

2022 TUSCARAWAS COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY REPORT



Public Health
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Tuscarawas County Health Department

**Report created for Safe Communities,
a program led by the Tuscarawas County Health Department.**

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Report Commissioned by:
Katie Seward MPH, CHES, CRHCS
Tuscarawas County Health Commissioner

Data Analysis Conducted by:
Bethelhem Abera, MPH, CHES
COVID-19 Vaccine Surge Staffing Initiative
Epidemiologist, supporting Tuscarawas County Health Department
CDC Foundation

Questions about this report may be directed to:
Natasha Yonley, MPH, CPH, CHES
Director of Prevention Services
Tuscarawas County Health Department
nyonley@tchdnow.org
(330) 343-5555 x171

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overview of 2022 Study

An online survey was launched in the first quarter of 2022 to obtain additional traffic safety information from people who drive in Tuscarawas County. The objective of the survey was to obtain data, gain additional insights, and generate new ideas on how to improve traffic safety that could be shared with the Safe Communities Coalition from drivers in Tuscarawas County. The survey was generated via an online link and was open to the public for approximately two weeks. Anyone who spent time driving in Tuscarawas County was invited to participate in the survey.

Distribution of the survey was done via the Tuscarawas County Health Department (TCHD) and its Safe Community Coalition members. TCHD and coalition members sent direct emails with link, several social media posts, and press releases inviting public participation were sent to partners and stakeholders. The survey contained qualitative and quantitative questions and was completed by 308 people who regularly drive in Tuscarawas County. Survey data was collected by TCHD and sent to an epidemiologist at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Foundation for cleansing and analysis. Survey findings from 2022 are compared to survey finding from 2017 where applicable. 2017 is the last time when TCHD conducted a traffic safety survey of this nature.

Please find a high-level overview of the traffic safety survey results below. More in-depth details can be found in this full report, beginning on page seven.

Historical Data

The implementation of the stay-at-home orders, enacted Statewide in late March through April 2020 to contain the spread of COVID-19, may have resulted in less overall incidents of crashes. However, the data did not show a positive relation between lockdowns and reduction of vehicle fatality rates. In fact, fatality rates increased from 2019 and remained elevated.

Safety Concerns (Q1)

“Distracted Driving” was the biggest concern for 27% of surveyed drivers followed by “Driving Under the Influence” and “Speeding” at 14 % each. This 2022 survey finding is in line with the 2017 survey findings (see the full report for related tables and graph).

Dangerous Roads, Intersections (Q2)

Consistent to the 2017 survey, the most mentioned geographical concerns were “State Route 39, 250, Interstate 77, Broadway and Mill Intersection, and McCauley Drive.” (See the full report for related tables and graph).

MOST Serious Distractions (Q3)

“Texting While Driving” is perceived as the MOST serious distraction by 82% of drivers who were surveyed. (See the full report for related tables and graph).

The 2021 Tuscarawas County Community Health Needs Assessment data also shows adult drivers (19 and older) engaged in distractive activities while driving. (See the full report for related tables and graph).

Seat Belt Use (Q4)

93% of survey responders said they wear seat belts in 2022. This is comparable to the 2017 survey where 95% said they wear seat belts. (See the full report for related tables and graph). Data from the 2021 Tuscarawas County Community Health Needs Assessment also shows only 7% of adults (19 and older) did not wear seat belts in the last 6 months. (See the full report for related tables and graph).

Properly Installed Car Seat or Booster Seat (Q5)

63% of applicable respondents reported that their car seat had not been installed or checked by a car seat technician. (See the full report for related tables and graph).

Use of Cell Phone While Driving (Q6)

47% of the respondents said they sometimes or regularly used a cell phone while driving in the last 30 days. This is an increase of more than the fifty percent (50%) from what drivers reported in the 2017 survey. (See the full report for related tables and graph).

Driving Mistakes Due to Cell Phone Use (Q7)

21% of applicable respondents said they have made a driving mistake while talking on their cell phone. (See the full report for related tables and graph).

Driving Mistake Due to Texting While Driving (Q8)

38% of applicable respondents reported that they made a driving mistake while texting on their cell phone. (See the full report for related tables and graph).

Driving While Under the Influence of Drugs and/or Alcohol Last 30 Days (Q9)

99% of surveyed individuals said they have not driven while under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol in the last 30 days. However, 8% of youth (6th-12 grade) said they rode in a car driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol in the last 30 days in the 2021 Tuscarawas County Community Health Needs Assessment report. (See the full report for related tables and graph).

Driving While Under the Influence of Drugs and/or Alcohol last 6 Months (Q10)

98% of the respondents said they have not driven while under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol in the last 60 days. In comparison, 9% of adults (19 and older) reported driving a vehicle or other equipment after having any alcoholic beverage. (See the full report for related tables and graph).

Use of Helmets While Riding a Motorcycle (Q11)

69% of the applicable responders reported that they always wear a helmet when riding a motorcycle while 10% stated they sometimes wear a helmet. (See the full report for related tables and graph).

Driving 5-10 Over the Speed Limit (Q12)

72% of surveyed drivers reported that they regularly or sometimes drive 5-10 MPH over the speed limit. This is a three percent (3%) decrease from the survey conducted in 2017. (See the full report for related tables and graph).

Driving 11-15 MPH Over the Speed Limit (Q13)

11 % of survey responders said they regularly or sometimes drive 15 MPH over the speed limit. (See the full report for related tables and graph).

Driving 15 MPH Over the Speed Limit (Q14)

3% of responders said they regularly or sometimes drive more than 15 MPH over the speed limit. (See the full report for related tables and graph).

Concerns for Traffic Safety (Q15)

71% of responders agreed or strongly agreed that traffic safety is a concern for them which compares to the 2017 Survey findings where 74% also said traffic safety was a concern for them. (See the full report for related tables and graph).

Conclusion and Recommendations

The COVID-19 lockdowns in 2020 resulted in less overall vehicle crash incidents. However, it did not show reduction in crash fatalities. In fact, fatality rates saw an increase from the year before and remained elevated. Contributing variables included drug related involvements which increased by more than 30% from 2019, roadway departure, and speeding. While drug involvement in vehicle crash fatalities went down in 2021, reckless driving continues to result in OVI-related crashes. Seventy percent (70%) of fatalities are attributed to OVI-related crashes in the county.

Other clear worrisome trends observed in the preliminary data from 2020-April 6, 2022, is the eighty percent (80%) of fatal crashes that have occurred in rural parts of Tuscarawas County. Equally concerning is the sheer number (24 out of 61) of fatal crashes that are attributed to lack of seat belt use in the 2017-2021 data.

The majority (71%) of drivers who participated in the survey say traffic safety is a concern to them. This indicates Safe Communities of Tuscarawas County has buy-in from drivers where future traffic safety efforts will have a greater chance of being impactful.

