

AMERICAN SAMOA ANNUAL REPORT

FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2021



"To Serve & To Protect."

October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021



**American Samoa
Highway Safety Annual Report
Federal Fiscal Year 2021**

Prepared for:

**U. S. Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration**

Developed and Presented by:

**The American Samoa Government
Department of Public Safety
Office of Highway Safety
Pago Pago, AS 96799**



ALL STAD SIGMO

December 31, 2021



Department of Public Safety Office of Highway Safety

PC Lefiti Atiulagi F. Pese

Commissioner / Governor's Representative for Traffic Safety,
Department of Public Safety

OFFICE OF HIGHWAY SAFETY STAFF

Duke Vele, Program Coordinator

Siau Lavea, Finance Manager

Tutasi Ripley, Occupant Protection/Traffic Records Program Manager

Ivanhoe Moli, Police Traffic Services Program Manager



Table of Contents

American Samoa OHS Personnel.....	2
Overview	4
Core Performance Measures and Other Statistics	5
Evidenced-Based Enforcement Plan	10
Program Area Results	11
2021 Mobilization.....	17
Moving Forward – FY2022	19
FY 2021 Activities and Outreaches.....	20
Highway Safety Program Funding	21



Overview

Mission

The mission of the American Samoa Office of Highway Safety is to reduce the traffic crashes, traffic fatalities, and traffic injuries on the American Samoa roadways, and to create a safer environment for motorists, passengers, and pedestrians.

Program Funding

The American Samoa Highway Safety Program is responsible for administering federal highway safety funds awarded to our island territory to conduct traffic safety programs that positively affect driving behavior. The Commissioner of Public Safety, PC Lefiti Atiulagi F. Pese serves as the Governor's Representative for Highway Safety and has designated Mr. Duke Vele as the Office of Highway Safety Coordinator.

To accomplish this task, the Department of Public Safety, Office of Highway Safety develops an annual Highway Safety Plan (HSP) that identified key highway safety issues and problem areas within our island territory then utilized awarded funds to implement evidence-based traffic safety programs and projects.

This report outlines the results of the FFY 2021 Highway Safety Plan and serves as the American Samoa Department of Public Safety OHS Annual Report.

Funds awarded were strictly used in reducing deaths and serious injuries caused by motor vehicle crashes through the implementation of programs or strategies that addressed driver behavior in the following priority problem areas:

- Impaired Driving (Drug and Alcohol)
- Occupant Protection
- Traffic Records
- Police Traffic Services

Core Performance Measures

Guidelines established by NHTSA allowed states and territories to identify problems and funding needs in each of the nationally designated program priority areas. The projects were chosen for funding in FFY 2021 included strategies from the American Samoa Office Highway Safety's four critical areas and their results are detailed on the following pages.

