

**NEW YORK STATE**

**FFY 2015**

**HIGHWAY SAFETY STRATEGIC PLAN**

**New York State**  
**Governor's Traffic Safety Committee**

**Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor**  
**Barbara J. Fiala, Chair**

**July 1, 2014**  
**(Revised August 20, 2014)**

# NEW YORK STATE HIGHWAY SAFETY STRATEGIC PLAN FFY 2015

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Executive Summary.....	i
FFY 2015 Highway Safety Program Planning Process .....	1
Statewide Highway Safety Program.....	9
Impaired Driving.....	15
Police Traffic Services.....	27
Motorcycle Safety .....	41
Pedestrian, Bicycle and Wheel-Sport Safety.....	49
Occupant Protection .....	59
Traffic Records .....	71
Community Traffic Safety Programs .....	81
Program Management.....	91
Appendix A: List of Proposed Projects	
Appendix B: State Certifications and Assurances	
Appendix C: Highway Safety Program Cost Summary	

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



## INTRODUCTION

In preparing New York's FFY 2015 Highway Safety Strategic Plan (HSSP), the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee (GTSC) continued to use a data-driven approach in identifying problems and setting priorities for the state's highway safety program. The state's performance-based planning process is inclusive and takes into account issues and strategies identified by the GTSC member agencies, other state and local agencies, enforcement agencies and not-for-profit organizations that have submitted applications for funding.

The preparation of the HSSP was guided by the uniform procedures for state highway safety grant programs established in the federal surface transportation bill, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (MAP-21). MAP-21 authorizes two funding programs: the Section 402 State and Community Highway Safety grant program and the Section 405 National Priority Safety Program. States are required to submit a single application for these funding programs.

In the FFY 2015 HSSP, a new measure, bicyclist fatalities, was added to the original set of 10 core outcome measures and one core behavioral measure recommended by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA). Where appropriate, additional measures were established for specific program areas. A performance target for the end of calendar year 2015 was set for each of the measures.

## STATEWIDE HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAM

The GTSC provides leadership and support for New York State's Highway Safety Program through its administration of the federal funds awarded annually to the state. The top priorities of the FFY 2015 Highway Safety Program are to address trends of increasing numbers of crashes involving specific highway users and to halt the development of unfavorable trends in certain types of crashes. The HSSP addresses the following program areas: Impaired Driving; Police Traffic Services; Motorcycle Safety; Pedestrian, Bicycle and Wheel-Sport Safety; Occupant Protection; Traffic Records; Community Traffic Safety Programs and Program Management.

In accordance with MAP-21 requirements, New York's applications for Section 405 funding are submitted as attachments to the HSSP. Certifications and supporting documentation have been provided for the following Section 405 incentive programs: Occupant Protection; State Traffic Safety Information System Improvements and Impaired Driving Countermeasures.

## Status of Statewide Performance Measures

The core measures that are tracked for the overall highway safety program are fatalities, serious injuries and three fatality rates. Based on the 2012 FARS data, only slight progress was made toward reducing fatalities; in 2012, fatalities in motor vehicle crashes in New York State declined to 1,168 compared to 1,171 in 2011. Based on the trend, a target to decrease fatalities by 3% from the 2010-2012 average of 1,180 to 1,145 was set for 2015.

Progress was not made in the core measure of serious injuries. Based on the state's AIS data, following a decrease in the number of persons who received serious injuries between 2010 and 2011, the number increased in 2012. Based on this inconsistent trend, the target set for 2015 was to reduce serious injuries by 3% from the 2010-2012 average of 12,326 to 11,956. Updated fatality rate measures for 2012 are not yet available to assess progress; 2015 targets were set based on the trends in the data through 2011.

FATALITY AND SERIOUS INJURY MEASURES						
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Target 2015
<b>Fatalities</b>	1,238	1,158	1,201	1,171	1,168	<b>1,145</b>
<i>3-Year Moving Average</i>	<i>1,341</i>	<i>1,243</i>	<i>1,199</i>	<i>1,177</i>	<i>1,180</i>	
<b>Serious Injuries</b>	12,900	12,988	12,802	12,012	12,163	<b>11,956</b>
<i>3-Year Moving Average</i>	<i>13,118</i>	<i>13,056</i>	<i>12,897</i>	<i>12,601</i>	<i>12,326</i>	
<b>Fatality Rate/100 Million VMT</b>	0.92	0.87	0.92	0.92	N/A	<b>0.88</b>
Urban Fatality Rate	0.61	0.57	0.64	0.67	N/A	<b>0.65</b>
Rural Fatality Rate	1.88	1.77	1.73	1.63	N/A	<b>1.58</b>

Sources: The source for all fatality measures is FARS; the source for the serious injury measure is the NYS AIS

## FFY 2015 Strategies

The overall goals of New York's highway safety program are to prevent motor vehicle crashes, save lives and reduce the severity of the injuries suffered. In FFY 2015, a comprehensive approach will continue to be taken with strategies implemented in all of the major highway safety program areas. The effectiveness of the collective efforts will be assessed through changes in the statewide fatality and injury measures.

## IMPAIRED DRIVING

### Status of Core Performance Measure

The core performance measure used to assess progress in the Impaired Driving program area is alcohol-impaired driving fatalities which are defined as drivers and motorcycle operators with a BAC of .08% or higher who are killed in crashes. Based on FARS data, the number of alcohol-impaired driving fatalities increased from 328 in 2011 to 344 in 2012. Based on the trend in previous years, a target of reducing alcohol-impaired driving fatalities 3% from the 2010-2012 average of 344 to 334 was set for 2015.



ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED DRIVING FATALITIES						
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Target 2015
Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatalities	346	318	360	328	344	334
<i>3-Year Moving Average</i>	<i>385</i>	<i>347</i>	<i>341</i>	<i>335</i>	<i>344</i>	
<i>Source: FARS</i>						

## FFY 2015 Impaired Driving Strategies

Reducing the numbers of alcohol-impaired driving fatalities and injuries on the state's roadways are the primary goals of New York's impaired driving program. The strategies that will contribute to reaching the performance targets set for FFY 2015 are: enforcement of the state's impaired driving laws, including the provision of equipment and training for law enforcement officers and strategies related to the prosecution and adjudication of DWI offenders; DWI offender treatment, monitoring and control; prevention, communications, public information and educational outreach; underage alcohol-impaired driving; drugged driving; cooperative approaches to reducing impaired driving; and research, evaluation and analytical support for New York's performance-based impaired driving program.

## POLICE TRAFFIC SERVICES

### Status of Core Performance Measure

The primary goal of the Police Traffic Services program is to decrease speeding-related fatalities. Based on FARS data, the downward trend in speeding-related fatalities between 2008 and 2011 did not continue in 2012. A decline in the number of speeding tickets issued due to competing enforcement priorities and reduced funding has likely contributed to this lack of progress. A new target to reduce speeding-related fatalities by 5% from the 2010-2012 average of 342 to 332 by the end of calendar year 2015 was set.

SPEEDING-RELATED FATALITIES						
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Target 2015
Speeding-Related Fatalities	410	371	335	332	360	332
<i>3-Year Moving Average</i>	<i>425</i>	<i>399</i>	<i>372</i>	<i>346</i>	<i>342</i>	
<i>Source: FARS</i>						

### FFY 2015 Police Traffic Services Strategies

The goal of the Police Traffic Services program is to decrease crashes, fatalities and injuries resulting from unsafe driving behaviors including speeding and other aggressive driving behaviors; distracted driving, including cell phone use and texting; and failure to comply with the state's seat belt law. Traffic violations involving passing stopped school buses and commercial vehicles are also included under this program area. The strategies that will contribute to improvements in this program area are: enforcement of traffic violations; law enforcement training programs; and communications and outreach.

## MOTORCYCLE SAFETY

### Status of Core Performance Measures

The core performance measures used to assess progress in the Motorcycle Safety program area are motorcyclist fatalities and unhelmeted motorcyclist fatalities. Based on the 2012 FARS data, the number of motorcyclist fatalities remained at 170. Due to the lack of progress between 2011 and 2012, a target of reducing motorcyclist fatalities 5% from the 2010-2012 average of 175 to 166 was set for 2015.

Due in large part to New York's helmet law, the number of fatally injured motorcyclists who were not wearing a helmet is relatively small and was on a downward trend between 2008 and 2011. The trend was reversed in 2012 when 15 unhelmeted motorcyclists were killed in crashes, an increase of four over the previous year. A target of decreasing unhelmeted motorcyclist fatalities 10 percent from the 2010-2012 average of 14 to 12 has been set for 2015.

MOTORCYCLIST FATALITIES AND UNHELMETED MOTORCYCLIST FATALITIES						
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Target 2015
<b>Motorcyclist Fatalities</b>	184	155	184	170	170	<b>166</b>
<i>3-Year Moving Average</i>	<i>182</i>	<i>169</i>	<i>174</i>	<i>170</i>	<i>175</i>	
<b>Unhelmeted Motorcyclist Fatalities</b>	36	21	16	11	15	<b>12</b>
<i>3-Year Moving Average</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>14</i>	

Source: FARS

### FFY 2015 Motorcycle Safety Strategies

The primary goals in the area of motorcycle safety are to decrease motorcyclist fatalities, unhelmeted motorcyclist fatalities and the number of motorcyclists injured. The strategies that will contribute to improvements in this program area are: the Motorcycle Rider Education and Training Program; communications and outreach; enforcement; and research, evaluation and analytical support for the performance-based Motorcycle Safety Program.

## PEDESTRIAN, BICYCLE, IN-LINE SKATING, NON-MOTORIZED SCOOTER AND SKATEBOARDING SAFETY

### Status of Core Performance Measures

The core outcome measure for pedestrian safety is pedestrian fatalities. Based on FARS data, the number of pedestrian fatalities in New York State has not been on a consistent trend; in 2012, 297 pedestrians were killed in crashes, an increase of ten over the previous year. A target of reducing pedestrian fatalities 5% from the 2010-2012 average of 296 to 281 has been set for 2015.



PEDESTRIAN FATALITIES						
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Target 2015
<b>Pedestrian Fatalities</b>	297	308	303	287	297	<b>281</b>
<b>3-Year Moving Average</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>296</b>	
<i>Source: FARS</i>						

New York has also consistently tracked bicyclist fatalities to assess the state's progress in reducing the number of bicyclists killed in crashes with motor vehicles. Bicyclist fatalities have been included as a core measure for the first time in the FFY 2015 HSSP. Crash data from New York's AIS indicate that bicyclist fatalities spiked to 57 in 2011, up 21 from the previous year, and then dropped to 45 in 2012. Because of the relatively small numbers and inconsistent pattern, a target of reducing bicyclist fatalities 5% from the 2010-2012 average of 46 to 44 was set for 2015.

BICYCLIST FATALITIES						
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Target 2015
<b>Bicyclist Fatalities</b>	42	29	36	57	45	<b>44</b>
<b>3-Year Moving Average</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>46</b>	
*Data for 2011 are preliminary <i>Source: NYS AIS</i>						

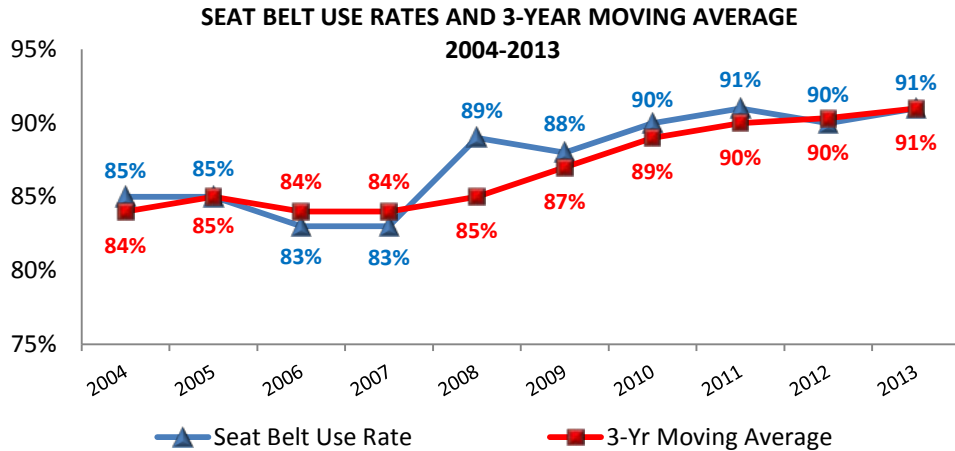
## FFY 2015 Pedestrian, Bicycle and Wheel-Sport Safety Strategies

The primary goals of the pedestrian, bicycle, in-line skating, non-motorized scooter and skateboarding safety programs are to reduce the number of pedestrians, bicyclists and participants in other wheel sports killed and injured in crashes. The strategies that will contribute to improvements in this program area are: education, communication and outreach; community-based programs; cooperative approaches to improving pedestrian and bicycle safety; and research, evaluation and analytical support for New York's performance-based Pedestrian, Bicycle and Wheel-Sport Safety program.

## OCCUPANT PROTECTION

### Status of Core Performance Measures

The core behavioral measure in the occupant protection program area is the observed seat belt use rate. In the most recent statewide observation survey of seat belt use conducted in 2013, New York's usage rate was estimated at 91%, up from the 2012 usage rate of 90%. A target to increase the statewide observed seat belt use of front seat outboard occupants in passenger vehicles 2 percentage points from 91% in 2013 to 93% has been set for 2015.



Source: NYS Annual Seat Belt Observation Surveys

The second core measure for tracking progress in this program area is unrestrained passenger vehicle occupant fatalities. Based on FARS data, the number of unrestrained passenger vehicle occupant fatalities was on a consistent downward trend between 2008 and 2011 before increasing to 204 in 2012. A target to decrease unrestrained passenger vehicle occupant fatalities in all seating positions 3% from the 2010-2012 average of 194 to 189 has been set for 2015.

UNRESTRAINED PASSENGER VEHICLE OCCUPANT FATALITIES						
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Target 2015
Unrestrained Occupant Fatalities	234	209	192	187	204	189
<i>3-Year Moving Average</i>	<i>294</i>	<i>241</i>	<i>212</i>	<i>196</i>	<i>194</i>	

Source: FARS

### FFY 2015 Occupant Protection Strategies

The primary goals of the occupant protection program are to increase the observed statewide seat belt use rate and decrease unrestrained occupant fatalities in passenger vehicles. The strategies identified for achieving these goals include high visibility seat belt enforcement; communications and outreach; and research, evaluation and analytical support for New York's Occupant Protection Program.

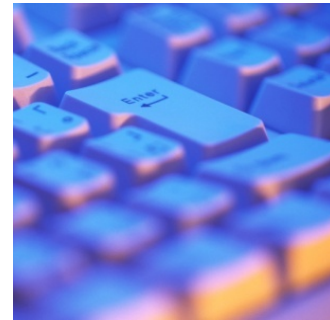
Strategies specific to improving child passenger safety (CPS) include: communications and outreach; recruitment and training of CPS technicians; child safety seat inspection stations; car seat check events; and child safety seat distribution and education programs.



## **TRAFFIC RECORDS**

### **Status of Performance Measures**

The key performance measures used to monitor progress in the Traffic Records program area focus on the timeliness of the crash and citation/adjudication data. With respect to the crash data, the performance measure is the mean number of days from the date a crash occurs to the date the crash report is entered into the AIS (Accident Information System) database. With regard to the citation and adjudication data, the performances measures are 1) the mean number of days from the date a citation is issued to the date the citation is entered into the TSLED database, and 2) the mean number of days from the date of charge disposition to the date the charge disposition is entered into TSLED.



Based on data from April 2013-March 2014, progress has been made with regard to the timeliness of both the AIS crash and TSLED citation data. The mean number of days from the date of the crash to the date the crash report was entered into AIS dropped from 47 days in the 12-month baseline period of April 2012-March 2013 to under 43 days. Based on the same baseline and performance periods, the mean number of days from the date a citation was issued until it was entered into the TSLED system dropped from 26 to 24 days; the third measure, the mean number of days from the disposition date of a charge to the date the disposition is entered into TSLED, remained unchanged at 33 days. Targets for further improvements in the timeliness of the crash and citation data were set for the next performance period (April 2014-March 2015).

### **FFY 2015 Traffic Records Strategies**

The primary goals of the efforts undertaken in the area of traffic records are to improve the timeliness of the data entered into the state's crash and citation data bases. This will be accomplished through the following strategies: statewide coordination of traffic records improvements; electronic capture and transmittal of crash and ticket data; initiatives to improve the crash and citation/adjudication systems; improvement of roadway data systems; development and use of data linkages; use of technology to disseminate information; and research and evaluation.

## **COMMUNITY TRAFFIC SAFETY PROGRAMS**

### **Status of Core Performance Measure**

The core outcome measure for tracking progress in the Community Traffic Safety Programs program area is drivers under age 21 involved in fatal crashes. Based on 2012 FARS data, the downward trend in this measure between 2008 and 2011 was reversed in 2012 when the number of drivers under 21 involved in fatal crashes increased by 10 over the previous year (128 to 138). A target of decreasing the number of drivers age 20 or younger involved in fatal crashes 5% from the 2010-2012 average of 137 to 130 was set for 2015.

<b>DRIVERS AGE 20 OR YOUNGER INVOLVED IN FATAL CRASHES</b>						
	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>Target 2015</b>
<b>Drivers Under 21 Involved in Fatal Crashes</b>	182	178	145	128	138	<b>130</b>
<b>3-Year Moving Average</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>137</b>	
<i>Source: FARS</i>						

## **FFY 2015 Community Traffic Safety Programs Strategies**

The Community Traffic Safety Programs area focuses on local programs that address traffic safety issues identified at the community level as well as the implementation of initiatives that address statewide highway safety priorities through the local traffic safety network. The following strategies contribute to meeting these objectives: community-based highway safety programs; statewide implementation of traffic safety initiatives; statewide communications and outreach; younger driver outreach and communications; older driver outreach and communications; and outreach to minority and other special populations.

## **PROGRAM MANAGEMENT**

The GTSC is responsible for coordinating and managing New York State's comprehensive highway safety program. The GTSC takes a leadership role in identifying the state's overall traffic safety priorities, provides assistance in problem identification at the local level; and works with its partners to develop programs, public information campaigns and other activities to address the problems identified. In administering New York's highway safety program, the GTSC takes a comprehensive approach, providing funding for a wide variety of programs to reduce crashes, fatalities and injuries through education, enforcement, engineering, community involvement and greater access to safety-related data.

In addition to the Section 402 funding program, the MAP-21 establishes the Section 405 National Priority Safety Program which provides funding in a number of specific areas. New York's applications for 405 funding in the areas of occupant protection, traffic records and impaired driving are submitted as attachments to the FFY 2015 Highway Safety Strategic Plan.

### **FFY 2015 Program Management Strategies**

The GTSC will meet the performance targets set for the management of New York's FFY 2015 highway safety program through the implementation of the following strategies: the preparation of New York's Highway Safety Strategic Plan; training opportunities; planning and administration; plan for public information and education; highway safety presentations and workshops; and driver behavior and attitudinal surveys.

# **FFY 2015 HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAM PLANNING PROCESS**

## **Introduction**

In preparing the FFY 2015 Highway Safety Strategic Plan (HSSP), the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee (GTSC) continued to use a data-driven approach in identifying problems and setting priorities for the state's highway safety program. New York's performance-based planning process is inclusive and takes into account issues and strategies identified by the GTSC member agencies, other state and local agencies, enforcement agencies and not-for-profit organizations that have submitted applications for funding.

The University at Albany's Institute for Traffic Safety Management and Research (ITSMR) provides analytical and technical support for the planning process and works closely with GTSC on the preparation of the HSSP.

## **MAP-21 (Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century)**

The surface transportation bill, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (MAP-21) signed into law on July 6, 2012, established new uniform procedures governing the implementation of state highway safety grant programs. Two funding programs are authorized by MAP 21: the Section 402 State and Community Highway Safety grant program and the Section 405 National Priority Safety Program. States are required to submit one funding application for the Section 402 and 405 programs by July 1.

## **Overview of New York's Planning Process**

The GTSC conducts outreach at meetings, conferences and workshops throughout the year to gain input from the traffic safety community on emerging issues and new countermeasures that should be included in the HSSP. The annual GTSC meeting, convened by the GTSC Chair, is also used as an opportunity to review priorities and the status of initiatives undertaken by the member agencies of the GTSC. At the annual meeting, representatives from each agency report on the ongoing as well as the new programs being implemented by their agencies and through partnerships with other departments. Where appropriate, the information provided by the member agencies on current and proposed efforts to improve highway safety in the state is incorporated into the HSSP.

The planning process also provides for several opportunities to discuss highway safety priorities with traffic safety partners at the local level. Local grantees have the opportunity to provide input for the planning process through monitoring visits and other forms of contact with their designated GTSC representatives. In addition, the GTSC's program representatives frequently take part in local traffic safety board meetings to discuss local issues and assist with grant planning and management. The GTSC's management, fiscal and program staffs also solicit ideas for the HSSP from several organizations representing local programs that work closely with the GTSC. These organizations include the NYS Association of Traffic Safety Boards, NYS STOP-DWI Association, NYS Association of Chiefs of Police, NYS Sheriffs' Association and the Association of NYS Metropolitan Planning Organizations.

## **Local Agencies Program Planning Coordination and Assistance**

The GTSC also provides guidance and various resources to assist local agencies in the preparation of grant applications. Program representatives are available during site visits or by telephone to work with local grantees. A number of resources are also provided through the GTSC website [www.safenyny.gov](http://www.safenyny.gov). These resources include extensive county-specific traffic safety data compiled by ITSMR for use in problem identification and assessing the performance of local programs.

The data reports for each of the state's 62 counties and a statewide summary report are prepared annually by ITSMR and posted on the website in February for use in the preparation of grant applications for submission to the GTSC in May. The reports include the most recent three years of crash and ticket data; in addition to county-wide data on all crashes and tickets, the reports include additional tables on alcohol-related crashes, speeding-related crashes and crashes involving motorcycles. Archives of the reports going back to 2001 are maintained online, for reference. The GTSC and ITSMR staffs annually review the content of the reports to assess the usefulness of the information based on feedback from local agencies. Local grant applicants are encouraged to supplement the information contained in the County Data Reports with their own crash and ticket data.

## **Development of New York's Highway Safety Strategic Plan**

The HSSP includes an overview of New York's statewide highway safety program and the priorities identified for FFY 2015. The following program areas are addressed in the HSSP: Impaired Driving; Police Traffic Services; Motorcycle Safety; Pedestrian, Bicycle and Wheel-Sport Safety; Occupant Protection; Traffic Records; Community Traffic Safety Programs and Program Management.

## **Performance Measures**

The original 10 core outcome measures and the one core behavioral measure, observed seat belt use, recommended by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA), were incorporated into the FFY 2015 HSSP. In addition, bicycle fatalities have been designated as a core performance measure (C-11) for the first time. Since 2013 FARS data are not yet available, 2012 data are reported for each of the core fatality measures with the exception of the statewide, urban and rural fatality rates; 2011 FARS data are the most recent available for these measures. Final 2012 data from New York State's Accident Information System (AIS) were reported for the serious injuries core measure and for the other injury measures included in the HSSP.

## **Data Sources**

FARS continues to be the official source of data for the core outcome fatality measures. New York's Accident Information System (AIS) is the source for all injury crash data in the HSSP, including the serious injuries core outcome measure. At the time the FFY 2015 HSSP was prepared, 2012 FARS data and final 2012 AIS data were the most recent complete files available. The source for the core behavioral measure, the observed seat belt use rate, is New York's annual observation survey conducted in June; the rate from the 2013 survey was available for inclusion in the FFY 2015 HSSP.

The statewide speeding and seat belt ticket data included in the HSSP were extracted from two sources: New York's TSLED (Traffic Safety Law Enforcement and Disposition) and Administrative Adjudication (AA) systems. Final ticket data for 2012 were available from each of these systems which together cover all of New York State. The statewide data on impaired driving arrests were compiled from data received directly from the Suffolk County STOP-DWI program and the New York City Police Department, in addition to the TSLED system.

Data from New York's Driver's License and Vehicle Registration files and population data from the U.S. Census were also used in preparing the FFY 2015 HSSP. A final source of data is the survey of drivers conducted each year at Department of Motor Vehicle offices. These surveys are described below.

### **New York State Driver Behavior and Attitudinal Surveys**

In addition to the outcome and behavioral measures discussed above, NHTSA encourages states to conduct annual surveys to track driver-reported behaviors, attitudes and perceptions related to major traffic safety issues. A baseline driver survey was conducted at five NYS Department of Motor Vehicles offices in summer 2010. The offices were selected to provide representation from the three main areas of the state. Three of the DMV offices are in the Upstate region: Albany (Albany County), Syracuse (Onondaga County), and Yonkers (Westchester County); one is in New York City (Brooklyn) and one is on Long Island (Medford, Suffolk County). The survey was repeated in 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014.

The survey instrument includes a total of 12 questions; information is also collected on the age, gender and county of residence of the survey participants. A minimum of 300 surveys are conducted at each of the five DMV offices. The survey instrument used in the 2010 and 2011 surveys included three questions on seat belt use, three on speeding and four on impaired driving. In order to collect information on the important topic of distracted driving, questions on cell phone use and texting while driving were substituted for one question on seat belt use and impaired driving and two on speed beginning with the 2012 survey. The results from the 2013 survey were reported in GTSC's FFY 2013 Annual Report; after the data collected in the recently completed 2014 survey are analyzed, the results will be reported in the FFY 2014 Annual Report. Survey data related to driver opinions, perceptions and reported behaviors from the 2010-2013 surveys were used in preparing the FFY 2015 HSSP.

### **Problem Identification Process**

At GTSC's request, ITSMR was responsible for conducting the problem identification process used by New York in developing the state's data-driven HSSP. The first step in the process was to conduct analyses on data extracted from the sources that have been described. The initial analyses were conducted using the most recent five years of FARS data (2008-2012) to determine the trend in each of the core performance measures related to fatalities. The trend in the number of serious injuries suffered in crashes was analyzed using 2008-2012 data from New York's AIS. For the core behavioral measure, the results from the five most recent observation surveys (2009-2013) were analyzed to determine the trend in the state's seat belt use rate. A three-year moving average was calculated for each of these core measures.

The trend analyses and status of the following core performance measures are discussed in the Statewide section: Fatalities, Fatalities/100M VMT, Urban Fatalities/VMT, Rural Fatalities/VMT and Serious Injuries. The remaining core measures are discussed under the appropriate program area sections. Additional performance measures are established in some program areas. For example, bicyclist and pedestrian injuries are used to assess performance in the Pedestrian, Bicycle and Wheel-Sport Safety program area.

The next step in the problem identification process was to conduct additional data analyses to determine the characteristics and factors contributing to the crashes, fatalities and injuries related to each of the program areas addressed in the HSSP. The statewide summaries of crash data compiled annually by ITSMR for posting on the Department of Motor Vehicles website provided extensive data for these analyses including who was involved in the crashes, where and when they were occurring and the contributing factors. In addition to looking at the trends over time in the raw numbers, the primary focus of the analysis strategy was to identify which groups, locations and contributing factors were overrepresented through comparisons with licensed drivers, registrations or population figures and rates,

as appropriate. Injury data from New York's AIS were frequently included in these analyses. The key results of these analyses are presented and discussed in the problem identification section under each program area; these data were also the basis for the selection of strategies that will enable the state to make progress toward its performance targets.

## **Process for Setting Performance Targets**

Performance targets were set for each of the core performance measures and for the additional measures selected by New York for inclusion in the HSSP using the template developed by GHSA. For each measure, the most recent five years of data were reviewed to determine the appropriate baseline for setting the target. If there was a consistent trend in the data then the most recent calendar year was used as the baseline. If there was no consistent trend, a three-year moving average was used as the baseline. The percentage change targeted for each measure was calculated based on the historical data. In every case, the target that was set was an improvement over previous performance.

## **Coordination of Performance Targets Among Planning Documents**

MAP-21 requires states to set identical targets for the three performance measures (fatalities, fatality rate and serious injuries) that are common to the HSSP, the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) and the Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP). To ensure consistency among the various planning documents, the targets proposed for inclusion in the HSSP were discussed with NYSDOT, the agency responsible for preparing the HSIP and SHSP for submission to FHWA; agreement was reached on the targets that would be used in all three documents. FARS will be the source for the fatalities and fatality rate measures and New York's Accident Information System (AIS) will be the source for the serious injury measure.

## **Selection of Strategies**

The objective of the strategy selection process is to identify evidence-based countermeasures that are best suited to address the issues identified in the data-driven problem identification process and collectively would lead to improvements in highway safety and the achievement of the performance target. Countermeasures That Work: A Highway Safety Countermeasure Guide for State Highway Safety Offices, 7<sup>th</sup> edition, 2013 was the primary source consulted to identify evidence-based strategies; references to these strategies were included in the HSSP. For those strategies that cannot be justified based on crash or other data, a rationale for their selection was also provided.

## **Strategies for Programming Funds**

GTSC's strategies for programming the federal funds received by New York are guided by a number of factors. One of the most important considerations is the priority assigned to the highway safety issue that is being addressed and the potential impact the strategy would have on reducing crashes, fatalities and injuries. A second factor taken into account is how the strategy contributes to a comprehensive and balanced highway safety program. A third consideration is the need to comply with federal requirements, such as requirements to maintain funding levels in specific program areas and restrictions placed on the types of activities that can be funded under certain grant programs.

The Governor's Traffic Safety Committee distributes an annual call letter to announce the availability of grant funds and to list the priority grant programs eligible for funding. Programs eligible for funding are based on the analysis of crash data and the input received from GTSC agencies and localities via the NYS Association of Traffic Safety Boards. Grant applications are due to GTSC by the 15<sup>th</sup> of May. During the grant application review process, GTSC staff conducts an analysis of crashes, fatalities and injuries in the areas of highest risk and makes funding decisions based on these data.



## **Evidence-Based Traffic Safety Enforcement Plan**

A significant portion of New York's highway safety grant funds is awarded to law enforcement agencies each year. GTSC has developed policies and procedures to ensure that enforcement resources are used efficiently and effectively to support the goals of the state's highway safety program. New York incorporates an evidence-based approach in its statewide enforcement program through the following components:

### **Data-driven Problem Identification**

The statewide problem identification process used in the development of the HSSP has been described earlier; the data analyses are designed to identify who is overinvolved in crashes and when, where and why crashes are occurring. Key results summarizing the problems identified are presented in the statewide and individual program area sections of the HSSP.

All local enforcement agencies applying for grant funding must also use a data-driven approach to identify the enforcement issues in their jurisdictions. To assist agencies on the local level, the Institute for Traffic Safety Management and Research (ITSMR) compiles extensive reports consisting of crash and ticket data for each county on an annual basis. These reports are posted on the GTSC website, [www.SafeNY.ny.gov](http://www.SafeNY.ny.gov). Data documenting the highway safety issue identified must be included in the funding application submitted to GTSC along with the strategies that will be implemented to address the problem.

### **Implementation of Evidence-based Strategies**

To ensure that enforcement resources are deployed effectively, police agencies are directed to implement evidence-based strategies through the Police Traffic Services grant application. The application narrative outlines New York's broad approach to address key problem enforcement areas and guides the local jurisdictions to examine local data and develop appropriate countermeasures for their problem areas. Examples of proven strategies include targeted enforcement focusing on specific violations, such as texting, aggressive driving and speeding, or on specific times of day when more violations occur, such as nighttime impaired driving road checks and seat belt enforcement. High visibility enforcement, including broad participation in national seat belt and impaired driving mobilizations, is also encouraged. The Data Driven Approach to Crime and Traffic Safety (DDACTS) model and other strategies that use data to identify high crash locations are also proven strategies. By implementing strategies that research has shown to be effective, more efficient use is made of the available resources and the success of enforcement efforts is enhanced.

A more detailed description of New York's deployment of enforcement funds using an evidence-based approach is included in the Police Traffic Services section of the HSSP (see p. 28).

### **Continuous Monitoring**

Continuous monitoring of the implementation of enforcement programs is another important element of the enforcement plan. Enforcement agencies' deployment strategies are continuously evaluated and adjusted to accommodate shifts and changes in their local highway safety problems. Several methods are used to follow-up on programs funded by GTSC. The police agencies receiving grant funding are required to report on the progress of their programs in their semi-annual and final report; these reports must include data on the activities conducted, such as the number of tickets issued. The data reported by the police agencies are compared to TSLED for verification. Funding decisions for subsequent years are based on the effectiveness of the implementation and performance of the enforcement project.

Enforcement grants are also monitored throughout the year by GTSC Highway Safety Program Representatives and police agency and association Law Enforcement Liaisons (LELs); contact with enforcement agencies is maintained through meetings, conferences, grant monitoring sessions, phone calls and press events. Enforcement deployment strategies are continuously evaluated for their impact and effectiveness and modifications are made where warranted.

## **Coordination of Data Collection and Information Systems**

The coordination of the state's traffic records systems is facilitated through the state's Traffic Records Coordinating Council (TRCC). The TRCC's membership includes all of the New York State agencies that house and maintain data systems related to highway safety. The Deputy Director of ITSMR serves as the Traffic Safety Information Systems (TSIS) Coordinator and is responsible for preparing New York's Traffic Records Strategic Plan and annual updates, organizing and facilitating meetings of the TRCC and ensuring New York's compliance with NHTSA requirements regarding state traffic records programs.

