

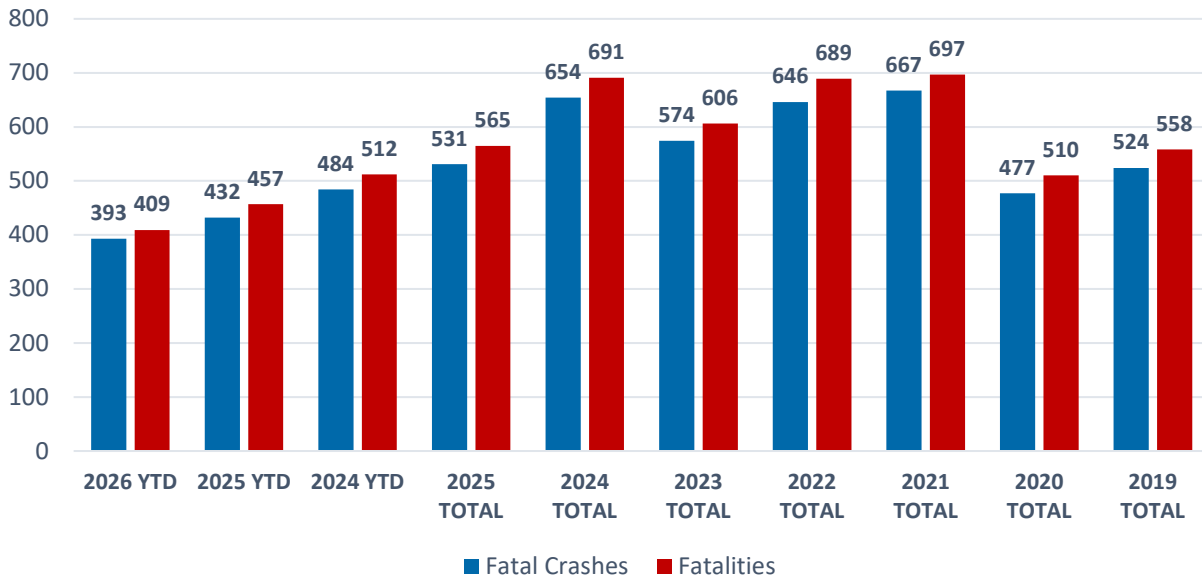


NEW JERSEY

Traffic Safety Bulletin

October 13, 2026

Year to Date — Statewide Fatal Crash Statistics



FATAL CRASHES	
2026	393
2025	432
2024	484
2025 TOTALS	531
2024	654
2023	574
2022	646
2021	667
2020	477

FATALITIES	
2026	409
2025	457
2024	512
2025 TOTALS	565
2024	691
2023	606
2022	689
2021	697
2020	510

- YTD Percentage Change 2025 – 2026: -10.5% (-48)
- TOTAL Percentage Change 2024 – 2025: -10.7% (-55)

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

At some point in the day, everyone is a pedestrian, which is why pedestrian safety is an essential part of every highway safety communications plan. Below you'll find messaging on how drivers can keep pedestrians safe and how pedestrians can stay safe. 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.

