

Ohio Traffic
Safety Office

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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OFFICE OVERVIEW

OFFICE AND NEW BUDGET MONEY

The Ohio Traffic Safety Office (OTSO) is focused on saving lives and preventing injuries on Ohio's roads by addressing issues mostly related to driver behavior. This mission requires three things: strong laws, public education, and enforcement. The division oversees Ohio Driver Training, Motorcycle Ohio and the Ignition Interlock program and awards millions of dollars in federal funds for programming to improve traffic safety across the state.

In 2022, 1,278 people were killed in crashes on our roads, making Ohio ninth in the nation for road fatalities. To focus on crash prevention and improve traffic safety in Ohio, the OTSO became an independent division within the Ohio Department of Public Safety in 2023. Emily Davidson was named as Executive Director to lead the office.

In 2023, the Ohio Legislature allocated \$13 million (\$6.5 million per year) of the FY24-25 Ohio Operating Budget for driver safety. OTSO uses these funds in the following manner.

- Creating Opportunities for Driver Education (CODE) Grants
- “Drive to Succeed” Grants
- Staffing to support new initiatives
- Elementary Seat Belt Program
- Full curriculum and lesson plans for driver training schools
- Advanced Driver Training
- IT Solutions
- OTSO administration and event materials

STAFF

As OTSO became a division in 2023, it also saw growth in its staff. Over the course of the year the division added five brand new positions, which included three new positions for the driver training office and two new positions to oversee state-funded grants, outreach, and initiatives. At the end of 2023, OTSO was authorized at 28 positions, with three additional new positions planned for early 2024.



FEDERAL PROGRAMS OVERVIEW

BY THE NUMBERS

For FFY2023, OTSO awarded over \$22 million for statewide programming to improve traffic safety and reduce traffic-related fatalities. The funds were directed to OTSO from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). Almost 180 grants were awarded to 140 local agencies in 68 counties to support the efforts of safety partners and focus on traffic safety priority areas, including impaired driving, seat belt usage, distracted driving, youthful driving, and motorcycle safety. The competitive grant process solicited grant proposals from state agencies, non-profit organizations, colleges, universities, hospitals, political subdivisions and other interested groups within selected Ohio counties and jurisdictions based upon the number of fatal crashes.

PROGRAMS FUNDED WITH FEDERAL TRAFFIC SAFETY GRANTS	
PROGRAMS	AWARDED AMOUNT
STATEWIDE PROGRAMMING	\$12,597,922.88
IMPAIRED DRIVING ENFORCEMENT & SELECTIVE TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM	\$5,049,074.90
COUNTYWIDE OVI TASK FORCES	\$2,687,053.31
SAFE COMMUNITY PROGRAMS	\$2,315,888.71

GOVERNOR'S HIGHWAY SAFETY ASSOCIATION (GHSA) REPRESENTATION

In 2023 OTSO staff were selected to join several committees working as a part of the Governor's Highway Safety Association (GHSA). OTSO Executive Director Emily Davidson was selected as the Alternate Region 5 Representative and also joined the Governance Committee. Assistant Director Kimberly Schwind joined the Equity and Engagement Committee, and Federal Administrator Lori Genzen joined the Finance, Operations, and Audit Committee and the Member Services and Development Committee. Ohio is now more represented than ever before in the association and at the national level.

GHSA GRANT FOR DAX EVIDENCE RECORDER

OTSO was awarded a \$15,087 grant from the Governor's Highway Safety Association (GHSA) and Responsibility.org to strengthen law enforcement's ability to detect and deter impaired drivers. The grant paid for two DAX Evidence Recorders, which use high-definition digital video technology to record the eye movements and other physical responses of suspected impaired drivers. Officers participating in the Ohio Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) program will be trained to use the devices, and OTSO will use the video recorded by the devices to develop and provide training videos to law enforcement agencies to expand and enhance their impaired driving detection initiatives.



FEDERAL PROGRAMS OVERVIEW

PAID MEDIA OVERVIEW

One of OTSO's communication and outreach strategies to inform the public of the dangers of impaired driving, driving unrestrained, distracted driving, and the importance of motorcycle awareness was through paid media. NHTSA's communications calendar guided the dissemination of safety messaging across Ohio during specific timeframes.