Under contract to GTSC, ITSMR also provides extensive services related to the traffic records systems housed at the NYS Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). In addition to responding to requests for data and special analyses from GTSC, DMV and their customers, ITSMR is also responsible for the final cleanup of the state's crash file, the Accident Information System (AIS). Once the annual crash file is finalized, ITSMR prepares a series of nine statewide summary reports and 62 individual county reports that are available to the public via the Internet.

In addition to providing analytical support for the performance-based HSSP administered by the GTSC, ITSMR also assists the NYS Department of Transportation's Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP) with the development of the annual Commercial Vehicle Safety Plan (CVSP). ITSMR's role in both the HSSP and the CVSP ensures the uniformity of the data used in the planning documents and facilitates the adoption of consistent performance targets.

Because of ITSMR's role in the TRCC and the responsibility ITSMR has been given for preparing the final crash data file, responding to data requests on behalf of DMV and providing analytical support for the HSSP and the CVSP, ITSMR is in a position both to enhance the coordination of the state's information systems and to ensure the consistency and uniformity of the data used to support the state's highway safety programs.

## **Coordination with New York's Strategic Highway Safety Plan**

MAP-21 emphasizes the importance of coordinating the state's highway safety program with the programs administered by the other agencies within the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) through the state's Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP). Under the federal SAFETEA-LU legislation that preceded MAP-21, the NYS Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) was required to develop and implement a data-driven SHSP that identifies key emphasis areas to be addressed to reduce roadway fatalities and serious injuries in New York State. New York's SHSP was developed through a collaborative process involving more than 150 representatives from public and private sector safety partners at the local, state and federal levels. The participation of the Federal Highway Administration, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and the state agencies responsible for administering the federal programs within New York State in the development of the SHSP is indicative of the long-established working relationships among the highway safety partners in New York and with their federal partners.



At the request of NYSDOT and GTSC, ITSMR assisted in the development of the SHSP by providing the data used for the identification of emphasis areas and the selection of performance measures and targets. Because the overall measure for assessing the performance of the SHSP, as well as the measures selected for several of the emphasis areas, are also used in the HSSP, consistent targets were set for those measures that were common to both plans. The most recent update to the SHSP was released in 2010.

Since FHWA has proposed a 5-year update cycle for the states' SHSPs, the date for the completion of New York's next SHSP is August 2015. Periodic meetings will continue to be held with representatives from NHTSA, FHWA, FMCSA, GTSC and ITSMR to discuss the coordination of the planning documents prepared for the various safety programs administered by the USDOT including the need for consistent performance measures and targets across the safety plans. Because the HSSP must be submitted by July 1 but the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) which is prepared by NYSDOT is not due until August 31, agreement on the targets will be reached in time to be included in the HSSP and the identical targets will be incorporated into the annual HSIP.

## **Format of the Plan**

The FFY 2015 Highway Safety Strategic Plan includes a description of the statewide program and the current status of the statewide motor vehicle crash, fatality, and injury measures. The plan also includes overviews of the individual program areas which provide general descriptions of the trends and major issues in these areas. Specific findings of the problem identification process with the pertinent documentation are presented and performance goals are established with measures to assess progress. Each program area description also includes strategies for achieving the goals of the individual traffic safety area which will ultimately contribute to attaining the goals of the statewide highway safety program.

**NEW YORK STATE  
FFY 2015 HIGHWAY SAFETY STRATEGIC PLAN  
CORE OUTCOME AND BEHAVIORAL MEASURES**

		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Target 2015
C1	Number of Fatalities	1,238	1,158	1,201	1,171	1,168		1,145
	<i>3-Year Moving Average</i>	<i>1,341</i>	<i>1,243</i>	<i>1,199</i>	<i>1,177</i>	<i>1,180</i>		
C2	Number of Serious Injuries	12,900	12,988	12,802	12,012	12,163		11,956
	<i>3-Year Moving Average</i>	<i>13,118</i>	<i>13,056</i>	<i>12,897</i>	<i>12,601</i>	<i>12,326</i>		
C3	Fatalities per 100 Million VMT	0.92	0.87	0.92	0.92	NA*		0.88
	<i>3-Year Moving Average</i>	<i>0.97</i>	<i>0.92</i>	<i>0.90</i>	<i>0.90</i>			
	Urban Fatalities per 100 Million VMT	0.61	0.57	0.64	0.67	NA*		0.65
	<i>3-Year Moving Average</i>	<i>0.68</i>	<i>0.61</i>	<i>0.61</i>	<i>0.63</i>			
	Rural Fatalities per 100 Million VMT	1.88	1.77	1.73	1.63	NA*		1.58
	<i>3-Year Moving Average</i>	<i>1.89</i>	<i>1.88</i>	<i>1.79</i>	<i>1.71</i>			
C4	Number of Unrestrained Passenger Vehicle Occupant Fatalities	234	209	192	187	204		189
	<i>3-Year Moving Average</i>	<i>294</i>	<i>241</i>	<i>212</i>	<i>196</i>	<i>194</i>		
C5	Number of Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatalities	346	318	360	328	344		334
	<i>3-Year Moving Average</i>	<i>385</i>	<i>347</i>	<i>341</i>	<i>335</i>	<i>344</i>		
C6	Number of Speeding-Related Fatalities	410	371	335	332	360		332
	<i>3-Year Moving Average</i>	<i>425</i>	<i>399</i>	<i>372</i>	<i>346</i>	<i>342</i>		
C7	Number of Motorcyclist Fatalities	184	155	184	170	170		166
	<i>3-Year Moving Average</i>	<i>182</i>	<i>169</i>	<i>174</i>	<i>170</i>	<i>175</i>		
C8	Number of Unhelmeted Motorcyclist Fatalities	36	21	16	11	15		12
	<i>3-Year Moving Average</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>14</i>		
C9	Number of Drivers Age 20 or Younger Involved in Fatal Crashes	182	178	145	128	138		130
	<i>3-Year Moving Average</i>	<i>209</i>	<i>193</i>	<i>168</i>	<i>150</i>	<i>137</i>		
C10	Number of Pedestrian Fatalities	297	308	303	287	297		281
	<i>3-Year Moving Average</i>	<i>295</i>	<i>294</i>	<i>303</i>	<i>299</i>	<i>296</i>		
C11	Number of Bicyclist Fatalities	42	29	36	57	45		44
	<i>3-Year Moving Average</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>46</i>		
B1	Observed Seat Belt Use	89%	88%	90%	91%	90%	91%	93%
	<i>3-Year Moving Average</i>	<i>85%</i>	<i>87%</i>	<i>89%</i>	<i>90%</i>	<i>90%</i>	<i>91%</i>	

\*2012 FARS data are not available to update measure

Sources: FARS is the source for all of the Core Outcome Measures with the exception of Serious Injuries (C2). The source for this measure is New York's Accident Information System (AIS) maintained by the NYS Department of Motor Vehicles. New York's annual observational surveys of front seat outboard occupants in passenger vehicles are the source for the Core Behavioral Measure (B1).

# STATEWIDE HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAM

## Overview

The goals of New York's comprehensive statewide highway safety program are to prevent motor vehicle crashes, save lives, and reduce the severity of injuries suffered in crashes. The Governor's Traffic Safety Committee (GTSC) provides leadership and support for the attainment of these goals through its administration of the federal highway safety grant program awarded to New York by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.



## Highway Safety Priorities for FFY 2015

The top priorities of the 2015 highway safety program are to address trends of increasing numbers of crashes involving specific highway users and to halt the development of unfavorable trends in certain types of crashes. New York has identified several emphasis areas including improving the safety of younger and older drivers, commercial vehicle operators, motorcyclists, pedestrians and bicyclists and improvements to New York's traffic records systems. New York will also continue to implement programs to increase seat belt and child restraint use and reduce dangerous driving behaviors, including impaired driving, distracted driving and speeding.

The GTSC will be responsible for the administration and oversight of state and local highway safety initiatives set forth in this Highway Safety Strategic Plan. The following priority activities have been established for New York's 2015 HSSP:

### Impaired Driving

- ❖ Continue efforts to identify and implement measures to reduce alcohol impaired and drugged driving in NYS
- ❖ Continue efforts to focus on high visibility enforcement programs throughout NYS
- ❖ Support efforts to detect drug-impaired driving
- ❖ Continue to support the 58 STOP-DWI programs by providing program administration oversight and assistance to coordinators in developing and implementing effective local DWI countermeasures
- ❖ Continue programs to curb underage drinking and enforce the law prohibiting the use of fraudulent identification to purchase alcohol
- ❖ Provide training opportunities for police officers, prosecutors and the judiciary
- ❖ Continue public education and awareness campaigns

## **Police Traffic Services**

- ❖ Continue to support vigorous enforcement of the Vehicle and Traffic Laws through Police Traffic Services grants aimed at dangerous driving behaviors, especially those pertaining to speeding, distracted driving, seat belt use, running red lights and aggressive driving
- ❖ Continue to emphasize programs and efforts that address distracted driving, including enforcement of New York's cell phone and texting laws
- ❖ Encourage police agencies to adopt police traffic services as an everyday priority using the "traffic enforcement is law enforcement" approach and further expand the DDACTS (Data Driven Approaches to Crime and Safety) model
- ❖ Continue to provide training opportunities to law enforcement agencies
- ❖ Expand existing PTS efforts to include a focus on commercial motor vehicle drivers and motorcycle operators who engage in dangerous driving behaviors
- ❖ Continue opportunities to partner with federal, state and local agencies to improve commercial vehicle safety efforts

## **Motorcycle Safety**

- ❖ Increase the availability of education for motorcycle operators and awareness of safe motorcycling through the adoption of recommendations from the Motorcycle Safety Assessment and encourage proper license endorsement by operators
- ❖ Support efforts to promote Share-the-Road messages and outreach programs to enhance driver awareness of motorcyclists
- ❖ Provide training for law enforcement agencies seeking to conduct motorcycle enforcement and educational efforts

## **Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety**

- ❖ Continue to support efforts to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety across the state, and particularly in New York City

## **Occupant Protection**

- ❖ Continue active high visibility enforcement and related public information and education activities to increase seat belt use in New York State. The GTSC will continue to work with police agencies to have them adopt seat belt use policies, conduct local seat belt use surveys, raise public awareness and employ enforcement strategies including increased night-time and multi-agency details.
- ❖ Continue to support the National Click It or Ticket Campaign
- ❖ Support efforts that address lower seat belt use rates among specific high risk groups, such as younger drivers and drivers from rural areas, through special enforcement and education programs
- ❖ Increase education and outreach on the proper use and correct installation of child safety seats by strengthening the network of child passenger safety programs, particularly in areas that serve high risk populations, and increasing training opportunities for technicians

## **Traffic Records**

- ❖ Continue to support state and local police agencies in adopting technology to improve in-car traffic ticket and crash report recording and transmission, focusing heavily on successful transmissions from the New York City Police Department
- ❖ Continue to employ technology to improve traffic records systems in New York to provide better access to accurate data on the state's drivers and roadways to assist in problem identification, program implementation and evaluation
- ❖ Continue to support improvements to the state's traffic records systems that increase the timeliness and quality of the data
- ❖ Build on initiatives that will improve the efficiency and accuracy of the traffic records systems and increase operational efficiency by eliminating duplicative data files maintained by different agencies
- ❖ Continue to support the development of an Internet-based Crash Database for public use

## **Younger/Older Drivers**

- ❖ Continue to support programs to educate younger drivers and their parents on New York's graduated driver's license system, avoidance of high risk driving behavior and general safe driving practices
- ❖ Identify and recommend driver education standards and programs that can be adopted into curricula used in New York State
- ❖ Continue initiatives undertaken to educate older drivers on the effects of aging on driving abilities and increase awareness of alternatives to driving

## **Public Information & Education**

- ❖ Continue to actively bring highway safety programs to diverse populations in New York State
- ❖ Continue to expand the use of PI&E to raise awareness of priority traffic safety issues and educate the public on new laws through partnerships with organizations such as the NYS Broadcaster's Association, the Outdoor Advertising Foundation and the Cable Telecommunications Association

## **Status of FFY 2014 Performance Targets**

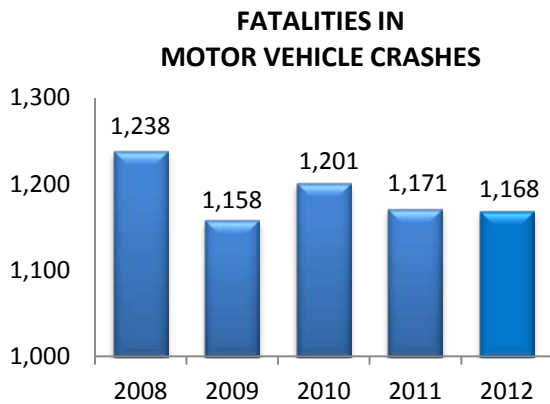
Several core outcome measures based on FARS data are used to monitor the trends in motor vehicle fatalities in New York State. The state also relies on data from New York's crash data base, the Accident Information System (AIS), maintained by the NYS Department of Motor Vehicles to track serious injuries, another core outcome measure for the state's highway safety program.

The following performance targets were set in the FFY 2014 Highway Safety Strategic Plan:

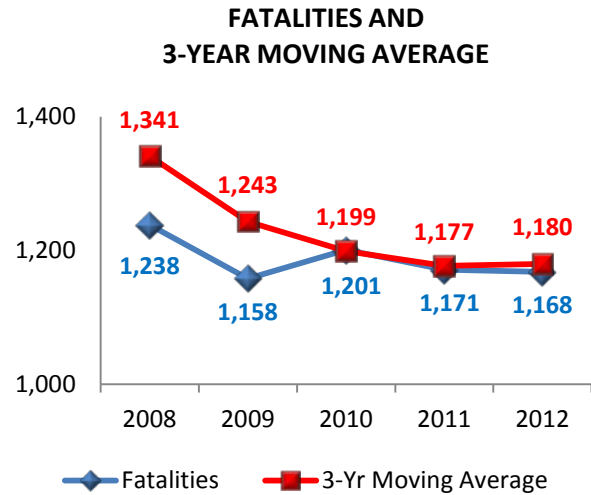
- ❖ To decrease traffic fatalities 5 percent from the 2009-2011 calendar base year average of 1,176 to 1,117 by December 31, 2014
- ❖ To decrease serious traffic injuries 4 percent from 12,012 in 2011 to 11,532 by December 31, 2014
- ❖ To decrease fatalities/100M VMT 4 percent from the 2008-2010 calendar base year average of 0.90 to 0.86 by December 31, 2013

- ❖ To decrease urban fatalities/100M VMT 3 percent from the 2008-2010 calendar base year average of 0.61 to 0.59 by December 31, 2013
- ❖ To decrease rural fatalities/100M VMT 4 percent from 1.73 in 2010 to 1.66 by December 31, 2013

The most recent available FARS data indicate that fatalities in motor vehicle crashes in New York State declined slightly in 2012 to 1,168 compared to 1,171 in 2011 and the previous three-year (2009-2011) average of 1,177. Based on the number of fatalities in 2012, progress has been made toward the target of 1,117 set for the end of calendar year 2014. FARS data for 2013 are not yet available to update these measures.

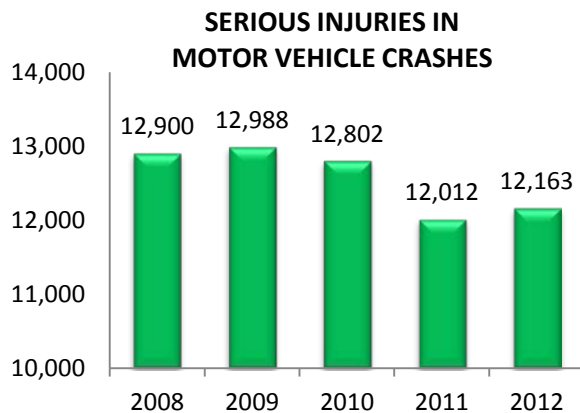


Source: FARS

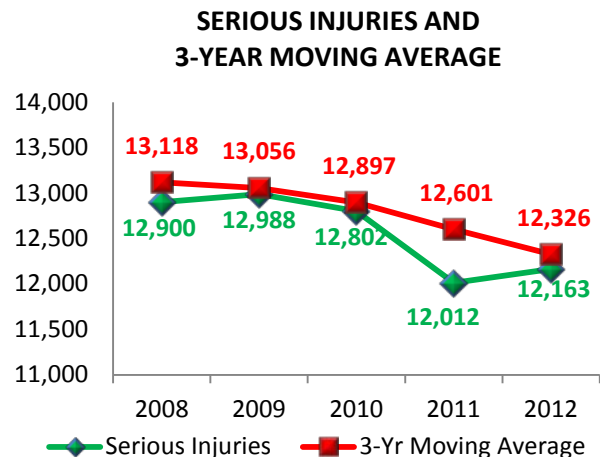


Source: FARS

Based on the final 2012 data available from New York's AIS, the number of persons who received serious or "A" injuries in motor vehicle crashes increased from 12,012 in 2011 to 12,163 making the 11,532 target for reductions in serious injuries more difficult to achieve by the end of calendar year 2014. However, the number of serious injuries continued to fall below the number that would have been expected based on the moving three-year average.



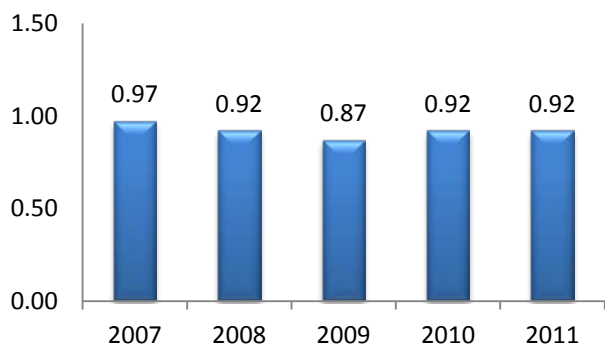
Source: NYS AIS



Source: NYS AIS

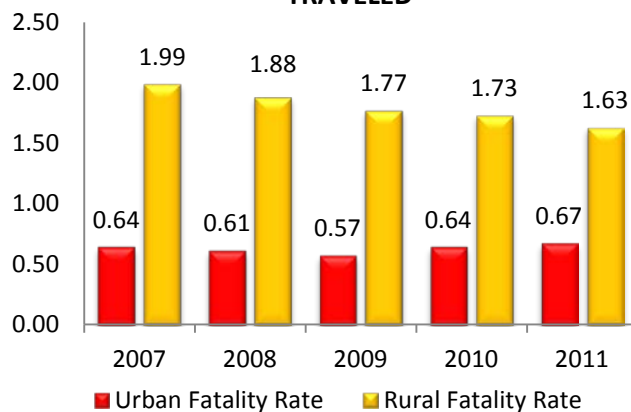
Other core measures are the statewide, urban and rural fatality rates per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT). As shown in the graphs below, after declining from 0.97 to 0.87 between 2007 and 2009, the overall fatality rate in New York increased to 0.92 fatalities per 100 million VMT in 2010 and remained at that level in 2011. The urban fatality followed the same pattern, increasing to 0.64 in 2010 and 0.67 in 2011 after declining in 2008 and 2009. The rural fatality rate, however, was on a consistent downward trend between 2007 and 2011, decreasing from 1.99 to 1.63 fatalities per 100 million VMT. FARS data for 2012 are not yet available to update these measures.

**FATALITY RATE  
PER 100 MILLION VEHICLE MILES  
TRAVELED**



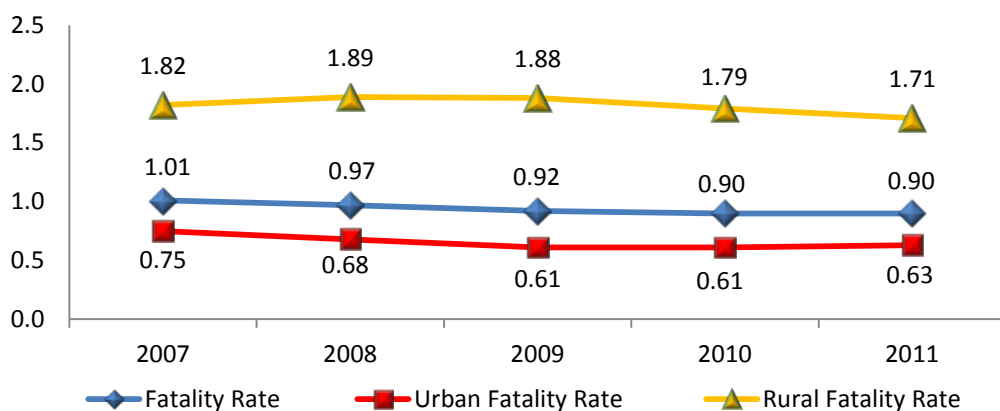
Source: FARS

**URBAN AND RURAL FATALITY RATES  
PER 100 MILLION VEHICLE MILES  
TRAVELED**



Source: FARS

**TOTAL, URBAN AND RURAL FATALITY RATES  
PER 100 MILLION VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED  
3-YEAR MOVING AVERAGES**



Source: FARS

## **FFY 2015 Performance Targets**

- ❖ To decrease traffic fatalities 3 percent from the 2010-2012 calendar year average of 1,180 to 1,145 by December 31, 2015
- ❖ To decrease serious traffic injuries 3 percent from the 2010-2012 calendar year average of 12,326 to 11,956 by December 31, 2015
- ❖ To decrease fatalities/100M VMT 3 percent from the 2009-2011 calendar year average of 0.90 to 0.88 by December 31, 2014 (unable to be updated at this time)
- ❖ To decrease urban fatalities/100M VMT 3 percent from 0.67 in 2011 to 0.65 by December 31, 2014 (unable to be updated at this time)
- ❖ To decrease rural fatalities/100M VMT 3 percent from 1.63 in 2011 to 1.58 by December 31, 2014 (unable to be updated at this time)

## **FFY 2015 Performance Measures**

- ❖ Number of traffic fatalities
- ❖ Number of serious injuries
- ❖ Fatalities/100M VMT
- ❖ Urban fatalities/100M VMT
- ❖ Rural fatalities/100M VMT



# IMPAIRED DRIVING

## Overview

For more than three decades, New York has been a national leader in reducing crashes, fatalities and injuries resulting from alcohol and drug impaired driving. At the core of the state's well-established comprehensive system for addressing impaired driving is a set of strict laws which are supported by effective enforcement, prosecution, adjudication and offender programs.



The Governor's Traffic Safety Committee (GTSC) plays the central role in the promotion and coordination of multiple components of New York's impaired driving program. The estimated highway safety funds budgeted for each impaired driving strategy are presented in the table on page 26.

The funds and other resources GTSC invests to reduce impaired driving are complemented by a number of other federal, state, local and private sector activities. While a real dollar amount cannot be accurately estimated for the contributions of each of the partners involved in combating impaired driving, the most significant sources of funding, programming and in-kind support that assist in achieving the performance goals established in the HSSP include the following:

- New York's STOP-DWI program
- The New York State agencies comprising the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee, including the Departments of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and Health (DOH), the State Police, the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) and its Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives (OPCA), the State Liquor Authority (SLA) and its Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) Board, the Office of Court Administration, the Thruway Authority, the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS), the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision, and the Division of Parole
- The State Police and seven regional toxicology labs
- The NY Prosecutors Training Institute
- Local police agencies
- Drinking Driver Program (DDP)
- MADD, SADD

A major component of New York's efforts to address impaired driving is the STOP-DWI program which returns fines collected for impaired driving convictions to the counties where the violations occurred to fund enforcement and other impaired driving programs at the local level. Since the STOP-DWI program is self-sustaining, GTSC is able to use the federal funds received by New York to support a variety of state-level initiatives that complement the local efforts and strengthen the overall impaired driving program. As the organization responsible for the oversight of the STOP-DWI program, GTSC is also in a position to maximize the opportunities for cooperative efforts that encompass all regions of the state. In FFY 2015, the GTSC will continue to promote and support the participation of enforcement agencies at the local, county and state level in the national impaired driving mobilizations.

In addition to state and local collaboration, an efficient and effective impaired driving program also requires coordination and cooperation within and across all of its components. The Advisory Council on

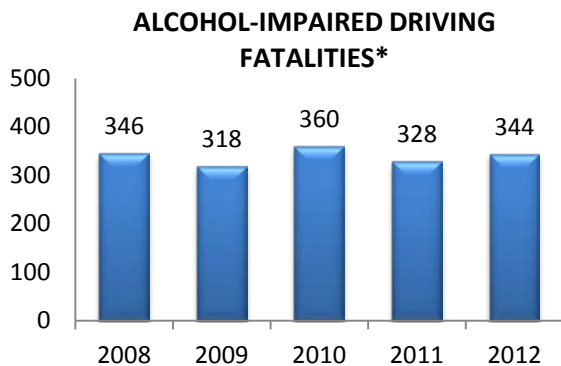
Impaired Driving was established in 2009 to provide a formal mechanism for discussing and investigating solutions to issues affecting the state’s multi-component impaired driving system.

## Status of FFY 2014 Performance Targets

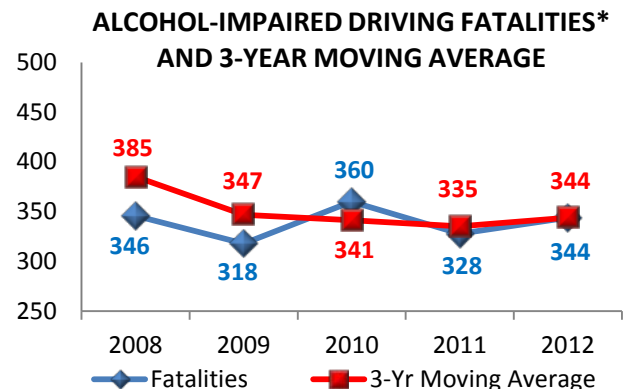
The core outcome measure used to monitor progress in this area is the number of alcohol-impaired driving fatalities defined as the number of fatalities in crashes involving drivers and motorcycle operators with a BAC of .08 or above. New York also tracks the number of persons injured in alcohol-related crashes using data from the state’s Accident Information System (AIS). The following performance targets were set in the FFY 2014 Highway Safety Strategic Plan:

- ❖ To decrease alcohol-impaired driving fatalities 5 percent from 315 in 2011 to 299 by December 31, 2014
- ❖ To reduce the number of persons injured in alcohol-related crashes 5 percent from 6,121 in 2011 to 5,815 by December 31, 2014

Based on FARS data, the number of alcohol-impaired driving fatalities fluctuated between 2008 and 2012. In 2012, these fatalities increased to 344 compared to 328 in the previous year. Because the reduction target for these crashes (299) was set based on the preliminary 2011 FARS number (315) available at the time, the target will be even more difficult to achieve by the end of calendar year 2014. FARS 2013 data are not yet available to update this fatality measure.



\*Fatalities in crashes involving drivers and motorcycle operators with a BAC of .08 or above  
Source: FARS



\*Fatalities in crashes involving drivers and motorcycle operators with a BAC of .08 or above  
Source: FARS

To provide a more comprehensive picture, data from New York’s AIS are used to track the number of persons injured in alcohol-related crashes. It should be noted that New York’s methodology to determine alcohol-related crashes, fatalities and injuries differs from the methodology used by FARS.

Based on the state’s AIS data, the downward trend in the number of persons injured in alcohol-related crashes ended when injuries increased from 6,121 in 2011 to 6,303 in 2012. This increase will make it difficult to reach the target of reducing alcohol-related injuries set for December 31, 2014.



\* Police-reported Crashes  
Source: NYS AIS

## Problem Identification

Additional data analyses were conducted to assist GTSC in setting priorities for the Impaired Driving program area and selecting data-driven countermeasure strategies and projects that will enable the state to achieve its performance goals. The key findings from the problem identification component are presented in this section.

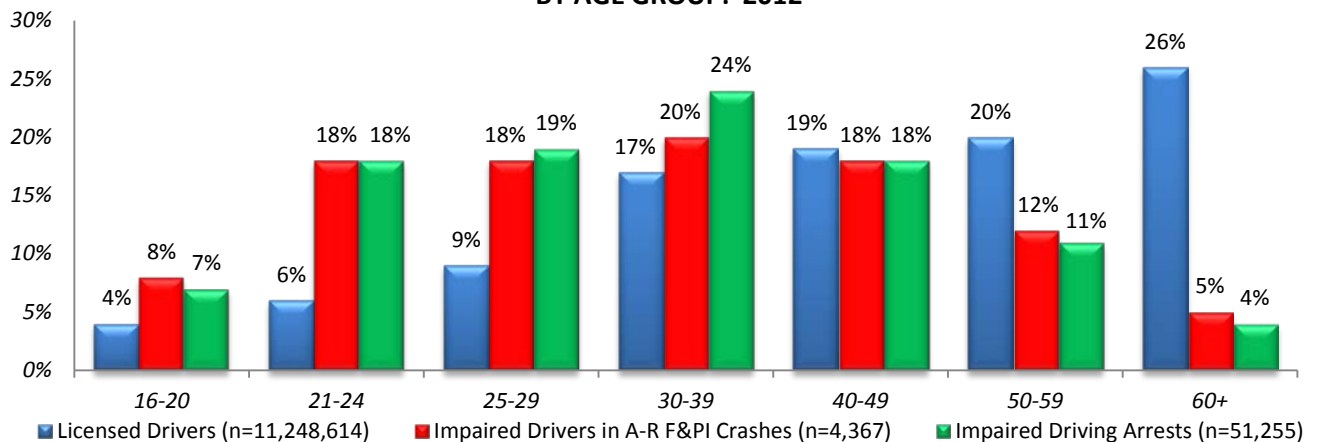
### Alcohol-Impaired Driving

Alcohol use among teens continues to be a serious problem. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (NCHS Data Brief, #37, May 2010), motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death among teenagers, representing more than one-third of all deaths. Furthermore, as reported on the TeenDrugAbuse.us website, sponsored by Teen Help LLC, the rate of fatal crashes among alcohol-involved drivers between the ages of 16 and 20 is more than twice the rate for alcohol-involved drivers ages 21 and over. Analyses of New York's crash data support these findings, showing that young drivers are over-represented in impaired driving crashes.

### Analyses by Age

To determine which age groups of drivers were over-represented in impaired driving crashes and arrests in New York State, the proportion of drivers in alcohol-related fatal and personal injury crashes and the proportion of the impaired driving arrests attributed to each age group were compared to the proportion of licensed drivers in that age group.

**LICENSED DRIVERS, IMPAIRED DRIVERS INVOLVED IN ALCOHOL-RELATED FATAL AND PERSONAL INJURY CRASHES\* AND DRIVERS ARRESTED FOR IMPAIRED DRIVING BY AGE GROUP: 2012**



\* Police-reported Crashes

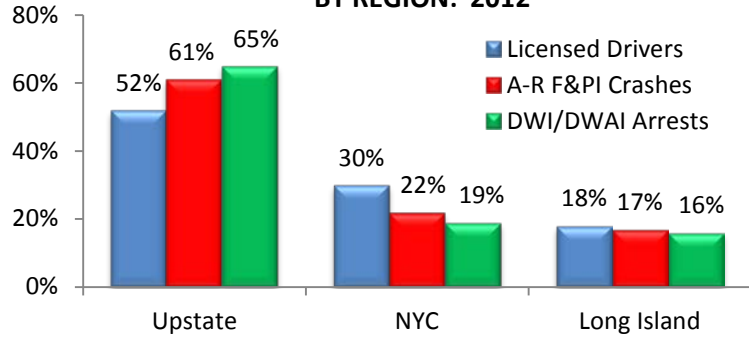
Sources: NYS Driver License File, AIS, TSLED, Suffolk County STOP-DWI and NYPD

### Analyses by Location

In 2012, the majority (61%) of the alcohol-related fatal and personal injury crashes occurred in the Upstate region, 22% in New York City, and 17% in Nassau and Suffolk counties on Long Island.

Compared to the proportion of licensed drivers in each region, the Upstate region was overrepresented in alcohol-related crashes and arrests and New York City and Long Island were underrepresented.

**LICENSED DRIVERS AND ALCOHOL-RELATED FATAL AND PERSONAL INJURY CRASHES\* BY REGION: 2012**



\* Police-reported Crashes

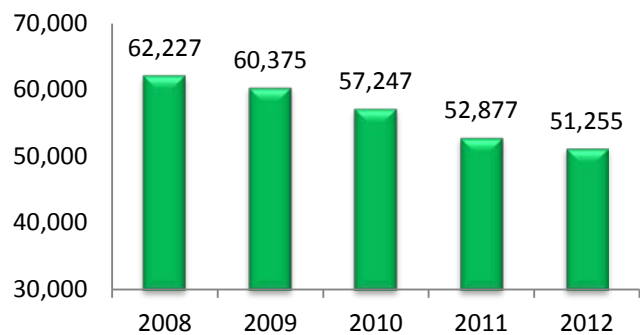
Sources: NYS Driver License File, AIS, TSLED, Suffolk County STOP-DWI and NYPD

### Analyses of Impaired Driving Arrests

Impaired driving arrests have been on a consistent downward trend in New York State. Between 2008 and 2012, the number of drivers arrested for impaired driving (V&T 1192 offenses) dropped from 62,227 to 51,225, a decrease of 18%.