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

History of Safe Communities Program

The Federal Highway Safety Act of 1966 directed the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the federal Highway Administration of the United States Department of Transportation (DOT) to jointly administer various highway safety projects (OTSO Traffic Safety Grant Proposal, 2016). Safe Communities of Tuscarawas (SCT) County became a program of the Tuscarawas County Health Department (TCHD) in 2016. This grant program provides federal funds administered through the Ohio Department of Public Safety, Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) and Ohio Traffic Safety Office (OTSO) to eligible entities to be used for projects such as traffic safety education, enforcement and engineering. Funds are used for highway safety support based on problem identification to reduce overall fatal and injury crashes. This program operates on a reimbursement basis.

OTSO administers the Section 402 State and Community grants, related National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) awards and initiatives, and contracts for traffic safety activities. Competitive grant proposals are accepted and reviewed annually, with funds awarded to traffic safety projects that will have the greatest impact on reducing fatal crashes or that significantly improve traffic safety systems. Since partnerships are critical to the long-term success of a project effort, applicants are encouraged to develop broad-based support and commitment from officials and constituent groups toward addressing traffic safety concerns.

Each grant proposal must focus on one or more of these priority program areas:

- Restraint use
- Impaired driving
- Speed management
- Motorcycle safety
- Youthful drivers
- Distracted driving
- Traffic records
- Engineering

In addition, competitive grant proposals must include an evaluation strategy that assesses the impact of proposed project activities on the selected priority areas. Based on the proposed strategies, each grant proposal must show how the effectiveness of the proposed activities will be measured. Each proposal is compared to the “Countermeasures that Work” to ensure projects selected for funding are evidence-based.

Tuscarawas County Safe Communities Objectives

Ohio Safe Communities is a data-driven initiative to save lives and reduce injuries through collaboration among state, county and local partners. In FFY 2022 there are 43 countywide community-based programs. Each program has five primary goals:

- Increasing seat belt usage
- Increasing seat belt and impaired driving awareness
- Increasing motorcycle safety awareness
- Coalition building
- Fatal data review

Safe Community Coalition

The coalition's goal is to work together as a community to prevent traffic related fatalities and injuries in Tuscarawas County by increasing traffic safety awareness. The coalition is led by the Tuscarawas County Health Department and is open to anyone who would like to increase traffic safety awareness, is a local business leader, is a local EMS, fire or law enforcement officer or has been affected by drunk, distracted, or impaired driving.

As of 2022, the following organizations and individuals are represented on the Safe Communities Coalition of Tuscarawas County:

- Access Tusc
- Buckeye Career Center
- Dover City Schools
- EmpowerTusc
- Judge Adam Wilgus
- Kent State Tuscarawas
- New Philadelphia City Health Department
- Newcomerstown Police Department
- Newsy Mom
- Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT)
- Ohio State Highway Patrol
- Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association (OMEGA)
- Operation Life Saver
- SpringVale Health Centers
- Strasburg Police Department
- Strasburg Schools
- Sugarcreek Police Department
- Twin City Medical Center
- Tuscarawas County Commissioners
- Tuscarawas County Coroner

- Tuscarawas County Emergency Management Agency
- Tuscarawas County Engineer
- Tuscarawas County Sheriff's Office
- Tuscarawas Mobility Management
- Uhrichsville Police Department
- Village of Baltic
- WBTC

HISTORICAL DATA

The Tuscarawas County Health Department obtained historical data from the following sources: Ohio State Highway Patrol; the 2017 Tuscarawas County Health Department Traffic Safety Survey; 2021 Tuscarawas County Community Health Needs Assessment; and information from quarterly traffic fatality reviews conducted by the Coalition.

During 2020, Tuscarawas County saw notable reduction in traffic volume most likely due to the COVID-19 pandemic stay at-home orders which occurred Statewide in late March through April.

Traffic Crashes

Graph 1: Tuscarawas County Combined Crashes by Month and Year

Data: Source: Ohio State Highway Patrol Crash Dashboard (1/1/2017 – 12/31/2021)

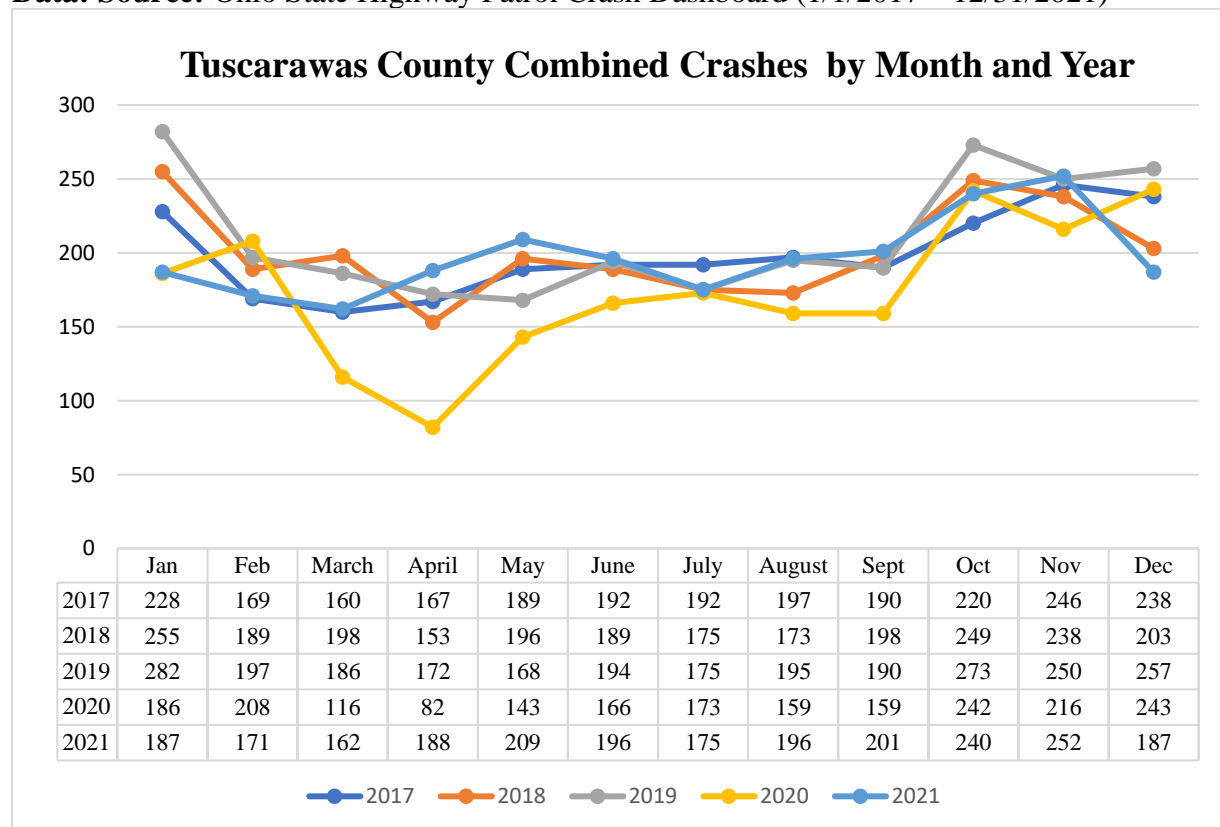
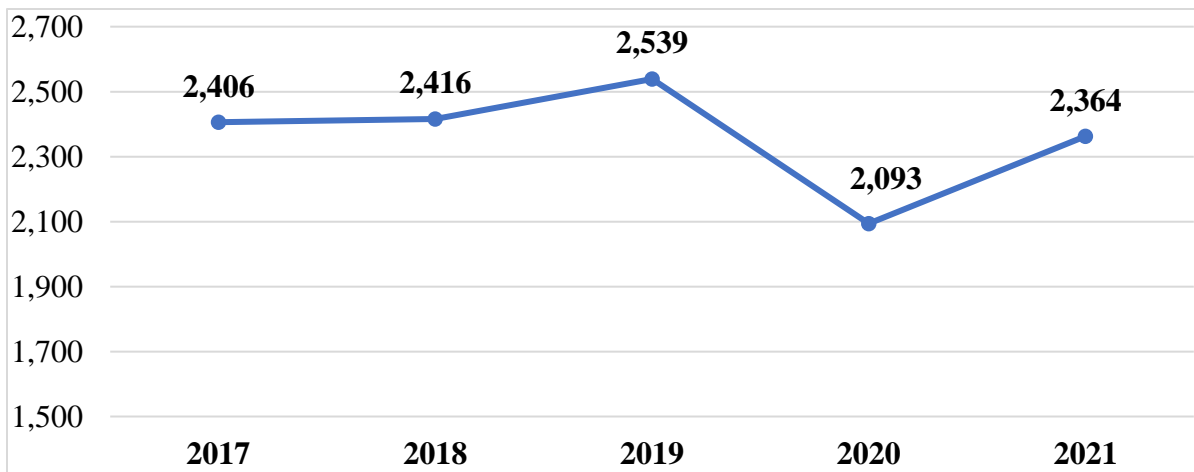