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

Teen Driver Safety Week | October 18-24





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 Traffic Officers Meeting

NJSafeRoads.com



October 2026

2026 Federal/State Grant Reporting Cycle	Uniform Coordinated Effort	Sound Off: Proactive Education and Enforcement
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.	FY2027 Federal Grant Programs begin launching on 10/01/26. Sustained Enforcement Calendar Distracted Driving National Enforcement Campaign Pedestrian Safety Month Palm Card, Crosswalk Warning	- Event: BIANJ E-Bike Safety Webinar Registration - 10/7/26 at 1:30 PM - For PP&E Efforts: TMAs, Safe Kids, BIANJ, Bicycle and Ped Resource Center, NJTPA Street Smart, Nikhil Badlani Foundation - Education: CAIT, Mature Drivers, Crossing Guard Training. - Video - NJSACOP Safety Message - Traffic Safety Bulletin (LELs): Contact Mike Morris, mmorris@njsacop.org; Bill Parenti, wparenti@njsacop.org
Additional Monthly Initiatives — Traffic Safety Marketing / NHTSA		
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.”		
Grant Opportunities and Information		
- 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 programs performance and objectives. Include “Public Presentations Forms” and the Public Participation and Community Engagement Plan and Report (Also email copy to HighwaytrafficSafety@njoag.gov).		
Reminders/Updates		
ALL PARTICIPATING GRANTEES - Join us for NJDHTS FY2027 Grant Launch Meeting on 10/1/26, 10 AM – 12 PM. - Promote Pedestrian Safety and Distracted Driving (October) and Seat Belt Compliance (November) messaging & enforcement. Utilize ‘Staying Safe In the Car’ Brochures English / Spanish. Distribute ‘Take a Break from Your Phone’ palm cards. Educate about the ‘Move Over Law’ Palm Card and Poster. - Post appropriate messages on variable message boards throughout town to amplify awareness. NJDHTS Safe Passage pamphlets available for all Traffic Safety Partners. - Boost DHTS social media during month.		
Northern Team	NJDHTS Program Staff Contacts Central Team	Southern Team
Drew Nagel (609) 931-5124	Tameka Fogg (609) 262-4908	Loresa Daniel (609) 262- 4714
Deborah Flynn (609) 728-6499	Emelin Corado (609) 931-7119	Marissa Rodriguez (609) 826-6524
Jason Friedman (609) 468-2638	Anna Burns (609) 262-4734	Tamira Chambliss (609) 262-4735



NHTSA to modernize ‘outdated’ vehicle lighting standards

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) plans to modernize its outdated vehicle lighting standards, saying doing so will make America’s roads safer for all drivers, according to a [press release](#).

Piscataway Police Issue More Than 100 Tickets for Illegal Turns at Busy Intersection

PISCATAWAY, NJ — More than 100 motorists were ticketed Wednesday evening as Piscataway police stepped up traffic enforcement at a busy township intersection where improper turns have contributed to numerous crashes. Officers from the Piscataway Police Department's Traffic Safety Division conducted a targeted enforcement operation at the intersection of South Randolphville Road and Old New Brunswick Road during the evening commute, focusing on drivers making unsafe turns. [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](#)

The Five Types of Speeding Drivers

It’s easy to jump to conclusions about why so many drivers continuously break speed limits, whether you assume they just can’t help it or just don’t care about anyone but themselves. A [recent study](#) from the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, though, finds that there are actually *five* different types of speeders on our roads — and until we understand each group’s unique psychology, we won’t be able to slow any of them down. [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).



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

Last year, 70% of DDEF award dollars went unspent. Departments were awarded \$5.1 million, but only \$1.5 million was claimed. The funds don't expire, there is no application, and the paperwork is straightforward. The average payment per department is \$13,615.

The fund at a glance (FY26)



- **Receipts:** \$2.45 million (\$1.1 million bottle tax / \$1.3 million surcharges)
- **Disbursements:** \$1.8 million
- **Balance:** The fund grew by \$600,000 to just over \$12 million.

Participation is up; spending is catching up

- 310 departments engaged over the last 12 months, up from 229 the year before.
- 204 DDEF awards were distributed, totaling \$5.1 million, up from 133 awards the prior year.
- Only 113 of those 204 awards have been paid, totaling \$1.5 million, or about 30% of the dollars awarded.
- Unspent funds rolled into FY27, and spending is gaining on current receipts: 68% of 2025 receipts were spent in FY25, and 75% of 2026 receipts in FY26.
- The main challenge is the residual local balances that built up before COVID.

Program reminders

- **How funds are secured:** upon conviction under N.J.S.A. 39:4-50.
- **Refusals:** improper use of the refusal statute remains an issue. Use 39:4-50.4A.
- **50% requirement:** at least 50% of each award must go to overtime DWI enforcement to qualify for reimbursement.
- **Overtime rates:** DDEF overtime is not capped at the \$70 grant rate. If officers aren't signing up, the Chief can set a flat hourly rate of up to \$100/hr.

Scheduling DWI details

Alcohol consumption peaks in the evenings, overnight, and on weekends, so schedule DDEF details for those hours. Morning and afternoon details run counter to the fund's purpose. Avoid them unless a special event or other circumstance justifies them.

Questions: 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: November 4, 2026 @ 1000

Location: AAA
700 Horizon Dr,
Hamilton Twp, NJ 08691

NJSACOP Monthly Briefing

Date: November 5, 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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