Core Performance Measure Target Chart – FY2021

American Samoa

Performance Measure	FY 2021					FY 2020			
	Target Period	Target Year(s)	Target Value FY21 HSP	Data Source*/ FY 21 Progress Results	On Track to Meet FY21 Target Y/N ** (in-progress)	Target Value FY20 HSP	Target Year(s)	Data Source/ FY20 Final Result	Met FY20 Target Y/N
C-1) Total Traffic Fatalities	5 year	2017-2021	0.0	2016-2020 Territory Data 3	(in-progress)	0.0	2016 – 2020	2015-2019 Territory Data 2.7	N
C-2) Serious Injuries in Traffic Crashes	5 year	2017-2021	0.0	2016-2020 Territory Data 5	(in-progress)	0.0	2016-2020	2015-2019 Territory Data 5	N
C-3) Fatalities/VMT	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
For each of the Performance Measures C-4 through C-11, the State should indicate the Target Period which they used in the FY20 HSP.									
C-4) Unrestrained Passenger Vehicle Occupant Fatalities, All Seat Positions	5 year	2017-2021	0.0	2016-2020 Territory Data 1	(in-progress)	5 year	2016-2020	2015-2019 Territory Data 2	N
C-5) Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatalities	Annual	2021	0.0	2016-2020 Territory Data 3	(in-progress)	Annual	2020	2020 Territory Data 3	N
C-6) Speeding-Related Fatalities	Annual	2021	0.0	2016-2020 Territory Data 3	(in-progress)	Annual	2020	2020 Territory Data 3	N
C-7) Motorcyclist Fatalities (FARS)	Annual	2021	0.0	2016-2020 Territory Data 0	(in-progress)	Annual	2020	2020 Territory Data 0	Y
C-8) Unhelmeted Motorcyclist Fatalities	5 Year	2017-2021	0.0	2016-2020 Territory Data 0	(in-progress)	5 year	2016-2020	2015-2019 Territory Data 0	Y
C-9) Drivers Aged 20 or Younger Involved in Fatal Crashes	5 Year	2017-2021	0.0	2016-2020 Territory Data 0	(in-progress)	5 year	2016-2020	2015-2019 Territory Data 0	Y
C-10) Pedestrian Fatalities	5 Year	2017-2021	0.0	2016-2020 Territory Data 1	(in-progress)	5 year	2016-2020	2015-2019 Territory Data 0	Y
C-11) Bicyclist Fatalities	5 Year	2017-2021	0.0	2016-2020 Territory Data 0	(in-progress)	5 year	2016-2020	2015-2019 Territory Data 0	Y
B-1) Observed Seat Belt Use for Passenger Vehicles, Front Seat Outboard Occupants (State Survey)	Annual	2020	90.0	Territory Survey 93.1%	Y	90.0	2019	Territory Survey 83.37%	N

*States have the option of evaluating the target achievement with the most recent State or FARS data, not both, for all measures excluding C-1 – C-3. See Instructions for details**For FY20, if the response is No (N) for any performance measures, the SHSO is required to separately provide within the Annual Report a description of how the SHSO will adjust its upcoming (FY22) HSP to better meet the performance target(s).

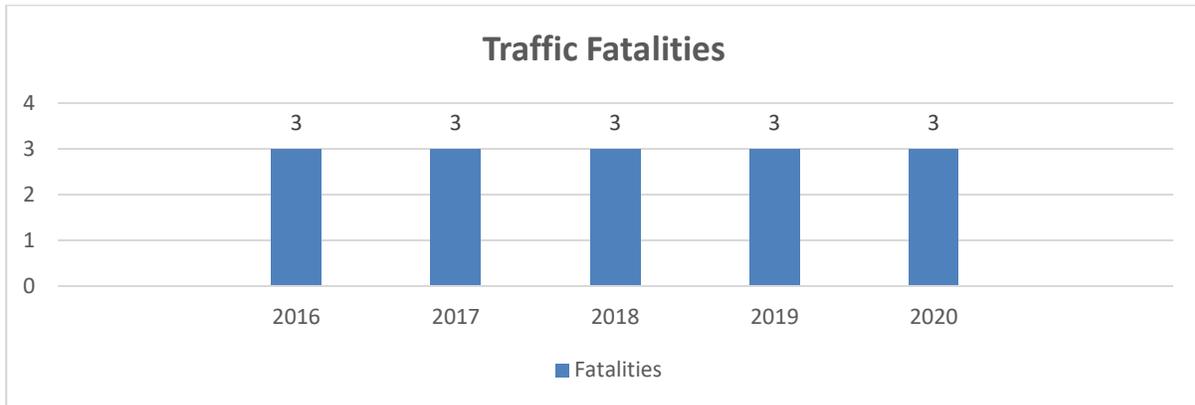
Traffic Safety Core Performance Measures

C-1 Traffic Fatalities:

American Samoa's goal is to decrease traffic fatalities from (1) using the 5-year average baseline (2016-2020) to (0) using the five-year target average (2017-2021).

Result: In Progress

Based on preliminary five-year average (2016-2020) state data, there have been (3) fatalities as of November 2021.