Table 1: Total Traffic Crashes Investigated in Tuscarawas County by Year**Data Source:** Ohio State Highway Patrol Crash Dashboard (1/1/2017 – 12/31/2021)

Year	Total Traffic Crashes	Difference from 5-Year Average
2017	2,406	+42.2
2018	2,416	+52.2
2019	2,539	+175.2
2020	2,093	-269.8
2021	2,364	+0.20

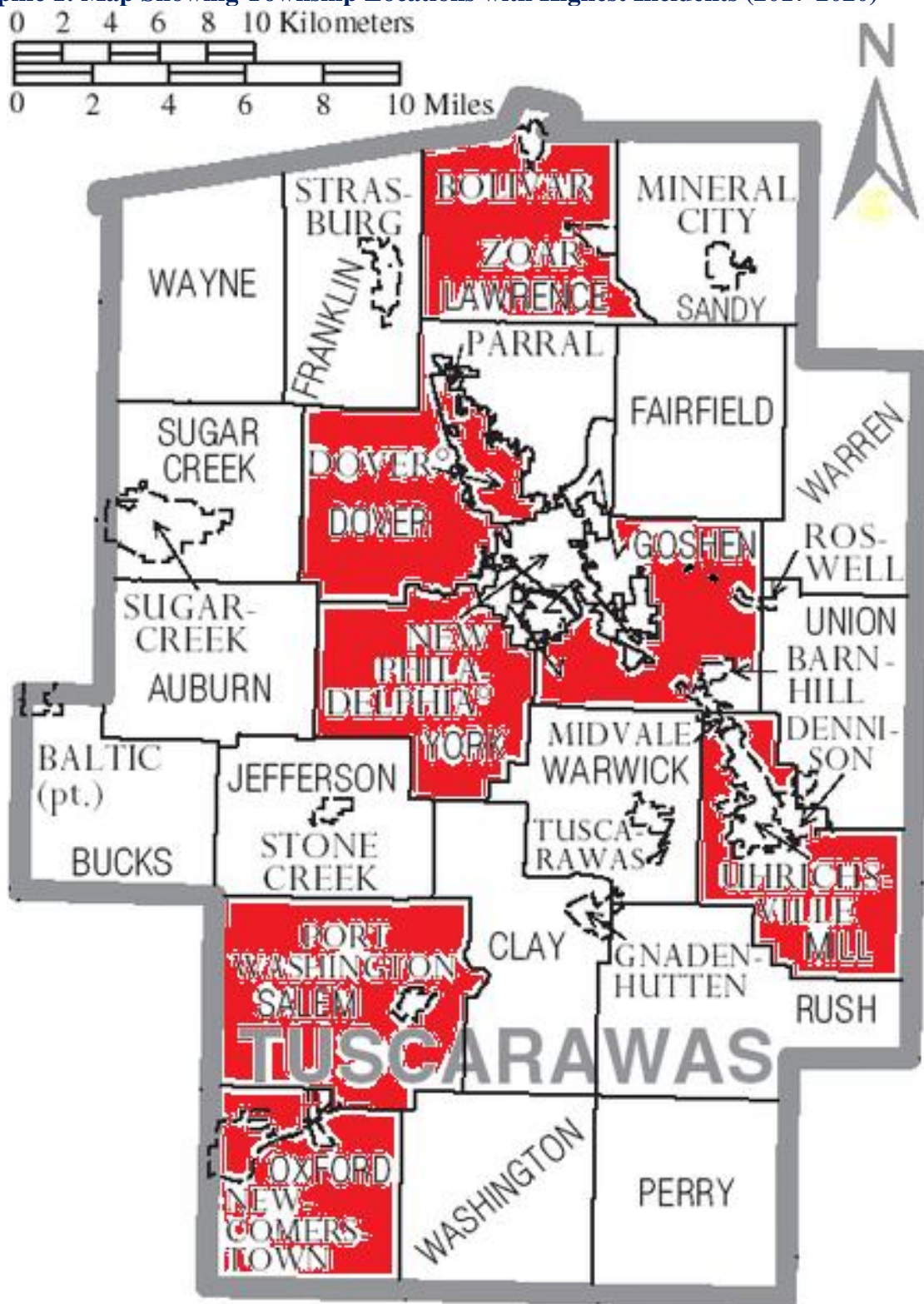
Graph 2: Tuscarawas County Combined Crashes by Year**Data: Source:** Ohio State Highway Patrol OSHP Crash Dashboard (1/1/2017 – 12/31/2021)

It was hypothesized that the stay-at-home orders may have resulted in less overall incidents of crashes as compared to the three years before the pandemic. However, analysis of the data from 2017-2021 did not show positive correlation between lockdowns and reduction of vehicle fatality rates as would be expected. In fact, vehicle fatality rates increased in 2020 and remained elevated.

