## 2020 Operation Crash Reduction

## FACT SHEET

Nationwide from 2014 to 2018, October was the most dangerous month on America's roads, accounting for more fatal crashes than during any other month. For Delaware, the District of Columbia, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia, motor vehicle crashes are especially high, with states seeing the highest number of fatalities occurring during October’s holiday weekend from 2014 to 2018, compared to other holiday periods. To help drivers and passengers stay safe on the roads, Virginia highway safety partners arejoining with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) for the *Operation Crash Reduction* effort. The campaign runs from October 9–12, 2020, and the purpose of the campaign is to save lives and prevent injuries. During this awareness campaign, highway safety partners will be educating drivers or passengers of the dangers of driving unbuckled.

**Buckle Up!**

* More driving appears to mean more motor vehicle crashes — especially in the states of Delaware, the District of Columbia, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia.
* According to NHTSA, from 2014 to 2018, these states had 882 fatal crashes from October 1-15. This is the highest number of fatal crashes for the first 15 days of any month from 2014 to 2018.
* From 2014 to 2018, more fatal crashes occurred in these states during theholiday weekend (257) than during any other long holiday weekend. This weekendwas the most dangerous holiday of 2018 for this region, with 52 fatal crashes.
* From 2014 to 2018, October was the most likely month for fatal crashes to occur, with 1,772 total fatal crashes in this region. In these fatal crashes, more than 45% of occupant fatalities in passenger vehicles, trucks, and buses were unrestrained.

**2018 Seat Belt National Statistics**

* During the holiday weekend, millions of Americans will hit the roads to take advantage of the last long weekend and warmer weather before the holidays. This means it will be a busy travel time, and unfortunately, that typically means more vehicle crashes.
* Remember: seat belts save lives. Not only is it the law, but buckling up provides the best defense against injury or death in a crash.
* In 2018, there were 9,778 unrestrained passenger vehicle occupants killed in crashes in the United States.
* In 2018, there were 22,697 passenger vehicle occupants (in passenger cars, pickup trucks, vans, or SUVs) killed in traffic crashes in the United States. Almost half (43%) of those who were killed were not wearing restraints.
* According to the latest data available, NHTSA estimates that seat belts saved the lives of 14,995 passenger vehicle occupants age 5 and older in 2017. If everyone had worn their seat belts on every trip that year, an additional 2,549 lives could have been saved.
* The facts don’t lie: when you wear your seat belt as a front-seat occupant of a passenger car, your risk of fatal injury goes down by 45%. For light truck occupants, that risk is reduced by 60%.
* Younger people continue to be overrepresented in fatal crashes and seat belt nonuse. Among young adults 18 to 34 killed in crashes in 2018 in passenger vehicles, more than half (52%) were completely unrestrained — one of the highest percentages for all age groups.
* Males are more likely than females to be unrestrained in fatal crashes. Forty-seven percent of the male passenger vehicle occupants killed in crashes in 2018 were unrestrained, compared with 36% for females.
* If you’re ejected from a vehicle in a crash, odds are that you will not survive. In 2018, 84% of the people totally ejected from passenger vehicles in crashes were killed.
* Wearing your seat belt is the most effective way to prevent ejection; only 1% of passenger vehicle occupants wearing seat belts were ejected in fatal crashes, compared to 33% of those who were unrestrained.
* Seating position: Too many people wrongly believe they are safe in the back seat unrestrained. Forty-two percent of all front-row passenger vehicle occupants killed in crashes in 2018 were unrestrained, but 50% of those killed in second, third, or fourth row seats were unrestrained.
* In 2018, 50% of passenger vehicle occupants killed at night (6 p.m.–5:59 a.m.) were unbuckled.

**2018 Statistics by State**

Delaware:

* From 2009 to 2018, October was the second most dangerous month on Delaware's roads, with a total of 109 traffic fatalities during that time period.

District of Columbia:

* From 2009 to 2018, October was the third most dangerous month on DC's roads, with a total of 24 traffic fatalities during that time period.

Kentucky:

* From 2009 to 2018, October was the most dangerous month on Kentucky's roads, with a total of 727 traffic fatalities during that time period.
* From 2014 to 2018, the weekend was the most dangerous holiday weekend on Kentucky's roads, with a total of 58 traffic fatalities.

Maryland:

* From 2009 to 2018, October was the most dangerous month on Maryland's roads, with a total of 467 traffic fatalities during that time period.

North Carolina:

* From 2009 to 2018, October was the most dangerous month on North Carolina's roads, with a total of 1,281 traffic fatalities during that time period.
* From 2014 to 2018, the first half of October was the most dangerous first half of any month on North Carolina's roads, with a total of 361 traffic fatalities.

Virginia:

* From 2009 to 2018, October was the second most dangerous month on Virginia's roads, with a total of 712 traffic fatalities during that time period.
* From 2014 to 2018, October was the most dangerous month on Virginia's roads, with a total of 367 traffic fatalities during that time period. In fact, the 2018 holiday weekend was declared the second most dangerous holiday weekend of the year in Virginia.

West Virginia:

* From 2009 to 2018, October was the most dangerous month on West Virginia's roads, with a total of 316 traffic fatalities during that time period, and 33 traffic fatalities occurring in 2018 alone.
* From 2014 to 2018, the Columbus Day weekend was the second most dangerous holiday weekend on West Virginia's roads, with a total of 25 traffic fatalities during that time period.