While reductions in highway safety funding and competing priorities for enforcement resources are likely to have contributed to the decline in arrests, the increase in both alcohol-related fatalities and injuries in 2012 demonstrate that impaired driving is a serious and persistent problem.

**PERSONS ARRESTED FOR IMPAIRED DRIVING**



Sources: NYS TSLED System, Suffolk County STOP-DWI and NYPD

### Analyses of Conviction Rates

Approximately 80% of the impaired driving arrests each year are made by agencies that are part of New York's Traffic Safety Law Enforcement and Disposition (TSLED) system. Analyses of conviction information available in the TSLED system indicate that the conviction rate for drivers charged with drinking and driving has remained constant at over 90% the past several years.

As shown in the table below, in 2010-2012, 93% of the drivers arrested under the TSLED system were convicted; approximately half of these drivers were convicted on the original V&T 1192 charge and half on another drinking and driving charge, typically a reduction to DWAI. Seven percent of the cases adjudicated in each of the three years were dismissed, resulted in an acquittal or the offender was convicted on a charge associated with a different event.

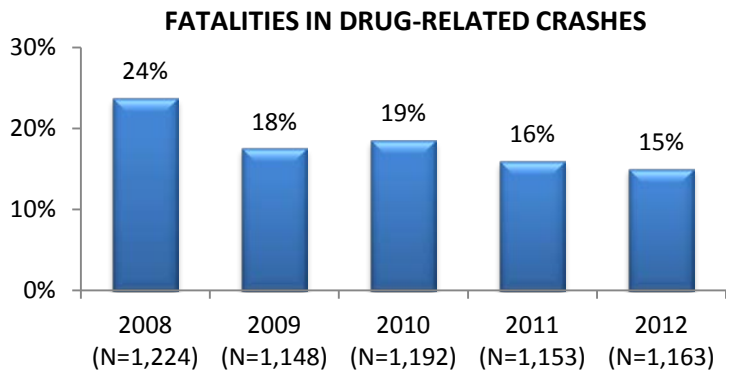
**ADJUDICATION OF PERSONS ARRESTED FOR IMPAIRED DRIVING BY TSLED AGENCIES**

<b>TSLED Cases Adjudicated</b>	<b>2010 (N=40,202)</b>	<b>2011 (N=36,600)</b>	<b>2012 (N=33,434)</b>
Convicted	93.3%	93.3%	93.2%
<i>On original V&amp;T 1192 charge</i>	45.4%	43.9%	43.3%
<i>On another V&amp;T 1192 charge</i>	46.2%	47.6%	48.0%
<i>Convicted on non-V&amp;T 1192 charge</i>	1.7%	1.8%	1.9%
Dismissed/Acquitted/Convicted on Charge Associated with Different Event	6.7%	6.7%	6.7%

*Source: NYS TSLED System*

**Drugged Driving**

The role of drugs in crashes was examined in a recent study conducted by the Institute for Traffic Safety Management and Research (ITSMR). As a proportion of all fatalities, fatalities in drug-related crashes dropped from 24% in 2008 to 15% in 2012. While this downward trend is important, the fact that at least one out of six fatally injured drivers on New York’s roadways has tested positive for drugs over the past several years continues to be cause for concern.



*Source: NYS AIS*

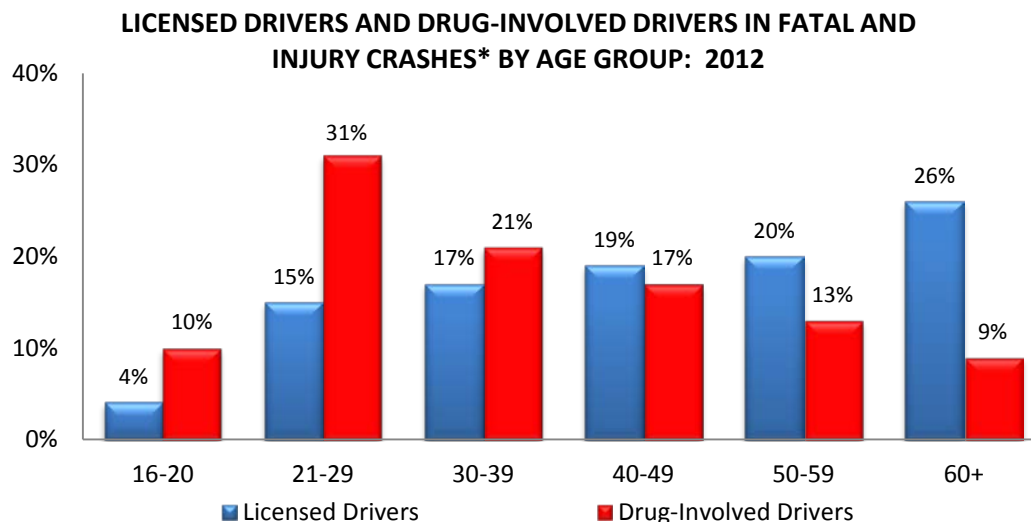
These findings indicate the need for a better understanding of the drugs that drivers have tested positive for and the extent to which such drugs impair a person’s ability to drive safely.

The growing concern regarding the role of over-the-counter and prescription drugs in crashes, as well as the number of drivers who may be impaired by a combination of drugs and alcohol, suggests that drug-impaired driving may be underreported and should continue to be a priority of the Impaired Driving program.

**Analyses by Age**

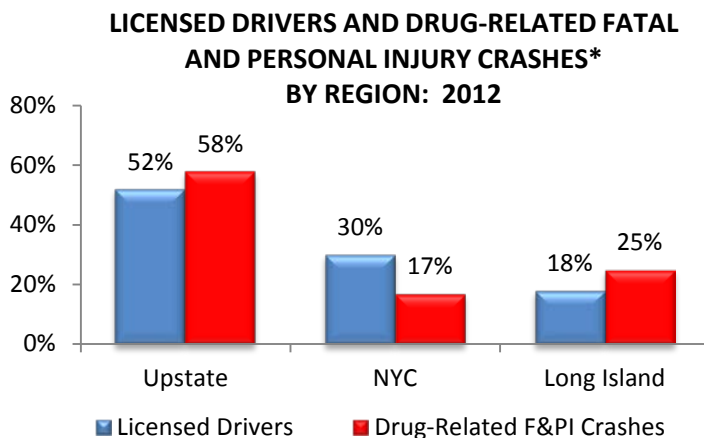
Analyses by age were also conducted to determine which driver age groups are most at risk for drug-impaired driving. In 2012, the largest proportion of drug-involved drivers in fatal and personal injury crashes was in the 21-29 age group (31%), over two times the proportion of licensed drivers in that age group (15%).

Drivers under 21 years of age who account for only 4% of the licensed drivers were also significantly overrepresented in drug-related crashes and to an even greater degree than their involvement in alcohol-related crashes. According to ITSMR's study, during the period 2007-2012, 12% of the drug-impaired drivers involved in fatal and personal injury crashes were under age 21 compared to 9% of the alcohol-impaired drivers.



\*Police-reported Crashes  
Sources: NYS AIS and Driver License File

### Analyses by Region



\*Police-reported Crashes  
Sources: NYS AIS and Driver License File

Both the Upstate and Long Island regions are overrepresented in drug-related fatal and personal injury crashes.

While 52% of the state's licensed drivers reside Upstate, 58% of the drug-related crashes occurred in the Upstate region in 2012. Similarly, the Long Island region with 18% of the state's licensed drivers accounted for 25% of the fatal and personal injury crashes involving drugs that occurred in New York in 2012.

New York City was underrepresented in drug-related fatal and personal injury crashes; while 30% of the state's licensed drivers reside in New York City, only 17% of the drug-related fatal and personal injury crashes occurred in that region in 2012.

## FFY 2015 Performance Targets

- ❖ To decrease alcohol-impaired driving fatalities 3 percent from the 2010-2012 calendar year average of 344 to 334 by December 31, 2015
- ❖ To reduce the number of persons injured in alcohol-related crashes 3 percent from the 2010-2012 calendar year average of 6,254 to 6,066 by December 31, 2015
- ❖ To decrease the number of fatalities in drug-related crashes 3 percent from 177 in 2012 to 172 by December 31, 2015

## FFY 2015 Performance Measures

- ❖ Number of alcohol-impaired driving fatalities
- ❖ Number of alcohol-impaired injuries
- ❖ Number of fatalities in drug-related crashes

## Strategies

Using a data-driven approach, New York has identified a comprehensive set of strategies that collectively will enable the state to reach the performance targets for the Impaired Driving program area. These strategies are described below; for each strategy, a reference to the supporting research or other justification is provided. The projects that will be considered for Impaired Driving grant funding are included in the complete list of proposed projects in Appendix A.

### Enforcement of Impaired Driving Laws

Initiatives to increase high visibility enforcement of the impaired driving laws will continue to be supported at both the state and local levels. Generally, local DWI enforcement efforts are funded through the state's STOP-DWI program which returns a total of approximately \$20,000,000 in fine monies each year to the county STOP-DWI programs to support local initiatives. GTSC may provide grant funding to support the development and implementation of innovative enforcement strategies by local agencies including publicized enforcement programs, such as regional saturation patrols, sobriety checkpoints, roving patrols, sting operations and organized statewide mobilizations.

The GTSC will also provide support and coordination for the state's participation in national impaired driving enforcement mobilizations. As in previous years, the national slogan will be adopted for the mobilization. Press events will be held in various locations around the state where members of law enforcement and STOP-DWI coordinators will join GTSC in publicizing the crackdown on impaired driving. To ensure that coordinated impaired driving messages are delivered throughout the state, the GTSC will provide funding for public information materials through the STOP-DWI Foundation.

The STOP-DWI coordinators will also ensure widespread participation by police agencies across the state. Specific enforcement agencies may receive funding to facilitate the coordination of enforcement events and to test innovative approaches. For example, in FFY 2014, certified Drug Recognition Experts were present at selected





enforcement events. Data from the mobilizations will be compiled by the GTSC and provided to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

Effective enforcement requires that adequate resources be available to the state's police agencies. Training programs for police officers, such as Standard Field Sobriety Test (SFST) training, enhance enforcement by increasing the knowledge and capabilities of police officers. Effective training programs, as well as innovative delivery approaches such as podcasts and roll call videos, will be funded under this strategy.

In addition to training, police officers must be equipped with the tools necessary to accurately detect impairment and to report that level of impairment in an evidentiary manner. The availability of up-to-date breath testing instruments and other new technology including expertly maintained equipment can support the police through evidence preparation and DWI arrest data reporting and is vital to an effective impaired driving enforcement program.

*For supporting research, refer to the discussion of Publicized Sobriety Checkpoint Programs, pp. 1-19 and 1-20; Publicized Saturation Patrol Programs, p. 1-21; Preliminary Breath Test Devices, p. 1-22; and Integrated Enforcement, p. 1-24 in Countermeasures That Work, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2013.*

## **Prosecution and Adjudication of DWI Offenders**

The GTSC will continue to support countermeasures that improve the effectiveness of the prosecution and adjudication of impaired driving offenders. These will include training to increase the courtroom skills of officers making DWI arrests and training for probation officers, prosecutors and judges on the techniques of handling impaired driving cases and the latest information on law enforcement practices and judicial decisions in impaired driving cases. Funding for Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutors and Judicial Outreach Liaisons who are experienced in handling DWI cases and can provide training, education and technical support to prosecutors and other court personnel as well as law enforcement will be supported.

In addition to training for court personnel, efforts to facilitate and promote communication and the exchange of information among the courts in the state are important. Projects that implement alternative or innovative sanctions for impaired drivers, such as special court programs for convicted alcohol and drug impaired offenders and Victim Impact Panels will also be funded. Because the successful prosecution of DWI offenders depends on the strength and quality of the evidence that is presented, projects that improve the availability and quality of evidentiary data used in the adjudication of impaired driving cases, such as toxicology reports, will also be funded.

*For supporting research, refer to the discussion of innovative DWI sanctions and the use of Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutors and Judicial Outreach Liaisons to conduct training, pp. 1-25 and 1-26 in Countermeasures That Work, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2013.*

## **DWI Offender Treatment, Monitoring, Control**

Countermeasures that are intended to have an impact on drivers convicted of impaired driving offenses and deter them from driving after drinking in the future are also an important component of New York's impaired driving program. Projects that assist with the successful implementation and operation of selective deterrence countermeasures or with the monitoring of convicted offenders to ensure



compliance are eligible for GTSC funding under this strategy. The Department of Motor Vehicles, the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services, and the Division of Criminal Justice Services Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives also devote significant resources to the treatment, monitoring and control of DWI offenders.

The problem of DWI recidivism and persistent drinking drivers will continue to be addressed through the state's Drinking Driver Program (DDP) and its treatment referral mechanism. In addition to the fee-based services provided by the DDP programs, projects to improve the effectiveness of the program will be considered for GTSC funding. These may include the development of information and reporting systems to facilitate communication or improve tracking and monitoring, training for providers of screening and assessment services, or program improvements such as the development and implementation of a new evidence-based curriculum.

The implementation of legislation requiring ignition interlocks for drivers convicted of alcohol-related offenses is a proven countermeasure. Effective August 2010, all drivers convicted of DWI in New York State are required to have an ignition interlock installed in any vehicle they own or operate. A strong monitoring component to determine compliance with this sanction is critical to the effectiveness of this countermeasure. Projects that support monitoring activities and other efforts to improve compliance with the law will be supported. The DCJS Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives also expends substantial resources on the monitoring of convicted DWI offenders on probation.

Other types of monitoring, such as enhanced monitoring of DWI offenders through the use of alcohol detection devices worn on the person coupled with probation or other court-sanctioned supervision, may also be employed by New York courts or prosecutors as a means of preventing DWI recidivism.

*For supporting research, refer to the discussions of Alcohol Interlocks, pp. 1-34 to 1-36 and DWI Offender Monitoring, p. 1-69 in Countermeasures That Work, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2013.*

## **Prevention, Communications, Public Information and Educational Outreach**

Countermeasures that inform the public of the dangers of impaired driving in order to prevent drinking and driving also play an important role in New York's comprehensive program. These countermeasures include statewide campaigns that use tested messaging to raise public awareness, such as the slogans and themes used in national campaigns, as well as communication and outreach activities that generate publicity for the effective execution of the proven strategy of high visibility enforcement.

In addition to statewide campaigns to raise public awareness, projects that provide education and other outreach efforts at specific types of locations or for specific high-risk groups will be supported. Included under this strategy are projects that deliver information and education at venues popular with persons that have been identified as high-risk for impaired driving, such as sporting events, and training for servers of alcoholic beverages at restaurants, bars and other establishments. Other educational efforts to prevent impaired driving, such as the promotion of designated drivers or the use of alternate forms of transportation will also be considered for funding.

*For supporting research, refer to the discussions of Mass Media Campaigns, pp. 1-44 and 1-45; Responsible Beverage Service, pp. 1-46 and 1-47; Alternative Transportation, p. 1-48 and Designated Drivers, p. 1-49 in Countermeasures That Work, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2013.*

## Underage Drinking and Alcohol-Impaired Driving

In addition to general deterrence approaches to reduce impaired driving, countermeasures that focus on specific groups of drivers are needed. Because the data show that drivers under the legal drinking age of 21 are overrepresented in alcohol-related fatal and injury crashes, special efforts are particularly needed to address underage drinking and driving.

Countermeasures that limit access to alcohol by persons under the legal drinking age of 21 will continue to be supported in FFY 2015. These include projects that focus on preventing vendors from selling alcohol to minors, such as sting operations, and projects designed to prevent minors from illegally purchasing alcohol, such as checks to identify fraudulent IDs. Resources from the State Liquor Authority, DMV's Office of Field Investigation and local police agencies are also used in these operations.

Countermeasures that address the issue of social host liability and parents and other adults who provide minors with access to alcohol will also be considered for funding under this strategy.

Enforcement efforts that focus on patrolling areas and specific locations popular with underage drinkers and the establishment of an underage tip line that the public can use to notify police where drinking by minors is observed are two evidence-based countermeasures that will be supported.



Funding will also be used for media campaigns and other public information and education activities conducted by organizations such as SADD that raise awareness of the scope and seriousness of underage drinking and driving and complement and enhance the effectiveness of the specific enforcement countermeasures that are implemented.

*For supporting research, refer to the discussions of Alcohol Vendor Compliance Checks, pp. 1-55 and 1-56; Other Minimum Legal Drinking Age 21 Law Enforcement, pp. 1-57 and 1-58; Youth Programs, pp. 1-59 and 1-60 in Countermeasures That Work, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2013.*

## Drugged Driving

Recent studies by the Institute for Traffic Safety Management and Research have documented that the involvement of drugs is a serious issue in fatal crashes in New York State, with approximately one out of six fatalities (15%) being drug-related in 2012. Drivers under 30 years of age are significantly overrepresented among the drug-impaired drivers involved in fatal and personal injury crashes and for drivers under age 21, drugs and driving may be an even more serious issue than drinking and driving. In addition to impairment from illegal drug use, there is increased awareness of the dangers of mixing prescription drugs and driving.

Effective enforcement of drugged driving requires training programs that provide law enforcement with the knowledge and tools to detect and arrest those who operate a motor vehicle while impaired by drugs and provide testimony that will lead to a conviction. Projects that provide training for law enforcement personnel, including the Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) and Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) training programs, will be funded under this strategy. Impaired driving enforcement efforts that integrate drugged driving enforcement into other enforcement activities by incorporating law enforcement personnel who have completed these special training courses and conducting enforcement in high-risk areas for drugged driving will be encouraged.

In addition to law enforcement, the provision of training to other professional groups is important to the successful prosecution and adjudication of drugged driving cases. Projects that provide training for prosecutors, toxicologists who provide expert testimony in court cases, and court personnel will be considered for funding. Programs to increase the sophistication of the screening process at the toxicology labs and the sharing of information from this process with the professional community can be important for detecting impairment caused by prescription, illicit and so-called designer drug use. Projects that provide communication and outreach to the general public regarding the dangers of drugged driving, and specifically impairment resulting from prescription drug use, will also be eligible for funding. There is also a need to increase awareness and educate professionals who deal with high risk populations including treatment professionals, probation officers and other professionals within the state's impaired driving system.

*For supporting research, refer to the discussion of Enforcement of Drugged Driving, pp. 1-63 and 1-64 in Countermeasures That Work, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2013.*

### **Cooperative Approaches to Reducing Impaired Driving**

Projects that promote coordination and cooperation among all components of the impaired driving system will be supported. Included are activities such as workshops, symposia and conferences that provide training and technical assistance to highway safety program managers, law enforcement and other partners. Interagency collaborations, such as the Advisory Council on Impaired Driving, recognize the multi-disciplinary nature of the impaired driving issue and lead to more effective approaches to reducing crashes, fatalities and injuries resulting from impaired driving.



*Justification: Strategies that promote cooperative efforts can lead to the more effective and efficient use of resources, the development of comprehensive, multi-faceted programs and opportunities to exchange ideas and best practices, all of which play an important role in the implementation of successful projects and programs.*

### **Research, Evaluation and Analytical Support for New York's Performance-Based Impaired Driving Program**

Projects that support the state's comprehensive data-driven Impaired Driving program will be funded under this strategy. The data-driven, performance-based approach to reducing crashes, fatalities and injuries resulting from impaired driving requires access to the appropriate data as well as the technical capabilities to perform the analyses and interpret the results. Research and evaluation studies that assist in the identification and documentation of impaired driving issues and the assessment of the effectiveness of legislative initiatives and other countermeasures that are implemented will be eligible for funding.

*Justification: Research, evaluation and data analysis are essential components of a successful performance-based highway safety program. These activities support problem identification, the selection of performance measures for tracking progress, and the selection of evidence-based, data-driven strategies that will contribute to the achievement of the state's performance goals.*

## IMPAIRED DRIVING FFY 2015 BUDGET SUMMARY

<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Budget Amount</b>	<b>Source</b>
Enforcement of Impaired Driving Laws	\$ 6,600,000	410(K8)/405d
Prosecution and Adjudication of DWI Offenders	4,200,000	410(K8)/405d
DWI Offender Treatment, Monitoring and Control	5,600,000	410(K8)/405d
Prevention, Communications, Public Information and Educational Outreach	3,800,000	410(K8)/405d
Underage Drinking and Alcohol Impaired Driving	4,600,000	410(K8)/405d
Drugged Driving	2,000,000	405d
Cooperative Approaches to Reducing Impaired Driving	600,000	405d
Research, Evaluation and Analytical Support for New York's Performance-Based Impaired Driving Program	600,000	405d
<b>Total 410</b>	<b>6,000,000</b>	
<b>Total MAP-21 405d Impaired Driving</b>	<b>22,000,000</b>	
<b>Total All Funds</b>	<b>\$ 28,000,000</b>	

# POLICE TRAFFIC SERVICES



## Overview

The Police Traffic Services program area provides for a data-driven traffic safety enforcement program to prevent traffic violations, crashes, fatalities and injuries in high risk areas. Enforcement efforts in the PTS program focus on improving traffic safety by reducing unsafe behaviors including speeding and other types of aggressive driving; failure to wear a seat belt; and distracted driving, in particular texting and talking on hand-held cell phones. Enforcement strategies related to impaired driving, motorcycle safety, pedestrians, bicycles and other wheel-sports are included under their respective sections in the Highway Safety Strategic Plan.

The Governor's Traffic Safety Committee (GTSC) provides expertise to assist in the promotion and coordination of New York's data-driven enforcement program involving police agencies at the state, county and local levels. The estimated highway safety funds budgeted for each strategy in the police traffic services program area are presented in the table on page 38.

The funds and other resources GTSC devotes to reducing traffic violations and the resulting crashes, fatalities and injuries are complemented by a number of other federal, state, local and private sector activities. While a real dollar amount cannot be accurately estimated for the contributions of each of the partners involved in the state's highway safety enforcement program, the most significant sources of funding, programming and in-kind support that assist in achieving the performance goals established in the HSSP include the following:

- NYS Association of Chiefs of Police
- NYS Sheriffs' Association
- New York State Police
- New York State Park Police
- County and local enforcement agencies
- NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services

The combination of high visibility enforcement and sustained traffic safety messaging has proven to be effective in confronting dangerous driving behaviors and is an important component of the Police Traffic Services program area as well as the overall traffic safety program in New York. This enforcement model has been applied to other GTSC funded initiatives which use dedicated traffic enforcement details to address specific types of unsafe driving behaviors. To maximize the effectiveness of the strategies that are implemented, a data-driven approach must be used to identify enforcement priorities and where and when to deploy resources. This program area also encompasses training opportunities for the state's traffic enforcement community where new skills are acquired and the latest in traffic enforcement tactics are shared.

## **Deployment of Enforcement Funds in New York Using Evidence-based Approach**

To assure New York's traffic safety enforcement grant funds are deployed based on data-driven problem identification, GTSC identifies the statewide geographic and demographic areas of concern through analyses of crash data, as described in the HSSP section, "Highway Safety Program Planning Process." GTSC then identifies police agencies with traffic enforcement jurisdiction in the most problematic areas, and through its Highway Safety Program Representatives and Law Enforcement Liaison networks, conducts outreach to encourage agencies to apply for grant funds. Using the state's priority areas as the framework, GTSC's Police Traffic Services (PTS) grant program is the primary funding effort to direct traffic enforcement grant funds to New York's police agencies.

The PTS grant application form guides agencies through the process of using local crash and ticket data to identify problem areas specific to their communities. Police agencies are required to correlate crash-causing traffic violations or driver behaviors with specific times and locations in their jurisdictions so their officers may participate in details directly related to the identified problems. The PTS application's "Agency Specific Crash and Enforcement Data Sheet" collects agency demographic and specific crash and ticket data to support the development of the "Work Plan" where applicants define their proposed countermeasures and enforcement strategies.

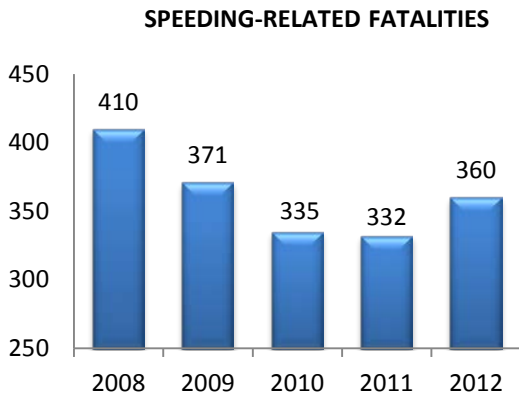
When reviewing PTS applications, the GTSC scores applications based on data shown in the needs assessment, the strength of the work plan, past performance and crash and ticket trends in the jurisdiction. During on-site monitoring visits, Program Representatives accompanied by Law Enforcement Liaisons review the grant activities and discuss with grantees what impact the enforcement activities may be having in their jurisdictions. The Program Representatives reinforce the message that enforcement resources should be deployed to areas at times when problems are known to occur. Grantees are required to submit two progress reports which include a narrative describing grant activities and data on crashes and tickets issued during the reporting period. GTSC reviews these reports to assess the progress resulting from the agency's data-driven enforcement activities. This information is used to adjust the agency's operational plans for subsequent mobilizations and other high visibility activities and to determine the agency's eligibility for future awards.

## **Status of FFY 2014 Performance Target**

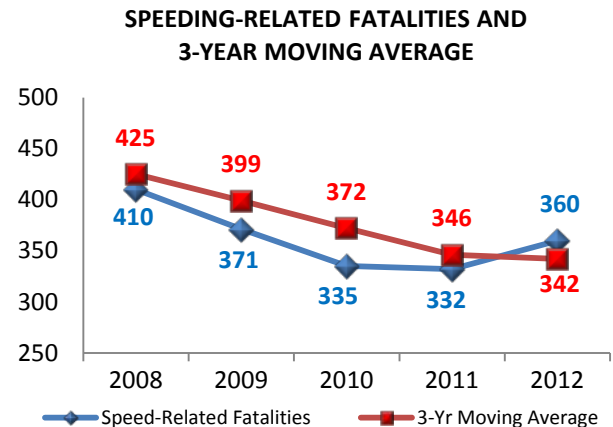
The core outcome measure for tracking progress in the Police Traffic Services program area is speeding-related fatalities in crashes. The following performance target was set in the FFY 2014 Highway Safety Strategic Plan:

- ❖ To decrease speeding-related fatalities 5 percent from 338 in 2011 to 321 by December 31, 2014

The downward trend in speeding-related fatalities between 2008 and 2011 did not continue in 2012. Based on 2012 FARS data, the number of speeding-related fatalities increased to 360 in 2012 compared to 332 (final FARS number for 2011) in the previous year. This reversal of the downward trend will make the target set for reducing speeding-related fatalities to 321 by December 31, 2014 difficult to achieve. FARS 2013 data are not yet available to update this measure.



Source: FARS



Source: FARS

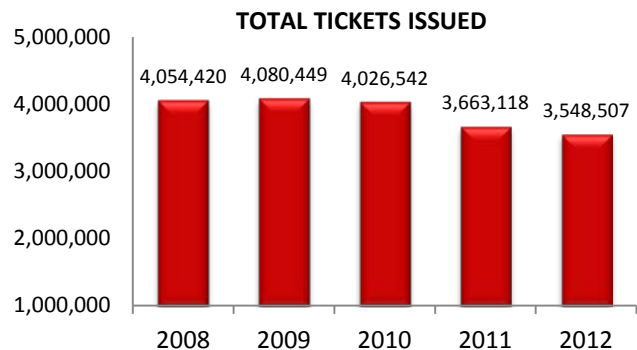
## Problem Identification

Additional data analyses were conducted to assist GTSC in setting priorities for the Police Traffic Services program area and selecting data-driven countermeasure strategies and projects that will enable the state to achieve its performance goals. The key findings from the problem identification component are presented in this section.

### Analyses of Traffic Tickets

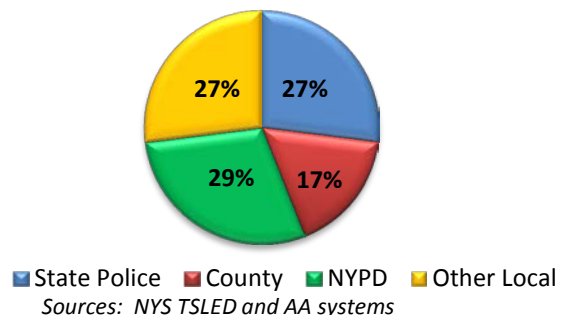
In order to assess the trend in enforcement activity, analyses were conducted of the traffic tickets housed in the state's Traffic Safety Law Enforcement and Disposition (TSLED) and Administrative Adjudication (AA) systems. Analyses of the combined ticket data from these two systems show that the number of traffic tickets issued continued on a downward trend in 2012. Approximately 3.5 million tickets were issued in 2012 compared to nearly 3.7 million in 2011 and over 4 million from 2008 to 2010. The decrease in enforcement activity is likely in part the result of declines in highway safety funding and other police resources.

The proportions of tickets issued by the State Police, county agencies and local police agencies have remained fairly constant over time. In 2012, the State Police issued 27% of all traffic tickets; county agencies issued 17%; the New York City Police Department (NYPD) issued 29% and all other local agencies issued 27%.



Sources: NYS TSLED and AA systems

### PROPORTION OF TICKETS ISSUED BY TYPE OF POLICE AGENCY, 2012



Sources: NYS TSLED and AA systems



## Contributing Factors in Crashes

Driver Inattention/Distracted is consistently the most frequently reported driver-related contributing factor in fatal and personal injury crashes. The next top factors are all related to aggressive driving; in 2012, Failure to Yield the Right-of-Way was reported for 19% of all police-reported fatal and personal injury crashes, Following Too Closely for 18% and Unsafe Speed for 11%.

### CONTRIBUTING FACTORS IN FATAL AND PERSONAL INJURY CRASHES

	2008 (N=122,573)	2009 (N=121,419)	2010 (N=122,181)	2011 (N=117,652)	2012 (N=114,000)
Driver Inattention/Distracted	18.8%	19.6%	20.6%	21.4%	21.4%
Failure to Yield Right-of-Way	15.8%	16.0%	16.5%	17.5%	18.6%
Following Too Closely	14.4%	15.3%	16.2%	17.7%	17.7%
Unsafe Speed	11.6%	10.9%	10.5%	10.9%	10.7%

\*All data in this table are based on police-reported crashes

Source: NYS AIS

## SPEEDING

### Analyses of Crashes

Additional analyses of speed-related crashes were conducted using data from New York's AIS; FARS and AIS data may not be strictly comparable due to definitional differences between the two systems. In the AIS, a speed-related crash is defined as a crash with a contributing factor of unsafe speed and/or a speeding ticket was issued to a driver involved in the crash.

#### SPEED-RELATED FATAL AND PERSONAL INJURY CRASHES\*

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
<b>Fatal Crashes</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>310</b>
% of all fatal crashes	32.7%	29.6%	25.8%	26.4%	28.7%
<b>Injury Crashes</b>	<b>14,207</b>	<b>13,202</b>	<b>12,846</b>	<b>12,838</b>	<b>12,216</b>
% of all injury crashes	11.7%	11.0%	10.6%	11.0%	10.9%

In 2012, the downward trend in speed-related fatal crashes over the previous

four years ended. Between 2011 and 2012, fatal crashes involving speed increased from 284 to 310 (9%); the proportion of fatal crashes involving speed also increased from 26% in 2011 to 29% in 2012. Speed-related injury crashes did not follow the same pattern and continued on a downward trend in 2012, declining from 12,838 in 2011 to 12,216 (a 5% decrease) while still accounting for 11% of all injury crashes.

\*All data in this table are based on police-reported crashes

Source: NYS AIS

Other top contributing factors in 2012 fatal and personal injury crashes where speed was involved are listed in the table below. Alcohol involvement (18%) and unsafe passing or lane changing (12%) are the other two driver behavior factors most frequently associated with speeding drivers involved in fatal crashes. For speeding drivers involved in personal injury crashes, following too closely was identified as a contributing factor for 11% and alcohol involvement was reported as a factor for 8% of these drivers.



**OTHER TOP CONTRIBUTING FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH SPEEDING DRIVERS IN FATAL AND PERSONAL INJURY CRASHES\*: 2012**

	<b>Speeding Drivers in Fatal Crashes (N=313)</b>	<b>Speeding Drivers in PI Crashes (N=12,224)</b>
Alcohol Involvement	18%	8%
Driver Inattention/Distraction	4%	7%
Failure to Keep Right	6%	3%
Following Too Closely	2%	11%
Passing/Unsafe Lane Changing	12%	6%

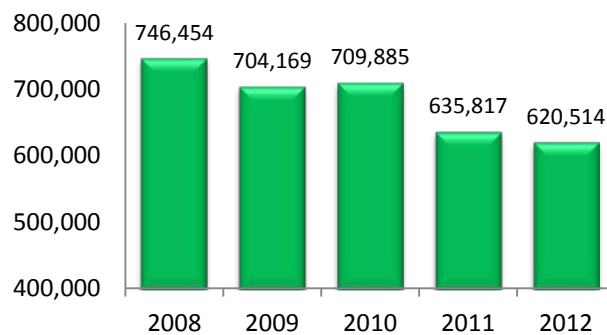
\*All data in this table are based on police-reported crashes  
 Source: NYS AIS

**Analyses of Tickets**

Between 2010 and 2012, the number of tickets issued for speeding violations dropped by 13% (709,885 compared to 620,514). The decline in speeding tickets is consistent with the overall decrease in the number of tickets.