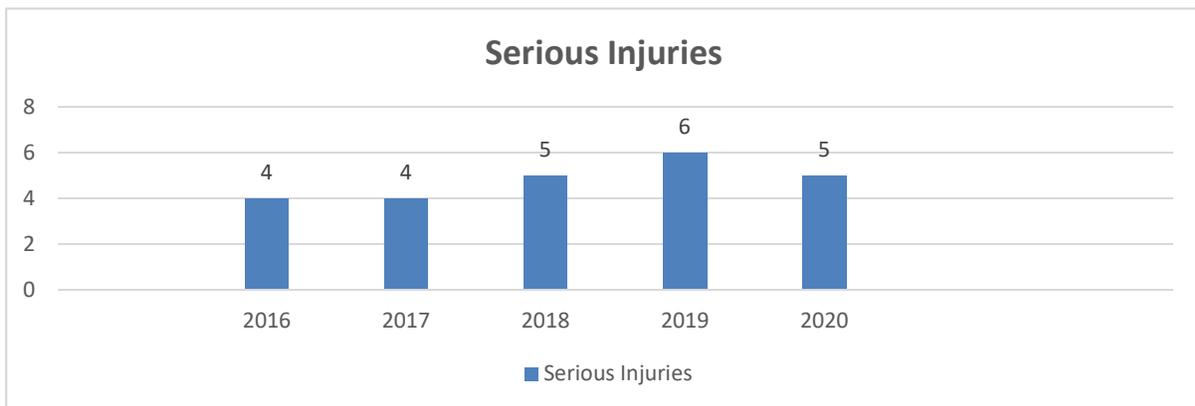


C-2 Serious Injuries:

American Samoa's goal is to decrease serious injuries from (4) using the 5-year average baseline (2016-2020) to (3) using the five-year target average (2017-2021).

Result: In Progress

Based on preliminary five-year average (2016-2020) state data, there have been an average of (4) Traffic-related serious injuries as of November 2021.



C-3 Fatalities / Vehicle Mile Travel (VMT): VMT data is not collected in the Territories.

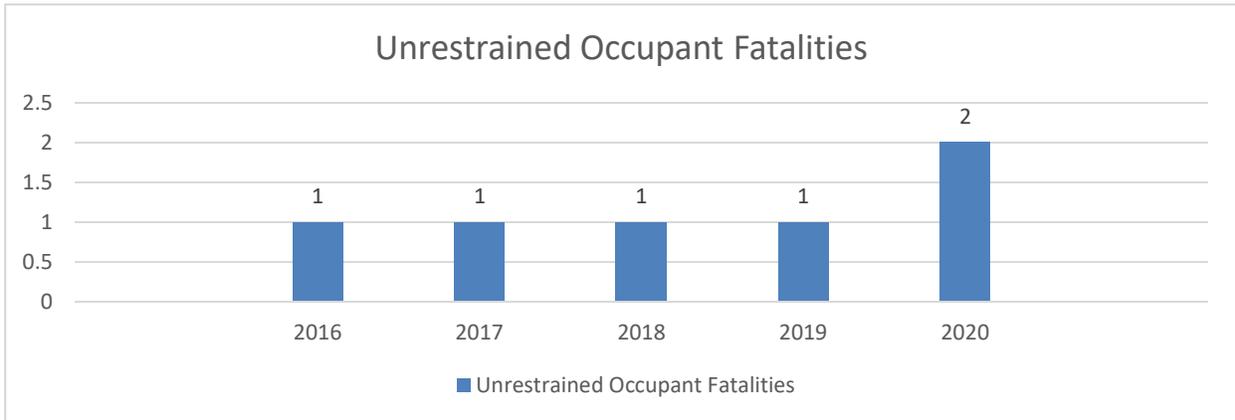


C-4 Unrestrained Passenger Vehicle Occupant Fatalities, all Seat Positions.

American Samoa’s goal is to decrease Unrestrained Passenger Vehicle Occupant fatalities in all seating positions from (3) using the 5-year average baseline (2016-2020) to (0) using the five-year target average (2017-2021).

Result: In Progress

Based on preliminary state data, there are (3) unrestrained passenger vehicle occupant fatalities as of November 2021.