Table 2: Top 5 Municipalities with Traffic Incidents by Year; 2017-2022**Data Source:** Ohio State Highway Patrol

Top 5	2017	2018	2019	2020
1	Lawrence Twp (3,093)	Dover Twp (2,636)	Lawrence Twp (2,695)	Goshen Twp (1,745)
2	Dover Twp (3,037)	Lawrence Twp (2,586)	Goshen Twp (2,638)	Dover Twp (1,635)
3	Goshen Twp (2,514)	Goshen Twp (2,448)	Dover Twp (2,510)	Lawrence Twp (1,479)
4	Mill Twp (1,617)	Mill Twp (2,236)	Mill Twp (2,031)	Mill Twp (981)
5	Oxford Twp (1,526)	Dover City (1,567)	Salem Twp (1,513)	York Twp (739)

Graphic 1: Map Showing Township Locations with Highest Incidents (2017-2020)



Traffic Safety Activity

Table 3: Ohio State Highway Patrol Safety Activity for Tuscarawas County 2017-2020

Data Source: Ohio State Highway Patrol 2017 – 2020 Patrol Operational Reports

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Enforcement Stops	8,780	7,925	7,502	3,440
Non-Enforcement Stops	12,521	12,362	12,308	8,197
Crashes Investigated	1,464	1,493	1,495	1,226
OVI Arrests	296	384	312	183
Driving Under Suspended License Citation	450	467	436	262
Distracted Driving Violations	-	-	-	73
Aggressive Driving Citations	458	872	673	
Safety Belt Citations	2,047	2,101	1,714	833
Commercial Vehicle Citation	310	387	438	262
Motorist Assists	4,978	4,988	4,726	3,812
Violation Warning	4,588	5,064	4,961	2,121

Table 4: Safety Activity for Tuscarawas County YTD Comparison for 2022 and 2021 (January 1 – March 31)

Data Source: Ohio State Highway Patrol

	2021	2022
Enforcement Stops	1,110	1,372
Non-Enforcement Stops	2,064	2,029
Crashes Investigated	309	330
OVI Arrests	63	93
Driving Under Suspended License Citation	80	108
Distracted Driving Violations	20	30
Safety Belt Citations	203	204
Commercial Vehicle Citation	33	43
Motorist Assists	889	964
Violation Warning	623	574

2022 year to date statistics (January 1 – March 31) are showing higher violations in nearly all categories from 2021. Additionally, the YTD crash fatality difference is +2.

Traffic Fatalities

Graph 3: Total Fatal Crashes in Tuscarawas County by Year

Data source: Ohio State Highway Patrol

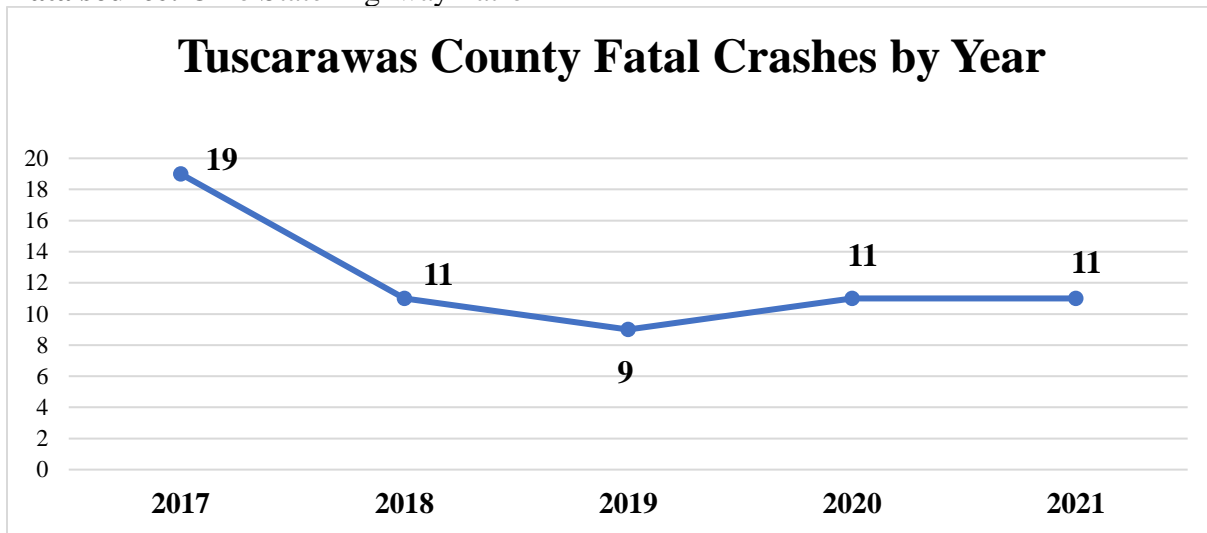


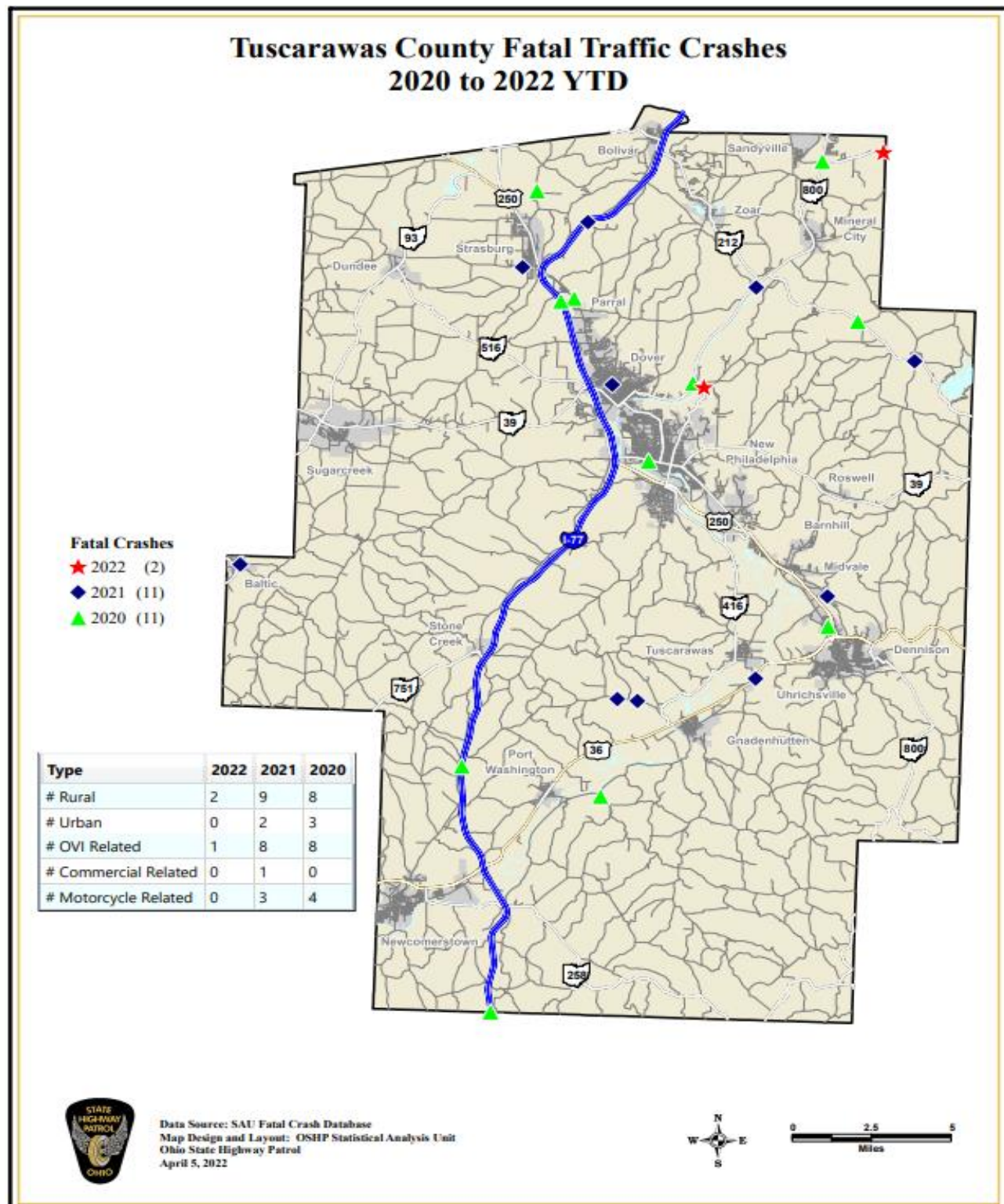
Table 5: Variables in Fatalities in Tuscarawas County by Year