Over the 5-year period, tickets issued for speeding consistently represented 17%-18% of all tickets issued for traffic violations indicating that speeding continues to be a significant traffic safety problem in New York.

**TICKETS ISSUED FOR SPEEDING VIOLATIONS**



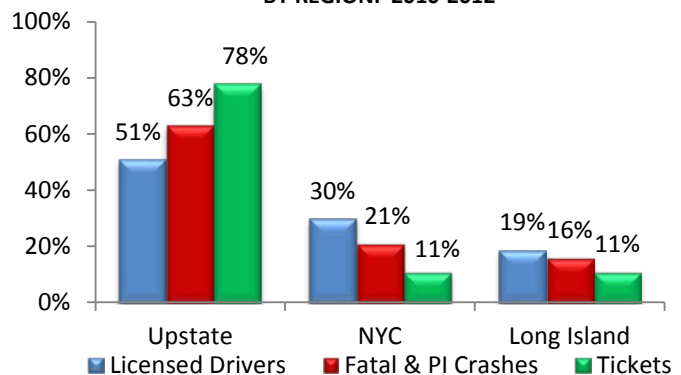
Sources: NYS TSLED and AA Systems

**Analyses by Region**

Based on 2010-2012 data, the Upstate region is overrepresented in speed-related fatal and personal injury crashes (63%) when compared with the proportion of licensed drivers in the region (51%).

More than three-quarters (78%) of the speeding tickets were issued in the Upstate region compared to 11% in each of the other two regions.

**LICENSED DRIVERS, SPEED-RELATED FATAL AND PERSONAL INJURY CRASHES AND SPEEDING TICKETS BY REGION: 2010-2012**

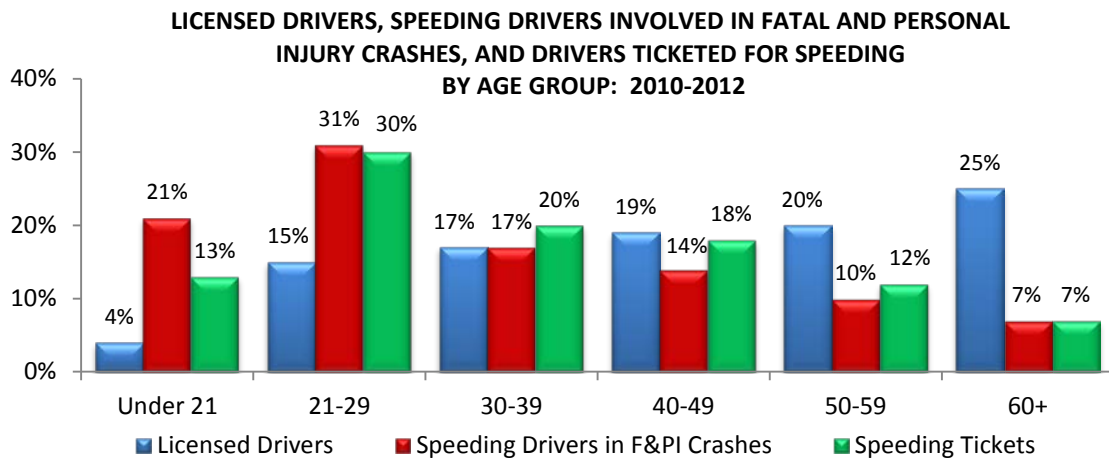


Source: NYS AIS, Driver License, TSLED and AA Systems

**Analyses by Age**

Drivers who speed and are involved in fatal and personal injury crashes are most likely to be under the age of 30 (52%). Drivers 21-29 years of age are also most likely to be ticketed for speeding.

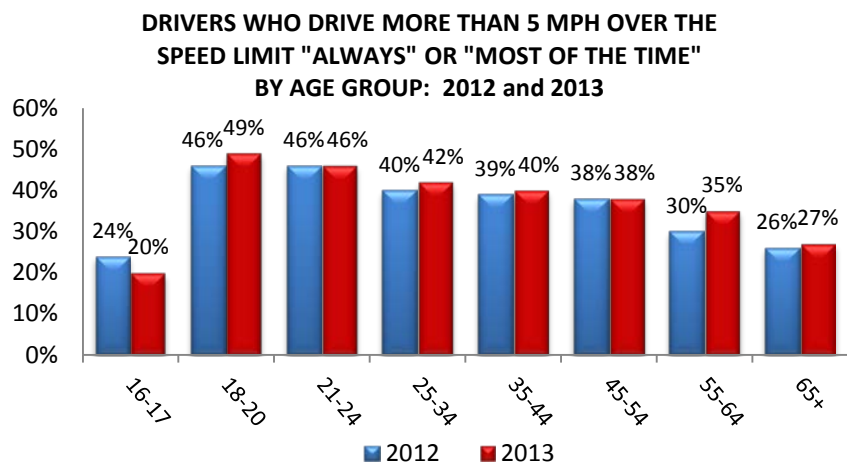
Based on comparisons with the proportion of licensed drivers in the under 21 (4%) and 21-29 age groups (15%), drivers in the two youngest age groups were overrepresented among the speeding drivers who were involved in crashes and the drivers who received speeding tickets. Over the three-year period, 2010-2012, drivers under 21 years of age accounted for 21% of the speeding drivers involved in F&PI crashes and received 13% of the speeding tickets and drivers 21-29 years of age accounted for 31% of the speeding drivers involved in F&PI crashes and received 30% of the speeding tickets.



Source: NYS AIS, Driver License, TSLED and AA Systems

The Driver Behavior Surveys support the findings in the chart above. In both the 2012 and 2013 surveys, drivers in the 18-20 and 21-24 age groups were the most likely to say they exceed the speed limit “always” or “most of the time”.

The proportion of drivers reporting that they speed consistently declined with each subsequent age group.



Source: 2012-2013 Driver Behavior and Attitudinal Surveys

## DISTRACTED DRIVING: CELL PHONE USE AND TEXTING

### Analyses of Crashes

Cell phone use, one of the unsafe driving behaviors frequently associated with driver inattention and distraction, continues to be reported as a contributing factor in less than 1% of fatal and injury crashes most likely due to underreporting. In 2012, two fatal crashes were reported to involve cell phone use, down from a high of seven in 2010; the number of injury crashes involving cell phone use increased to 329 in 2012, up from 288 in 2011. Since texting was added to the list of contributing factors on the police crash report in October 2010, only one fatal crash has been reported to involve texting.

#### FATAL AND PERSONAL INJURY CRASHES INVOLVING CELL PHONE USE AND TEXTING\*

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
<b>Fatal Crashes Involving Cell Phone Use</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
% of all fatal crashes	0.2%	0.6%	0.6%	0.1%	0.2%
<b>Injury Crashes Involving Cell Phone Use</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>329</b>
% of all injury crashes	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%	0.2%	0.3%
<b>Fatal Crashes Involving Texting</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Injury Crashes Involving Texting</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>29</b>

\*All data in this table are based on police-reported crashes  
 Source: NYS AIS

### Analyses of Tickets

The number of tickets issued for violations of New York's cell phone law has been on a downward trend between 2010 (332,039) and 2012 (216,980). The large number of tickets in 2010 was the result of New York's participation in a national Distracted Driving Enforcement Demonstration Project based on the high visibility enforcement model. In FFY 2010, New York was one of two states selected by NHTSA to participate in this project during which more than 9,500 tickets were issued for texting (730) and talking (8,857) on hand-held cell phones while driving.

Compared to 2010, the first full year the New York's texting law was in effect, the number of tickets issued statewide for texting violations was nearly 10 times greater in 2012 (30,241 vs. 3,248).

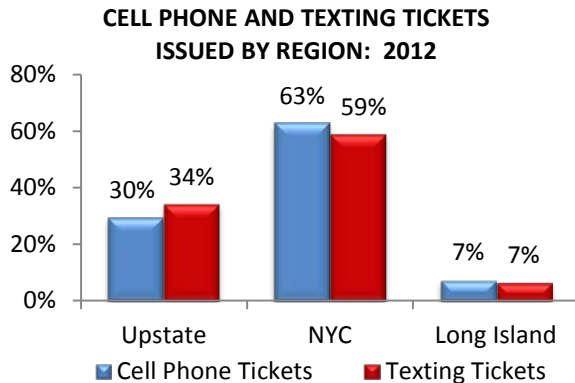
#### TICKETS ISSUED FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE CELL PHONE AND TEXTING LAWS

	2010	2011	2012
Cell Phone Tickets	332,039	248,239	216,980
Texting Tickets	3,248	9,003	30,241

Source: NYS TSLED and AA Systems

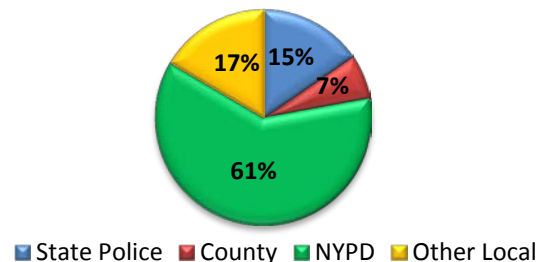
In 2012, the majority of tickets written for cell phone (63%) and texting (59%) violations were issued in New York City by the New York Police Department (61%).

Approximately one-third of the cell phone (30%) and texting tickets (34%) were issued to drivers in the Upstate region and 7% of the cell phone and texting tickets were issued on Long Island. The New York State Police (15%), county police agencies (7%) and local police agencies (17%) accounted for the tickets issued outside of New York City.



Sources: NYS TSLED and AA Systems

**PROPORTION OF CELL PHONE AND TEXTING TICKETS ISSUED BY TYPE OF POLICE AGENCY: 2012**



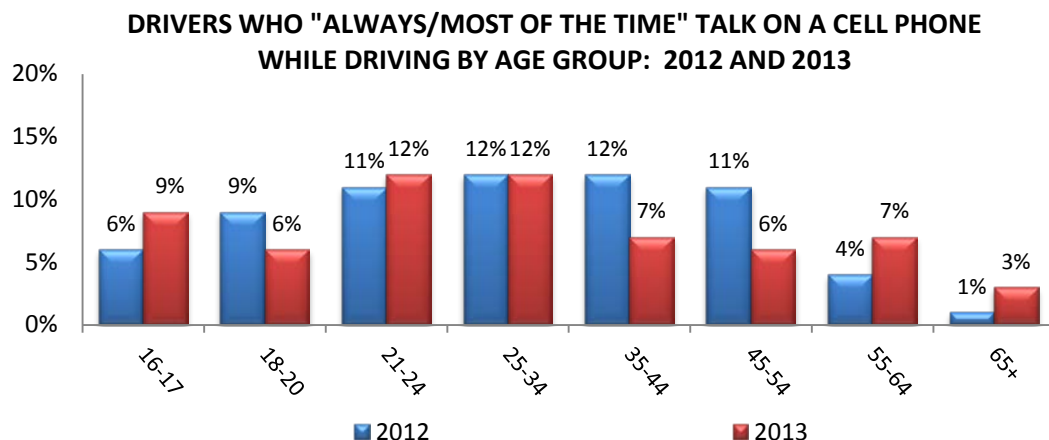
Sources: NYS TSLED and AA Systems

### Driver Behavior and Attitudinal Surveys

A series of questions on cell phone use and texting were added to the Driver Behavior and Attitudinal Survey conducted at DMV offices in 2013. The key results from the survey were:

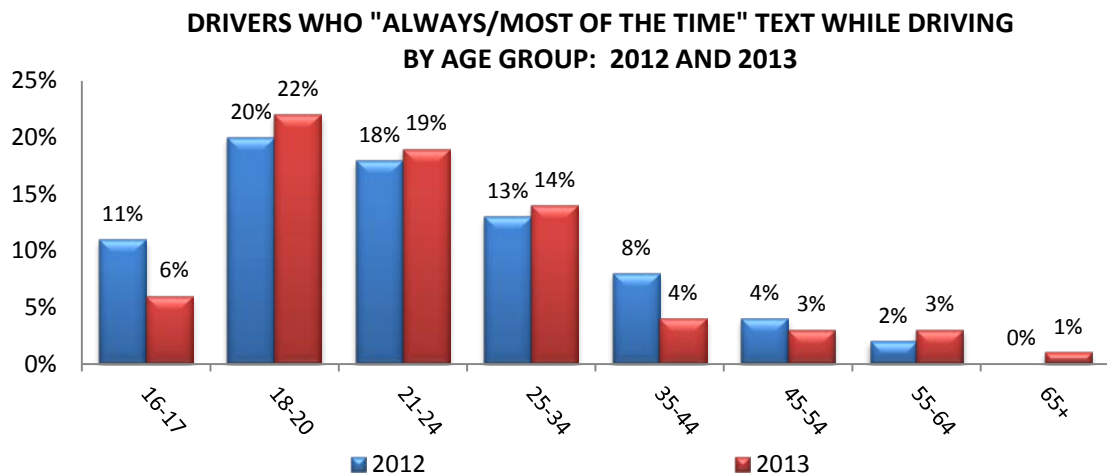
- More than half (52%) of the drivers reported that they send or receive text messages while driving; 9% said that they text while driving “most of the time” or “always”.
- 63% said that they talk on a cell phone while driving; similar to texting, 8% said they talk on a cell phone while driving “most of the time” or “always”.
- 84% of the drivers thought that using a cell phone impairs a driver’s ability to drive safely “a great deal” and another 13% said a driver’s ability would be affected “somewhat”. Only 3% thought that using a cell phone while driving does “not at all” affect driving ability.

Survey responses regarding cell phone use and texting while driving were also analyzed by age.



Source: 2012-2013 Driver Behavior and Attitudinal Surveys

- In the 2013 survey, drivers in the 21-24 and 25-34 age groups were the most likely to report that they talk on a cell phone while driving “always” or “most of the time” (12%), followed by drivers 16-17 years of age (9%). The largest drops in cell phone use between 2012 and 2013 were among drivers ages 35-44 and 45-54.



*Source: 2012-2013 Driver Behavior and Attitudinal Surveys*

- The frequency of texting was highest among drivers in the 18-20, 21-24 and 25-34 age groups (22%, 19% and 14%, respectively). In addition, between 2012 and 2013, the proportion of drivers in each of these age groups who said they text while driving “always/most of the time” increased.

## FFY 2015 Performance Targets

- ❖ To decrease speeding-related fatalities 3 percent from the 2010-2012 calendar year average of 342 to 332 by December 31, 2015
- ❖ To decrease fatal and personal injury crashes involving cell phone use or texting 3 percent from the 2010-2012 calendar year average of 326 to 316 by December 31, 2015

## FFY 2015 Performance Measures

- ❖ Number of speeding-related fatalities
- ❖ Number of fatal and personal injury crashes involving cell phone use or texting

## Strategies

New York’s comprehensive plan for reducing crashes, fatalities and injuries through police enforcement of traffic includes evidence-based enforcement strategies that target persistent and emergent unsafe driving behaviors. To ensure effectiveness, a data driven approach is used to target enforcement efforts to address the high risk behaviors, locations and roadway users that require the most attention. The

strategies selected for this program area are described below; for each strategy, a reference to the supporting research or other justification is provided. The projects that will be considered for Police Traffic Services grant funding are included in the complete list of proposed projects in Appendix A.

## **Enforcement of Traffic Violations**

Enforcement of violations of the state's Vehicle and Traffic Law is the basic strategy used to deter and reduce dangerous and illegal driving behaviors that contribute to crashes, fatalities and injuries on the roadway. Police Traffic Services funding will continue to be provided for enforcement strategies that focus, in particular, on speeding and other aggressive driving violations and on distracted driving violations including both hand-held cell phone use and texting. Pedestrian enforcement efforts in targeted high risk areas that focus on both motorists and pedestrians will also be considered for funding. Seat belt enforcement efforts, including participation in the national mobilization in May, will also be funded under the Police Traffic Services program area. These enforcement efforts will target unsafe and illegal behaviors and will not be limited to drivers of specific types of vehicles.

Effective strategies include high visibility enforcement that combines saturation enforcement details and roving patrols; enforcement programs that target specific types of violations; high crash locations, times of day and other factors identified through a data driven approach; and combined enforcement that increases the efficiency and effectiveness of the resources deployed. These resources will be channeled through the law enforcement community to conduct enforcement details that focus on drivers who exhibit dangerous driving behaviors regardless of the type of vehicle they are operating.



The Data Driven Approaches to Crime and Traffic Safety (DDACTS) model and other strategies that use data to identify high crash locations, times of day when violations are most likely to occur, and other information that will lead to more effective deployment of enforcement resources will continue to be encouraged. Police agencies should consider the different areas within their community and where crashes most frequently occur. This information will be useful when scheduling enforcement details. Projects that incorporate cooperative efforts among police agencies as well as efforts that target more than one type of violation will also be supported.

## **Police Traffic Services (PTS)**

Through the Police Traffic Services (PTS) program, GTSC provides resources for law enforcement agencies to address traffic safety issues in their respective jurisdictions. The agencies identify these issues through analyses of crash data that focus on where and when crashes are occurring and the contributing factors to those crashes. A review of these analyses provides law enforcement agencies with the information they need to design and implement traffic safety education and enforcement programs and countermeasures that will be effective in reducing the frequency and severity of crashes in the targeted areas.

PTS grants use a variety of enforcement techniques such as stationary or moving patrols, low visibility (low profile) patrol cars for better detection and apprehension, police spotters in conjunction with dedicated patrol units at identified problem locations, high visibility patrol cars for prevention and deterrence and safety checkpoints.

In FFY 2015, the primary emphasis will continue to be projects which focus on unsafe speed, aggressive and distracted driving behaviors. Occupant restraint enforcement will also be eligible for PTS funding, as will enforcement efforts focusing on special categories of vehicles including commercial vehicles, motorcycles and school buses, as well as other highway users such as pedestrians.

### **Speed Enforcement Programs**

The GTSC will continue to support enforcement projects designed to increase compliance with speed limits on all types of roadways. Various speed enforcement strategies will be used, including dedicated roving patrols and saturation enforcement details within designated areas. While enforcement in high crash areas is encouraged, routine day-to-day enforcement is also needed to increase the public's perception of the risk of apprehension. Safety education and informational materials may also be provided in conjunction with enforcement. One example is the State Police speed enforcement program that focuses on conducting enforcement details at high crash areas on non-interstate highways. Ticket, crash and other data are used to ensure that patrols are deployed to the areas that have the most significant traffic safety problems. In addition, the coordination of high-visibility statewide enforcement initiatives will be supported. Also new in 2015 will be the introduction of NHTSA's recently revised Speed Management Training Program that promotes the implementation of state and local collaborative and comprehensive efforts to mitigate speed-related fatalities and injuries.

### **Distracted Driving, Texting and Cell Phone Law Enforcement**

Distracted driving behaviors include motorists who use hand-held electronic devices while operating a motor vehicle. The dangers associated with talking and texting on a cell phone while attempting to drive are of significant concern to the traffic safety community.



Although enforcement of New York's cell phone law is addressed largely through the PTS program, the GTSC will continue to encourage the law enforcement community to strictly enforce these laws. The GTSC will also include enforcement information about cell phones in its statewide program. Programs such as "Operation Hang-Up" conducted by the New York State Police and the National Distracted Driving Enforcement Campaign for statewide law enforcement agencies will continue to be supported.

### **Commercial Vehicle Enforcement**

As with other types of crashes, unsafe driving behaviors are contributing factors in the majority of crashes involving commercial vehicles. While GTSC recognizes that special training is required for even cursory checks of commercial vehicle weight, equipment, load securement and logbooks, police agencies receiving grant funding will be encouraged to enforce unsafe driving and other traffic violations committed by operators of commercial vehicles during routine enforcement details under their PTS grants. Enforcement of violations committed by drivers of other vehicles in the vicinity of commercial vehicles will also be encouraged.

### **Rural Traffic Enforcement**

Projects that focus on effective enforcement countermeasures in rural areas of the state will continue to be considered for funding. For example, the NYS Sheriffs' Association is conducting a project that promotes the integration of the Data Driven Approach to Crime and Traffic Safety (DDACTS) model into traffic enforcement in a number of rural counties in central and western New York. The Sheriffs' offices receive funding for selective traffic enforcement efforts and are encouraged to coordinate and integrate traffic law enforcement activities with educational and engineering countermeasures to reduce the frequency and severity of crashes occurring in their counties. In FFY 2015, two additional counties will be added to this effort to bring the total to 15 counties.



## **Operation Safe Stop**

The illegal passing of a stopped school bus is a dangerous motorist behavior which puts children at risk. To help reduce this risk, the GTSC will continue to provide support for enforcement of illegal passing violations through PTS funding.

In collaboration with law enforcement and the New York Association for Pupil Transportation, the GTSC will select one day during FFY 2015 to conduct Operation Safe Stop, a statewide traffic safety education through enforcement event. In order to increase law enforcement participation, the Operation Safe Stop event is now scheduled in the spring of each year.



*For supporting research regarding evidence-based enforcement strategies, refer to the discussion of strategies to reduce aggressive driving and speeding, pp. 3-3 to 3-5; High Visibility Enforcement, pp. 3-16 to 3-18; Other Enforcement Methods, pp. 3-19 to 3-21; Integrated Enforcement, p. 1-24; Cell Phone and Text Message Laws, pp.4-10 to 4-12; and pedestrian enforcement under Targeted Enforcement, pp. 8-27 to 8-28 in Countermeasures That Work, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2013.*

## **Law Enforcement Training Programs**

Training and other educational programs that keep law enforcement up-to-date on new laws and emerging traffic safety issues and enhance skills in the detection and enforcement of specific types of violations and vehicles will continue to be funded. These types of programs may be delivered in a number of formats including traditional classroom programs, roll call videos and podcasts. Educational opportunities such as the annual Empire State Law Enforcement Traffic Safety (ESLETS) Training Symposium will also continue to be eligible for grant support.

Examples of the training topics that have received funding include commercial vehicle awareness and enforcement, traffic crash investigation, older driver issues, pedestrian and bicycle safety, motorcycle enforcement training, and the graduated driver's license system and other young driver issues. Training programs that promote the Data Driven Approaches to Crime and Traffic Safety (DDACTS) enforcement model will also be supported. This innovative and proven operational model integrates community-based collaboration with analysis of location-based crime and traffic crash data to establish effective and efficient methods for deploying law enforcement and other resources. In addition to DDACTS Implementation Workshops, the NYS Sheriffs' Association and the NYS Association of Chiefs of Police conduct other training programs based on the DDACTS model including programs for traffic managers and supervisors and training to enable officers to expand the scope of traffic enforcement stops to include the detection of criminal activity.

*Justification: Training programs are critical for providing police officers with the knowledge, skills and tools they need to implement enforcement strategies that will be effective in deterring traffic violations and will contribute to reductions in crashes, fatalities and injuries resulting from unsafe driving behaviors.*



## Communications and Outreach

The GTSC plays a major role in the coordination of enforcement efforts among police agencies at all jurisdictional levels through its Law Enforcement Liaisons (LELs) representing the New York State Police, the NYS Sheriffs' Association and the NYS Association of Chiefs of Police. The LELs provide GTSC with a strong police perspective on traffic safety through their law enforcement background and expertise. In addition, resources, communication networks and other statewide amenities are readily available through their organizations to further engage and promote a statewide coordinated response to traffic safety issues. The LELs are responsible for communicating GTSC's statewide safety priorities to their enforcement networks and encouraging police agency participation in the Buckle Up New York - Click It or Ticket mobilizations, STOP-DWI Enforcement Crackdowns and many other traffic safety initiatives. The LELs also participate in the development and delivery of a number of training opportunities for police officers, including programs offered at the Empire State Law Enforcement Traffic Safety (ESLETS) and Annual Highway Safety conferences. Support will also continue for the annual New York Law Enforcement Challenge program which stimulates traffic law enforcement, recognizes and rewards outstanding performance by law enforcement agencies, and highlights some of the best overall traffic safety programs in the state.



One of the key elements of any traffic safety program is education. In addition to enforcing New York's Vehicle and Traffic Laws, police agencies play an important role in educating motorists and raising public awareness. For example, law enforcement officers and other educational stakeholders are in a unique position to deliver traffic safety programs to at-risk teen drivers. Projects that provide toolkits and other educational resources for use by police officers and other educators will be considered for funding.

*For supporting research regarding the importance of communications and outreach in the deterrence and prevention of unsafe driving behaviors, see p. 1-41 in [Countermeasures That Work, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2013](#). In addition to publicizing enforcement efforts to deter dangerous driving behaviors which is a proven component of effective enforcement strategies, police officers can contribute to the prevention of traffic violations by educating the motoring public on new laws and raising awareness of safe driving practices.*

<b>POLICE TRAFFIC SERVICES FFY 2015 BUDGET SUMMARY</b>		
<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Budget Amount</b>	<b>Source</b>
Enforcement of Traffic Violations	\$ 5,800,000	MAP-21 402
Law Enforcement Training Programs	800,000	MAP-21 402
Communications and Outreach	900,000	MAP-21 402
<b>Total MAP-21 402</b>	<b>\$ 7,500,000</b>	



# MOTORCYCLE SAFETY

## Overview

Improving the safety of motorcyclists continues to be an important priority for the state's highway safety program. Because motorcycles share the road with much larger vehicles, a combination of programs that focus on improving the driving skills of motorcycle operators, promote the use of helmets that meet the required standards and other protective gear and raise awareness of safe driving practices among both motorcyclists and other motorists are needed to improve traffic safety in this area.



The Governor's Traffic Safety Committee (GTSC) plays the central role in the coordination of the multiple components of New York's motorcycle safety program. The estimated highway safety funds budgeted for each motorcycle safety strategy are presented in the table on page 46.

The funds and other resources GTSC invests to improve motorcycle safety are complemented by a number of other federal, state, local and private sector activities. While a real dollar amount cannot be accurately estimated for the contributions of each of the partners involved in reducing motorcycle crashes, fatalities and injuries, the most significant source of funding, programming and in-kind support that assists in achieving the performance goals established in the HSSP is the state funding provided to the Motorcycle Safety Program (MSP) administered by the NYS Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Other partners that contribute to the attainment of the state's performance goals include the following:

- NYS Department of Transportation
- NYS Department of Health
- New York State Police
- Local enforcement agencies
- Motorcycle Safety Foundation
- Motorcycle Advocacy Groups

The MSP is a major component of New York's comprehensive approach to address and improve motorcycle safety in the state. In existence since 1996, the MSP provides instruction and field training to improve the riding skills of motorcyclists. Nearly 200,000 motorcyclists have been trained since the program's inception. The MSP is funded by a portion of the motorcycle license and registration fees collected by the state and disbursed through the Motorcycle Safety Fund.

New York State has also developed and implemented a program that takes a comprehensive approach to encouraging and promoting motorcycle safety. One of the key components of the program is public awareness efforts that target both motorcyclists and other motorists.

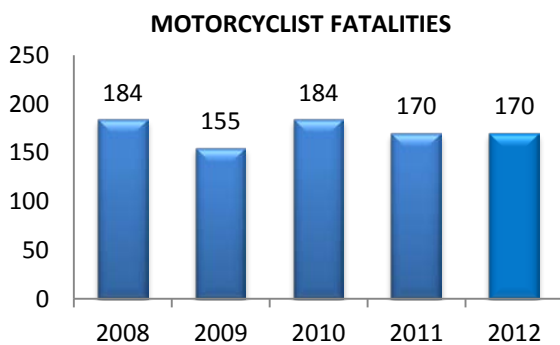
Since motorcycle helmets have been proven to be highly effective in protecting motorcyclists from suffering severe and fatal head injuries in crashes, New York's efforts to reduce motorcyclist fatalities and injuries have benefited from the state's universal motorcycle helmet law in place since 1967.

## Status of FFY 2014 Performance Targets

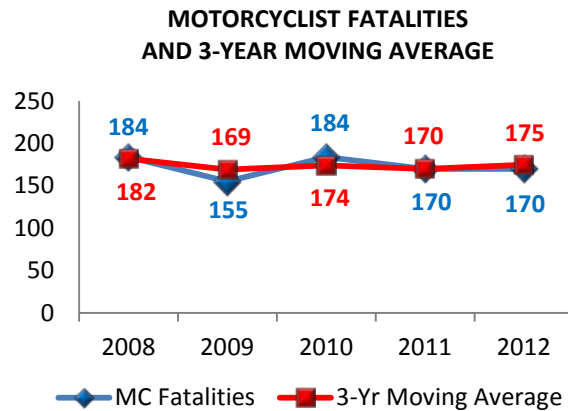
The core outcome measures for tracking progress in the motorcycle safety program area are motorcyclist fatalities, unhelmeted motorcyclist fatalities and motorcyclists injured in crashes. The following performance targets were set in the FFY 2014 Highway Safety Strategic Plan:

- ❖ To decrease motorcyclist fatalities 10 percent from the 2009-2011 calendar year average of 170 to 153 by December 31, 2014
- ❖ To decrease unhelmeted motorcyclist fatalities 25 percent from 11 in 2011 to 8 by December 31, 2014
- ❖ To decrease the number of injured motorcyclists 5 percent from the 2009-2011 calendar base year average of 4,809 to 4,569 by December 31, 2014

Based on the 2012 FARS data, the number of motorcyclist fatalities remained at 170; the lack of progress between 2011 and 2012 will make it difficult to reach the target of 153 set for the end of calendar year 2014.

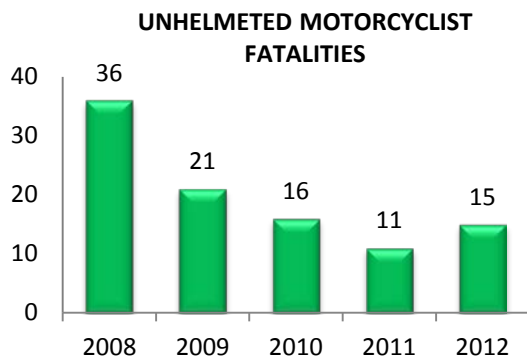


Source: FARS

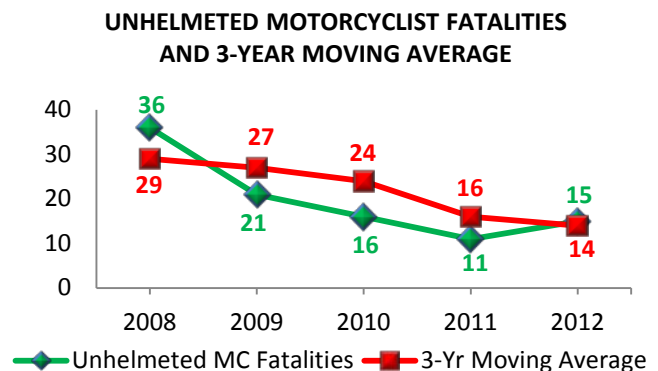


Source: FARS

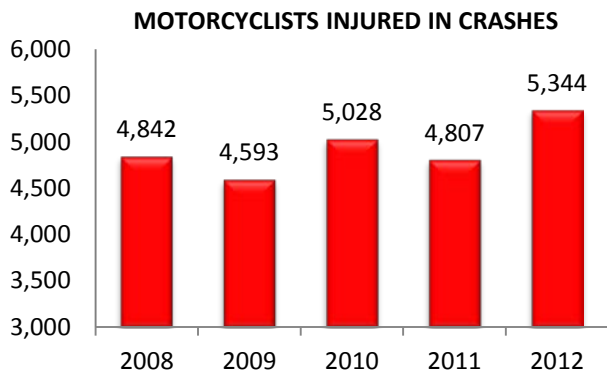
Due in large part to New York's helmet law, the number of fatally injured motorcyclists who were not wearing a helmet is relatively small. After being on a downward trend between 2008 and 2011, the number of unhelmeted motorcyclists killed in crashes increased to 15 in 2012, nearly two times the target of 8 set for the end of calendar year 2014. FARS 2013 data are not yet available to update these motorcycle fatality measures.



Source: FARS



Source: FARS



Source: NYS AIS

A third measure used by New York State to track progress in the Motorcycle Safety program area is the number of motorcyclists injured in crashes. Based on the state's 2012 AIS data, the number of injured motorcyclists increased to 5,344 after declining to 4,807 in the previous year.

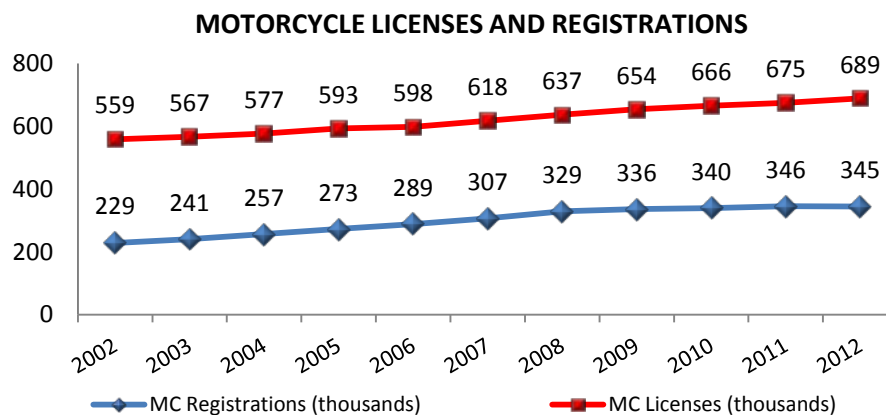
Because of the general upward trend in motorcyclist injuries between 2008 and 2012 and the 11% increase that occurred in 2012, the target of 4,569 set for the end of calendar year 2014 will be difficult to reach.