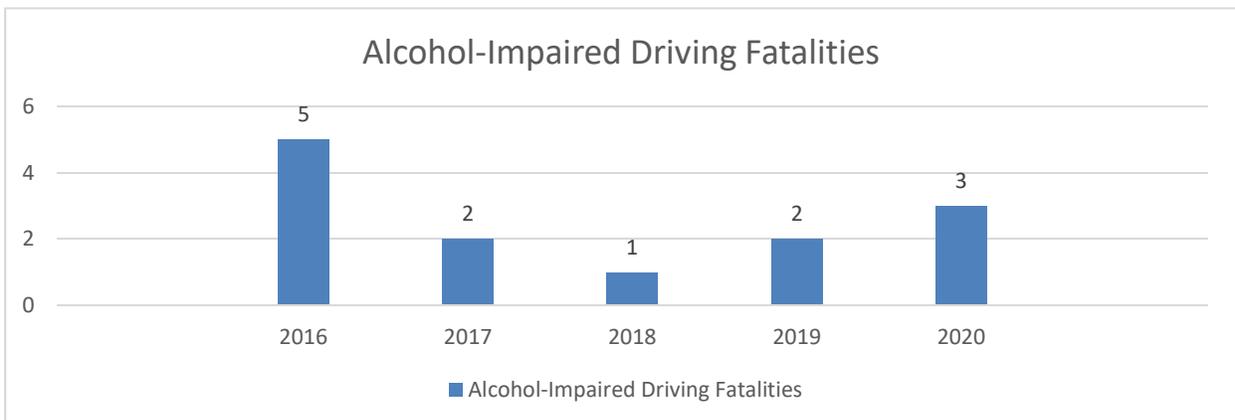


C-5 Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatalities:

American Samoa’s goal is to decrease Alcohol-Impaired Driving fatalities from using the 5-year average baseline (2016-2020) (3) to (0) using the five-year target average (2017-2021).

Result: In Progress

Based on preliminary five-year average (2016-2020) state data, there has been an average of (3) Alcohol-Impaired Driving fatalities as of November 2021.



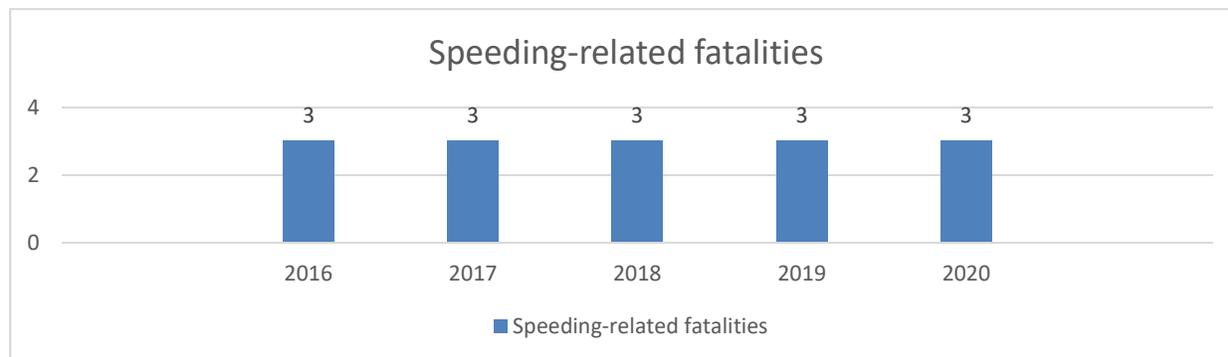


C-6 Speeding-related fatalities:

American Samoa’s goal is to decrease Speed-related fatalities from using the 5-year average baseline (2016-2020) (3) to (0) using the five-year target average (2017-2021).

Result: In Progress

Based on preliminary state data, there was an average of (3) speed-related fatality as of November 2021.



C-7 Motorcycle Fatalities:

To maintain the number of motorcycle fatalities at (0) using the (2016-2020) calendar base year average by December 31, 2021.

Result: In Progress

Based on preliminary five-year average (2016-2020) state data, there have been (0) Motorcycle fatalities as of November 2021.

C-8 Un-helmeted Motorcycle Fatalities:

To maintain the number of Un-helmeted motorcycle fatalities at (0) using the five-year average baseline (2016-2020).

