## 2022 Operation Crash Reduction

## FACT SHEET

Nationwide from 2011 to 2020, October was the most dangerous month on America's roads, accounting for more fatal crashes than during any other month. For Delaware, the District of Columbia, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia, motor vehicle crashes are especially high, with states seeing the second highest number of fatalities occurring during October’s holiday weekend from 2014 to 2018, compared to other holiday periods. To help drivers and passengers stay safe on the roadsVirginia DMVis joining with the U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) for the *Operation Crash Reduction* enforcement and education effort. The campaign runs from October 7–10, 2022, and the purpose of the campaign is to save lives and prevent injuries. During this time, law enforcement will conduct a high-visibility enforcement and awareness campaign, educating drivers or passengers observed driving unbuckled.

**Buckle Up!**

* More driving appears to mean more motor vehicle crashes — especially in the states of Delaware, the District of Columbia, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia.
* According to NHTSA, from 2015-2019, this specific set of states had 885 fatal crashes from October 1-15. This is the highest number of fatal crashes for the first 15 days of any month from 2015 to 2019.
* From 2015 to 2019, more fatal crashes occurred in these states during theholiday weekend (253) than almost any other long holiday weekend.
* From 2015 to 2019, October was the most likely month for fatal crashes to occur, with 1,785 total fatal crashes in this region. In these fatal crashes, more than 46% of fatally injured occupants in passenger vehicles, trucks, and buses were not wearing a seat belt.

**2019 Seat Belt Statistics**

* During the holiday weekend, millions of Americans will hit the roads to take advantage of the last long weekend and warmer weather before the winter holidays. This means it will be a busy travel time, and unfortunately, that typically means more vehicle crashes.
* Remember: seat belts save lives. Not only is it the law but buckling up provides the best defense against injury or death in a crash.
* In 2019, there were 9,466 unbuckled passenger vehicle occupants killed in crashes in the United States.
* In 2019, there were 22,215 passenger vehicle occupants (in passenger cars, pickup trucks, vans, or SUVs) killed in traffic crashes in the United States. Almost half (43%) of those who were killed were not wearing restraints.
* According to the latest data available, NHTSA estimates that seat belts saved the lives of 14,995 passenger vehicle occupants ages 5 and older in 2017. If everyone had worn their seat belts on every trip that year, an additional 2,549 lives could have been saved.
* The facts don’t lie: when you wear your seat belt as a front-seat occupant of a passenger car, your risk of fatal injury goes down by 45%. For light truck occupants, that risk is reduced by 60%.

**2021 Virginia Seat Belt Statistics**

* Younger people continue to be overrepresented in fatal crashes and seat belt nonuse. Among young adults ages 18 to 34 killed in fatal crashes, in 2021 in passenger vehicles, 60% were completely unrestrained — one of the highest percentages for all age groups.
* Males are more likely than females to be unrestrained in fatal crashes. Fifty-two percent of the male passenger vehicle occupants killed in crashes in 2021 were unrestrained, compared with 42% for females.
* If you’re ejected from a vehicle in a crash, odds are that you will not survive. In 2021, 21% of the people totally ejected from passenger vehicles in crashes were killed.
* Wearing your seat belt is the most effective way to prevent ejection; only 3% of passenger vehicle occupants wearing seat belts were ejected in fatal crashes, compared to 30% of those who were unrestrained.
* High-visibility seat belt enforcement is important 24 hours a day, but nighttime is especially deadly for unbuckled occupants. 2021, 60% of passenger vehicle occupants killed at night (6 p.m.–5:59 a.m.) were unbuckled.

**Stats by State**

Delaware:

* From 2011 to 2020, October was the third most dangerous month on Delaware's roads, with a total of 115 traffic fatalities during that time period.

District of Columbia:

* From 2011 to 2020, October was the most dangerous month on DC's roads, with a total of 27 traffic fatalities during that time period.

Kentucky:

* From 2011 to 2020, October was the most dangerous month on Kentucky's roads, with a total of 723 traffic fatalities during that time period.

Maryland:

* From 2011 to 2020, October was the second deadliest month on Maryland's roads, with a total of 489 traffic fatalities during that time period.

North Carolina:

* From 2011 to 2020, October was the most dangerous month on North Carolina's roads, with a total of 1,279 traffic fatalities during that time period.

Virginia:

* From 2010 to 2021, October is the most dangerous month on Virginia’s roads, with a total of 917 traffic fatalities during that time period.

West Virginia:

* From 2011 to 2020, October was the most dangerous month on West Virginia's roads, with a total of 309 traffic fatalities during that time period.