## Problem Identification

Additional data analyses were conducted to assist GTSC in setting priorities for the Motorcycle Safety Driving program area and selecting data-driven countermeasure strategies and projects that will enable the state to achieve its performance goals. The key findings from the problem identification component are presented in this section.

## Trends in Motorcycle Licenses and Registrations

Since 2002, the number of drivers with motorcycle licenses has increased by 23% reaching over 689,000 in 2012. During this same time period, the number of registered motorcycles has also been on a consistent upward trend with the number increasing over 50% to nearly 346,000 in 2011 before declining slightly (by approximately 400) in 2012.

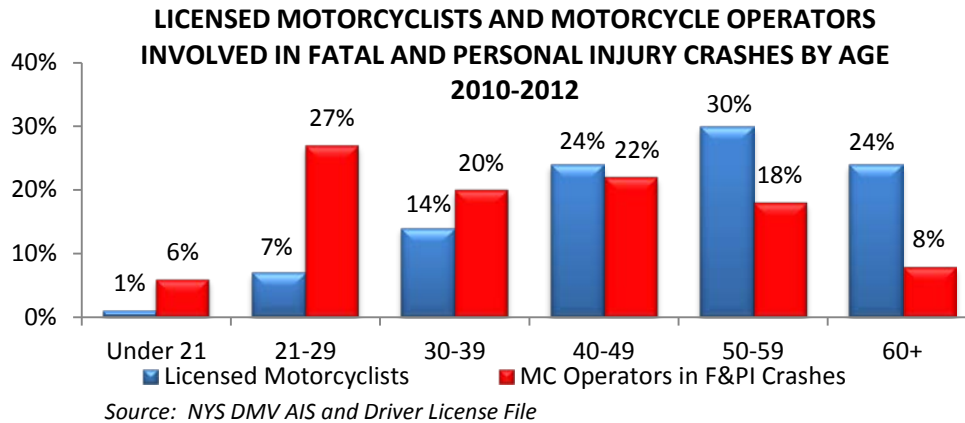


Sources: NYS AIS, Driver License and Vehicle Registration Files

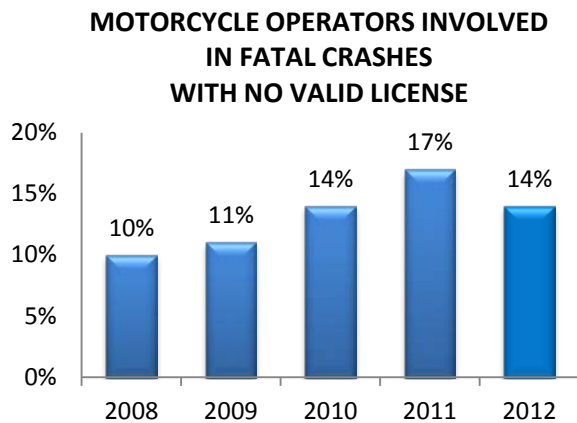
## Analyses of Crashes and Licensed Motorcyclists by Age

Motorcycle operators 21-29 years of age are the most overrepresented in motorcycle crashes; over the three-year period 2010-2012, 27% of the motorcycle operators involved in fatal and personal injury

crashes were in this age group but only 7% of the licensed motorcyclists are 21-29 years of age. Motorcycle operators under 21 years of age and between the ages of 30 and 39 are also overrepresented in fatal and personal injury crashes.



### Unlicensed Motorcycle Operation



Source: FARS

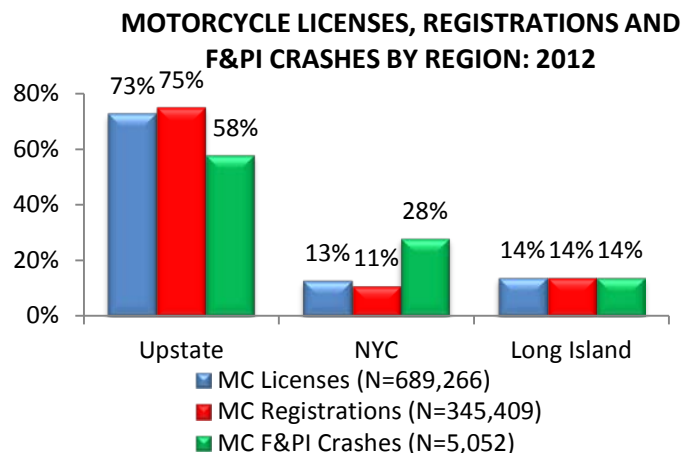
The proportion of motorcycle riders involved in fatal crashes who did not have a valid license steadily increased between 2008 and 2011 from 10% to 17%. The upward trend ended in 2012 when the proportion of motorcycle operators with no valid license who were involved in fatal crashes declined to 14%, returning to the level in 2010.

Over the period, 2008-2012, the largest proportion of these motorcycle operators without valid licenses were 25-34 years of age (42%), followed by 22% in the 35-44 age group and 19% in the 21-24 age group.

### Analyses by Region

Nearly six out of ten (58%) fatal and personal injury crashes involving motorcycles in 2012 occurred in the Upstate region, 28% occurred in New York City and 14% occurred on Long Island.

When compared with the distribution of licensed motorcyclists and motorcycle registrations by region, New York City was overrepresented in motorcycle crashes (28%) compared to 12% and 13% of motorcycle registrations and license endorsements.



Sources: NYS AIS, Driver License and Vehicle Registration Files

## **FFY 2015 Performance Targets**

- ❖ To decrease motorcyclist fatalities 5 percent from the 2010-2012 calendar year average of 175 to 166 by December 31, 2015
- ❖ To decrease unhelmeted motorcyclist fatalities 10 percent from the 2010-2012 calendar year average of 14 to 12 by December 31, 2015
- ❖ To decrease the number of injured motorcyclists 7 percent from the 2010-2012 calendar year average of 5,060 to 4,705 by December 31, 2015

## **FFY 2015 Performance Measures**

- ❖ Number of motorcyclist fatalities
- ❖ Number of unhelmeted motorcyclist fatalities
- ❖ Number of injured motorcyclists

## **Strategies**

Using a data-driven approach, New York has identified a comprehensive set of strategies that collectively will enable the state to reach the performance targets for the Motorcycle Safety program area. These strategies are described below; for each strategy, a reference to the supporting research or other justification is provided. The projects that will be considered for Motorcycle Safety grant funding are included in the complete list of proposed projects in Appendix A.

### **Motorcycle Rider Training and Education**

In FFY 2015, the Department of Motor Vehicles Motorcycle Safety Program (MSP) will continue to promote the statewide availability of rider education programs and increase the number of sites providing training. DMV presently contracts with the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF), a national leader in motorcycle safety and education, to deliver the Basic Rider Course at 55 locations throughout the state. The MSF trained 19,176 motorcyclists in 2012; however, the number dropped to 17,720 in 2013 due to unfavorable weather at both the beginning and end of the training season. Poor weather conditions in spring 2014 have also had an effect on the number of motorcyclists who have completed the training to date.

The road test waiver provides an additional incentive for new motorcyclists to complete a motorcycle safety education course and become licensed operators. More than 40% of new motorcycle licenses issued by DMV each year are to graduates of the MSF course. The upward trend in the proportion of motorcycle riders involved in fatal crashes who do not have valid licenses highlights the need to continue to encourage riders to enroll in and complete the basic rider education program. The Experienced Rider/Basic Rider 2 (BRC2) programs and the Three-Wheeled Motorcycle BRC (3W-BRC) will qualify for the road test waiver benefit.

Maintaining the quality of the instructor cadre in terms of skills, knowledge and motivation is a challenge in every program. To maintain a high quality program, New York will use a variety of outreach modes to improve the availability of training for providers and instructors and aid in the retention of qualified instructors. A MSF-qualified quality assurance team makes visits to each of the public training

sites every year to ensure the program continues to maintain high standards for course delivery. A portion of the motorcycle license and registration fees collected by the state is set aside to fund these training programs.

*For supporting research, refer to the discussion of Motorcycle Rider Training, pp. 5-20 and 5-21 in Countermeasures That Work, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2013.*

## **Communications and Outreach**

### **Educating Motorists to Share the Road with Motorcycles**

Efforts that raise awareness of the need to watch for motorcycles in traffic and educate the general driving population on how to share the road safely with motorcycles will continue to be supported. These efforts include New York's participation in the national initiative recognizing May as Motorcycle Safety Awareness month; the use of variable message signs promoting motorcycle safety; and public awareness campaigns and PI&E materials that promote the Share the Road message.

### **Focused Awareness of Motorcycles**

Efforts to promote all aspects of motorcycle safety, awareness and rider education aimed at a variety of motorist and motorcyclist audiences will continue to be considered for funding. Examples of activities include attendance at auto shows, fairs and other public events; presentations to driver education classes; and meetings with large employers that maintain fleets of vehicles. The use of a mobile classroom and presentations of the Motorcycle Safety Foundation's "Intersection Kits" to target audiences will also continue to be funded.

### **Public Information and Education for Motorcyclists**

Public information and education (PI&E) activities and the development and distribution of materials that increase awareness and educate motorcyclists on safe motorcycle operation will be considered for funding. Examples of topics for educating motorcyclists are the importance of using proper safety equipment, including compliant motorcycle helmets, wearing clothing that provide both protection and conspicuity, and the risks of driving while impaired by alcohol or drugs, speeding and other dangerous behaviors.

*For supporting research, refer to the discussion of Communications and Outreach: Other Driver Awareness of Motorcyclists, p. 5-24 and Communications and Outreach: Conspicuity and Protective Clothing, pp. 5-22 and 5-23 in Countermeasures That Work, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2013.*

## **Enforcement**

In order to ensure the efficient and effective use of resources to enforce traffic law violations, New York's law enforcement community conducts routine enforcement details that target drivers who are engaged in dangerous driving behaviors such as impaired driving and speeding regardless of the type of vehicle they are operating. These traffic enforcement countermeasures are discussed under the Police Traffic Services program area.



### **Motorcycle Safety Checkpoints**

Motorcycle safety checkpoints will continue to be conducted in strategic locations identified through a data-driven process. The focus of the checkpoints will be enforcement of license and registration violations, non-compliant helmets, faulty or illegal equipment and other violations. Variable message signs and other methods are used to ensure mandatory compliance with the checkpoint. The checkpoints are also used in conjunction with PI&E and research initiatives.



### **Motorcycle Safety and Enforcement Training for Law Enforcement**

Training programs for law enforcement that focus on educating officers on motorcycle safety, including the requirements regarding motorcycle safety equipment, common types of violations such as the use of non-compliant helmets, enforcement strategies and techniques, and other topics related to motorcycle safety will continue to be supported. Decisions on where to hold training programs are data driven and are based on a region's overrepresentation in motorcycle crashes. These regional training programs are conducted by a team of expert instructors from the New York State Police and the New York State Association of Chiefs of Police, in cooperation with GTSC, the DMV Motorcycle Safety Program, and the Motorcycle Safety Foundation.

The development and dissemination of new training resources and materials through websites, podcasts and other delivery mechanisms will also be considered for funding.

*For supporting research, refer to the discussion of Motorcycle Helmet Enforcement: Noncompliant Helmets, pp. 5-11 and 5-12 in [Countermeasures That Work](#), 7<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2013.*

### **Research, Evaluation and Analytical Support for New York's Performance-Based Motorcycle Safety Program**

Research studies and data analyses that focus on identifying issues that contribute to crashes involving motorcycles and motorcyclist injuries and fatalities will continue to be supported. Evaluations and assessments to determine the effectiveness of various strategies and programs will also be encouraged.

*Justification: Research, evaluation and data analysis are essential components of a successful performance-based highway safety program. These activities support problem identification, the selection of performance measures for tracking progress, and the selection of evidence-based, data-driven strategies that will contribute to the achievement of the state's performance goals.*

## MOTORCYCLE SAFETY FFY 2015 BUDGET SUMMARY

Strategy	Budget Amount	Source
Motorcycle Rider Training and Education	\$ 450,000	2010(K6)/405f
Communications and Outreach	900,000	2010(K6)/405f
Enforcement	180,000	MAP-21 402
Research, Evaluation and Analytical Support for New York's Performance-Based Motorcycle Safety Program	20,000	MAP-21 402
<b>Total MAP-21 402</b>	<b>200,000</b>	
<b>Total 2010 Motorcycle Safety</b>	<b>200,000</b>	
<b>Total MAP-21 405f Motorcycle Programs</b>	<b>1,150,000</b>	
<b>Total All Funds</b>	<b>\$ 1,550,000</b>	

# PEDESTRIAN, BICYCLE AND WHEEL-SPORT\* SAFETY

## \*IN-LINE SKATING, NON-MOTORIZED SCOOTER AND SKATEBOARDING



### Overview

Improving the safety of pedestrians, bicyclists and other wheel-sport enthusiasts who are New York's most vulnerable roadway users continues to be a priority for the state's highway safety program. Responsibility for addressing pedestrian, bicycle and wheel-sport safety issues is shared among several agencies in New York and effective solutions to these issues often require collaborative efforts involving education, engineering and enforcement countermeasures.

The Governor's Traffic Safety Committee (GTSC) plays the central role in the promotion and coordination of multiple components of New York's pedestrian, bicycle and wheel-sport safety program. Highway safety funds budgeted for each strategy are presented in the table on page 56.

The funds and other resources GTSC invests to improve pedestrian, bicycle and other wheel-sport safety are complemented by a number of other federal, state, local and private sector activities. For example, FHWA's focused approach to pedestrian safety identified Focus States and Cities that would have the greatest impact on reducing pedestrian crashes, fatalities and injuries nationwide. To support this approach, NHTSA is awarding demonstration projects that concentrate resources and efforts in these Focus States and Cities. New York State received funding to conduct a pedestrian safety demonstration project in New York City. This project will assist the state and city in developing and implementing enforcement and education components outlined in the city's pedestrian action plan.

In this program area, in particular, engineering countermeasures play a major role in efforts to reduce crashes, fatalities and injuries involving these highway users. While a real dollar amount cannot be accurately estimated for the contributions of each of the partners involved in reducing crashes, fatalities and injuries among these special groups of highway users, the most significant sources of funding, programming and in-kind support that assist in achieving the performance goals established in the HSSP include the following:

- NYS Department of Transportation
- NYS Department of Health
- NYS Department of State
- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
- Federal Highway Administration
- NYC Department of Transportation
- Metropolitan Planning Organizations
- New York Metropolitan Transportation Council
- Capital District Transportation Committee
- New York State Pedestrian and Bicycle Partnership
- Safe Routes to School Program
- New York State Association of Chiefs of Police
- NYS Association of County Traffic Safety Boards

- New York Bicycling Coalition
- Safe Kids Coalitions

One of the challenges in this program area is that persons of all ages, from young children to older adults, are part of the at-risk group. Effective public information and education (PI&E) programs and other strategies to reduce deaths and injuries among pedestrians, bicyclists and participants in other wheel-sports must be designed to address both children and adults.

Equally important is the need to continue efforts to raise awareness and educate motorists on how to safely share the road with pedestrians and bicyclists. This includes educating motorists, pedestrians and law enforcement on New York State's Vehicle and Traffic Laws, including the pedestrian crossing laws and the 2010 law requiring drivers overtaking bicycles to pass to the left "at a safe distance" until they safely clear the bicycle. In addition, the "Complete Streets" law that took effect February 15, 2012 is intended to increase the safety of highway users of all ages, including pedestrians and bicyclists, through the incorporation of new design principles into roadway improvement projects.

The promotion of the use of helmets and other protective gear which have proven to be effective in reducing the severity of injuries suffered in bicycle crashes and other wheel sports is also a priority. New York State has required helmet use for bicyclists under age 14 since 1993 and subsequently extended mandatory helmet use to in-line skaters (1996), non-motorized scooter riders (2002) and skateboarders (2005) under 14 years of age. Compliance with these laws requires the awareness of parents and the availability of helmets to low income families.

## **Status of FFY 2014 Performance Targets**

### **Pedestrian Safety**

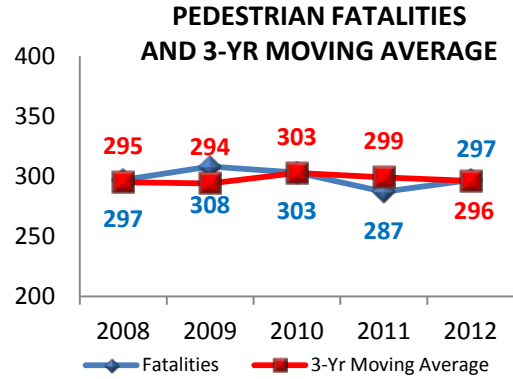
The core outcome measure for tracking progress in pedestrian safety is pedestrian fatalities. Each year, New York also sets a target for reductions in pedestrian injuries resulting from motor vehicle crashes. The following pedestrian safety performance targets were set in the FFY 2014 Highway Safety Strategic Plan:

- ❖ To reduce pedestrian fatalities 3 percent from 287 in 2011 to 278 by December 31, 2014
- ❖ To reduce the number of pedestrians injured in traffic crashes 3 percent from the 2009-2011 calendar year average of 15,700 to 15,229 by December 31, 2014

Based on FARS data, the number of pedestrian fatalities in New York State increased to 297 in 2012 after decreasing in the two previous years. Because the downward trend did not continue in 2012, the target for reducing pedestrian fatalities to 278 by the end of calendar year 2014 will be difficult to reach. FARS data for 2013 are not yet available to update this measure.



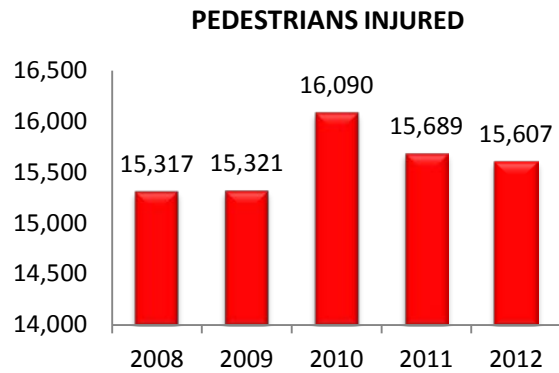
Source: FARS



Source: FARS

Data from New York's Accident Information System were used to update the status of the second performance measure related to pedestrians injured in crashes.

In 2010, the number of pedestrians injured in crashes rose to 16,090, a 5% increase over the previous year. Following this spike in pedestrian injuries, the number dropped two years in a row to 15,689 in 2011 and to 15,607 in 2012. As a result, in 2012, progress was made toward the target of 15,229 set for reducing pedestrian injuries by the end of calendar year 2014.



Source: NYS AIS

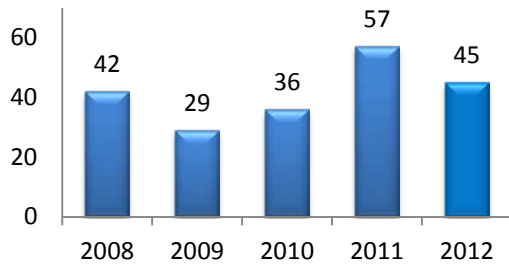
## Bicycle Safety

While New York has consistently set targets for reductions in the number of bicyclists killed and injured in crashes, bicyclist fatalities is included as a core performance measure for the first time in the FFY 2015 HSSP. The following bicycle safety performance targets were set in the FFY 2014 Highway Safety Strategic Plan:

- ❖ To reduce the number of bicyclist fatalities 15 percent from the 2009-2011 calendar year average of 41 to 35 by December 31, 2014
- ❖ To reduce the number of bicyclists injured in traffic crashes 5 percent from the 2009-2011 calendar base year average of 5,782 to 5,493 by December 31, 2014

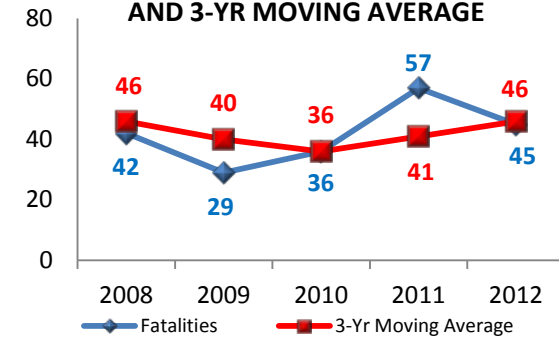
The New York State AIS data for 2012 indicate that after bicyclist fatalities spiked to 57 in 2011 the number declined by 12 to 45 in 2012. With this reversal in the upward trend in 2012, progress has been made toward the target of 35 set for December 31, 2014. AIS data for 2013 are not yet available to update this measure.

### BICYCLIST FATALITIES



Source: FARS

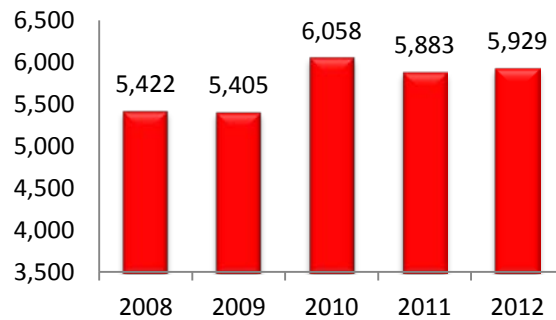
### BICYCLIST FATALITIES AND 3-YR MOVING AVERAGE



Source: FARS

Between 2011 and 2012, there was a very small increase (less than 1%) in the number of bicyclists injured in crashes. Because the number of bicyclists injured in crashes with motor vehicles has not decreased substantially following the spike in 2010, the target of 5,493 set for the end of calendar year 2014 will be difficult to reach.

### BICYCLISTS INJURED



Source: NYS AIS

## Problem Identification

Additional data analyses were conducted to assist GTSC in setting priorities for the Pedestrian, Bicycle and Wheel-Sport Safety program area and selecting data-driven countermeasure strategies and projects that will enable the state to achieve its performance goals. The key findings from the problem identification component are presented in this section.

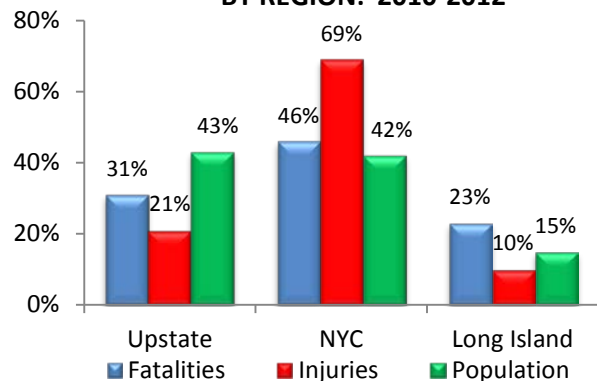
## Pedestrian Safety

### Analyses by Region

In New York State, pedestrians consistently account for one-quarter of all traffic fatalities each year. A particular concern for New York's pedestrian safety program is the number of pedestrian fatalities and injuries that occur in New York City.

Over the three-year period, 2010-2012, 46% of the state's pedestrian fatalities and 69% of the injuries occurred in New York City, 31% of the fatalities and 21% of the injuries occurred in the Upstate region and 23% of the fatalities and 10% of the injuries occurred on Long Island.

### PEDESTRIAN FATALITIES & INJURIES COMPARED TO POPULATION BY REGION: 2010-2012



Sources: NYS AIS and U.S. Census

The counties in the New York City region with the highest numbers of pedestrian fatalities and injuries were Kings (Brooklyn) which averaged 3,672 per year from 2010-2012, New York (Manhattan) with an annual average of 2,907 and Queens with 2,393 pedestrian fatalities and injuries per year.

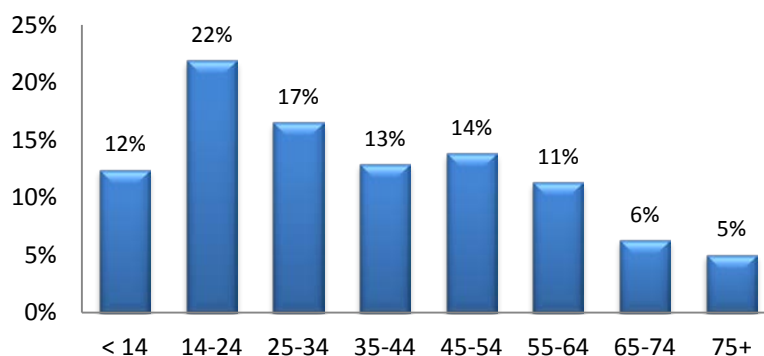
When compared with the proportion of the state’s population that reside in the three regions, the New York City region is overrepresented in both pedestrian fatalities and injuries (42% of the population vs. 46% of the fatalities and 69% of the injuries); the Long Island region is also overrepresented in pedestrian fatalities (15% of the population vs. 23% of the fatalities).

Based on the population in each region, over the three-year period, 2010-2012, there were 13.3 pedestrian fatalities and injuries per 10,000 population in New York City, 5.7 per 10,000 population on Long Island and 4.1 per population in the Upstate region.

### Analyses by Age

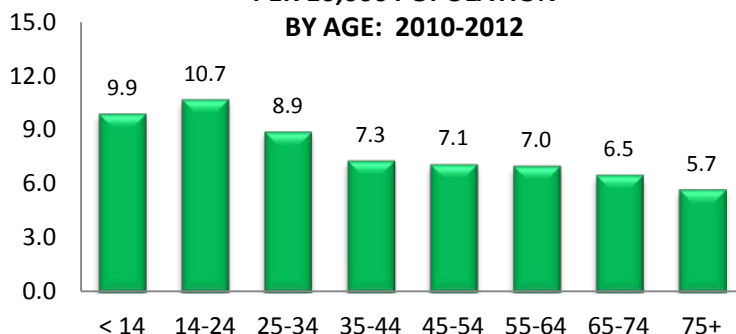
Analyses were also conducted to determine the ages of the pedestrians killed or injured in crashes with a motor vehicle. Over the three-year period, 2010-2012, pedestrians 14-24 years of age accounted for 22% of the pedestrians killed and injured. The proportion of pedestrians killed and injured generally declined with each subsequent age group.

**PEDESTRIANS KILLED OR INJURED IN CRASHES  
BY AGE: 2010-2012**



Source: NYS AIS

**PEDESTRIANS KILLED AND INJURED  
PER 10,000 POPULATION  
BY AGE: 2010-2012**



Sources: NYS AIS and U.S. Census

When population figures were used to normalize the pedestrian fatality and injury data for each age group, the 14-24 year old age group had the highest rate of pedestrian fatalities and injuries over the three-year period, 2010-2012 (10.7/10,000 population), followed closely by the under 14 age group (9.9/10,000 population).

## **Bicycle Safety**

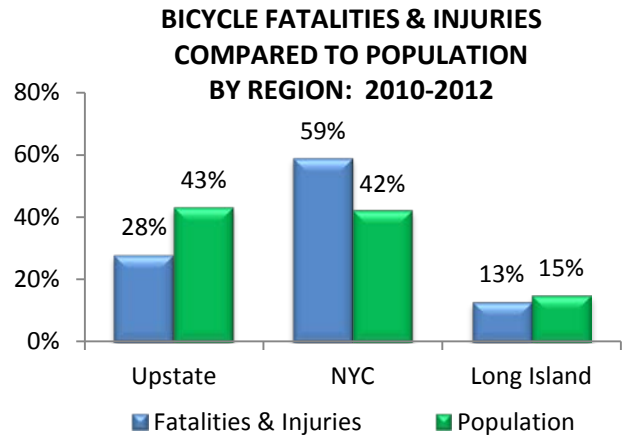
### Analyses by Region

New York City is also an area of concern for bicycle crashes. In 2010-2012, 59% of the bicyclist fatalities and injuries in crashes involving motor vehicles occurred in New York City compared to 28% in the Upstate region and 13% on Long Island.



The top two counties in New York City for bicycle fatalities and injuries were Kings which averaged 1,431 fatalities and injuries per year between 2010 and 2012 and New York County which averaged 1,112 per year.

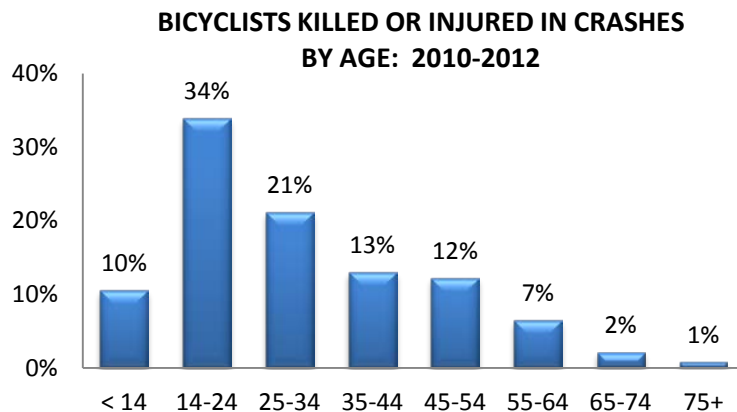
Based on the population in each region, over the three-year period, 2010-2012, there were 4.3 bicyclist fatalities and injuries per 10,000 population in New York City, compared to 2.8 per 10,000 population in the Long Island region and 2.0 per 10,000 population in the Upstate region.



Sources: NYS AIS and U.S. Census

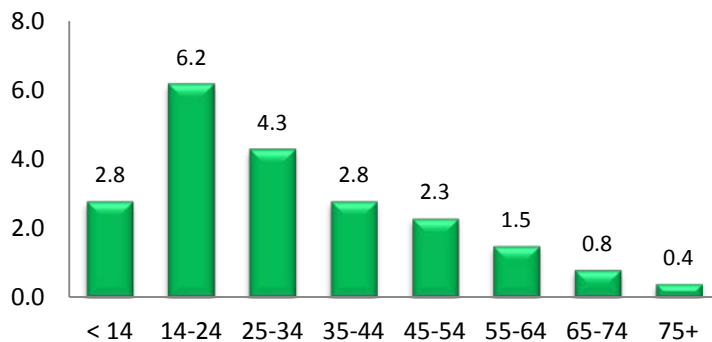
### Analyses by Age

Analyses were also conducted to determine the ages of the bicyclists killed or injured in crashes with a motor vehicle. Over the three-year period, 2010-2012, bicyclists in the 14-24 age group made up the largest proportion of those killed or injured (34%) in crashes. Bicyclist fatalities and injuries declined with each subsequent age group.



Source: NYS AIS

### BICYCLISTS KILLED AND INJURED PER 10,000 POPULATION BY AGE: 2010-2012



Sources: NYS AIS and U.S. Census

When population figures were used to normalize the bicyclist fatality and injury data for each age group, the results in the chart above were confirmed. The 14-24 year old age group had a substantially higher rate of bicycle fatalities and injuries (6.2/10,000 population) than any other age group over the three-year period, 2010-2012.

## FFY 2015 Performance Targets

- ❖ To reduce pedestrian fatalities 5 percent from the 2010-2012 calendar year average of 296 to 281 by December 31, 2015
- ❖ To reduce the number of pedestrians injured in traffic crashes 5 percent from 15,607 in 2012 to 14,827 by December 31, 2015
- ❖ To reduce the number of bicyclist fatalities 5 percent from the 2010-2012 calendar year average of 46 to 44 by December 31, 2015
- ❖ To reduce the number of bicyclists injured in traffic crashes 3 percent from the 2010-2012 calendar year average of 5,957 to 5,778 by December 31, 2015

## FFY 2015 Performance Measures

- ❖ Number of pedestrians killed in traffic crashes
- ❖ Number of pedestrians injured in traffic crashes
- ❖ Number of bicyclists killed in traffic crashes
- ❖ Number of bicyclists injured in traffic crashes

## Strategies

Using a data-driven approach, New York has identified a comprehensive set of strategies that collectively will enable the state to reach the performance targets for the Pedestrian, Bicycle and Other Wheeled Sport Safety program area. These strategies are described below; for each strategy, a reference to the supporting research or other justification is provided. The projects that will be considered for grant funding in this program area are included in the complete list of proposed projects in Appendix A.

### Education, Communication and Outreach

Programs that educate pedestrians, bicyclists, skateboarders, in-line skaters and non-motorized scooter riders on safety issues and ways to avoid crash involvement will continue to be emphasized in



FFY 2015. Promotion of the use of helmets and other protective equipment and education on safe practices for these special roadway users of all ages will continue to be supported.

Efforts to heighten the awareness of the motoring public to the behaviors and vulnerabilities of these other roadway users and the dangers motorist traffic violations such as speeding and failure to yield pose to these groups will also be funded. These projects may include public awareness campaigns and the distribution of informational materials that promote “See! Be Seen!”, “Respect”, “Share the Road” and “Coexist” messages among all highway users and encourage compliance with traffic laws relating to pedestrians, bicyclists, in-line skaters, scooter riders and skateboarders.

