarvis@aaanortheast.com



NJDHTS UPDATES

2026 Federal/State Grant Reporting Cycle

FY2026 Federal Grants: Q4/Final Reporting Cycle 10/15/26.

State Pedestrian Fund Grants: Q1 Reporting Cycle 10/15/26.

Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over Statewide Labor Day Crackdown: Progress Report 09/21/26
Past Due; Reimbursement Request 10/07/26.

ALL PARTICIPATING GRANTEES - Join us for [NJDHTS FY2027 Grant Launch Meeting](#) on 10/1/26, 10 AM – 12 PM.

Year-End Holiday Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over Crackdown Portal opens from 9/28/26 to 11/6/26.

Please begin submitting necessary Q4 Reporting Documents: On Progress Reports – Evaluate your program's performance and objectives. Include “Public Presentations Forms” and the [Public Participation and Community Engagement Plan and Report](#) (Also email a copy to HighwaytrafficSafety@njoag.gov).

Happening Now:

[Pedestrian Safety Month](#) (10/1/26 – 10/31/26) “Watch for People. Safer People Keep Pedestrians Friends Safe.”

[Teen Driver Safety Week](#) (10/18/26 – 10/24/26) “Drive like Your Future Depends on It”. GDL Program Palm Card

[School Bus Safety Week](#) (10/19/26 – 10/23/26) “Stopping Isn’t a Suggestion. It’s the Law. And a Child’s Life.”

Upcoming:

[Halloween](#) (10/19/26 – 10/23/26) “Monster Mash Not Car Crash, Drive Sober.”

[Vehicle Safety Recalls](#) (10/26/26 – 11/1/26) “Don’t Fumble Your Vehicle’s Safety.”

[Buckle Up. Every Trip. Every Time](#) (11/23/26 – 11/29/26) “To Enjoy a Day of Gratitude Buckle Up First.”



How can we stop pedestrian deaths?

That sobering milestone came during California Pedestrian Safety Month. While “18th pedestrian death” sounds abstract, it is important to realize that this statistic tells us something crucial: Traveling on foot or using a mobility device — one of the most fundamental ways we move through our communities — may put someone’s life at risk, including your own. [Read More Here](#)

Traffic Safety Initiatives: Engaging the Public to Improve Road Safety

Traffic safety is a significant global challenge and a major public health priority in many communities. Road crashes claim the lives of approximately 1.19 million people each year and are the leading cause of death of individuals aged 5 to 29 years. With the rapid expansion of urban populations and increasing reliance on motor vehicles and transportation systems, traditional traffic safety strategies may become insufficient to combat the growing complexity and volume of road traffic. Addressing these growing challenges requires efforts that extend beyond highway safety professionals and police agencies. [Read More Here](#)

‘Plate Where You Live’ enforcement begins Oct. 1 for Maryland drivers

Starting on Wednesday, Maryland drivers must have their vehicles properly registered in the state of Maryland or risk a fine for each day it remains out of compliance. The [Maryland Department of Transportation](#) Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) ran a “[Plate Where You Live](#)” campaign to help drivers learn about how to register their cars in Maryland and the potential penalties of failing to do so by Oct. 1. Living in Maryland but driving a car with out-of-state tags can be costly and also indicate drivers may not be abiding by Maryland’s insurance laws. People who move to Maryland have 60 days to register their vehicles in the state. [Read More Here](#)

U.S. Traffic Fatalities Fall for Fourth Straight Year, but Safety Concerns Remain

Traffic fatalities have fallen for the fourth straight year in 2025, according to a new report from nonprofit research firm TRIP. Traffic fatalities increased significantly during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021, as people transitioned to motor vehicles rather than public transportation options. [Read More Here](#)

IACP Statement on the Responsible Use of Automated License Plate Recognition Technology

The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) strongly supports the lawful, ethical, transparent, and accountable use of Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) technology when it advances legitimate public safety objectives, including preventing and solving crime, protecting community members and officers, locating missing, endangered, and vulnerable persons, and recovering stolen property. [Read more at theiacp.org](https://theiacp.org).

Nikhil Badlani Foundation



The mission of the Nikhil Badlani Foundation is to promote safer roads through traffic safety education, advocacy, and community engagement while empowering underserved youth through music education and academic scholarships. Contact the foundation [here](https://www.nikhilbadlanifoundation.org):

22 Florence Place West Orange, NJ 07052, Phone: (973) 979-6804,
info@nikhilbadlanifoundation.org



Sad News from the Catch You Later Foundation

“We, the volunteers for the Catch You Later Foundation and “Help Pam O'Donnell,” are sharing the news that Pam was newly diagnosed with cancer and would like to make things easier for her while she fights this battle, along with still doing her presentations. At the moment, she is fine and physically fit, but her daughter is scared and mentally fighting a battle of her own since the car crash has already taken her other parent.

Ali, her daughter, took it upon herself to start a fundraising campaign to ease some of the burden. If you can help in any way, it would be greatly appreciated.. [Here is the link](#)

DDEF- Drunk Driving Enforcement Fund Update

- DDEF Funds are secured upon conviction of 39:4-50.
- The improper use of the “Refusal” statute remains an issue: use 39:4-50.4A.
- DDEF Funds can be used to purchase 9510 breath testing devices.
- Overtime enforcement rates are not capped at the \$70 grant rate.
- Over \$5 million in funds remain unclaimed or unused.

To reinforce DDEF program rules, all departments are reminded that at least 50% of this award must be used for overtime DWI enforcement to qualify for reimbursement. Consideration should be given to when DWI overtime details are scheduled, since statistics show alcohol consumption peaks in the evenings, overnight, and on weekends. Scheduling DWI details during morning or afternoon hours runs counter to the purpose of this funding and should be avoided unless other circumstances or special events justify it.

Contact Steve Slimowicz at hts.ddef@njoag.gov (609-917-8530)



A Pedestrian Safety Solution



Street Smart NJ is a public awareness and behavioral change pedestrian safety campaign. Since its creation in 2013, more than 300 communities have participated in Street Smart NJ.

Street Smart NJ emphasizes educating drivers and pedestrians through mass media and grassroots outreach, as well as targeted enforcement. Police officers focus on engaging and educating, rather than simply issuing citations. Street Smart NJ complements, but doesn't replace, other state and local efforts to build safer streets and sidewalks, enforce laws and train better roadway users.

Join the Growing list of partner Agencies!

Contact: William "Will" Yarzab, Street Smart NJ Coordinator

Tel: 973.877.8120 Cell: 908.229.4018 Wyarzab@njtpa.org



Save the Date

NJ Police Traffic Officers Association Meeting

Date: October 7, 2026 @ 1000

Location: AAA Hamilton, NJ

NJSACOP Monthly Briefing

Date: October 1, 2026 @ 1000

Location: Sheraton Hotel
6 Industrial Way East,
Eatontown, NJ

If you have any questions or suggestions for future posts, please don't hesitate to contact the NJSACOP Traffic Safety Team at mmorris@njsacop.org and wparenti@njsacop.org. Our Statewide Traffic Safety Coalition is always seeking new ideas, images, and success stories to share. Thank you in advance for your efforts to keep our roadways safe. #SafeRoadsNJ

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