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Fatal Crashes	19	11	9	11	11
Alcohol-Related	7	5	4	3	5
Bicycle-Related	2	0	0	0	0
Commercial-Related	1	3	0	0	1
Distracted-Related	1	1	0	0	1
Drug-Related	8	2	4	7	5
Failure to Yield-Related	1	1	0	2	1
Mature-Related	5	3	5	3	6
Motorcycle-Related	8	1	0	4	3
OVI-Related	11	5	6	8	8
Pedestrian-Related		0	3	1	0
Ran Redlight/Stop Sign	1	0	0	0	2
Speed-Related	11	6	5	7	5
Teen-Related	1	1	1	2	4
Unbelted-Related	4	6	3	4	7
Work Zone-Related	0	0	1	0	0
Youth Related	5	3	2	3	5

Data Source: ODPS Electronic Crash System

Teen vs. Youth Related: Teen-Related: crash involving a driver between 15 and 19 years old; Youth-Related: crash involving a driver between 15 and 24 years old.

Graphic 2: Tuscarawas County Fatal Traffic Crashes by Location Jan 2020 to April 2022
Data Source: Ohio State Highway Patrol Image 4/6/2022



From January 1, 2020-April 6, 2022, there were a total of 24 fatal crashes. Alcohol (12) and drug-related crashes were also the other contributing factors. 19 of the 24 fatal crashes, or 79%, occurred in the more rural areas of the County. Only 5 of the 24 fatal crashes occurred in urban areas. In comparison only 1 fatal crash was commercial related, whereas 7, or 29%, involved motorcycles. Furthermore, when looking at the entire study period for this report (2017-2021), another major concerning trend is the percentage of unbelted drivers and or passengers in fatalities. From 2017 to 2021, nearly 40% of fatalities or 24 out of 61 total fatal crashes were unbelted-related crashes.

OVERVIEW OF 2022 STUDY

In February 2022 an online survey was launched to obtain additional traffic safety information from people who drive in Tuscarawas County. A similar online survey was conducted in August 2017. The purpose of the survey was to obtain data, gain additional insights, and generate new ideas on how to improve traffic safety that could be shared with the Safe Communities Coalition from drivers in Tuscarawas County. Both surveys were generated via an online link and was open to the public for approximately two weeks. The target audience was anyone who spent time driving in Tuscarawas County. Distribution of the survey was done via Safe Community Coalition members. Direct emails with link, several social media posts, and press releases inviting public participation were sent to partners and stakeholders. The survey contained qualitative and quantitative questions.

SURVEY DATA ANALYSIS AND COMPARING RESULTS WITH PREVIOUS SURVEY DATA

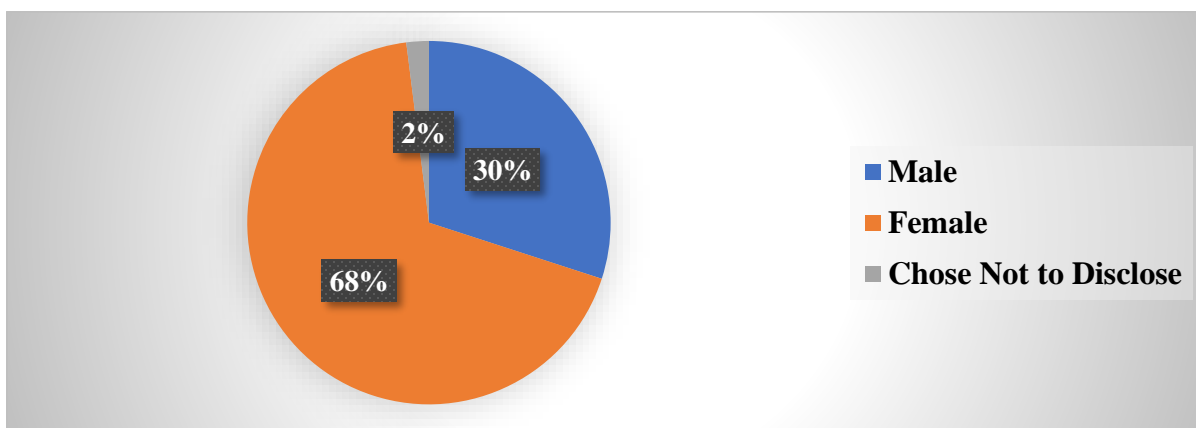
Not all survey items included in 2022 were the same as the survey items in 2017. A total of 17 survey items were included in the 2022 survey, whereas only ten survey items were included in the 2017 survey. Aside from the assumption that participants were regular or frequent drivers in Tuscarawas County, no further demographics information was collected in the 2017 survey. In comparison, the 2022 survey included demographic information such as age, gender, and education.

2022 SURVEY RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

In the 2017 traffic survey, 171 responses were received as compared to 308 responses in 2022. Of the 308 responses received in 2022, 68% identified as women, 30% as men and 2% did not identify.