Result: In Progress

Based on preliminary five-year average (2016-2020) state data, there have been (0) Un-helmeted motorcycle fatalities as of November 2021.

C-9 Drivers Aged 20 or Younger Involved in Fatal Crashes:

To maintain the number of drivers, age 20 or younger involved in fatal crashes at (0) using the five-year average baseline (2016-2020).

Result: In Progress

Based on preliminary five-year average (2016-2020) state data, there has been (0) driver aged 20 or younger involved in fatal crashes as of November 2021.



C-10 Pedestrian Fatalities:

To decrease the number of Pedestrian Fatalities by using the five-year average (2016-2020) (1) to (0) using the five-year average baseline (2017-2021).

Result: In Progress

Based on preliminary five-year average (2016-2020) state data, there has been an average of (1) Pedestrian Fatality as of November 2021.



C-11 Bicyclist Fatalities:

To maintain the number of Bicyclist Fatalities at (0) using the five-year average baseline (2016-2020).

Result: In Progress

Based on preliminary five-year average (2016-2020) state data, there have been (0) Pedestrian Fatalities as of November 2021.

Core Behavior Measure:

B-1 Seat Belt Use Rate (Observed Seat Belt Use Survey):

Goal: To increase observed Seat Belt use for passenger vehicles' front seats or occupant's 5 percent from 83.34 percent in 2019 to 90 percent of seat belt use by December 31, 2020.

Results:

In 2021, an observed seat belt use survey indicated an increase of 9.8 percentage points from 83.34 percent in 2019 and 2020 to 93.1 percent in 2021.



Core Activity Measure:

A-1 Seat Belt Citation Issued During Mobilization/Enforcement

May 2021 – Mobilization CIOT

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Occupant Protection	934	688	736	15	402
Child Restraint	23	247	154	2	34

A-2 Impaired Driving Arrests made during Crackdown/Enforcement.

December 2020 – Mobilization/Enforcement

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
DWI Arrests	36	184	51	18	4

April/August 2021 – Mobilization/Enforcement

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
DWI Arrests	N/C	N/C	N/C	N/C	19

A-3 Speed Citations Issued during Enforcement. (June/July/August/September – 2021)

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Speeding	917	741	738	868	956



Evidence-Based Enforcement Plan (EBE)

In 2021, the American Samoa Office of Highway Safety maintained its goal of reducing fatalities, injuries, and fatal crashes. In formulating the enforcement plan, ASOHS utilized data collected from previous years to the present, to pinpoint the exact location or locations of crashes. Based on this information, ASOHS identified the problem areas where projects were funded to increase the enforcement and needs of the community.

To reduce fatalities, injuries, and crashes, the ASOHS focuses its enforcement on the following core programs:

- Impaired Driving
- Occupant Protection (Adult and Child Restraint)
- Speed

Section 402 funding targeted the areas with the highest incidence of traffic problems and/or alcohol-related problems. As outlined in the problem identification section of the 2021 HSP plan, our strategic partners used data information to support enforcement strategies, equipment needs, and educational material requests. ASOHS will conduct enforcement activities combined with Speed and Impaired Driving in 2021 with an emphasis on the location of high crash frequencies.

The ASOHS recognizes the importance of safety belt usage. For the past three years, there has been a steady increase in overall usage rates from 77% in 2015, 83% in 2016 and 85% in 2017, 93.4% in 2018, and 83.34% in 2019, we have completed the 2021 Seat Belt Survey and the results have increased since 2019 to 93.1%. ASOHS analyzed the observational safety belt usage information along with crash data and identified the low usage rate to compare with the areas of high crash incidences to determine if it is tied into the unrestrained vehicle occupant fatalities, thus, determining that safety belt usage will be one of the primaries focuses of enforcement and education/community outreach.

High visibility enforcement efforts are strengthened with the use of data. ASOHS utilizes reports designed by the Online State Crash Analysis Reporting System (OSCAR). Standard reports designed by the OSCAR break down the fatality and serious injury data. Such reports assist in the adjustment of the enforcement plan as needed for continuous safety improvements and adjust strategies to their needs.