Across all the paid media campaigns, it is estimated by the media buyer that the size of the audience exceeded 289,509,328.

MEDIUM	COST
TV/CABLE	\$549,529.05
RADIO	\$436,643.95
PRINT	\$12,188.00
INTERNET	\$638,119.05
OUT OF HOME/OTHER	\$1,549,561.32
TOTAL MEDIA COST:	\$3,186,041.37*

*ODOT FUNDED THE ADDITIONAL \$61,336.03 OF THIS MEDIA BUY.

IMPAIRED DRIVING PROGRAM ASSESSMENT

OTSO completed an Impaired Driving Program Assessment, conducted by NHTSA with the goal of enhancing the effectiveness of the impaired driving program in preventing injuries, saving lives, and reducing economic costs of motor vehicle crashes on Ohio's roadways. The assessment was completed using two rounds of questions in a web-based system and an on-site session. The on-site session took place over the course of four days with 17 meetings and concluded with the assessment team's report to OTSO. The team heard from 32 different guest speakers on topics such as training for law enforcement, DUI prosecution, impaired driving legislation, and oral fluid/toxicology testing.

The final report from the assessment team commended OTSO for its strong partnerships with Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) and Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) to engage young people on impaired driving prevention and other traffic safety initiatives. The team also noted that OTSO is extremely active in providing impaired driving enforcement funding to agencies, public education resources, and promotional materials.

FEDERAL PROGRAMS OVERVIEW

CARFIT

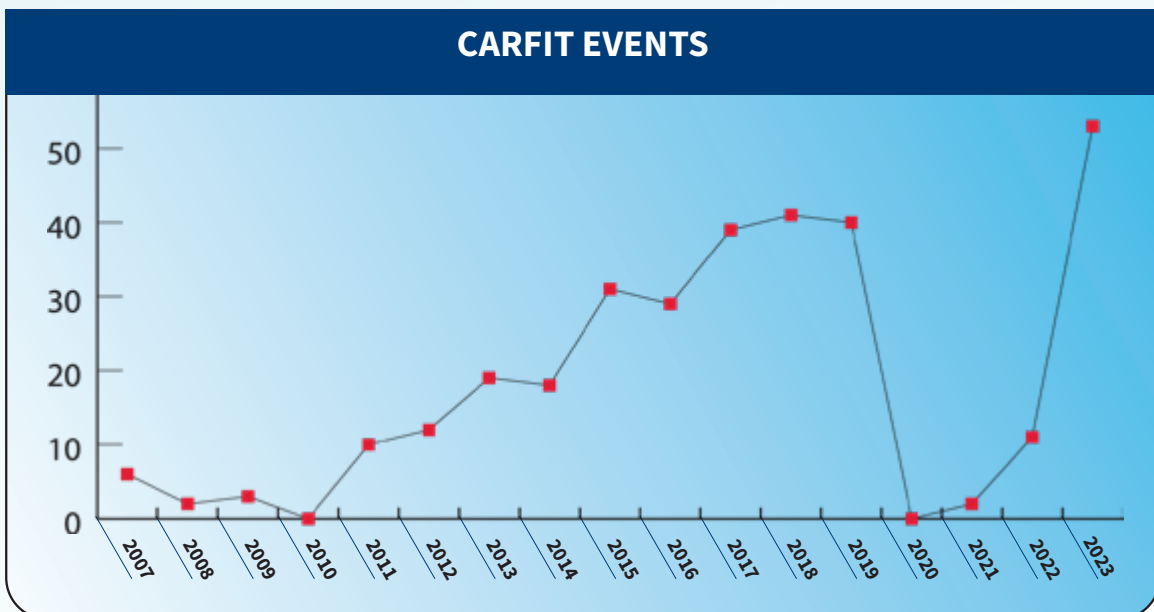
As Ohio's population ages, OTSO is directing some federal funds to expand CarFit in Ohio. CarFit is an educational program developed by AAA, AARP, and the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) to prevent injuries among older drivers. The funds were provided to the Central Ohio Area on Aging (COAAA) for the state's first statewide CarFit coordinator to establish consistency and growth of the program throughout Ohio. In 2023, OTSO hosted 58 CarFit training events that reached nearly 400 people. At CarFit events, trained volunteers complete a 12-point checklist with each driver to address common risk factors for crashes and injuries including vision changes, flexibility, strength, range of motion, and size and height.