Organizations such as the New York State Pedestrian and Bicycle Partnership that provide important input and guidance and promote communication and information exchange will continue to be important partners in the state's pedestrian and bicycle safety efforts.

*For supporting research, refer to the discussion of "Share the Road" Awareness Programs, p. 9-31; Elementary-Age Child Pedestrian Training, pp. 8-13 to 8-15; Bicycle Education for Children, pp. 9-15 and 9-16; Cycling Skills Clinics, Bike Fairs, Bike Rodeos, pp. 9-17 and 9-18; and Promote Bicycle Helmet Use with Education, pp. 9-24 and 9-25 in Countermeasures That Work, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2013.*

### **Community-Based Programs in Pedestrian, Bicycle, In-line Skating, Non-Motorized Scooter and Skateboarding Safety**

Programs that take a grassroots approach to the identification and resolution of local pedestrian, bicycle, in-line skating, skateboarding and scooter safety problems will be considered for funding under this strategy. These would include communities located in the state's downstate regions where the data indicate that pedestrians and bicyclists are particularly at risk as well as communities in other areas that can demonstrate that they have a pedestrian or bicycle safety problem that needs to be addressed. The establishment of local coalitions is encouraged to expand both the resources available to address the problems that are identified and the delivery system for the program activities. Some examples would include programs that teach children safe pedestrian crossing or bicycle riding skills, the importance of safety equipment and helmet distribution programs.

Projects that include components such as community-based education delivered through schools, hospitals and other local agencies and organizations will also be considered. For example, the New York State Pedestrian and Bicycle Partnership coordinates pedestrian safety projects such as New York's "Walk to School Day" and "Bike to School Day" campaigns and the Walking School Bus which is a program that is intended to make walking to school safe, fun and convenient. Support will also be provided for Safe Routes to School programs that have the goal of improving the safety of children walking and bicycling to school.

*For supporting research, refer to the discussion of Elementary-Age Child Pedestrian Training, pp. 8-13 to 8-15; Safe Routes to School, pp. 8-16 and 8-17 and 9-13 and 9-14; Bicycle Education for Children, pp. 9-15 and 9-16; Cycling Skills, Clinics, Bike Fairs, Bike Rodeo, pp. 9-17 and 9-18; and Promote Bicycle Helmet Use with Education, pp. 9-24 and 9-25 in Countermeasures That Work, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2013.*

### **Cooperative Approaches to Improving Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety**

The GTSC will continue to promote cooperative state and local approaches to addressing pedestrian safety issues by bringing together partners from a variety of disciplines and perspectives to review the data and develop a comprehensive set of effective countermeasures. Some examples where state and local partnerships have been formed to address pedestrian safety issues through a combination of education, enforcement and engineering solutions include high-risk corridors identified on the Hempstead Turnpike on Long Island, Central Avenue in Albany and Rt. 7 in Troy. The development of data driven statewide pedestrian and bicycle safety plans through a broad-based, collaborative process is another example of a cooperative approach to improving safety that will be considered for funding.

Workshops, symposia and training programs that involve collaboration among multiple organizations or disciplines are another type of cooperative effort that will be considered for funding. Programs such as the Walk Bike NY symposia series provide an opportunity for pedestrian and bicycle safety advocates from numerous non-profit organizations as well as representatives from federal, state and local agencies to share ideas and work together on coordinated approaches that will improve pedestrian and bicycle safety. Other examples are training programs coordinated and presented jointly by several partner agencies and organizations.

*Justification: Strategies that promote cooperative efforts can lead to the more effective and efficient use of resources, the development of comprehensive, multi-faceted programs and opportunities to exchange ideas and best practices, and consequently, play an important role in the implementation of successful projects and programs.*

### **Research, Evaluation and Analytical Support for New York's Performance-Based Pedestrian, Bicycle and Wheel-Sport Safety Program**

Research and evaluation activities that support the state's comprehensive Pedestrian, Bicycle and Wheel-Sport Safety program will be funded under this strategy. The data-driven, performance-based approach to reducing crashes, fatalities and injuries involving these vulnerable groups of highway users requires access to the appropriate data as well as the technical capabilities to perform the analyses and interpret the results. Research and evaluation efforts undertaken to identify trends and potential new problem areas, assist in defining future program directions and potential countermeasures and assess program effectiveness will be eligible for funding.

*Justification: Research, evaluation and data analysis are essential components of a successful performance-based highway safety program. These activities support problem identification, the selection of performance measures for tracking progress, and the selection of evidence-based, data-driven strategies that will contribute to the achievement of the state's performance goals.*

**PEDESTRIAN, BICYCLE AND WHEEL-SPORT SAFETY  
FFY 2015 BUDGET SUMMARY**

<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Budget Amount</b>	<b>Source</b>
Education, Communication and Outreach	\$ 320,000	MAP-21 402
Community-Based Programs in Pedestrian, Bicycle, In-line Skating, Non-Motorized Scooter and Skateboarding Safety	410,000	MAP-21 402
Cooperative Approaches to Improving Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety	240,000	MAP-21 402
Research, Evaluation and Analytical Support for New York's Performance-Based Pedestrian, Bicycle and Wheel-Sport Safety Program	30,000	MAP-21 402
<b>Total MAP-21 402</b>	<b>1,000,000</b>	

# OCCUPANT PROTECTION



## Overview

New York's Occupant Protection program is built on a foundation of strong laws. In 1984, New York passed the nation's first seat belt law; the law allowed for primary enforcement and covered all front seat passengers and children up to ten years of age riding in the back seat. In 2000, the law was amended to extend mandatory use to all children under age 16 in any seating position. While universal coverage of all vehicle occupants has not yet been passed by the State Legislature, New York has been progressive in passing legislation that requires the use of child restraint systems that are appropriate for the child's age and size when transporting young passengers. Effective November 24, 2009, New York's "Booster Seat Law" requires children up to the age of eight to be restrained in an appropriate child restraint system.

The Governor's Traffic Safety Committee (GTSC) plays the central role in the promotion and coordination of multiple components of New York's occupant protection program. The estimated highway safety funds budgeted for each occupant protection strategy are presented in the table on page 68.

The funds and other resources GTSC invests to increase the use of occupant restraints are complemented by a number of other federal, state, local and private sector activities. While a real dollar amount cannot be accurately estimated for the contributions of each of the partners involved in increasing compliance with the seat belt law and improving the safety of children riding in vehicles, the most significant sources of funding, programming and in-kind support that assist in achieving the performance goals established in the HSSP include the following:

- New York's Certified CPS Technicians
- Hospitals and clinics
- Local police, fire departments and EMS
- New York State Police
- New York State Park Police
- County Health Departments
- Car Dealerships
- Safe Kids Worldwide
- County Traffic Safety Boards

Since the establishment of the Buckle Up New York (BUNY) program in the late 1990s, compliance with the state's occupant restraint laws has been supported primarily by high visibility enforcement efforts. New York joined the national Click It or Ticket campaign in 2002 and continues to participate in the highly effective national seat belt enforcement mobilizations. In FFY 2014, the Buckle Up New York (BUNY) seat belt program and the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) were integrated into a new Police Traffic Services (PTS) grant program to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of New York's enforcement efforts. This change in the grant program does not affect New York's participation in national seat belt mobilizations; the GTSC will once again promote statewide participation by law enforcement agencies in the national Click It or Ticket campaign that will be conducted in May 2015.

The effectiveness of New York’s occupant protection program is demonstrated by the achievement of a statewide use rate of 90% or above since 2010. Because of this high use rate, identifying and directing efforts toward the high risk groups that comprise the 10% who do not comply with the law will continue to be a major focus of the program in FFY 2015.

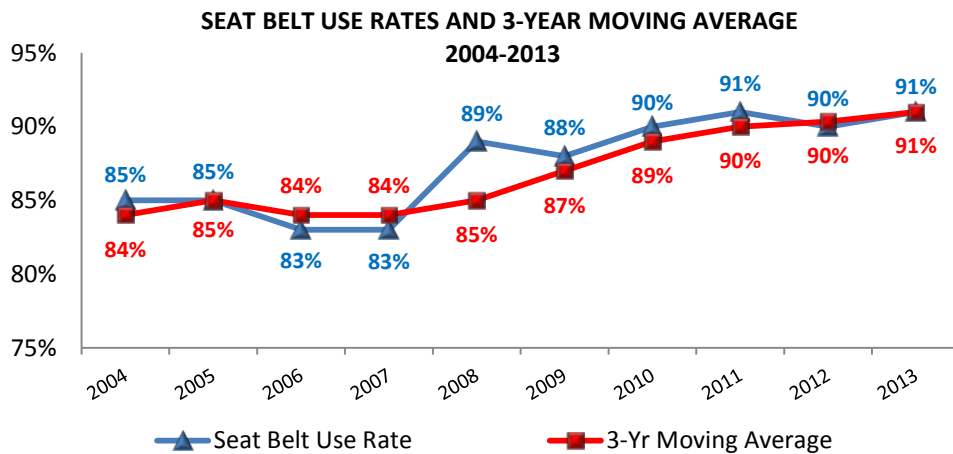
Improving the safety of children riding in motor vehicles also continues to be a major objective of New York’s Occupant Protection program. A variety of efforts are undertaken to increase awareness and educate parents and other caretakers on the best way to protect young passengers riding in motor vehicles through the GTSC’s Child Passenger Safety (CPS) mini-grant program. Each year, the GTSC supports approximately 190 local programs that provide education and instruction in the safe transportation of children and ensures that sufficient numbers of trained and certified CPS technicians are available to provide these services. In FFY 2015, the GTSC will continue to promote outreach efforts to ensure that the state’s underserved populations and residents in all geographic areas have access to the information and services they need.

## Status of FFY 2014 Performance Targets

The core behavioral measure for tracking progress in the occupant protection program area is the observed seat belt use rate and the core outcome measure is unrestrained passenger vehicle occupant fatalities. The following performance targets were set in the FFY 2014 Highway Safety Strategic Plan:

- ❖ To increase the statewide observed seat belt use of front seat outboard occupants in passenger vehicles 2 percentage points from 90% in 2012 to 92% by December 31, 2014
- ❖ To decrease unrestrained passenger vehicle occupant fatalities in all seating positions 5 percent from 185 (preliminary FARS number) in 2011 to 176 by December 31, 2013

Based on the most recent statewide observation survey of seat belt use conducted in 2013, New York’s usage rate was estimated at 91.1 %, up from 2012 when usage was estimated at 90.4%, indicating that progress has been made toward the target usage rate of 92% set for December 31, 2014.



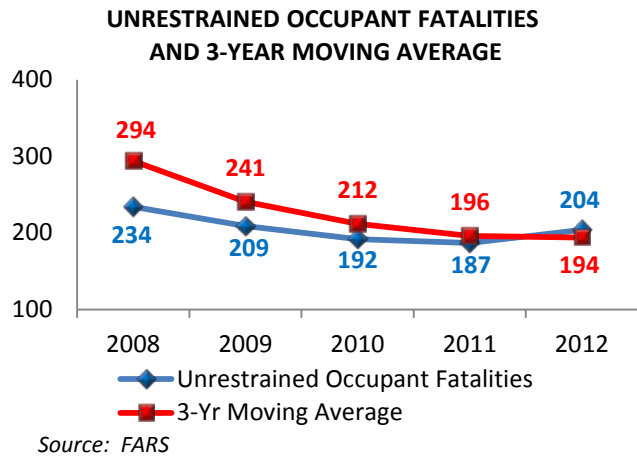
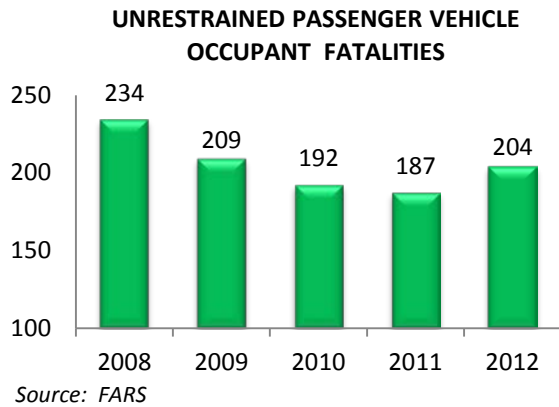
Source: NYS Annual Seat Belt Observation Surveys

In 2013, New York implemented the new survey design and data collection protocol developed to comply with new Uniform Criteria established by NHTSA. While the statewide estimate of use derived



from the survey conducted in 2013 and subsequent years will not be strictly comparable to the results from the annual surveys conducted 1998-2012, the consistency in the results obtained provide validation for both survey protocols.

Based on FARS data, the downward trend in the number of unrestrained passenger vehicle occupant fatalities between 2008 and 2011 did not continue in 2012. FARS data for 2013 are not yet available to update this measure.



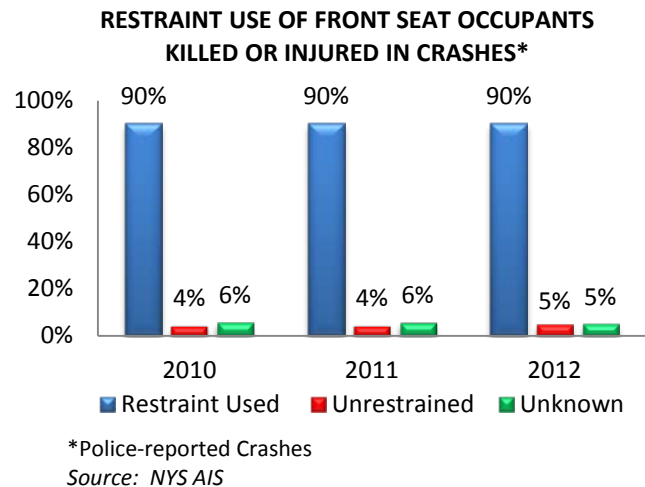
## Problem Identification

Additional data analyses were conducted to assist GTSC in setting priorities for the Occupant Protection program area and selecting data-driven countermeasure strategies and projects that will enable the state to achieve its performance goals. The key findings from the problem identification component are presented in this section.

### Analyses of Reported Restraint Use in Crashes

Analyses based on the state's AIS data provide additional information to consider in planning effective programs. Although reported restraint use in crashes is considered less reliable than observed use, the reported use rate in crashes is consistent with the rate of use observed in traffic during New York's statewide surveys.

In 2010-2012, 90% of front seat occupants in police-reported crashes were restrained while 4%-5% were not restrained. Restraint use was unknown for 5%-6% of the occupants killed or injured in crashes in each of the three years.

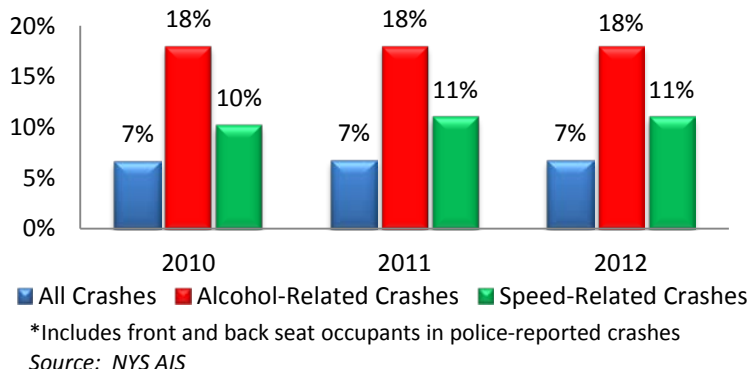


Further analyses were conducted to identify the characteristics of the relatively small group of drivers and occupants who do not comply with the law for use in developing effective strategies.

Based on analyses of restraint use in specific types of crashes, it was determined that occupants who are killed or injured are more likely to be unrestrained when alcohol or speed is involved in the crash.

In 2010-2012, 18% of the vehicle occupants killed or injured in alcohol-related crashes and 10%-11% of the occupants killed or injured in speed-related crashes were unrestrained. In comparison, 7% of occupants killed or injured in all crashes were not using a safety restraint.

**UNRESTRAINED OCCUPANTS KILLED OR INJURED IN ALL CRASHES, ALCOHOL-RELATED CRASHES AND SPEED-RELATED CRASHES\***

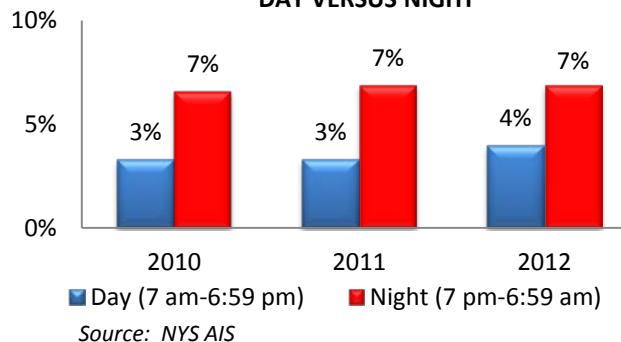


### Analyses of Seat Belt Use: Day vs. Night

Reported restraint use in crashes is higher during the day (7 am-6:59 pm) than at night (7 pm-6:59 am).

Over the three-year period, 2010-2012, 7% of the front seat occupants killed or injured in crashes at night were not using a safety restraint compared to 3%-4% during the day.

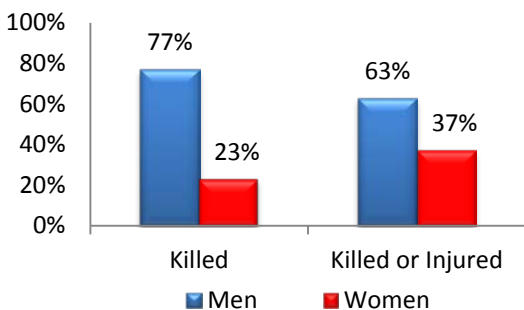
**UNRESTRAINED FRONT SEAT OCCUPANTS KILLED OR INJURED IN CRASHES: DAY VERSUS NIGHT**



### Analyses of Seat Belt Use by Gender

Differences in restraint use by gender were also found among front seat occupants who were killed or injured in crashes. According to police-reported restraint use in crashes, unrestrained occupants who were killed in crashes were more than three times as likely to be male (77% vs. 23%); among those who were killed or injured, 63% were men and 37% were women.

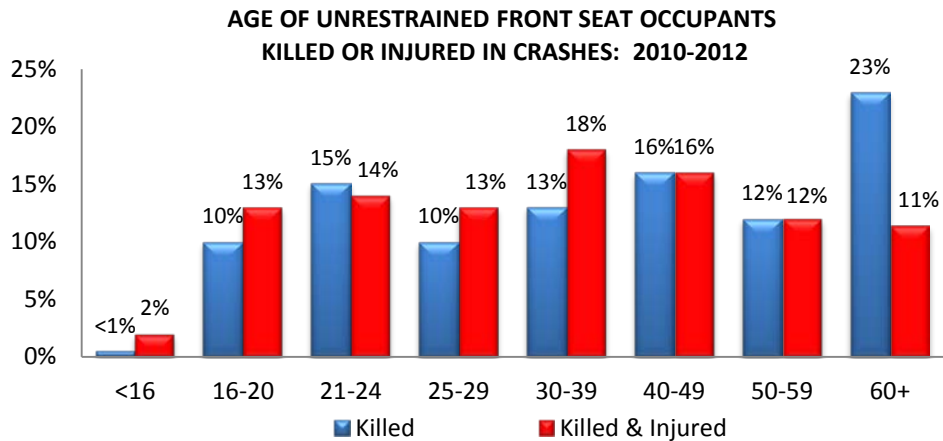
**GENDER OF UNRESTRAINED FRONT SEAT OCCUPANTS KILLED OR INJURED IN CRASHES: 2010-2012**



The difference in restraint use among men and women was reinforced in the Driver Behavior and Attitudinal Surveys conducted at five DMV offices in 2010-2013. Self-reported restraint use among men ranged from 81% to 83%, compared to 88%-92% among women.

## Analyses of Seat Belt Use by Age

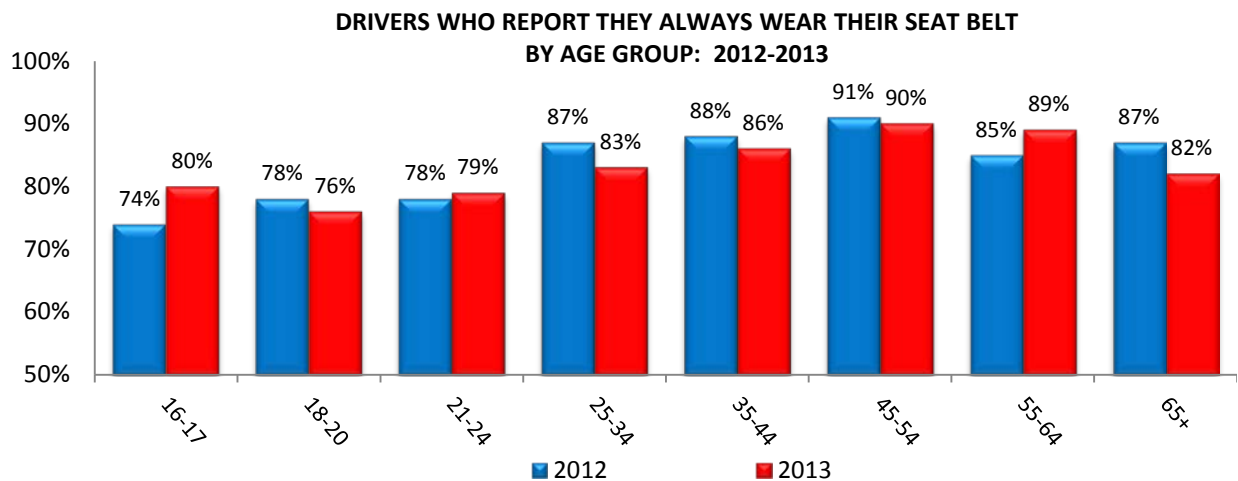
The unrestrained front seat occupants who were killed in crashes over the three-year period, 2010-2012, were most likely to be 60 years of age or older (23%). The greater severity of the injuries suffered by older motorists who are involved in crashes is likely to contribute to their higher fatality numbers.



Source: NYS AIS

Among the total unrestrained front seat occupants killed or injured in crashes, the largest proportions were in the 30-39 age group (18%) and the 40-49 age group (16%).

In the Driver Behavior and Attitudinal Surveys conducted in 2012 and 2013, reported restraint use generally increased with age. In 2013, 76%-80% of the drivers in the age groups under 25 years of age reported they “always” wear their seat belt compared to 82%-90% of the drivers in each of the age groups 25 years of age or older. Between 2012 and 2013, the largest increase in reported seat belt use was in the youngest age group (74% to 80%) and the largest decrease was in the oldest age group (87% to 82%).

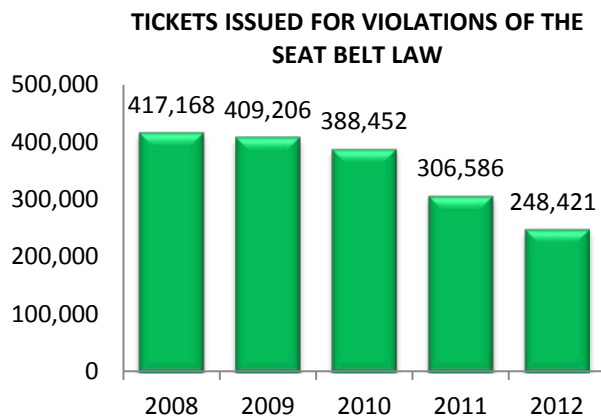


Source: 2012-2013 Driver Behavior and Attitudinal Surveys

## Analyses of Tickets

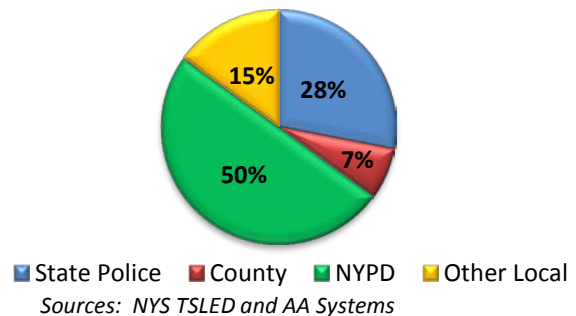
The number of seat belt tickets issued continued on a downward trend in 2012. Compared to 2008 when 417,168 tickets were issued for seat belt violations, 248,421 tickets were issued in 2012, a decrease of 40%. The decline in the number of tickets is likely due to reductions in highway safety funding and competing priorities for enforcement resources.

In 2012, half of the tickets for seat belt violations were issued by the New York City Police Department (NYPD), the State Police issued 28%, and other local and county police agencies issued 15% and 7%, respectively.

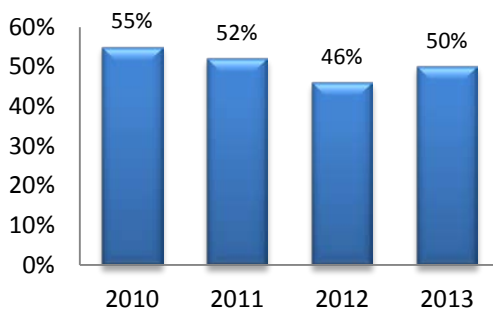


Sources: NYS TSLED and AA Systems

**PROPORTION OF SEAT BELT TICKETS ISSUED BY TYPE OF POLICE AGENCY: 2012**



**DRIVERS WHO THOUGHT THEY WOULD "ALWAYS" OR "MOST OF THE TIME" RECEIVE A SEAT BELT TICKET**



Source: 2010-2013 Driver Behavior Surveys

The drop in enforcement has been reflected in a decline in the perception of risk of getting a ticket for non-compliance with the seat belt law. Based on the results from the annual driver surveys conducted at DMV offices, in 2012, 46% of the drivers thought they would be ticketed for not wearing a seat belt "always" or "most of the time" compared to 55% in 2010. However, responses from the 2013 survey indicate that the downward trend in the perception of risk may be ending.

## FFY 2015 Performance Targets

- ❖ To increase the statewide observed seat belt use of front seat outboard occupants in passenger vehicles 2 percentage points from 91% in 2013 to 93% by December 31, 2015
- ❖ To decrease unrestrained passenger vehicle occupant fatalities in all seating positions 3 percent from the 2010-2012 calendar year average of 194 to 189 by December 31, 2015

## FFY 2015 Performance Measures

- ❖ Proportion of front seat outboard occupants observed using seat belts
- ❖ Number of unrestrained passenger vehicle occupant fatalities

## Strategies

Using a data-driven approach, New York has identified evidence-based strategies that collectively will enable the state to reach the performance targets for the Occupant Protection program area. These strategies are described below; for each strategy, a reference to the supporting research or other justification is provided. The projects that will be considered for Occupant Protection grant funding are included in the complete list of proposed projects in Appendix A.

### Seat Belt Enforcement

The effectiveness of high visibility enforcement in increasing compliance with occupant restraint laws has been demonstrated at the national level as well as within New York State. In FFY 2015, the GTSC will continue to implement this countermeasure through its Buckle Up New York enforcement program and will participate in the national Click It or Ticket mobilization in May.



### Buckle Up New York/Click It or Ticket



New York's Buckle Up New York/Click It or Ticket program will continue to be the state's primary enforcement strategy for occupant protection.

In FFY 2015, the BUNY program will promote the national Click It or Ticket mobilization scheduled for May 18-31, 2015; all police agencies receiving GTSC funding for seat belt enforcement are required to participate in the May high visibility wave enforcement.

Agencies receiving grant funding are also required to:

- ❖ Have a mandatory seat belt use policy and perform roll-call video training
- ❖ Conduct high-visibility, zero tolerance enforcement using checkpoints, saturation patrols, and when possible include nighttime enforcement and collaborative interagency efforts
- ❖ Focus on low-use groups based on geography, demographics and other factors

While grant funding supports the participation of a large number of police agencies, nearly every police agency in the state actively supports the Click It or Ticket campaign and the annual seat belt enforcement mobilization. Participation is also promoted by the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the GTSC Law Enforcement Challenge award program.

## **Combined Enforcement**

Another enforcement countermeasure that has been shown to be effective is combining seat belt enforcement with enforcement of other traffic violations. As indicated by the data, occupants are less likely to be restrained in crashes that involve the high risk behaviors such as speeding and drinking and driving. These combined efforts provide more opportunities to increase the perception of the risk of receiving a seat belt ticket and can increase the overall productivity of enforcement efforts. For example, combining seat belt enforcement with a DWI checkpoint provides an opportunity to conduct nighttime seat belt enforcement and make more efficient use of resources. A combined enforcement approach enables agencies to conduct sustained enforcement of seat belt use as well as other traffic violations.

*For supporting research, refer to the discussion of Short High-Visibility Belt Law Enforcement, pp. 2-17 to 2-19; Combined Enforcement, Nighttime, pp. 2-20 and 2-21; and Sustained Enforcement, p. 2-22 in Countermeasures That Work, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2013.*

## **Communications and Outreach**

### **Support for Enforcement Efforts**

High visibility communications and outreach are essential for an effective seat belt enforcement program. The publicity generated from earned and paid media coverage of enforcement efforts raises public awareness and the perception of risk of receiving a ticket resulting in greater compliance among all motorists. GTSC will continue to support communications, outreach and other public information and education efforts to publicize high visibility enforcement campaigns including those that are directed at the general population in the state and those that target specific groups, such as young drivers, that have been identified as high-risk, low compliance segments of the population.

### **Education of the General Public and High-Risk Groups**

Efforts to educate the public about the importance and correct use of occupant restraints, including seat belts, booster seats and child safety restraints, will also help to promote greater compliance and will continue to be supported. Examples include informational displays at popular venues such as the New York State Fair, the use of Convincer trailers and Rollover simulators to demonstrate to various groups the importance of seat belt use in crashes and special activities for young drivers such as “Battle of the Belts” competitions. These types of educational activities will also be directed toward the general public as well as specific groups identified as having low usage rates, including minority, rural, low income and special needs populations. The involvement of groups such as medical personnel, educators and law enforcement who regularly interact with the public and are in a position to assist with these educational efforts will continue to be encouraged.

*For supporting research, refer to the discussion of Communications and Outreach Supporting Enforcement, p. 2-23 and Communications and Outreach Strategies for Low-Belt-Use Groups, pp. 2-24 to 2-26 in Countermeasures That Work, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2013.*

## **CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY**

The safety of young children riding in vehicles is the second major focus of New York’s Occupant Protection program. The emphasis in this area is on educating parents and caregivers of children from



infants through “tweens” on the importance of using a child restraint system that is appropriate for the child’s size and age, as well as providing instruction on how to properly install child restraints in vehicles. The use of an appropriate child restraint system that is correctly installed is an important countermeasure for reducing fatalities and reducing the severity of injuries suffered by young passengers in crashes.

The GTSC makes funding available for local projects that provide education and services through its Child Passenger Safety (CPS) mini-grant program. Mini-grants are available in the following categories: Child Passenger Safety Inspection Stations; CPS Awareness Classes; Child Safety Seat Check Events; and Child Safety Seat Distribution Programs. The applicants for these grant funds must identify the target population they are addressing supported by data and other documentation and provide an action plan. Local programs must demonstrate that they are providing CPS services that meet the needs of all families within their jurisdictions, including those that may require special attention due to language and cultural differences. The GTSC awarded a total of 193 CPS grants throughout the state in FFY 2014.

## **Communications and Outreach**

In FFY 2015, New York will continue to develop and implement public information and education activities that extend into every county in the state. Updated information on child passenger safety issues will be disseminated using various communication channels already established and new delivery methods that may be identified. The GTSC will continue to support and coordinate a statewide public information and education campaign providing educational materials and media messages on the importance of child safety seat, booster seat, and seat belt use; the correct installation and use of the various systems; the types of restraint systems that are appropriate for children of different ages, height and weight; and the importance of having children age 12 and under ride in the rear seat. Educational materials related to booster seats and the most recent changes in the law will continue to be distributed by state and local agencies and coalitions to increase public awareness of the new occupant protection requirements for children through age seven.

CPS mini-grants will continue to be available to local agencies to conduct CPS Awareness Classes that offer educational programs on child passenger safety issues and how to transport children safely to various types of groups including expectant parents, child care providers, and members of minority communities. CPS technicians will also be encouraged to provide CPS awareness classes to members of the public health and medical communities, fire and other emergency response personnel, preschool bus drivers, other school bus drivers, and social service programs. Educating and training members of the various groups that are in regular contact with the public ensures that child passenger safety information will be disseminated throughout every region of the state and to a cross-section of the population within each region. A total of 41 agencies received FFY 2014 grant funding to conduct CPS awareness classes.

In addition to these local programs, the GTSC funds a number of efforts that improve communication and outreach on a statewide basis. A GTSC staff member serves as New York’s CPS Coordinator and works with the CPS Advisory Board and its regional representatives to provide guidance and support for the statewide CPS network and coordination of statewide events such as National Seat Check Saturday held during national Child Passenger Safety Week.

*For supporting research, refer to the discussions of Communications and Outreach Strategies for Older Children, p. 2-31 and Communications and Outreach Strategies for Booster Seat Use, p. 2-32 in Countermeasures That Work, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2013.*



## Recruitment and Training of Child Passenger Safety Technicians

The ability to provide the necessary education and instruction for parents and caregivers requires the availability of a large pool of persons with the training, knowledge, and skills to identify when a child safety seat is installed incorrectly, determine the correct installation for the seat, and demonstrate the proper installation, including the use of the LATCH system, to parents and other caregivers.