Graph 4: 2022 Survey Participant by Gender

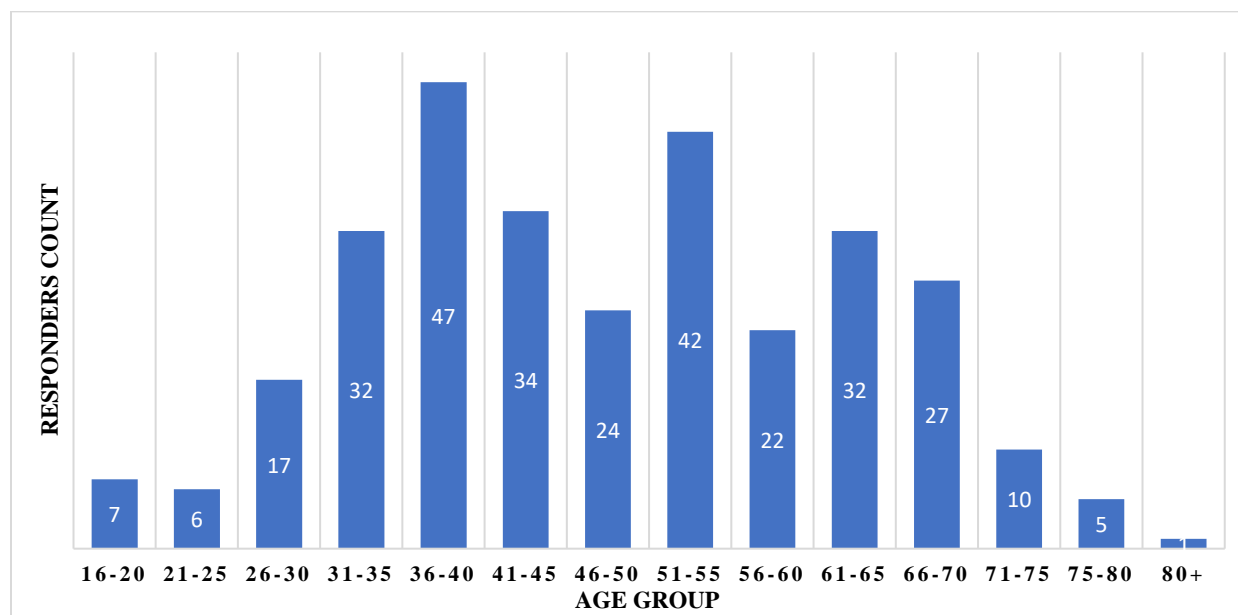
Data Source: 2022 Traffic Safety Survey



Most of the drivers who participated in this survey were drivers between the ages of 36-40, followed by those who were between the ages of 51-55, and 41-45.

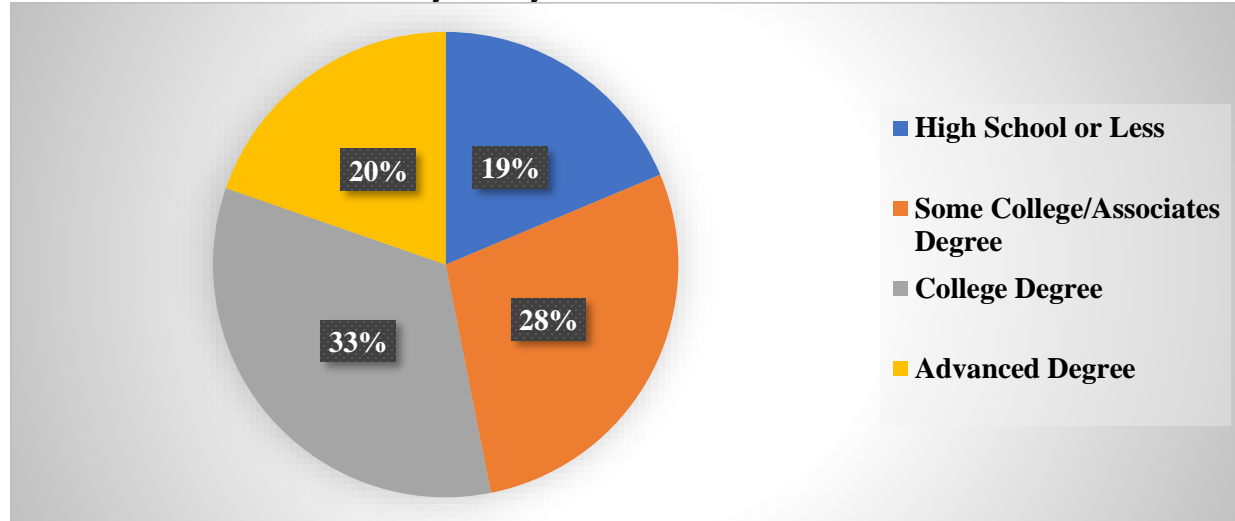
Graph 5: 2022 Survey Participant by Age Group

Data Source: 2022 Traffic Safety Survey



Graph 6: 2022 Survey Responses by Education Level

Data Source: 2022 Traffic Safety Survey



While all education levels are well represented, it should be noted that this may not be representative of the entire population of Tuscarawas County. Based on information from the 2020 American Community Survey data and Common Core Data available for Public Elementary through Secondary Schools, 57.8% of Tuscarawas County residents have a High School education or less, 23.9% have some college or an Associate's Degree, and 17.4% have a Bachelor's Degree or higher.

TRAFFIC SAFETY SURVEY RESULTS

Safety Concerns by Survey Year (Q1)

Drivers in Tuscarawas County identified distracted driving as the largest traffic safety concern in both the 2017 and 2022 survey. In 2022, distracted driving was selected 258 times (27%) followed by driving under the influence and speeding 134 counts each (14%). Similarly, distracted driving was identified as a leading concern in 2017 by 38% of the respondents followed by driving under the influence at 20% and speeding at 13%.

Table 7: 2022 Survey Top Safety Concerns**Data Source:** 2022 Traffic Safety Survey