BY THE NUMBERS



Post-event questionnaire responses demonstrate CarFit's impact:

- ▶ 100% of respondents found the event useful.
- ▶ 97% of respondents felt safer in their vehicles after attending a CarFit event.
- ▶ 85% rated the event 'excellent.'
- ▶ 90% made changes to their vehicles based on what was learned at the CarFit event.
- ▶ Top topics learned at the CarFit events (that attendees were unaware before event): Mirrors, Head Restraints
- ▶ Top changes respondents made after attending a CarFit event: Mirrors, Steering Wheel



DRIVER TRAINING



BY THE NUMBERS

The Ohio Department of Public Safety licenses and regulates driving schools for teens and adults. Driving schools are inspected regularly for compliance with Ohio rules and regulations.



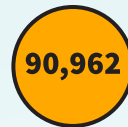
**DRIVER
EDUCATION
PROGRAMS**



**LICENSED
ENTERPRISES**



**LICENSED
INSTRUCTORS**



**TEENAGE
DRIVERS
TRAINED**



**TOTAL
STUDENTS
TRAINED**

Ohio's 14 driver education programs include: CDL (Class A, Class B, Passenger, School Bus), Class D (Novice teen), Class D online, Abbreviated Adult, Abbreviated Adult Online, Disability, Adult Remedial, Juvenile Remedial, Advanced Juvenile Driver Improvement Program, Mature Operator, and Adult Remedial Online.

TEACHER & LAW ENFORCEMENT HOURS

In an effort to recruit more instructors at licensed driving schools, OTSO reduced the required hours of training for teachers and law enforcement officers. Teachers must complete 41 hours of training, and law enforcement must complete 47 hours of training, instead of the usual 60 hours.

PROPOSED CHANGES FOR 2024

OTSO has proposed rules to allow for split instructor licenses. This will reduce the hours required for training and focus on the remaining training hours in the area the instructor will primarily teach. The administrative rules for split licensing went into effect on March 18, 2024. Initial feedback from Ohio driving schools about this change has been positive.

The proposed rules also allow for probationary training managers. The probationary proposal reduces the timeframe and experience a prospective training manager needs before being eligible for the endorsement.

DRIVER TRAINING

DRIVE TO SUCCEED

The Ohio Traffic Safety Office awarded more than half a million dollars in grants to help more teenagers from low-income families get access to driver education. OTSO received overwhelming interest in the launch of the “Drive to Succeed” grant program, with over 70 grant applications submitted by agencies across the state. Twenty-five local governmental agencies covering 29 counties received a total of \$575,000 as part of the new “Drive to Succeed” scholarship program. The agencies include health departments, police departments, public schools, and educational service centers who will use the funds to establish teen driver training scholarships. These grants are expected to support hundreds of young people who otherwise wouldn’t have had the means to complete driver education and gain the experience needed to become safer drivers.



CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR DRIVER EDUCATION (CODE) GRANT PROGRAM

In late 2023, OTSO announced the “Creating Opportunities for Driver Education” (CODE) grant program which aims to provide more opportunities for teens to access affordable, quality driver education. The grants will be used to help Educational Service Centers (ESCs), school districts, career technical programs, and current or prospective driver training enterprises to start or expand driver training programs. Over \$4.5 million was awarded through a competitive grant process that launched in 2023. The funding can be used to cover the cost of training vehicles, instructor salaries, online education, and other administrative costs.

JUVENILE COURT GRANTS

OTSO awarded \$50,000 to juvenile courts around Ohio to help them provide young drivers more access to advanced driver training programs. Courts in Allen, Delaware, Licking, Medina, and Pickaway counties all received \$10,000 each for one year.