ASOHS program managers will continue to work closely with agencies to evaluate and assess productivity as well as progress towards defined goals.



Program Areas

Planning & Administration

PA-21-01: Highway Safety Program Management

Funding Source: 402

Budget: \$278,718

Expended: \$91,035.85

Description:

Funding under this task funded four positions within the Office of Highway Safety; collaboration with the Traffic Unit for community outreach and presentations, office supplies for the OHS office, and Police Traffic Unit. Funds were also allocated to secure an office vehicle for the OHS program. Funds were also allotted for travel to meetings and conferences for all OHS staff members and Governor's Representative (GR).

With the ongoing declaration of emergency and the closure of borders within our island territory, we have been unable to satisfy program objectives such as community outreaches and education. All off-island travel is still on suspended status until further notice. We are dependent solely on virtual training for all our office personnel to be on top of all issues related to daily objectives being implemented all off-island training, conferences, and meetings are canceled, placed on hold, or held virtually. Program Managers and Finance Manager have enrolled in TSI to receive the training and attend virtual sessions offered by the Transportation Safety Institute.

Result:

- Shared data with Motor Carrier Program to increase traffic enforcement
- Completed and delivered the FFY 2021 Highway Safety Plan to NHTSA.
- Purchased (1) Desktop Computer for Program Coordinator
- Purchased office supplies and equipment.
- Salaries for Program Managers, Finance Manager, and Program Coordinators were funded.
- Monthly meetings with Traffic Unit within the reported FY 2021.
- We were able to complete a few community outreaches and presentations in the community, but most were done through social media, billboard ads and radio ads.
- Purchased an office vehicle to carry out daily activities related to the community outreach program.
- Purchased (4) cell phones for office staff to be able to work remotely
- Registered Governors Rep to the Governors Highway Safety Association



Occupant Protection

OP-21-00: Seatbelt Survey

Funding Source: 402

Budget: \$112,530

Expended: \$3,950

Description:

Funding under this program was planned to conduct an island-wide seat belt survey of driver's front-seat outboard passengers on twenty-five (25) sites both at urban (downtown/surrounding areas) and rural areas outside the edge of the island. The reported Territory-wide seat belt use rate is based on a survey design that was approved by NHTSA, in writing, as conforming to the Uniform Criteria for State Observational Surveys of Seat Belt Use, 23 CFR Part 1340.

In November 2021, William Bommer, an off-island contractor analyzed and provided the results of the Seat Belt Survey from October 12th to the 16th and October 25th and 26th. The results issued a Territory Wide Seat Belt Usage Rate of 93.1% for the calendar year 2021. According to the results, the goal was met.

Result:

- November 2021, Seat Belt Survey Contractor William Bommer analyzed the data collected by American Samoa for the 2021 Seat Belt Survey which indicated an increase of 9.73 percentage points from 83.34% in 2019 to 93.1% in 2021.

OP-21-00: Occupant Protection and Enforcement

Funding Source: 402

Budget:\$108,580

Expended:\$136,348

Description:

Funding under this task was planned to fund education on the correct child safety seat installation, importance of seat belts and child safety seats, seat belt and child safety seat enforcement, participation in the Click it or Ticket campaign, and the distribution of child safety seats to new parents and families of need here in American Samoa.

The primary goal of the Office of Highway Safety Occupant Protection program with the Department of Public Safety Traffic Division is to reduce traffic-related crashes, injuries, and fatalities while educating our island and community about the importance of Seat Belt Usage, as well as the importance of child safety seats and always keeping the vehicle occupants safe.

Within the 4 quarters, there have been **1,763 Seat Belt citations, and 586 Child Restraint Citations issued**. There have been **fatalities** involving occupants. The Traffic unit has



participated in the May Click It or Ticket Campaign Enforcement and have been able to complete short enforcements in the months of May, and August.

With the numbers of Child restraint citations increasing, the need for Child Safety Seats for new parents and families, also for low-income households has increased as well. American Samoa with the help of CNMI has been able to install a total of 38 remaining car seats virtually. A new order of car seats has been received and a virtual installation is currently being discussed with CNMI.