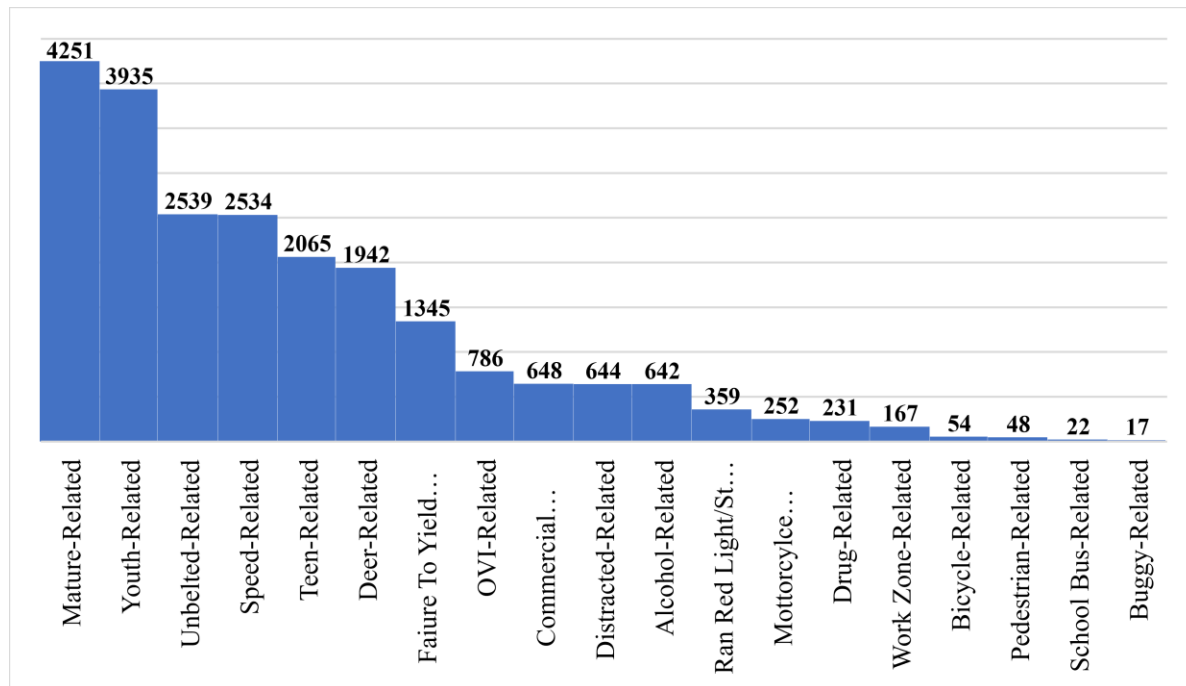
	Count	% Drivers
Distracted Driving	258	27%
Driving Under the influence	134	14%
Speeding	134	14%
Motorcycle Safety/Lack of Bicycle Lanes	112	12%
Unsafe Intersections	88	9%
Lack of Crosswalks and/or Sidewalks	56	6%
Lack of Seat Belt Use	47	5%
Unsafe Roadways	43	4%
Unsafe Child Restraints	34	3%
Motorized Wheelchairs on Roadways	33	3%
Golf Carts on Roadways	16	2%
Amish Buggies	14	1%
Total	969	100%

Table 8: Top 7 Traffic Concerns 2022 Survey vs. 2017 Survey**Data Source:** 2022 and 2017 Traffic Safety Survey

Top Seven Traffic Concerns	% Answers 2017	% Answers 2022
Distracted Driving	38%	27%
Driving Under the Influence	20%	14%
Speeding	13%	14%
Motorcycle Safety/Lack of Bicycle Lanes	10%	12%
Lack of Seat Belt Use	4%	5%
Unsafe Roadways	7%	4%
Unsafe Child Restraints	4%	3%

Graph 7: Overall Crash Variables in Tuscarawas County (2017-2021)

Data source: Ohio State Highway Patrol Crash Dashboard 1/1/2017-12/31/2021



Dangerous Roads, Intersections in Tuscarawas County (Q2)

Participating Tuscarawas County drivers were provided a text box to list areas of geographical concern as it relates to traffic safety. The most common trend words included “State Route 39, 250, Interstate 77, Broadway and Mill Intersection, and McCauley Drive.” A further analysis was completed to identify common areas of concern and resulted in the following list:

Locations of Concern:

➤ **Tuscarawas County:**

- State Route 416 due to bicycles
- State Route 800 due to bicycles
- State Route 212 due to bicycles
- Interstate 77 due to distracted driving
- Lack of berms and bicycle lanes on rural roads
- Rural roadways in the winter

➤ **Dover City:**

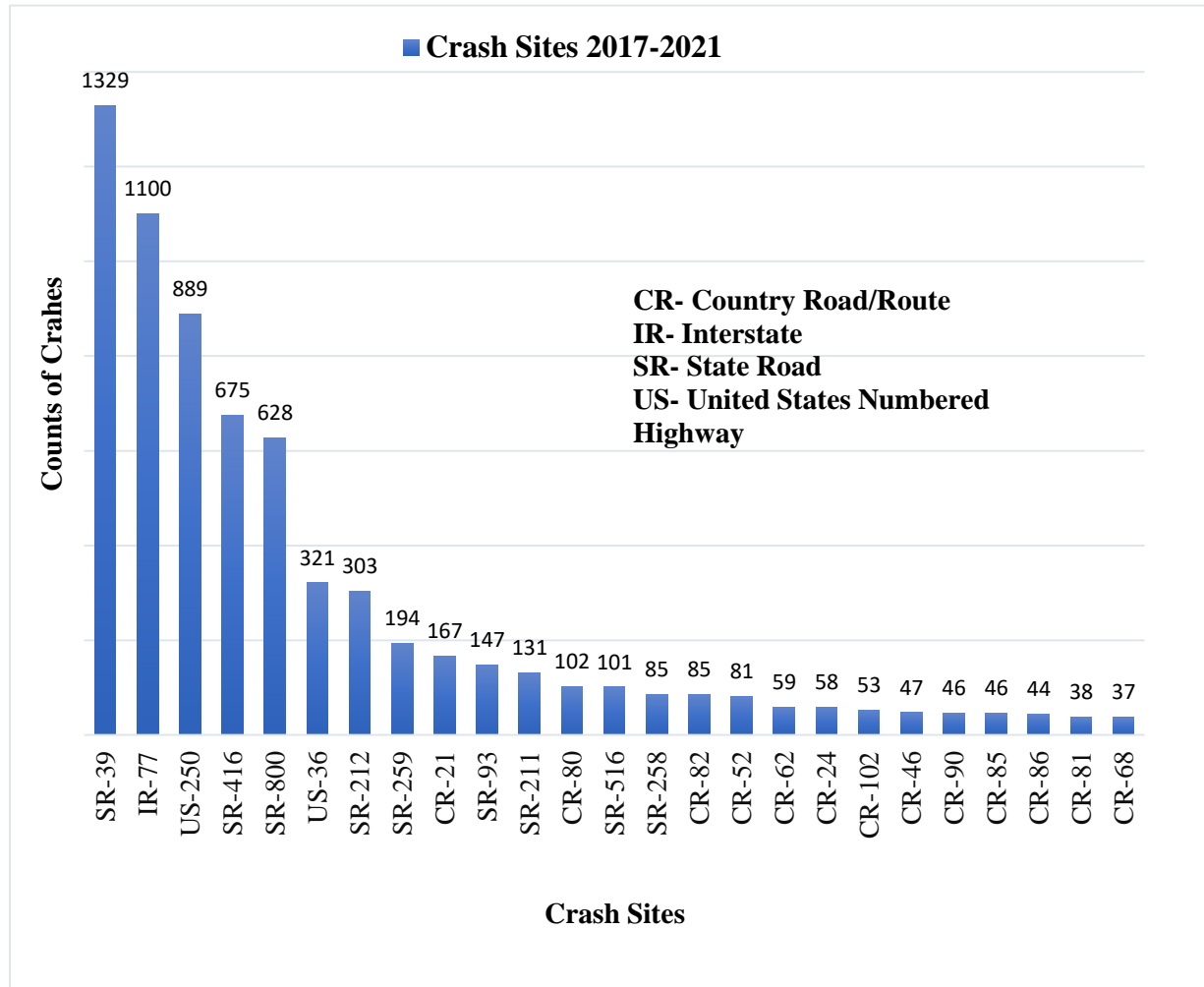
- Tuscarawas Ave (Dover City) due to speed
- Intersection of East Iron at McKinley St and Boulevard due to confusing intersection
- Route 39/Interstate 77 Intersections
- Lack of sidewalks around Union Hospital
- Wooster Avenue due to speeding