Youthful Driver Safety Fund
\$50,000 to Juvenile Courts

- Allen County Juvenile Court
- Delaware County Juvenile Court
- Licking County Juvenile Court
- Medina County Juvenile Court
- Pickaway County Juvenile Court

DRIVER TRAINING

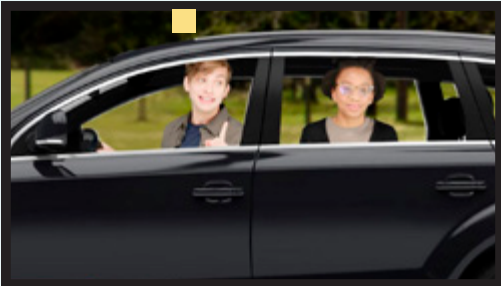
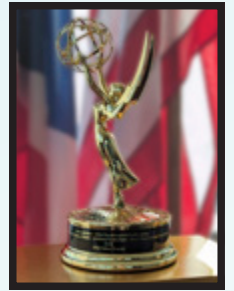
VIDEO SERIES

Statewide statistics show that “youth-related” is one of the top two crash categories in every Ohio county, so OTSO developed a new educational video series to better engage young drivers on safety topics. Three new videos were unveiled for National Youth Traffic Safety Month in May.

[Sharing The Road](#) demonstrates in a creative and memorable way what young drivers need to know to keep everyone safe on our roads. Additional videos that explain the stages of [Ohio’s Graduated Driver License \(GDL\) program](#), and the [top reasons for crashes](#) in Ohio were released to coincide with the “100 Deadliest Days” for teen drivers, which begins over Memorial Day weekend. OTSO partnered with Fahlgren Mortine, a Columbus-based advertising agency, for the production and to help craft an engaging and creative video series that could be included as part of the curriculum in driver education classes across Ohio.



The [first video released in 2022](#) earned an EMMY award from the Ohio Valley chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. The video, which aims to convince teenage drivers of the dangers of distracted driving, was recognized for excellence in Children/Youth/Teen programming category.



OTSO started planning the concept for a new video to promote advanced driver training courses available for teens across Ohio. OTSO is collaborating with the five schools in Ohio that currently offer these courses to help better inform parents about this advanced training. The video will show the exercises and skills students can expect to learn in these courses and explain the benefits for young drivers. Teens who completed the training are featured in the video, as well as a personal message from Director Andy Wilson of the Ohio Department of Public Safety. The completed video will be posted on a new ODPS web page about advanced driver training and on social media.



DRIVER TRAINING

EDUCATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Educational training courses are held throughout the year to provide support and resources for schools and instructors.

EVENT	QUANTITY	ATTENDEES
CLASS D BASIC INSTRUCTOR COURSES	2	54
CDL BASIC INSTRUCTOR COURSES	12	172
JDIP CERTIFICATION COURSE (TWO DAYS)	1	6
CDL INSTRUCTOR CONTINUING EDUCATION	2	34
CLASS D INSTRUCTOR CONTINUING EDUCATION	2	31
CDL TRAINING MANAGER CONTINUING EDUCATION	1	14
CLASS D TRAINING MANAGER CONTINUING EDUCATION	2	43
TRAINING MANAGER COURSES	3	36
CDL NEW SCHOOL ORIENTATION	5	54
CLASS D & ABBREVIATED ADULT NEW SCHOOL ORIENTATION	8	166
ONLINE PROGRAMS NEW SCHOOL ORIENTATION	4	38
REMEDIAL NEW SCHOOL ORIENTATION	5	26

Additionally, the office worked to improve accessibility to courses and streamline enrollment processes for courses.

- Sexual Harassment Prevention Course improved and expanded
- Electronic registration for all courses increased accessibility
- Class D Basic Instructor Course and New School Orientations are now available online
- Created and launched an online Abbreviated Basic Instructor Course for licensed teachers and law enforcement
- Currently making improvements to the Ohio Driver Training Curriculum
- Distracted Driving Course updated to address Ohio's new distracted driving law
- Employee Defensive Driving online program was updated. This course is specifically available to DPS employees to be insured and eligible to drive state vehicles.

MOTORCYCLE OHIO

The Ohio Department of Public Safety – through the Ohio Revised Code – is charged with establishing a motorcycle safety and education program. This year, the department’s Motorcycle Ohio program is celebrating 35 years of providing Ohio’s riders the opportunity to improve their skills and make the roadways safer for all motorists.



Funded by motorcycle plate fees and class registrations, the mission of Motorcycle Ohio is to provide affordable, effective training courses, and to reduce fatalities and injuries on Ohio’s roadways through rider education, public information campaigns, and licensing improvement.