Result:

- Distributed Child Car Seats virtually with CNMI's assistance
- Purchased 200 child car seats
- Funded Click It or Ticket Campaign, Seat Belt enforcements throughout the year
- Funded media ads, radio ads, commercials, signs, and other material for outreaches
- Attend (2) outreaches

Police Traffic Services

PT 21-01: Enforcement and Education

Funding Source: 402

Budget: \$287,950.00

Expended: \$259,812.83

Description:

Funding under this task was planned to conduct enforcements and education programs in urban and rural communities throughout the island. It will include enforcement related to DUI, speed, and occupant protection. And distracted driving in school zones, villages, and areas associated with collisions and injuries. Enforcement also will be increased during holidays associated with impaired driving during NHTSA mobilizations. Educational presentations will be conducted at schools, community events, and other local venues.

In the beginning of the year, the Alcohol and Speed program had been merged into the Police Traffic Services Program. The main goal of accomplishment for this Fiscal year was to decrease fatalities to (0) by December 31, 2021. **4 fatalities have been reported as of December 22, 2021**, involving an intoxicated driver and passenger, crashing into a vehicle with 2 occupants belted and crashing into a working area killing 2 workers.

The Traffic Division continues to aggressively enforce our Traffic Safety laws by keeping a strong presence on the road and by issuing citation. Within this year there have been **60 DUI arrests, 2,814 speeding citations issued, and 432 minor crashes without fatalities**. The Traffic Division has also purchased (2) new Harley Davidson motorcycles to add to their motorcycle units. They have been on the road completing speed traps as well as using the bikes during high-peak hours during the day to control traffic.



There were 4 checkpoints during the Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over Campaign in December. They have been able to attend a major outreach and have been airing their commercials, radio ads and LED billboards to keep the public aware of the dangers of Drinking and Driving, Speeding and reckless driving.

Result:

- Purchased two Harley Davidson Motorcycles
- Purchased 1 – Laser Jet Printer
- Funded Vehicle Mileage Reimbursements for Speed, CIOT and DSOGPO
- Purchased outreach material such as coloring books for children, flyers, and brochures
- Funded Media Ads, commercials, and newspaper ads
- Funded Overtime for April DUI Enforcement, August Speed Enforcement, August Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over

Traffic Records

TR-21-01: Program Management

Funding Source: 402

Budget: \$87,340.00

Expended: \$31,841.08

Description:

Funding under this task was planned to hire a consultant to support and improve the Island-wide Traffic Safety Information System and assist with the update of the Traffic Records Strategic Plan. Funding was also planned to assist to provide sufficient staff to conduct police traffic services related data collection described in this plan as well as cover training, travel, conference fees, and miscellaneous expenses.

M3DA – TR-21-01: TR Improvement Program

Funding Source: 405c

Budget: \$150,413.71

Expended: \$110,000.00

Description:

Funding under this task was planned for activities to improve the Crash System, the E-Citation System, and the OSCAR system online. It will improve the wireless data connectivity for electronic crash and citation reporting.

Result:

- Funding for off island contractor Ledge Light Technologies to continue maintenance, enhancement and upgrades for the Electronic Crash Reporting System, Roadway



AMERICAN SAMOA HIGHWAY SAFETY ANNUAL REPORT FF2021



Information Management System, JustWare Application Program Interface, the Online Crash Analysis, and reporting (OSCAR) and the AS ITSIS Cloud Network.

- Completed the FY21 Traffic Records Assessment
- Funded hardware (5 Laptops and Printers) for use with Crash and ECitation software and configure them to work with existing network.
- Funding for Ledge Light to prepare the FY22 Strategic Plan by providing guidance in project selection, performance measures, analysis and reporting to NHTSA.
- Three On-Line TRCC Meetings were held with the TRCC Committee in attendance



2021 Enforcement Mobilizations

Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over Campaign (December 2020 – January 2021)

Within the 2-week Mobilization, Traffic officers held 4 checkpoints from 1800hrs to 0200hrs within the village of Nu'uuli. 855 vehicles were checked through, 4 SFST's were conducted, 4 arrests were made for Driving Under the Influence, 197 Seat Belt violations, and 135 child restraint citations were issued. On their enforcement patrols during the mobilization, 250 speeding citations were issued during the day and night There were 49 minor crashes with no major injuries or fatalities reported.