In order to build and sustain an active network of certified technicians, New York's CPS program provides support for the delivery of standardized CPS training courses for new technicians, as well as update classes that meet requirements for recertification. In addition, CPS technicians are able to earn continuing education credits toward their recertification by attending the workshops presented at the Regional Child Passenger Safety Technical and Training Conferences that rotate among New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Although not mandated, technicians are strongly urged to participate in a minimum of three seat check events each year or to spend 18 hours installing child safety seats in other settings. Technicians are also encouraged to attend additional training that will enable them to work with special populations such as children with special needs. In addition to providing one-on-one instruction in the correct installation and use of child safety seats, the presentation of child passenger safety awareness classes to groups of parents, grandparents, caregivers and others who transport children is another important educational activity supported by New York's CPS program.



The GTSC funds a number of efforts that improve communication and outreach and ensure that an active network of trained technicians is maintained in New York. GTSC's [www.safeny.ny.gov](http://www.safeny.ny.gov) website is used to communicate information to the general public regarding the use of child safety seats and where to obtain services in their local areas. The website also is the major source for information for CPS technicians on upcoming training programs and other events.

*Justification: The recruitment and training of a large network of certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians is essential for the successful implementation of the evidence-based strategies for improving child passenger safety included in New York's Occupant Protection program. Further justification is NHTSA's requirement that States provide a description of their plan to recruit, train and maintain a sufficient number of Child Passenger Safety Technicians as a criterion for the receipt of Section 405c Occupant Protection grant funds.*

## Child Safety Seat Inspection Stations

Through its mini-grant program the GTSC will continue to support the active network of child safety seat inspection stations that has been maintained in New York for the past several years. These inspection stations which are located in fire stations, police stations, hospitals and other permanent locations, offer information and instruction on the appropriate restraint system to use based on the age and size of the child and the proper installation of that restraint. Currently, there is at least one inspection station in 60 of the state's 62 counties; Westchester County has the greatest number of inspection stations with 19. In FFY 2014, the GTSC awarded 159 mini-grants for the operation of inspection stations. To receive funding, grantees must have certified technicians available to staff the inspection station during the

hours of operation. CPS grant funds can also be used for mobile fitting stations which are used to bring CPS services to families residing in the more rural areas in the state. The use of mobile fitting stations expands the coverage of the state's child passenger safety program into areas where access to CPS education and instruction was previously lacking.

*For supporting research, refer to the discussion of Inspection Stations, p. 2-35 in [Countermeasures That Work](#), 7<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2013.*

### **Car Seat Check Events**

Another type of program that increases access to instruction on the proper installation of child safety seats are seat check events. These events are also an opportunity to educate parents on the need for booster seats for children up to eight years of age. The trend in New York State has been to conduct fewer car seat check events, but to conduct them with increased publicity. Agencies applying for funding under GTSC's mini-grant program are encouraged to conduct events in rural areas, in low-income communities and in areas with diverse populations and to ensure the events are well-publicized. In FFY 2014, 135 agencies were approved to conduct car seat check events. In FFY 2015, the GTSC will continue to support child safety seat check events through its mini grant program.

*For supporting research, refer to the discussions of Communications and Outreach Strategies for Booster Seat Use, p. 2-32 and Inspection Stations, p. 2-35 in [Countermeasures That Work](#), 7<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2013.*

### **Child Safety Seat Distribution and Education Programs**

Programs that provide child safety seats to low income families will also continue to be supported in FFY 2015. Only agencies that work directly with low-income families, such as health departments, hospitals, childcare councils or social service departments, are eligible to apply. Applicants for funding must have a certified CPS Technician on staff to conduct the program. The CPS Technician is required to conduct a 60-90 minute educational component and demonstrate the installation of the appropriate child restraint system for each person requesting a child safety seat. In addition, income eligibility requirements must be met to receive a free child safety seat. In FFY 2014, 56 agencies in New York State were awarded funding to operate a child safety seat distribution and education program

*For supporting research, refer to the discussion of Child Restraint Distribution Programs, p. 2-34 in [Countermeasures That Work](#), 7<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2013.*

### **Research, Evaluation and Analytical Support for New York's Performance-Based Occupant Protection Program**

Funding will be provided for the preparation of statistical reports and other analyses used to identify trends in seat belt use and the characteristics and factors associated with noncompliance with the seat belt law, and other types of research, evaluation and analytical support required for New York's Occupant Protection program.

#### **Statewide Observation Survey of Seat Belt Use**

Funding will be provided for the implementation of the annual seat belt observational survey conducted in accordance with new uniform criteria established by NHTSA. The project will include the recruitment,

training and field supervision of data collectors, the selection and scheduling of survey sites, the preparation of all survey materials including maps, data collection forms and instructions for conducting observations of seat belt use, data entry and analysis and the preparation of the final report.

*Justification: Research, evaluation and data analysis are essential components of a successful performance-based highway safety program. These activities support problem identification, the selection of performance measures for tracking progress, and the selection of evidence-based, data-driven strategies that will contribute to the achievement of the state's performance goals. States are required to conduct annual statewide observation surveys in order to collect the data needed to track the core behavioral measure, the statewide seat belt use rate.*

<b>OCCUPANT PROTECTION FFY 2015 BUDGET SUMMARY</b>		
<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Budget Amount</b>	<b>Source</b>
Seat Belt Enforcement	\$ 2,400,000	MAP-21 402/405b
Communications and Outreach	820,000	405b
Child Passenger Safety Communications and Outreach	840,000	405b
Recruitment and Training of CPS Technicians	520,000	405b
Child Safety Seat Inspection Stations	600,000	405b
Car Seat Check Events	600,000	405b
Child Safety Seat Distribution and Education Programs	1,400,000	405b
Research, Evaluation and Analytical Support for New York's Performance-Based Occupant Protection Program	20,000	405b
<b>Total MAP-21 402</b>	<b>400,000</b>	
<b>Total MAP-21 405b Occupant Protection</b>	<b>6,800,000</b>	
<b>Total All Funds</b>	<b>\$ 7,200,000</b>	

# TRAFFIC RECORDS



## Overview

The extensive use of performance-based program planning by agencies and organizations involved in traffic safety at all jurisdictional levels requires access to a variety of traffic records data. Changes in demographics, traffic patterns and conditions of the highway infrastructure at both the state and local levels present a significant challenge to the state's highway safety community in identifying the nature and location of traffic safety problems. To develop appropriate countermeasures that meet these challenges, traffic safety professionals need data on crashes and injuries, arrests and convictions for traffic violations, drivers and vehicles involved in crashes, and roadway attributes. The need for accurate and timely data, together with an ever increasing need for data analysis support, is being addressed vigorously by New York through major improvements in the way it maintains and uses its traffic records systems.

The Governor's Traffic Safety Committee (GTSC) plays the central role in the coordination of the multiple components of New York's traffic records program. New York's *2012-2015 Traffic Safety Information Systems Strategic Plan* reflects the importance the state continues to place on improving the state's traffic records systems. Developed by GTSC with the assistance of the Institute for Traffic Safety Management and Research (ITSMR) and the state's Traffic Records Coordinating Council (TRCC), the *2012-2015 NYS Traffic Safety Information Systems Strategic Plan* provides an opportunity for New York to continue to make further improvements in its traffic records systems supporting the decision-making process for highway safety managers in New York State.

During the past three years, significant progress has been attained under the plan with regard to the state's major traffic records systems, especially its crash and citation/adjudication systems. Updated annually in spring 2012, 2013 and 2014, the strategic plan is designed to ensure that progress continues in the coming year.

The estimated highway safety funds budgeted by GTSC for each traffic records strategy are presented in the table on page 78. The funds and other resources GTSC invests to improve the state's traffic records systems are complemented by a number of other federal, state, local and private sector activities. While a real dollar amount cannot be accurately estimated for the contributions of each of the partners involved in the implementation of traffic records improvements, the most significant sources of funding, programming and in-kind support that assist in achieving the performance goals established in the HSSP are the NYS Department of Motor Vehicles, the NYS Department of Transportation, the New York State Police and the NYS Department of Health that maintain and house the state's major systems.

## Status of FFY 2014 Performance Targets

The key performance measures used to monitor progress in this area focus on the timeliness of the crash and citation/adjudication data. With respect to the crash data, the performance measure is the mean number of days from the date a crash occurs to the date the crash report is entered into the AIS (Accident Information System) database. With regard to the citation and adjudication data, the

performances measures are the 1) mean number of days from the date a citation is issued to the date the citation is entered into the TSLED database, and 2) mean number of days from the date of charge disposition to the date the charge disposition is entered into TSLED. The following performance targets were set in the FFY 2014 Highway Safety Strategic Plan:

- ❖ To reduce the mean number of days from the date a crash occurs to the date the crash report is entered into the AIS (Accident Information System) database from 49 days in 2012 (July-Dec) to 33 days in 2014 (July-Dec)
- ❖ To reduce the mean number of days from the date a citation is issued to the date the citation is entered into the TSLED database from 17 days in 2012 (July-Dec) to 12 days in 2014 (July-Dec)
- ❖ To reduce the mean number of days from the date of charge disposition to the date the charge disposition is entered into TSLED from 29 days in 2012 (July-Dec) to 25 days in 2014 (July-Dec)

The targets set above were based on the same time periods as the targets set in the previous few years. However, after the above targets were established for FFY 2014, NHTSA issued guidelines that revised the comparative duration periods (baseline and performance periods) that states were to use in measuring progress. As a result, in spring 2014, analyses of these three measures of timeliness were recomputed using the new duration periods defined by NHTSA. The results of those analyses using the revised comparative time periods are presented below.

<b>CRASH AND CITATION/ADJUDICATION INFORMATION SYSTEMS</b>		
<b>PERFORMANCE TARGETS</b>		
<b>Performance Attributes &amp; Measures</b>	<b>Baseline Period April 1, 2012- March 31, 2013</b>	<b>Performance Period April 1, 2013- March 31, 2014</b>
<b>Crash Information System (AIS)</b>		
<b>Timeliness</b>		
Mean # of days from crash date to date crash report is entered into AIS	47.16 days	42.65 days
<b>TSLED System</b>		
<b>Timeliness – Citations</b>		
Mean # of days from citation date to date citation is entered into TSLED database	25.80 days	23.64 days
<b>Timeliness –Adjudication</b>		
Mean # of days from date of charge disposition to date charge disposition is entered into TSLED database	32.86 days	32.74 days

As shown in the table above, progress has been made between the baseline and performance periods with regard to the timeliness of the AIS crash and TSLED citation data. The mean number of days from the date of the crash to the date the crash report was entered into AIS dropped from 47 days in the 12-month baseline period of April 1, 2012-March 31, 2013 to under 43 days in the 12-month performance period April 1, 2013-March 31, 2014. Based on the same baseline and performance time periods, the mean number of days from the date a citation was issued until it was entered into the TSLED system dropped from 26 days to 24 days, while the mean number of days from the date of charge disposition

until it was entered into TSLED remained unchanged (33 days). The progress noted in the timeliness of the AIS crash and TSLED citation data is due in large part to traffic records improvement projects conducted over the past several years with Section 408, Section 402 and Section 405c funding.

## Problem Identification

To identify opportunities for improvement, the status of each of the state's core traffic safety data systems (crashes, citations/adjudication, drivers, injury surveillance, vehicles and roadways) is reviewed annually. Under the auspices of the TRCC, each system is reviewed with regard to the six attributes of timeliness, accuracy, completeness, uniformity, integration and accessibility. The key findings from the review conducted during the period January-March 2014 with respect to the six attributes are summarized below.

### Crash Information System

New York's primary crash information system is the Accident Information System (AIS) maintained by the DMV. With few exceptions, the AIS file contains records of all police-reported motor vehicle crashes and all crashes reported to the DMV by motorists involved in crashes. The file captures all of the data elements found in the police accident report form (MV-104A) and the motorist report form (MV-104).

- ❖ **Timeliness:** The mean number of days from the crash date to the date the crash report is entered into AIS decreased from 47.16 days in the baseline period (April 1, 2012-March 31, 2013) to 42.65 days in the performance period (April 1, 2013-March 31, 2014).
- ❖ **Accuracy:** The upgrades implemented in ALIS over the past two years continue to result in improvements related to being able to accurately locate crashes. Further improvements would be realized if all police agencies using TraCS would use the locator tool within TraCS.
- ❖ **Completeness:** The crash report forms collect a large volume of data on all reportable crashes which are then entered into AIS. Currently, the AIS captures only the non-reportable crashes that are submitted electronically by the police. Prior to 2013, NYSDOT's SIMS system captured a small number of data fields on the non-reportable crashes not captured by AIS; however, this is no longer being done due to a lack of funding. Also with regard to completeness, efforts are continuing to increase the percentage of crash records that have no missing data in the critical data element of *roadway type*. In 2013, 8.75% of the records had the *roadway type* missing, up slightly from 8.58% in 2012.
- ❖ **Uniformity:** Uniformity of the crash data is enhanced through the ongoing effort to expand the electronic capture of crash data, the use of a uniform crash report form throughout the state and adherence to a majority of the MMUCC data elements. Based on the MMUCC Guideline, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition (2012), New York adheres to 81% (89 of 110) of the MMUCC data elements.
- ❖ **Integration:** Although crash records can be linked to DMV's license file and selected DOT files, linking to the DMV registration file cannot be done with precision.
- ❖ **Accessibility:** Although access to the data is provided to users through a series of statistical reports that are compiled at least annually and put on the DMV and GTSC web sites, users outside of the DMV do not have direct access to the AIS database. A project is currently being funded under Section 405c that will give the public direct access to crash data via the Internet.



## Citation/Adjudication Information Systems

The New York State Department of Motor Vehicles maintains the state's two primary citation and adjudication information systems: 1) Traffic Safety Law Enforcement & Disposition System (TSLED) and 2) Administrative Adjudication System (AA). The TSLED system tracks tickets from the time they are printed to their final disposition, recording data and providing management information to police agencies and the courts. TSLED covers all areas of the state, with the exception of New York City and the cities of Buffalo and Rochester which are covered under the AA system. The AA system similarly records traffic citation data but is also used to schedule hearings and account for the collection of traffic fines and surcharges. One uniform traffic ticket is used by both the TSLED and AA systems.

- ❖ **Timeliness:** With respect to TSLED, the mean number of days from the citation date to the date the citation is entered into the TSLED database dropped from 26 days in the 12-month time period of April 1, 2012-March 31, 2013 to 24 days in the 12-month time period of April 1, 2013-March 31, 2014. Based on the same 12-month time periods, the mean number of days from the date of charge disposition to the date the charge disposition is entered into TSLED database remained the same (33 days).

With respect to the Administrative Adjudication (AA) system, although the ticket data are generally available on the system within 3 days of being received by DMV from the police agency, there is a longer time lag between the date the ticket is issued and it is forwarded by the police agency to the DMV. As a result, the mean number of days from the citation date to the date the citation is entered into the AA database dropped from 30 days in the 12-month time period of April 1, 2012-March 31, 2013 to 24 days in the 12-month time period of April 1, 2013-March 31, 2014. This issue is being addressed with the implementation of the electronic capture and transfer of ticket data from the NYPD to the DMV; a pilot test of this process is currently underway.

- ❖ **Accuracy:** The accuracy of both systems could be further improved with the implementation of additional edit checks during the data entry process.
- ❖ **Completeness:** Although the AA and TSLED systems use the same uniform ticket to collect the same data, the AA system does not enter all the same information collected as TSLED.
- ❖ **Integration:** Although the AA data can be integrated with data from other DMV files, there is a lack of comparability between TSLED and the AA systems that needs to be addressed.
- ❖ **Accessibility:** Direct access to the TSLED database is restricted to internal DMV data users. For external users, access to the data is provided through a series of monthly and annual statistical reports compiled by the DMV, with assistance from the Institute for Traffic Safety Management and Research, and available on either the DMV or GTSC web sites.

With respect to the accessibility of the Administrative Adjudication system, the system provides E-plea capability for customers and allows motorists to use major credit cards to pay fines and administrative surcharges on-line. The system also enables attorneys to schedule/reschedule tickets on their client's behalf and provides them with a calendar system to manage their cases. Direct access to the raw data, however, is available only to internal DMV users. The DMV generates a variety of reports to provide outside users needed data from the system.



## Driver Information Systems

The core driver information system in New York is the Driver License File maintained by the DMV. It provides detailed information for all drivers who are licensed in New York State and limited information for unlicensed or out-of-state drivers who have been convicted of a moving traffic violation or been involved in a motor vehicle crash in the state.

- ❖ **Timeliness:** Although many updates to the file are still done in batch mode overnight, DMV has converted many of the processes to a “real-time” basis. Efforts are being continued to convert additional processes to “real-time” but progress is affected by the fact that some data entry systems are very antiquated and have not been addressed due to intervening priorities.
- ❖ **Accuracy:** The DMV has a strong identification/authentication process (conducted daily) for clients who are issued a driver’s license, which helps ensure the accuracy of the data by eliminating multiple records that exist for some drivers. Accuracy could be further improved by reducing the delays that occur in being notified of drivers who have died, which reflects the difficulty of linking the license file with the DOH’s paper-based vital statistics (death) file.
- ❖ **Accessibility:** Electronic access to the Driver License File is limited to selected users, with access to the data being provided in compliance with the federal DPPA.

## Injury Surveillance Information Systems

The New York State Department of Health is the repository agency for the state’s two core injury surveillance systems: 1) Pre-Hospital [Patient] Care Report (PCR) and 2) Crash Outcome Data Evaluation System (CODES).

The Pre-Hospital [Patient] Care Report (PCR) captures data using a mix of standardized paper and electronic formats. Designed to capture data from pre-hospital care reports (PCRs) that are submitted by the state’s emergency medical technicians (EMTs), it contains data on patient demographics and care, provider demographics and response times, and the destination of where the person was transported.

CODES is a database that is created by integrating data from individual records from the DMV’s AIS file to the DOH’s hospital and emergency department discharge databases and Pre-Hospital [Patient] Care Report (PCR) database. The CODES database is used to conduct studies that examine injuries and their associated medical costs in selected types of crashes.

- ❖ **Timeliness:** Because a large volume of PCRs come into DOH in paper format, there continues to be a significant delay in getting data into the existing DOH internal electronic repository. The latest year for which a complete set of PCR data is available is 2008. With regard to CODES, the latest year for which New York has linked crash, medical and financial outcome data is 2012.
- ❖ **Accuracy & Completeness:** The accuracy and completeness of the PCR data need improvement. Since the EMT’s first responsibility is to treat the patient, the form is often not filled out until later which results in many data fields being left blank. Another issue involves the fact that the regional data entry contractors only have to edit a subset of the data fields contained on the report form. With respect to the CODES file, a series of logic checks has been built into the system to improve the accuracy of the data.

- ❖ **Uniformity:** Uniformity of the PCR data is addressed through its capture of all 82 required NEMSIS compliant data elements. Since the CODES crash data are obtained from the AIS, uniformity is obtained through the use of a uniform crash report form throughout the state and adherence to a majority of the MMUCC data elements. Based on the MMUCC Guideline, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition (2012), New York adheres to 81% (89 of 110) of the MMUCC data elements.
- ❖ **Integration:** The PCR and Trauma Registry databases cannot be easily and automatically linked/integrated together or with other DOH databases. Linkage could be improved by developing standards for the collection and submittal of PCR and Trauma Registry data in an electronic platform that is consistent with national standards (NEMSIS and National Trauma Data Bank-NTDB). CODES can link crash, pre-hospital care, emergency department, and hospitalization data sets using probability match techniques. However, it is unable to link 100 percent of the individuals involved in crashes, since DMV collects relatively limited data on vehicle passengers.
- ❖ **Accessibility:** While CODES linked data are available on the DOH website, direct access to PCR data will continue to be limited until the online repository for PCR data is completed.

## Vehicle Information Systems

The DMV is the repository agency for the state's core vehicle data system, the Vehicle Registration File. The Vehicle Registration File contains a record of every registered vehicle in New York and a history of that registration. The registration file contains approximately 30 million records, of which approximately 12 million are active. The file is sorted by name, DOB, and gender of registrant, plate number, and class of registration; a complementary plate index file is used to access the registration file using the plate number.

- ❖ **Accuracy:** Even though issues related to the quality and integrity of the data are addressed through the use of procedures and programs that control the data input process, and through the use of address verification software, the system lacks the ability to always distinguish between slight variations in a given person's name, which can result in a motorist re-registering a vehicle for which the registration has been revoked.
- ❖ **Integration:** DMV has the ability to link the registration file with the inspection and insurance files, but cannot link it with the IRP system or with precision to records in the AIS file.

## Roadway Information Systems

The New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) is the repository agency for the Roadway Inventory System (RIS), the state's core roadway data system. The RIS is an Oracle-based database application which contains data on highway features and characteristics, including data on roadway type and physical characteristics, access, functional class, pavement condition, and traffic volumes.

- ❖ **Accuracy:** While much of the data on highway attributes are accurate and consistent over time, there are errors in the data related to reference markers.
- ❖ **Completeness:** In addition to errors in the reference marker data, many of the reference markers are missing.

- ❖ **Uniformity:** Uniformity in the data collected for state and local roads is lacking as localities collect only those local road data that are useful to them, compared to a more comprehensive set of data collected for state roads.
- ❖ **Integration:** The current process to link highway features and traffic data with the crash data in SIMS is a cumbersome manual process.
- ❖ **Accessibility:** Users cannot query the database directly; access is available through a data warehouse using a tool known as Business Objects. To conduct analyses, data need to be exported to an Excel file or other flat file format. The ability to use a GIS component to graphically display roadway elements is limited to the 27,000 miles of state routes and Federal Aid eligible roads out of the total population of approximately 114,000 miles of public roads.

## FFY 2015 Performance Targets

- ❖ To reduce the mean number of days from the date a crash occurs to the date the crash report is entered into the AIS (Accident Information System) database from the baseline of 42.65 days (April 1, 2013-March 31, 2014) to 38.39 days (April 1, 2014-March 31, 2015).
- ❖ To reduce the mean number of days from the date a citation is issued to the date the citation is entered into the TSLED database from the baseline of 23.64 days (April 1, 2013-March 31, 2014) to 21.28 days (April 1, 2014-March 31, 2015).
- ❖ To reduce the mean number of days from the date of charge disposition to the date the charge disposition is entered into TSLED from the baseline of 32.74 days (April 1, 2013-March 31, 2014) to 31.10 days (April 1, 2014-March 31, 2015).
- ❖ To reduce the mean number of days from the date a citation is issued to the date the citation is entered into the AA database from the baseline of 23.58 days (April 1, 2013-March 31, 2014) to 22.41 days (April 1, 2014-March 31, 2015).

## FFY 2015 Performance Measures

- ❖ Mean number of days from crash date to date crash report is entered into AIS database
- ❖ Mean number of days from citation date to date citation is entered into the TSLED database
- ❖ Mean number of days from date of charge disposition to date charge disposition is entered into TSLED database
- ❖ Mean number of days from citation date to date citation is entered into the AA database

## Strategies

New York has identified a comprehensive set of strategies that collectively will enable the state to reach the performance targets for the Traffic Records program area. Described below, these strategies reflect the findings from the work undertaken by the state's TRCC over the past several months to prepare the FFY 2015 Update to the *2012-2015 Traffic Safety Information Systems Strategic Plan*. The projects to be considered for Traffic Records grant funding are included in the list of proposed projects in Appendix A.

## **Statewide Coordination of Traffic Records Systems Improvements**

The GTSC will continue to coordinate efforts with other agencies and sources of funding to complete projects that improve traffic records systems, files and programs. Upon approval of New York's application for FFY 2015 Section 405c incentive funds, implementation of the final year of the state's *2012-2015 Traffic Safety Information Systems Strategic Plan* will begin.

## **Electronic Capture and Transmittal of Crash and Ticket Data**

Efforts to expand the number of agencies that collect and transmit crash and ticket data electronically to the DMV will continue in FFY 2015. As of March 2014, 457 police agencies are using TraCS, including all of the State Police Troops. With the on-going support of the GTSC, the use of TraCS will continue to expand throughout the state to county and local police agencies in the coming year. In addition, the New York City Police Department will continue to receive GTSC's support in its efforts to implement an electronic data collection and transmittal system in FFY 2015. The GTSC will also continue discussions with other police agencies, as appropriate, to support their ability to collect and transmit data electronically through other systems.

In FFY 2015, the GTSC will continue to fund efforts to provide technical support to local enforcement agencies participating in TraCS. The primary objective of these efforts is to ensure that the agencies that have been equipped with TraCS software and hardware are collecting and transmitting their crash and ticket data electronically.

Through the use of state-of-the-art technology, the data entry of police crash reports and traffic tickets from the field and court adjudication reports directly from the courts will continue to be supported in FFY 2015. Support will also be provided for the development or modification of software for crash reports and traffic ticket systems and the purchase of equipment, such as laptop computers, printers, and bar code and magnetic strip readers.

In FFY 2015, the GTSC will continue to support the DMV's efforts to expedite the receipt of motorist crash reports electronically. This effort involves making the current version of the motorist report (MV-104) available online for electronic submission to DMV. The ability to file the MV-104 with the DMV electronically will 1) increase compliance and data completeness with regard to property damage only crashes, 2) improve the accuracy and completeness of the data provided through user entry edits, and 3) improve the efficiency and timeliness of processing cases in AIS.

## **Initiatives to Improve the Crash and Citation/Adjudication Systems**

In FFY 2015, initiatives conducted by the DMV and other agencies at both the state and local levels will continue to improve the DMV's crash and citation/adjudication information systems. Although the process of capturing non-reportable crashes by NYSDOT's SIMS system was suspended in 2013 due to a lack of funding, NYSDOT is evaluating the benefits of reinstating the capture of these reports using the services of the NYS Department of Corrections. At the point in 2013 when the capture of data on non-reportable crashes was suspended, the 2011 and a portion of the 2012 non-reportable crash reports had been processed and loaded into SIMS.

Identifying the location of crashes is an important factor in improving enforcement, engineering and EMS efforts throughout the state. Under Section 408 funding, NYSDOT is continuing to conduct its *ALIS/SIMS Data Products* project. This project is designed to collect sufficient information from the field

and other resources to create an accurate representation of the state's current roadway reference markers and update the SIMS database. This project will continue to be supported by GTSC in FFY 2015.

Two additional initiatives will continue to be supported in FFY 2015. One is the project *Development of Crash Database for Public Use Via the Internet*; this project involves the design and development of a web-based crash data repository that can be accessed via the Internet by users for research and data analysis purposes. The second initiative is a project that provides supplemental funding to DMV to maintain the staffing levels needed to process fatal crash data into the FARS system in a timely manner.

### **Improvement of Roadway Data Systems**

Recognizing that the systematic upgrade of the state's roadway data information systems is key to initiating countermeasures which help reduce crashes and their severity, NYSDOT continues to make improvements in its various roadway data files. In providing more accurate, consistent, timely and accessible roadway-related information, NYSDOT's roadway data systems are used to assist in the identification of problem locations, the determination of the most appropriate type(s) of improvement, and the prioritization of sites for planned improvements. In FFY 2015, the GTSC will continue to fund a project being conducted to link the SIMS database with RIS, which will provide more accurate and complete location and roadway data for analysis purposes.

### **Development and Use of Data Linkages**

The state's traffic safety community's ability to identify problems and develop effective countermeasures is enhanced by the comprehensive information that is often only available through the linkage of data and data files. Continued improvements in data linkages will enhance the development of program initiatives that focus on specific population sub-groups and permit the examination of costs associated with crashes. During the coming year, the GTSC will continue to support efforts to link data which reside in different data systems, including information about the driver, vehicle, type of crash, location of crash, types of injuries, types of medical care received, and the associated costs. During the coming year, the GTSC will continue to support efforts to enhance the NYS DOH's CODES database. These efforts will include a project to link the NYS Trauma Registry data with the CODES database.

### **Use of Technology to Disseminate Information**

The GTSC's Internet website continues to be a major medium for disseminating information on new developments in traffic safety, research programs and other topics. The website and other technologies, such as podcasts, are important in the communication of data, training and educational messages, and public information relating to highway safety programs that will benefit all of the GTSC's customers and partners, as well as the general public. Efforts to expand the communication capabilities and resources of the traffic safety community will continue to be supported.

### **Research and Evaluation**

Research and evaluation are essential components of the highway safety planning process, and a variety of research and evaluation initiatives will be supported at both the state and local levels. Competing interests and finite resources make it imperative that there be a consistent, systematic process of problem identification and prioritization. Research will support the development, implementation and evaluation of new initiatives in conjunction with the state's 402 grant program.

Projects that support the collection and analyses of data related to the various areas of traffic safety will be supported. Such projects would involve the extraction, compilation and analysis of data from the state's large database systems, including the DMV's crash, citation/adjudication and driver license

databases and the NYSDOT's SIMS and SAFETYNET databases. In addition, projects that provide data analytic services needed by the DMV and the GTSC and their highway safety partners will be supported. Projects that provide analytical support to traffic safety agencies and organizations at all jurisdictional levels, including support for the collection, analysis and reporting of data, will be eligible for funding. Initiatives to provide training and technical assistance in the use of the state's traffic records systems will also be supported.

<b>TRAFFIC RECORDS FFY 2015 BUDGET SUMMARY</b>		
<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Budget Amount</b>	<b>Source</b>
Statewide Coordination of Traffic Records Systems Improvements	\$ 880,000	MAP-21 402
Electronic Capture and Transmittal of Crash & Ticket Data	3,780,000	408(K9)/405c
Initiatives to Improve the Crash and Citation/Adjudication Systems	2,720,000	408(K9)/405c
Improvement of Roadway Data Systems	2,100,000	MAP-21 402/405c
Development and Use of Data Linkages	1,200,000	MAP-21 402/405c
Use of Technology to Disseminate Information	1,420,000	MAP-21 402/405c
Research and Evaluation	2,000,000	MAP-21 402
<b>Total MAP-21 402</b>	<b>4,000,000</b>	
<b>Total 408 Data Programs SAFETY-LU</b>	<b>1,700,000</b>	
<b>Total MAP-21 405c</b>	<b>8,400,000</b>	
<b>Total All Funds</b>	<b>\$ 14,100,000</b>	

# COMMUNITY TRAFFIC SAFETY PROGRAMS

## Overview

Community Traffic Safety Programs are designed to be comprehensive in nature, with opportunities for outreach to a broad spectrum of groups within local areas. Agencies and organizations at the local level are the most knowledgeable about the traffic safety problems in their jurisdictions and are in the best position to develop programs to address those issues. Some of the highway safety issues that counties and other local jurisdictions are encouraged to integrate into their local programs stem from state level initiatives including outreach programs for younger drivers, older drivers and the many diverse populations residing in the state.

The Governor's Traffic Safety Committee (GTSC) plays the central role in the coordination of local traffic safety programs with state priorities so that collectively the community traffic safety programs that are funded contribute to the achievement of the statewide and program area performance targets set in the HSSP. The estimated highway safety funds budgeted for each strategy included in this program area are presented in the table on page 88.

The funds and other resources GTSC invests in community traffic safety programs are complemented by a number of other federal, state, local and private sector activities. While a real dollar amount cannot be accurately estimated for the contributions of each of the partners involved in these programs, the most significant sources of funding, programming and in-kind support that assists in achieving the performance goals established in the HSSP are listed below:

- County Traffic Safety Boards
- NYS Department of Health (NYSDOH)
- NYS Education Department (NYSED)
- NYS Department of Transportation
- New York State Police
- NYS Association of Chiefs of Police
- Safe Kids Coalitions
- American Automobile Association (AAA)
- National Safety Council
- Ford Foundation
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

## Status of FFY 2014 Performance Target

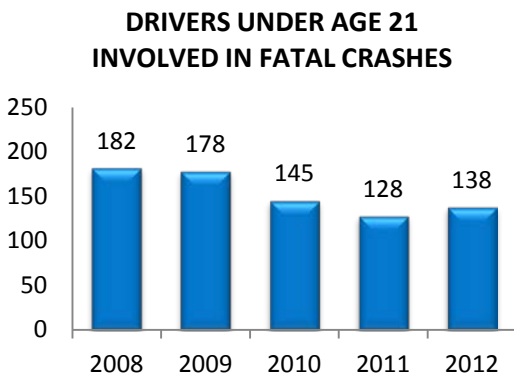
The core outcome measure for tracking progress in the Community Traffic Safety Programs program area is drivers under age 21 involved in fatal crashes. The following performance target was set in the FFY 2014 Highway Safety Strategic Plan:

- ❖ To decrease drivers age 20 and younger involved in fatal crashes 10 percent from 127 (preliminary FARS number) in 2011 to 114 by December 31, 2014

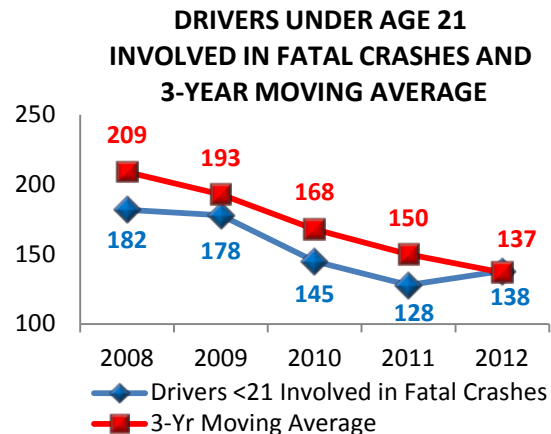
The downward trend in the number of drivers under age 21 involved in fatal crashes between 2008 and 2011 ended in 2012. Based on the most recent FARS data, 138 drivers under 21 were involved in fatal



crashes in 2012, ten more than the previous year. As a result, the target of 114 set in the 2014 HSSP may be difficult to achieve by December 31, 2014. FARS data for 2013 are not yet available to update this measure.