TRAINING
SITES



INSTRUCTORS



STUDENTS
TRAINED

NEAR RECORD COURSE REGISTRATION

Ohio ranks fifth in the nation for motorcycle ridership, and the riding community continues to grow. Registration opened on Jan. 23, 2023 for Motorcycle Ohio safety courses around the state. In the first 17 days of registration, 1,343 riders signed up for a course — nearly a 40% increase from the same time period in 2022, when 962 riders were registered.

By the end of the fiscal year, 8,696 riders had signed up for a course — a 44% increase from the year before. Motorcycle Ohio attributes these increased numbers to more awareness of the program and continued growth of ridership. The program is actively seeking more instructors to keep up with the class demand.

In March, Motorcycle Ohio received 20 brand new motorcycles to be used in safety classes at their training sites.

MOTORCYCLE TRAINING PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT (PSA)

The program released a new [PSA video](#) for motorcyclists ahead of National Motorcycle Safety Awareness month in May, stressing the importance of proper training. The video tells the story of Beth Fulton, a mother and motorcyclist from Jefferson County, whose 20-year-old son was killed in a motorcycle crash in 2022. Jesse Fulton did not take a Motorcycle Ohio training course and lost control in a curve, causing his bike to overturn — striking a tree and a utility pole. The video is posted on the Motorcycle Ohio website, where riders can search for training courses in their area and register online.



MOTORCYCLE OHIO

NEW TRAINING SITE IN LORAIN COUNTY

For the first time ever, training courses are now being conducted in Lorain County. Officials from Lorain County Community College and Elyria Mayor Frank Whitfield joined Motorcycle Ohio for the ribbon cutting ceremony on June 14, 2023. Classes for riders began the next day.



SAVED BY THE HELMET

Riders over 18 are not required by Ohio law to wear a helmet, but Motorcycle Ohio aims to promote and increase awareness of the life-saving value of motorcycle helmets by acknowledging riders who wear proper protective gear. This year, 25 “Saved by The Helmet” presentations were held for riders who survived serious crashes while wearing a helmet. Ten presentations were held at six events across the state during the month of August. Some were held during pre-game announcements at baseball games for the Akron Rubber Ducks, Toledo Mudhens, and Mahoning Valley Scrappers. One notable presentation was held at the Mt. Gilead Highway Patrol Post, where the motorcyclist was reunited for the first time with the good Samaritan who stopped to help him after he crashed last year.



MOTORCYCLE OHIO

SMSA SUMMIT

Motorcycle Ohio hosted this year's State Motorcycle Safety Association (SMSA) National Safety Training Summit in Columbus. The event opened with remarks from Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, Director of the Department of Public Safety, Motorcycle Ohio's Administrator, and the presentation of the 2023 SMSA awards to outstanding stakeholders contributing to motorcycle safety across the nation. The Summit is an opportunity for traffic safety partners to learn and collaborate about how to make an impact for motorcycle riders everywhere.



IGNITION INTERLOCK

BY THE NUMBERS

Ohio law requires an Ignition Interlock Device (IID) be installed before driving privileges are reinstated in the following situations:

- May be ordered by the court for the first and second OVI.
- Mandated for third and subsequent OVI.
- Mandated condition for limited driving privileges.



The IID program completed a rule review in 2023 that eliminated 60 restrictions and streamlined licensing and certification renewals to make the process easier for manufacturers to complete each year. We included updates to comply with laws that were passed between 2018 and 2023 that will impact how small businesses can operate safely in the state of Ohio in the ignition interlock industry. OTSO continues to monitor all Ohio ignition interlock service centers for compliance and cooperation with all state rules and regulations.



CAMPAIGNS & INITIATIVES

OHIO TRAFFIC SAFETY COUNCIL

Established by Governor DeWine in 2020, the Ohio Traffic Safety Council, led by ODPS, includes representatives from federal, state, county, and local agencies along with traffic safety partners and advocates who are all dedicated to making Ohio's roadways safer. Together, they are working to identify the leading causes of motor vehicle crashes, serious injuries, and fatalities on Ohio's roadways and to take action to save lives using proven education, engineering, enforcement, emergency response, and public policy countermeasures.



The Ohio Traffic Safety Council's focus is on addressing the areas that have the greatest potential to reduce the number of people killed on our roadways. An emphasis is placed on data analysis, council feedback, and best practices to identify priority areas. There are four subcommittees focused on occupant protection, impaired driving, youthful driving, and distracted driving. Each subcommittee is action-oriented, identifying well-defined projects that can be accomplished within a six-month period. In August, the Council formed a short-term working group to identify programs and suggestions to reduce pedestrian injuries and fatalities in Ohio.