April Seat Belt Day Enforcement and DUI Night Enforcement (April 15th – April 17th, 2021)

The Traffic Unit conducted a 3-day Seat Belt during the day and DUI during the night enforcement from April 15th to April 17th, 2021. No checkpoints were conducted during the night. 64 citations for Seat Belt were issued, 24 Child restraint citations, 28 speeding citations and 3 arrests were made for Driving under the influence. 2 minor crashes were reported, none involving alcohol.

May/June Click It or Ticket Seat Belt Mobilization (May 2021 – June 2021)

The Traffic Division was able to participate in this years Click It Or Ticket Mobilization. The mobilization kicked off with a wave. The media participated by running Click It or Ticket ads throughout the mobilization. Commercials were aired on local cable station. Officers conducted seat belt checks as well as patrolled heavily within these 2-weeks. The May/June Mobilization resulted in 402 seat belt citations, 34 child restraint citations, 5 DUI arrests, 263 speeding citations and 26 minor crashes without fatalities or serious injuries.





Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over Campaign (August 2021)

This year Department of Public Safety and the Traffic Unit participated in both a Day Seat Belt Enforcement, Day Speed Enforcement and the Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over Night Mobilization. No check points were held during the night enforcement. These enforcements resulted in 68 seat belt citations, 34 child restraint citations, 27 minor crashes without fatalities or serious injuries report, 5 open containers, 340 speed citations, and 11 arrests for driving under the influence.



MOVING FORWARD – FY 2022

The last two years have been a challenging year; there is no doubt about it. COVID-19 pandemic came to change our way of living, including lockdowns and social distancing as efforts to eradicate the spreading of the virus. Nevertheless, a lot is yet to be done to keep saving lives in our streets. For this to be done we managed to publish our educational campaigns, including our Impaired Driving Media Campaigns to educate drivers about the consequences of driving under the influence of alcohol. Also, we kept our Speed and Aggressive Driving Campaign, as well as the Occupant Protection Media Campaign to increase the use of seat belts and child passenger safety.

For all the performance measures that were not met the following are planned activities for FY2022:

- Work very closely with the Traffic Unit to instill the importance of grant-funded activities
- Dedicate funding to sustained enforcement efforts outside the national mobilizations
- Consolidate project agreements for more efficient monitoring
- Continue formal grant management training with TSI and the NHTSA Region 9 staff
- Continue weekly conference calls with NHTSA Region, 9 staff, for technical assistance
- Participate in the NHTSA Region 9 Partners Meeting
- Identify and address other personnel needs
- Provide child passenger safety training to recertify child passenger safety technicians
- Reestablish Child Passenger Safety Fitting Stations
- Monitor and oversee traffic safety grants and operations
- Continue updating the Policy and Procedures Manual
- Improve traffic collision data collection and reestablish the Traffic Records program
- Solve internal issues with the OSCAR data collection system



FY 2021 ACTIVITIES AND OUTREACHES:





NHTSA FAST ACT 402 & 405c
HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAM FUNDING

NHTSA Financial Report as of December 21, 2021

Program Area:	FY Appropriated	Expended:	Carry- Forward to FY22
PA-21-01 PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION	\$179,134.30	\$91,035.85	\$88,098.45
OP-21-01 OCCUPANT PROTECTION	\$679,388.15	\$140,298.29	\$539,089.89
PTS-21-01 POLICE TRAFFIC SERVICES	\$1,303,053.24	\$259,812.83	\$1,043,240.41
TR-21-01 TRAFFIC RECORDS	\$684,729.16	\$31,841.08	\$652,888.08
MEDA-TR-21-01 DATA IMPROVEMENT (405C)	\$210,413.72	\$110,000.00	\$100,413.72
Total:	\$3,056,718.57	\$632,988.05	\$2,423,730.52



The following graphs represent FY21 Total Funding, Expenditure, and Carry Forward to Fiscal Year 2022