Source: FARS



Source: FARS

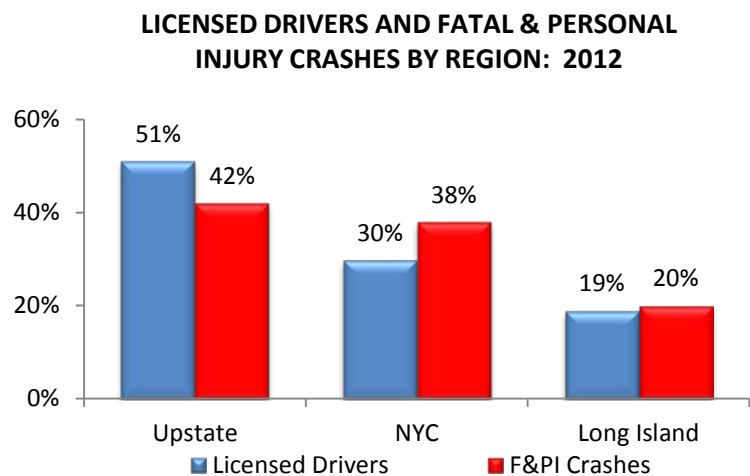
## Problem Identification

Additional data analyses were conducted to assist GTSC in setting priorities for the Community Traffic Safety Programs area and selecting data-driven countermeasure strategies and projects that will enable the state to achieve its performance goals. The key findings from the problem identification component are presented in this section.

### Analyses by Region

In 2012, the largest proportion (42%) of fatal and personal injury crashes occurred in the Upstate region, followed by New York City (38%), and Long Island (20%).

Compared to the proportion of licensed drivers in each of the regions, New York City is overrepresented in fatal and personal injury crashes (38% vs. 30% of the licensed drivers) while the Upstate region is underrepresented (42% vs. 51% of licensed drivers).



Sources: NYS AIS and Driver License File

### Analyses by County

As demonstrated in the analyses presented in other program areas, the priority assigned to different traffic safety issues can vary among the regions. For example, the data show that a greater emphasis on pedestrian safety countermeasures is needed in the downstate areas than upstate. Traffic safety priorities can also differ among individual counties. Local communities applying for grant funding in this program area must provide data documenting the traffic safety issues they plan to address. A number of sources, including extensive county data reports prepared annually by the Institute for Traffic Safety

Management and Research, are made available to assist local communities in identifying and documenting their traffic safety problems. The table below provides 2012 population and licensed driver data for New York State and each county within the state, as well as 2012 data on fatal and personal injury crashes and pedestrian, bicycle and motorcycle crashes that occurred statewide and in each county. The data in this table can be used to identify counties that are overrepresented in specific types of crashes based on the population and number of licensed drivers in the county.

NEW YORK STATE DEMOGRAPHIC AND CRASH DATA BY COUNTY, 2012												
	Population		Licensed Drivers		Fatal/PI Crashes		Pedestrian Crashes		Bicycle Crashes		Motorcycle Crashes	
NEW YORK STATE	19,570,261		11,248,614		124,378		15,832		6,137		5,916	
County	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Albany	305,455	1.6	199,312	1.8	2,350	1.9	197	1.2	98	1.6	157	2.7
Allegany	48,357	0.2	31,797	0.3	206	0.2	10	0.1	4	0.1	27	0.5
Broome	198,060	1.0	136,409	1.2	1,159	0.9	91	0.6	46	0.8	84	1.4
Cattaraugus	79,458	0.4	55,000	0.5	408	0.3	24	0.2	16	0.3	41	0.7
Cayuga	79,552	0.4	53,431	0.5	479	0.4	19	0.1	21	0.3	44	0.7
Chautauqua	133,539	0.7	91,209	0.8	708	0.6	49	0.3	16	0.3	55	0.9
Chemung	88,911	0.5	60,162	0.5	465	0.4	37	0.2	30	0.5	42	0.7
Chenango	49,933	0.3	37,105	0.3	292	0.2	6	<0.1	2	<0.1	27	0.5
Clinton	81,654	0.4	55,942	0.5	400	0.3	15	0.1	12	0.2	40	0.7
Columbia	62,499	0.3	46,513	0.4	409	0.3	20	0.1	6	0.1	20	0.3
Cortland	49,474	0.3	31,569	0.3	294	0.2	22	0.1	11	0.2	18	0.3
Delaware	47,276	0.2	34,894	0.3	298	0.2	11	0.1	0	0.0	29	0.5
Dutchess	297,322	1.5	208,608	1.9	2,043	1.6	81	0.5	39	0.6	117	2.0
Erie	919,086	4.7	637,717	5.7	6,473	5.2	495	3.1	333	5.4	330	5.6
Essex	38,961	0.2	27,483	0.2	208	0.2	7	<0.1	1	<0.1	26	0.4
Franklin	51,795	0.3	33,698	0.3	277	0.2	10	0.1	6	0.1	24	0.4
Fulton	54,925	0.3	38,725	0.3	306	0.2	19	0.1	11	0.2	19	0.3
Genesee	59,977	0.3	43,376	0.4	457	0.4	13	0.1	19	0.3	33	0.6
Greene	48,673	0.2	36,576	0.3	276	0.2	16	0.1	5	0.1	39	0.7
Hamilton	4,778	<0.1	4,497	<0.1	34	<0.1	1	<0.1	0	0.0	9	0.2
Herkimer	64,508	0.3	44,367	0.4	269	0.2	17	0.1	6	0.1	27	0.5
Jefferson	120,262	0.6	72,093	0.6	693	0.6	33	0.2	13	0.2	72	1.2
Lewis	27,224	0.1	19,373	0.2	151	0.1	6	<0.1	0	0.0	10	0.2
Livingston	64,810	0.3	44,268	0.4	340	0.3	14	0.1	6	0.1	30	0.5
Madison	72,382	0.4	49,219	0.4	385	0.3	18	0.1	9	0.1	27	0.5
Monroe	747,813	3.8	507,829	4.5	4,554	3.7	313	2.0	231	3.8	247	4.2
Montgomery	49,941	0.3	34,851	0.3	256	0.2	12	0.1	5	0.1	28	0.5
Nassau	1,349,233	6.9	982,528	8.8	12,702	10.2	1,003	6.3	395	6.4	361	6.1

## NEW YORK STATE DEMOGRAPHIC AND CRASH DATA BY COUNTY, 2012

County	Population		Licensed Drivers		Fatal/PI Crashes		Pedestrian Crashes		Bicycle Crashes		Motorcycle Crashes	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Niagara	215,124	1.1	156,056	1.4	1,191	1.0	85	0.5	62	1.0	91	1.5
Oneida	233,556	1.2	157,035	1.4	1,364	1.1	81	0.5	49	0.8	87	1.5
Onondaga	466,852	2.4	318,327	2.8	3,245	2.6	229	1.4	143	2.3	180	3.0
Ontario	108,519	0.6	79,660	0.7	685	0.6	39	0.2	14	0.2	49	0.8
Orange	374,512	1.9	247,520	2.2	2,722	2.2	113	0.7	49	0.8	207	3.5
Orleans	42,836	0.2	28,828	0.3	162	0.1	10	0.1	9	0.1	6	0.1
Oswego	121,700	0.6	84,116	0.8	643	0.5	40	0.3	15	0.2	51	0.9
Otsego	61,709	0.3	42,754	0.4	299	0.2	8	0.1	5	0.1	31	0.5
Putnam	99,607	0.5	76,171	0.7	659	0.5	18	0.1	5	0.1	58	1.0
Rensselaer	159,835	0.8	109,822	1.0	860	0.7	55	0.3	28	0.5	65	1.1
Rockland	317,757	1.6	204,531	1.8	2,183	1.8	148	0.9	50	0.8	87	1.5
St. Lawrence	112,232	0.6	72,945	0.7	510	0.4	24	0.2	13	0.2	46	0.8
Saratoga	222,133	1.1	170,128	1.5	1,232	1.0	49	0.3	21	0.3	133	2.3
Schenectady	155,124	0.8	112,134	1.0	958	0.8	69	0.4	51	0.8	61	1.0
Schoharie	32,099	0.2	22,596	0.2	180	0.1	4	<0.1	0	0.0	22	0.4
Schuyler	18,514	0.1	13,987	0.1	107	0.1	3	<0.1	2	<0.1	28	0.5
Seneca	35,305	0.2	23,598	0.2	236	0.2	7	<0.1	6	0.1	15	0.3
Steuben	99,063	0.5	70,663	0.6	481	0.4	24	0.2	5	0.1	47	0.8
Suffolk	1,499,273	7.7	1,077,706	9.6	12,212	9.8	583	3.7	396	6.5	460	7.8
Sullivan	76,793	0.4	53,761	0.5	513	0.4	25	0.2	7	0.1	28	0.5
Tioga	50,478	0.3	37,580	0.3	204	0.2	8	0.1	5	0.1	14	0.2
Tompkins	102,554	0.5	61,994	0.6	503	0.4	40	0.3	16	0.3	35	0.6
Ulster	181,791	0.9	131,864	1.2	1,324	1.1	65	0.4	48	0.8	88	1.5
Warren	65,538	0.3	51,774	0.5	500	0.4	14	0.1	25	0.4	85	1.4
Washington	62,934	0.3	44,135	0.4	377	0.3	11	0.1	7	0.1	35	0.6
Wayne	92,962	0.5	68,732	0.6	455	0.4	14	0.1	8	0.1	51	0.9
Westchester	961,670	4.9	635,171	5.7	5,426	4.4	548	3.5	105	1.7	207	3.5
Wyoming	41,892	0.2	29,297	0.3	227	0.2	8	0.1	3	<0.1	26	0.4
Yates	25,344	0.1	16,340	0.1	127	0.1	5	<0.1	5	0.1	12	0.2
<b>NYC</b>												
Bronx	1,408,473	7.2	425,675	3.8	7,565	6.1	1,596	10.1	317	5.2	220	3.7
Kings	2,565,635	13.1	900,944	8.0	14,855	12.0	3,569	22.6	1,452	23.7	431	7.3
New York	1,619,090	8.3	717,655	6.4	8,806	7.1	2,992	18.9	1,169	19.1	465	7.9
Queens	2,272,771	11.6	1,057,741	9.4	13,496	10.9	2,344	14.8	645	10.5	422	7.1
Richmond	470,728	2.4	292,786	2.6	2,998	2.4	424	2.7	56	0.9	81	1.4

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, NYS Driver License File and NYS AIS

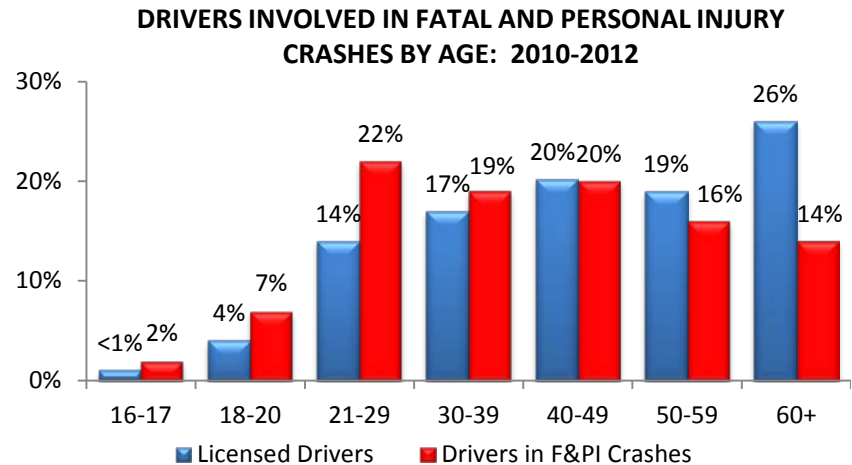
## Analyses by Age

Community Traffic Safety Programs also play an important role in implementing program initiatives on the local level that support statewide efforts to address segments of the population identified by the data as high-risk groups.

Analyses of the demographic characteristics of the drivers involved in crashes are important in determining which age groups are most at risk. As the chart shows, drivers in each of the age groups up to the age of 40 are overrepresented in fatal and personal injury (F&PI) crashes in New York State.

### Young Drivers

Young drivers, in particular, are at risk of being involved in a crash; drivers under 21 years of age are involved in 9% of the crashes but account for less than 5% of the licensed drivers, while drivers ages 21-29 are involved in 22% of the crashes but account for only 14% of the licensed drivers.



*Source: NYS AIS and Driver License File*

When compared with all drivers, drivers under 21 years of age in fatal and personal injury crashes are more likely to have driver inattention/distraction, following too closely, failure to yield the right-of-way, unsafe speed, and driver inexperience reported as contributing factors in their crashes.

In the Driver Behavior Surveys conducted at DMV offices, young drivers (under age 21) reported the highest frequency of texting and driving and drivers 16-24 years of age reported the lowest compliance with the seat belt law (see p. 31 under the Police Traffic Services program area and p. 59 under the Occupant Protection program area).

### Older Drivers

Drivers age 60 and over are the most underrepresented group of drivers involved in fatal and personal injury crashes; older drivers account for one-quarter of the licensed drivers but are involved in only 14% of the F&PI crashes. However, analyses show that older drivers who are involved in crashes are more likely to be killed or to suffer more severe injuries than younger drivers.

## Minority Populations and Other Underserved High Risk Groups

The U.S. Census Department projects that the nation's population will continue to become more racially and ethnically diverse over the next several decades. By 2042, the multicultural groups that comprised one third of the population in 2008 will become the majority and by 2050 will account for 56% of the population in United States (*Source: An Older and More Diverse Nation by Mid-Century, U.S. Census Department Press Release, August 14, 2008*). A comparison of the 2000 and 2010 census data for New York shows an increase in the state's minority populations indicating that New York's population will also continue to become more diverse.

Since information on race and ethnicity are not captured on New York's police crash reports, analyses cannot be conducted on the crash involvement of different racial and ethnic groups. However, the Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) 2009 publication, *Closing the Circle: A Multicultural Primer for State Highway Safety Offices*, presents the results of research showing the overrepresentation of certain ethnic groups in motor vehicle crashes. These analyses document the disproportionate number of Native Americans and Hispanics who are killed in motor vehicle crashes, lower seat belt use rates among African Americans, and higher proportions of alcohol-impaired fatally injured drivers among Native Americans.

## FFY 2015 Performance Target

- ❖ To decrease drivers age 20 or younger involved in fatal crashes 5 percent from the 2010-2012 calendar year average of 137 to 130 by December 31, 2015

## FFY 2015 Performance Measure

- ❖ Number of drivers age 20 or younger involved in fatal crashes

## Strategies

Using a data-driven approach, New York has identified strategies that collectively will enable the state to reach the performance targets for the Community Traffic Safety program area. These strategies are described below; for each strategy, a reference to the supporting research or other justification is provided. The projects that will be considered for grant funding in this program area are included in the complete list of proposed projects in Appendix A.

### Community-Based Highway Safety Programs

Projects proposed by local agencies and organizations to address traffic safety problems identified in their jurisdictions will be considered for funding under this strategy. The grant proposal must include a description of the problem with supporting data, details of the proposed activities with milestones and an evaluation plan for assessing the success of the project. All applications must address one or more of the program areas included in New York's Highway Safety Strategic Plan. In FFY 2014, GTSC funded over 30 local agencies to conduct projects at the community level. These programs reside with municipal government or local non-profit organizations; some examples include the Integrated Community Planning of Otsego, New York City Department of Transportation and the New York Coalition for Transportation Safety.

*Justification: NHTSA requires that 40% of the federal funds received by the state be allocated to local programs. To ensure that these funds are used effectively, GTSC has developed stringent application requirements for local programs. To receive funding under this program area, applicants are required to follow a performance-based approach in addressing a traffic safety problem identified through data analysis. While the local programs identify their own traffic safety issues, they are expected to draw from the evidence-based strategies included in the HSSP so that these local programs collectively contribute to the achievement of the performance goals for the statewide highway safety program.*

## **Statewide Implementation of Traffic Safety Initiatives**

The GTSC will continue to encourage and provide resources and administrative support for the statewide implementation of traffic safety initiatives such as the Safe Routes to School program, Operation Safe Stop and work zone safety. Examples of the types of support provided by GTSC include public information and education materials for use by agencies and organizations in delivering programs at the local level and training and other educational programs for local project personnel to increase their knowledge of traffic safety issues and help them to become more effective program managers. The GTSC will continue to provide assistance with grant administration, monitoring, identifying supporting data and establishing strategies to address local goals and performance measures.

The GTSC will continue to promote the development of broad-based coalitions that bring together organizations with differing perspectives on traffic safety issues, including private sector organizations, the media and industry associations. The establishment of coalitions among organizations with mutual interests will also be encouraged to foster cooperative efforts and the efficient and effective use of resources. Examples of such coalitions are the New York State Partnership Against Drowsy Driving (NYPDD), the Capital District Safe Kids Coalition and the New York State Pedestrian and Bicycle Partnership. The efforts of these coalitions and partnerships to increase awareness of the traffic safety problems and issues they were established to address will be eligible for grant support from the GTSC.

Based on the analysis of identified high crash locations and roadway-related crash information, GTSC will support efforts that contribute to improving the roadway environment. These initiatives would promote a multi-disciplinary approach to address highway safety issues which focus on comprehensive solutions to identified problems.

*Justification: Community Traffic Safety Programs are an important conduit for the statewide implementation of traffic safety initiatives. By providing coordination and various types of support at the state level, GTSC is able to ensure the implementation of consistent messages and programs statewide. Strategies that promote cooperative efforts are also important and can lead to the more effective and efficient use of resources, the development of comprehensive, multi-faceted programs and opportunities to exchange ideas and best practices, all of which play an important role in the implementation of successful projects and programs.*

## **Statewide Communications and Outreach**

Effective, high-visibility public information and education outreach efforts are an essential component of all successful highway safety programs. The primary purpose is to educate the public about the importance of traffic safety in their lives and ultimately to convince the public to change their attitudes and driving behaviors resulting in safer highways for everyone.

A comprehensive and coordinated PI&E program for New York State will continue to address current traffic safety issues and support traffic safety programs at the state and local levels. Market research may be incorporated into the development of PI&E campaigns as needed. Periodic surveys may be conducted to assess public awareness of traffic safety issues and track changes in attitudes, perceptions and reported behaviors. The results of these studies will be used to modify and improve future campaigns.

*Justification: Communication and outreach strategies that inform the public and heighten awareness are critical components of strategies intended to deter unsafe behaviors, increase compliance with vehicle and traffic laws, and otherwise encourage safe driving practices. For examples of supporting research,*



*see the discussions of Communications and Outreach strategies under Alcohol Impaired and Drugged Driving, pp. 1-4, 1-21, 1-44 and 1-45; Seat Belts and Child Restraints, pp. 2-3, 2-32; Aggressive Driving and Speeding, pp. 3-16 to 3-18, 3-27; Motorcycles, pp.5-22 to 5-24; and Older Drivers, pp. 7-11 and 7-12 in Countermeasures That Work, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2013.*

## **Younger Driver Outreach and Education**

Analyses of the data conducted in conjunction with several of the program areas in the HSSP have shown that young drivers are consistently over-represented in crashes involving unsafe driving behaviors. These behaviors include, but are not limited to, speeding, distracted driving, alcohol-impaired driving and drugged driving. In the Driver Behavior surveys conducted at DMV offices, young drivers also reported the lowest compliance with the seat belt law and the highest frequency of texting and driving.

Projects that focus on raising awareness among teens of the dangers of engaging in unsafe driving behaviors will be considered for funding as Community Traffic Safety Programs. Some of the methods of delivering traffic safety messages to this high risk group include presentations by peers, competitions such as the “Battle of the Belts” and the Save Your Friend’s Life Over the Airwaves PSA contest, demonstrations of the convincer or the rollover simulator, and displays of photographs from real life crashes involving teen drivers.

GTSC will also build on the success of the New York State Safe Teen Driver Summit held in May 2014. Over the remainder of FFY 2014 and in FFY 2015, GTSC will involve the teen summit participants in developing and sharing various traffic safety messaging in interactive peer-to-peer activities. In addition, GTSC anticipates hosting a second teen summit in the coming grant year.

Public awareness and educational activities that focus on educating parents about New York's graduated license laws and providing them with the tools to encourage safe driving by their teens will also be funded.



Coalitions and other groups such as the New York Partnership Addressing Teen Driver Safety that engage in teen driving safety outreach and promote the implementation of proven and promising strategies to improve the safety of this high risk driving population are also eligible for funding. The GTSC will continue to work with and support the National Safety Council’s New York State Teen Safe Driving Coalition that has focused on promoting teen safe driving during the annual Global Youth Traffic Safety Month.

The GTSC will continue to provide funding for the Driver Education Research and Innovation Center (DERIC) which was created as the result of a key recommendation from the Temporary Special Advisory Panel on Driver Education Availability and Curriculum Enhancement. DERIC’s goal is to provide the State Education Department and the many driver education programs across the state with a complete and effective distracted driving curriculum.

*For supporting research, refer to the discussion of Pre-Licensure Driver Education, pp.6-16 to 6-18; Parental Role in Teaching and Managing Young Drivers, pp. 6-20 to 6-22; and strategies to reduce underage impaired driving, pp. 1-50 to 1-60 in Countermeasures That Work, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2013.*



## Older Driver Outreach and Education

While the data indicate that older drivers are not overrepresented in fatal and personal injury crashes based on the proportion of the state's licensed drivers who are in this age group, drivers over 60 who are involved in crashes are more likely to sustain serious injuries or be killed than younger drivers. Furthermore, U.S. Census data indicates that New York's population is getting older and this high-risk group is expanding.



Partnerships, coalitions and other groups that focus on issues related to older drivers and promote the implementation of proven and promising strategies to improve the safety of this high risk driving population are also eligible for funding. One example is the Capital Region Older Driver Assistance Network whose members provide various levels of assistance to older drivers and to those seeking assistance to help older drivers. These organizations raise awareness about programs and services that are available to assist and support older individuals. Funding to support the training of technicians and the delivery of programs for older motorists, such as the Car Fit program, will also be considered for funding.

*For supporting research, refer to the discussion of General Communications and Education for Older Drivers, pp. 7-11 and 7-12 in [Countermeasures That Work](#), 7<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2013.*

## Outreach to Minority and Other Underserved Populations

Ensuring that traffic safety messages and programs not only extend throughout all areas of the state but also reach all segments of the population requires special initiatives that focus on minority communities and other underserved populations. Examples of the diverse populations within the state that have been identified as needing special outreach efforts include repatriated refugees, Native Americans, the Amish and Mennonite communities, military veterans and migrant workers. Projects that offer educational programs and other outreach services to improve traffic safety among the state's underserved populations will be eligible for funding.

*For supporting research, refer to the NHSTA study, [Race and Ethnicity in Fatal Motor Vehicle Traffic Crashes, 1999-2004](#), May 2006 and GHSA's [Closing the Circle: A Multicultural Primer for State Highway Safety Offices](#), 2009, pp. 5-7. The GHSA publication also presents guidelines and best practices for use in developing effective multicultural outreach programs.*

**COMMUNITY TRAFFIC SAFETY PROGRAMS  
FFY 2015 BUDGET SUMMARY**

<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Budget Amount</b>	<b>Source</b>
Community-Based Highway Safety Programs	\$ 4,480,000	MAP-21 402
Statewide Implementation of Traffic Safety Initiatives	1,000,000	MAP-21 402
Statewide Communications and Outreach	200,000	MAP-21 402
Younger Driver Outreach and Education	520,000	MAP-21 402
Older Driver Outreach and Education	100,000	MAP-21 402
Outreach to Minority and Other Underserved Populations	200,000	MAP-21 402
<b>Total MAP-21 402</b>	<b>6,500,000</b>	

# PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

## Overview

The electronic grants management system, eGrants, will continue to improve efficiency, reduce staff resource time and improve management of New York's Highway Safety Program. The Governor's Traffic Safety Committee annually processes over 550 grant applications, representing approximately \$31 million in funding to state, local and not-for-profit agencies.

The Governor's Traffic Safety Committee (GTSC) is responsible for coordinating and managing New York State's comprehensive highway safety program. The GTSC takes a leadership role in identifying the state's overall traffic safety priorities; provides assistance to its partners in problem identification at the local level; and works with its partners to develop programs, public information campaigns and other activities to address the problems identified. In administering the state's highway safety program, the GTSC takes a comprehensive approach, providing funding for a wide variety of programs to reduce crashes, fatalities and injuries through education, enforcement, engineering, community involvement and greater access to safety-related data. The estimated highway safety funds budgeted for each Program Management strategy are presented in the table on p. 92.

The surface transportation bill known as Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (MAP-21) was signed into law on July 6, 2012. MAP-21 includes two funding programs: the Section 402 State and Community Highway Safety grant program and the Section 405 National Priority Safety Program. The Section 405 program consists of incentive programs in six areas: occupant protection, traffic records, impaired driving, motorcycle safety, distracted driving and Graduated Driver Licensing laws; states must meet eligibility requirements to receive funding in these areas. Under MAP-21, a single application for funding is required and must be submitted by July 1.

As part of its program management function, the GTSC will undertake activities in FFY 2015 to address the following needs and challenges:

- ❖ Ensure that highway safety resources are allocated in the most efficient manner to effectively address the highway safety problems that have been identified and prioritized
- ❖ Coordinate multiple programs and partners to enhance the efficient and effective use of resources
- ❖ Assess training needs to ensure the delivery of relevant and high-quality training programs
- ❖ Make appropriate, up-to-date and adequate public information and education materials available to the traffic safety community
- ❖ Monitor grant projects to assess performance and accountability
- ❖ Provide for the timely and efficient approval of county funding proposals and the allocation and liquidation of funds
- ❖ Strengthen existing public/private partnerships and build new coalitions to support highway safety efforts
- ❖ Deliver programs that are effective in changing the knowledge, attitudes and behavior of the state's roadway users in reducing traffic crashes, fatalities and injuries

- ❖ Collect and analyze crash data to identify trends and problem areas that will help direct the assignment of the state's limited resources

## **FFY 2015 Performance Targets**

- ❖ Strengthen the GTSC's role in setting goals and priorities for the state's highway safety program
- ❖ Identify highway safety problems and solutions to reduce fatalities and injuries on New York State's roadways
- ❖ Continue to expand technology as a means to disseminate traffic safety information, including online grant applications and using the internet to disseminate safety information through multi-media channels
- ❖ Provide direction, guidance and assistance to support the efforts of public and private partners to improve highway safety
- ❖ Develop and maintain policies and procedures that provide for the effective, efficient and economical operation of the highway safety program
- ❖ Coordinate and provide training opportunities and programs for New York State's traffic safety professionals
- ❖ Support the use of performance measures as an evaluation tool in the state's highway safety program
- ❖ Improve the timeliness of grant approvals and the allocation and liquidation of funding

## **Strategies**

Through the strategies selected for the Program Management program area, GTSC provides administrative support and guidance for the implementation of New York's highway safety program. These strategies form a comprehensive and coordinated set of initiatives that collectively form the foundation for the state's performance-based program and enhance efforts at the local and state level that will contribute to the achievement of the state's performance goals.

### **New York's Highway Safety Strategic Plan**

The GTSC is committed to continuing and strengthening planning at the state and local levels and to promoting the use of the Highway Safety Strategic Plan (HSSP) as the principal document for setting priorities, directing program efforts and assigning resources. The GTSC will continue to support the NYS Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) in the development of a NYS Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP). The GTSC will also continue to participate in NYSDOT's interagency Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP) Committee and the annual planning sessions held prior to the development of the annual Commercial Vehicle Safety Plan (CVSP), to assist with planning the annual Truck and Bus Safety Symposium, and to encourage GTSC police agency grantees to include commercial vehicles and drivers in their enforcement efforts. New York has again prepared a Traffic Records Strategic Plan to meet the application requirements for Section 405 (c) funding under MAP-21 and will use this document to guide the advancement of the state's traffic records systems.

## **Training Opportunities**

Training has been identified as a valuable tool to meet the needs of grantees, partners and staff. The GTSC will continue to assess the training needs of its highway safety partners, coordinate these needs with the priorities outlined in the HSSP and provide appropriate training opportunities. Training will be delivered in a variety of formats as appropriate, including workshops, seminars, classroom settings, podcasts and webinars. The GTSC has responded to a survey regarding New York's interest in participating in internal webinar sessions offered by NHTSA and GHSA on a variety of topics.

## **Planning and Administration**

The planning and administration function is responsible for the overall coordination of the state's highway safety program in compliance with the new requirements established under MAP-21. The staff of the GTSC, working with the state's traffic safety networks, grantees and other partners, will continue to identify highway safety problems in New York and assist in the development of programs to address these problems. The staff also provides support services for the general administration of the highway safety program.

In overseeing the highway safety program, the GTSC planning and administrative staff is responsible for the administration of the federal letter of credit; the evaluation of local funding proposals; the evaluation of statewide funding proposals; the follow-up on administrative requirements related to funded projects; the review of progress reports; and the monitoring, auditing, accounting and vouchering functions. In addition to these administrative tasks, the GTSC serves as the focal point for the analysis and dissemination of new information and technology to the traffic safety community in New York State. The GTSC staff reviews materials from highway safety organizations; prepares position papers on highway safety problems as directed by the GTSC Chair; provides training, technical advice and expert guidance; and participates in meetings, workshops and conferences.

The member agencies of the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee will continue to meet in FFY 2015 to help set New York State's highway safety priorities and to support efforts to achieve those priorities. The member agencies also play a valuable role in reviewing statewide legislation promoting traffic safety and through participation in special work groups established to assist in the effective implementation of legislative initiatives.

The GTSC has established or participated in a number of subcommittees and advisory groups to address the increasingly complex issues of traffic safety. The groups that are currently active include the Impaired Driving Advisory Council; NYS Child Passenger Safety Advisory Board; DRE & SFST Steering Committee; Highway Safety Conference Planning Committee; NYS Partnership Against Drowsy Driving; Capital Region Older Driver Assistance Network; Traffic Records Coordinating Council; Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs); NYSDOT Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Council; Capital District Safe Kids Coalition; Operation Lifesaver; Safe Stop and the NYS Partnership for Walk Our Children to School. These committees and organizations cover a wide range of topics and have become important components of the GTSC's planning process. Most of the groups focus on the identification of long-term initiatives. The tasks that are assigned to these groups are redefined and expanded as needed.

## **Plan for Public Information & Education**

A comprehensive and coordinated PI&E program for New York State will continue to address current traffic safety issues and support traffic safety programs at the state and local levels. Market research may be incorporated into the development of PI&E campaigns as needed. Periodic surveys may be

conducted to assess public awareness of traffic safety issues and track changes in attitudes, perceptions and reported behaviors. The results of these studies will be used to modify and improve future campaigns.

### Highway Safety Presentations and Workshops

The GTSC also supports a variety of educational programs made available to New York’s traffic safety community. Examples include financial and other forms of support for workshops, forums, symposia and other types of meetings on important traffic safety topics presented by partners, such as the Institute for Traffic Safety Management and Research, the Greater New York Automobile Dealers’ Association and other not-for-profit groups.

### Driver Behavior and Attitudinal Surveys

The GTSC, with the assistance of the Institute for Traffic Safety Management and Research, will continue to conduct an annual driver behavior and attitudinal survey as called for by NHTSA and GHSA. Since 2010, questionnaires have been distributed to customers at five DMV offices in the state. The three primary traffic safety topics included in the survey are seat belt use, speeding and impaired driving. In 2012, the survey was revised to collect information on the important topic of distracted driving; two additional questions were added in 2013 to allow for the collection of more specific information on texting and cell phone use. The survey conducted in 2014 replicated the 2013 survey and will be repeated in 2015. Repeating key questions related to seat belt use, speeding, impaired driving and cell phone use and texting while driving enables the GTSC to monitor trends over time in attitudes and reported behaviors related to these serious traffic safety issues.

<b>PROGRAM MANAGEMENT FFY 2015 BUDGET SUMMARY</b>		
<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Budget Amount</b>	<b>Source</b>
New York’s Highway Safety Strategic Plan	\$ 20,000	MAP-21 402
Training Opportunities	40,000	MAP-21 402
Planning and Administration	700,000	MAP-21 402
Plan for Public Information & Education	80,000	MAP-21 402
Highway Safety Presentations and Workshops	30,000	MAP-21 402
Driver Behavior and Attitudinal Surveys	30,000	MAP-21 402
<b>Total MAP-21 402</b>	<b>900,000</b>	