CAMPAIGNS & INITIATIVES

SAFETY BELT TASK FORCE

In 2022, Ohio's annual observational seat belt survey showed that seat belt usage dropped to 80.8% - the lowest compliance rate since 2005. A total of 527 people were killed in traffic crashes where a seat belt was available, but not in use. This marked the third consecutive year that Ohio's unbelted fatality rate was above 60%.

In response, the Traffic Safety Council formed a Safety Belt Task Force aimed at increasing voluntary seat belt use across Ohio. Partners and subject matter experts from Ohio State University, ODOT, the Ohio Insurance Institute, NHTSA, and others gathered for the first meeting on Aug. 3. Over the next several months, the task force met three additional times to develop a comprehensive report that will be used to inform countermeasures to increase seat belt usage rates and saves lives.



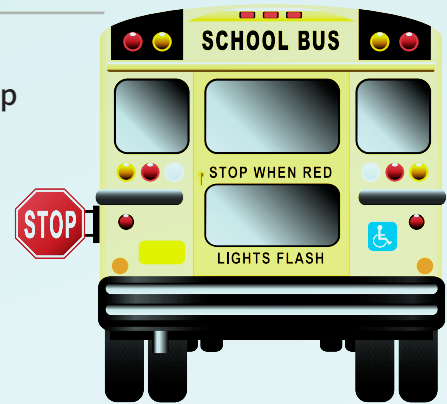
CAMPAIGNS & INITIATIVES

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY WORKING GROUP

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine's School Bus Safety Working Group was tasked with thoroughly reviewing all aspects related to school bus safety and issuing a report with recommendations. The Director of the Ohio Department of Public Safety, Andy Wilson, was selected to lead the 15-member group, including representatives from other state agencies and associations, along with traffic safety partners and advocates dedicated to making Ohio's roadways safer.

The group was formed after a devastating school bus crash near Springfield on Aug. 22, 2023, involving a Northwestern Local Schools bus transporting more than 50 students to their first day of school. The bus was struck by the driver of a minivan traveling left of center in the opposite direction. The impact caused the school bus to go off the side of the roadway and overturn, leading to the ejection and tragic death of an 11-year-old boy and more than 20 others were injured.

Six meetings were held where group members heard presentations from subject-matter experts on various school bus safety topics, including crash data, safety features, alternative transportation, school bus driver training, and critical incident protocol. The Working Group participated in Q&A with subject-matter experts who were invited to present at in-person meetings at the Ohio Department of Public Safety headquarters in Columbus. All meetings were live streamed online and the group also accepted public comment to help inform discussion and recommendations.



CAMPAIGNS & INITIATIVES

SPEED AWARENESS DAY

Forty-eight law enforcement agencies across Ohio joined their counterparts from 10 states on July 26 for the 2023 NHTSA Regions 5 and 7 high visibility Speed Awareness Day enforcement campaign. This one-day campaign is an effort to address a continued trend of speeding and dangerous driving behaviors leading to deaths and serious injuries in these 11 states. In Ohio, speeding is involved in about 30% of all deadly crashes.



Officers used increased, zero-tolerance enforcement and communicated to road users the importance of obeying the speed limit. High Visibility Enforcement (HVE) is a proven countermeasure for reinforcing driver compliance with posted speed limits. Ohio officers issued a total of 1,875 speeding citations during the one-day campaign. Participants also reported issuing 257 seat belt citations and 366 arrests during speed enforcement detail. This year's participation was more than double the 2022 participation of 20 agencies.

10

PARTICIPATING
STATES

48

OHIO LAW
ENFORCEMENT
AGENCIES

257

SEAT BELT
CITATIONS

366

ARRESTS

1,875

SPEEDING
CITATIONS



CAMPAIGNS & INITIATIVES

PHONES DOWN. IT'S THE LAW.

The Ohio Traffic Safety Office is part of a multi-agency effort to inform and educate all drivers about the changes to the distracted driving law, which took effect on April 4, 2023. The new slogan “Phones Down. It’s The Law.” is the focus of a video PSA that appears on television, video streaming services, and social media.

