

Traffic fatalities still exceed pre-pandemic numbers, according to study

by Ellie Buckheit | Wednesday, June 21, 2023



As the Maryland Traffic Fatality Rate increases, a new report Analyzes the causes and solutions.

BALTIMORE (WBFF) — A new study about traffic in Maryland shows the number of fatal crashes in the state still exceeds the levels seen before the COVID-19 pandemic but is down slightly from 2020 and 2021.

The Maryland traffic fatality rate has increased 16% from 2019 to 2022, and the result of these fatal and serious traffic crashes has cost a \$29 billion in value of societal harm, including \$7 billion in economic costs and \$22 billion in quality-of-life

costs, according to the [National Transportation Research Nonprofit](#).

The report has released the causes of the fatal crashes and possible solutions to lower the fatality rate.

The report stated that from 2019 to 2022, 20% of the traffic fatality rate accounts for the number of pedestrians killed, which increased by 18%, and the number of fatalities for bicyclists which increased by 26%. Furthermore, the traffic fatality rate also includes motorcyclists' fatalities which increased by 20%, according to the report.

As stated by the report, this has resulted in a significant economic burden stating that the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reported that “the tangible economic costs of traffic crashes include medical care, lost productivity, legal and court costs, insurance administrative costs, workplace costs, congestion impacts (travel delay, excess fuel consumption and pollution), emergency services, and property damage.”

NHTSA also estimated the increase in quality-of-life costs, including that it has been a result of serious injury or death, and “loss of remaining lifespan, extended or lifelong physical impairment, or physical pain,” according to the report.

In 2022, the U.S. Department of Transportation adopted a National Roadway Safety Strategy, which includes a “roadmap for addressing the nation’s roadway safety crisis based on a Safe System approach,” as mentioned by the report.

The objectives and elements for this approach include education on safer driving, designing safer roadway environments, expanding features in vehicles that help to prevent crashes/impact of crashes, providing roadway features to decrease the amount of speeding on the roads, and enhancing post-crash care, according to the report.