Educational materials are being distributed for stakeholders and partners with brochures, talking points and posters. The message was also placed on billboards and roadway signage during the initial six-month grace period.

Governor Mike DeWine announced the end of the grace period on October 5, 2023 with the news that all traffic crashes had significantly decreased in the six months since the law was enacted. Preliminary data from the Ohio State Highway Patrol showed that distracted driving crashes hit a record low in September 2023 when compared to each month dating back at least to January 2018. Distracted driving crashes peaked in May 2018 with 1,383 crashes as compared to September’s low of 576 crashes.

**Phones Down
It's the Law**

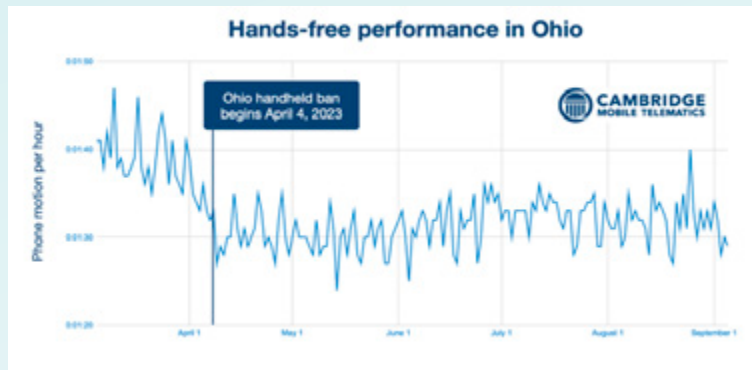


Once enforcement went into effect in October, telematics data also showed this public education campaign was making a positive impact on the roadways. According to Cambridge Mobile Telematics, data gathered from cell phones showed a 7.5% drop in the amount of time Ohio drivers spent handling their phones. In the first six months, researchers estimate that the law had prevented over 3,200 crashes and eight fatalities.

A public opinion survey also revealed that nearly 90% of Ohio drivers were aware of the new law and 75% say they have cut back on their cell phone usage while driving.

CAMPAIGNS & INITIATIVES

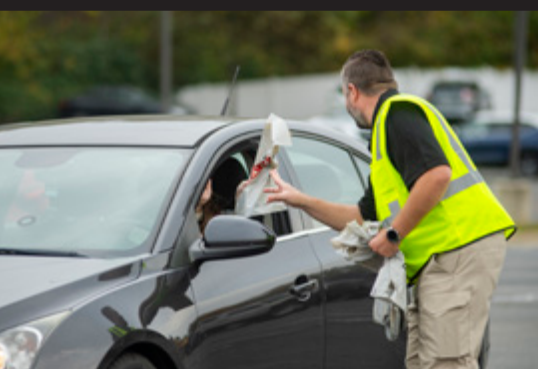
Ohio was praised for our year-long, sustained outreach efforts to keep drivers informed when the grace period ended. In October, the “Phones Down. It’s The Law.” campaign was refreshed with new messaging on TV, radio, and billboards reminding Ohioans not to use their phones while driving or they can get a citation. Citations under the new law can carry fines up to \$150 and two points assessed to their driver’s license for the first offense.



SAFE STREETS, SAFE SCHOOLS

The Ohio Traffic Safety Office and the Ohio School Safety Center (OSSC) are now working together on the “Safe Streets, Safe Schools” campaign to make sure students know what they need to do to be safe both at school and on the road. The informational campaign was launched in Gahanna, and the district was recognized at a press conference for student-led safety programs that are already in place at Gahanna Lincoln High School. After the press event, OSSC and OTSO conducted a surprise seat belt survey in the high school parking lot and distributed prizes to students who were observed wearing their seat belts.

As part of this campaign, OSSC and OTSO are providing “Safe Streets, Safe Schools” supporting materials to parents and schools in a promotional toolkit. The toolkit includes social media content, a video and script for morning announcements, a newsletter, palm card handout, lanyards, and phone wallets. Parents and teachers are encouraged to use these resources to start conversations with students of all ages about school and road safety. All materials can be found online.



CAMPAIGNS & INITIATIVES

OLDER ROAD USER EMPHASIS AREA

OTSO leads the Older Road User Emphasis Area — one of 14 emphasis areas in the Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP). The Ohio Department of Transportation oversees the SHSP with the guidance of a multi-organizational steering committee. The Older Road User Emphasis Area breaks its action plan into four subcommittees: Education, Alternative Transportation, Medically At-Risk Drivers, and Infrastructure. During 2023, Older Road User Emphasis Area accomplished the following:

1. Education:

- ◆ Updated the Older Road User landing page, <https://transportation.ohio.gov/olderdrivers>;
- ◆ Conducted a Stay Fit to Drive baseline awareness survey;
- ◆ Spread the word about the Stay Fit to Drive campaign at several events, including senior day at the Ohio State Fair;
- ◆ Established a statewide CarFit coordinator and expanded the reach of CarFit to record levels. As previously mentioned, this position was funded through OTSO using federal (NHTSA) funds.

2. Alternative Transportation:

- ◆ Safe Routes to Age in Place initiative added to the Global Database of Age-friendly Practices;
- ◆ 8 COTA stops updated through Age-friendly Transit Stop project.

3. Medically At-Risk Drivers:

- ◆ Added a resource document with a full list of Certified Driver Rehabilitation Specialists on the Older Road User landing page, <https://transportation.ohio.gov/olderdrivers>;
- ◆ Added a page on the [BMV website](#) for physicians on reporting patient driving concerns.

4. Infrastructure:

- ◆ Researched impact of Leading Pedestrian Intervals on older road user crashes;
- ◆ Ongoing implementation to make walking and bicycling safer for older road users via Systemic Safety Applications;
- ◆ Hosted FHWA “Designing and Operating Streets for an Aging Population” course (106 people attended).

OUTREACH EVENTS

YOUTH TRAFFIC SAFETY POSTER CONTEST WITH CINCINNATI REDS

Students from Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) designed and submitted traffic safety posters for OTSO's first youth poster contest. The goal was to create new messaging for teen drivers in an effort to reduce youth-related crashes and fatalities in Ohio. Five finalists were invited to the Cincinnati Reds game on April 16, where the Reds hosted an on-field pre-game ceremony and the winners were revealed on the giant video screen. The winning posters were designed by students from Troy High School/Upper Valley Career Center and were printed and distributed to OTSO's stakeholders and partners around the state.



SAFE STREETS, SAFE SCHOOLS WITH THE CLEVELAND GUARDIANS

Representatives from OTSO and the Ohio School Safety Center (OSSC) attended the Cleveland Guardians game over Labor Day Weekend to promote the "Safe Streets, Safe Schools" campaign just as the school year was getting underway. The divisions staffed a booth on the concourse to distribute free safety materials for students and parents attending the game. OTSO Executive Director Emily Davidson threw out the ceremonial first pitch.

OUTREACH EVENTS

SCORING FOR SAFETY DAY

OTSO had the opportunity to be an exhibitor at “Scoring for Safety Day” with the Columbus Blue Jackets, and talk to students about risky driving behavior. The event was held on National Seat Belt Day, so OTSO also conducted the “Quick Click Challenge” where teams of four students could take turns buckling up inside a vehicle as fast as possible. Fans arriving for the game were also invited to complete the challenge for a chance to win an autographed hockey puck.



HILLTOP SUMMER BASH

The Ohio Department of Public Safety hosted the “Hilltop Summer Safety Bash” in June and invited community members for a day of free family activities and safety resources. OTSO engaged visitors by providing free traffic safety materials, and information about training for teen drivers and motorcycle riders. Families could play traffic safety trivia, “pin the helmet on the rider” and answer “how do you stay safe on the roads?” by writing their response on a graffiti board. Some of the responses were: wear a seat belt, never drive under the influence, keep my eyes on the road, and never drive distracted.



OUTREACH EVENTS

OHIO STATE FAIR

OTSO and Motorcycle Ohio each staffed a booth at the Ohio Department of Public Safety's display for all 12 days of the Ohio State Fair. Motorcycle Ohio held a raffle for a free training class, and OTSO helped to inform visitors about the changes to Ohio's distracted driving law. They also asked fair-goers "how do you stay safe on the roads?" and their answers were shared on the graffiti board at the booth.



OTHER OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES IN 2023

- Ohio School Safety Summit
- Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police Central Ohio Teen Summit
- Ohio School Resource Officer Association Annual Conference
- FCCLA Conference
- Columbus City Schools Back to School Resource Fair