- 20th Street and areas around Dover Middle School due to lack of sidewalks
- Pedestrian signals needed in downtown area
- Roadways adjacent to Dover South Elementary
- **Dover Township:**
 - Schneider's Crossing due to speed
- **Fairfield Township:**
 - Boy Scout Road and Johnstown Valley Road Intersection due to low visibility and speeding
- **Franklin Township:**
 - Columbia Road
- **Goshen Township:**
 - Brightwood Road due to speeding and pedestrians
- **Lawrence Township:**
 - Eberhart Road
 - Fair Oaks Road at State Route 212 due to lack of 4 way stop
- **Mill Township:**
 - Wolf Run, Roxford Church, US Rt 250
 - State Route 800 South of Dennison due to high traffic
- **New Philadelphia City:**
 - State Route 39 east of New Philadelphia due to high traffic, speeding and lack of walking/bicycle lanes
 - Intersection of Commercial Avenue and Broadway
 - Downtown area due to large vehicles parked all day making pedestrians difficult to see when crossing
 - Route 250/Interstate 77 interchange near Bluebell
 - Bluebell drive due to traffic congestion
 - Intersections within the city due to drivers running red lights
 - 4th Street due to frequent flooding
 - Fair Ave
 - North and South Broadway due to lack of evening lighting
 - East and West High Ave due to lack of evening lighting
 - 22nd Street due to speeding
 - North Broadway/Donahey intersection due to persons turning on red and speeding vehicles
 - Lack of sidewalks on West High Ave closer to Walmart
 - Lack of speed limit enforcement in the city
- **Sandy Township:**
 - Tunnel Hill Road not maintained during snow fall events
 - New Cumberland Road/ State Route 212 intersection due to excessive speed
- **Stone Creek Township:**
 - Stone Creek Road due to limited site distance

- **Sugarcreek Township:**
 - Gerber Valley and State Route 93 due to lack of bicycle and buggy lanes
 - State Route 93 due to buggies and electric bikes
- **Uhrichsville City:**
 - McCauley Drive due to heavy traffic, changing traffic patterns
 - McCauley Drive intersection
 - East 3rd Street railroad crossing
 - Deersville Avenue and 1st Street
- **Village of Dennison:**
 - State Route 800 and McCrea Street due to children in roadways and chasing Semi trucks
 - McCrea in winter due to lack of plowing
- **Village of Newcomerstown:**
 - East Canal St and South Bride St intersection
 - Dollar General and State Street intersection
- **Village of Strasburg:**
 - Too many golf carts on roadways
 - Too many semi-trucks
 - Too much through traffic
- **Village of Sugarcreek:**
 - State Route 39 and Factory Street Intersection
- **Warwick Township:**
 - Wolfs Crossing to 36 due to bus traffic and railroad crossing
- **Wayne Township:**
 - State Route 516 due to speeding

Graph 8: Top Crash Routes in Tuscarawas County (2017-2021)

Data Source: Ohio State Highway Patrol Crash Dashboard 1/1/2017-12/31/2021



2022 MOST Serious Distractions (Q3)

Drivers were asked what they perceived to be the MOST serious distraction for drivers. The majority of drivers (82%) indicated texting while driving as the most serious perceived distraction.

Table 9: Most Serious Distraction

Data Source: 2022 Traffic Safety Survey

Distraction	Count	%Answers
Texting While Driving	252	82%
Cell Phone Conversations	17	6%
Roadside Billboards	7	2%
Other	7	2%
Overall Failure to Pay Attention to Road	6	2%
Other GPS/Navigation Systems	5	2%
Car Crashes/Vehicle Issues	4	1%
Eating While driving	3	1%
Always in a Hurry	3	1%
Blind Intersections	2	1%
Total	306	100%

Similarly, the 2021 Tuscarawas County Community Health Needs Assessment data showed that Tuscarawas County adults (19 and older) engaged in the following while driving:

- Talking on a hands-free cell phone (35%)
- Eating (32%)
- Talking on a handheld cell phone (29%)
- Texting (15%)
- Using the Internet on their cell phone (6%)
- Reading (2%)
- Engaging in other activities such as applying make-up or shaving (1%)

Seat Belt Use (Q4)

Ninety-three percent (93%) of the respondents in 2022 said they wear seat belts, which is similar to the findings in the survey conducted in 2017 where ninety-five percent (95%) said they wear seat belts.

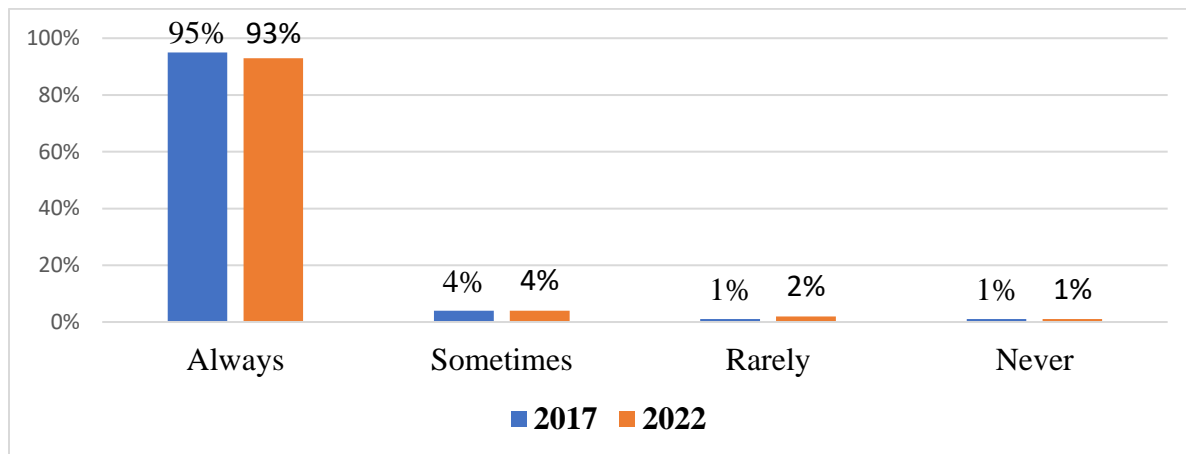
Table 10: Seat Belt Use 2022 vs 2017

Data Source: 2022 and 2017 Traffic Safety Survey

Q4	Count	%Answer 2017	Count	% Answer 2022
Always	160	95%	283	93%
Never	1	1%	4	1%
Rarely	1	1%	5	2%
Sometimes	7	4%	13	4%
Total	169	100%	305	100%

Graph 9: 2022 vs 2017 Reported Seat Belt Use

Data Source: 2022 and 2017 Traffic Safety Survey



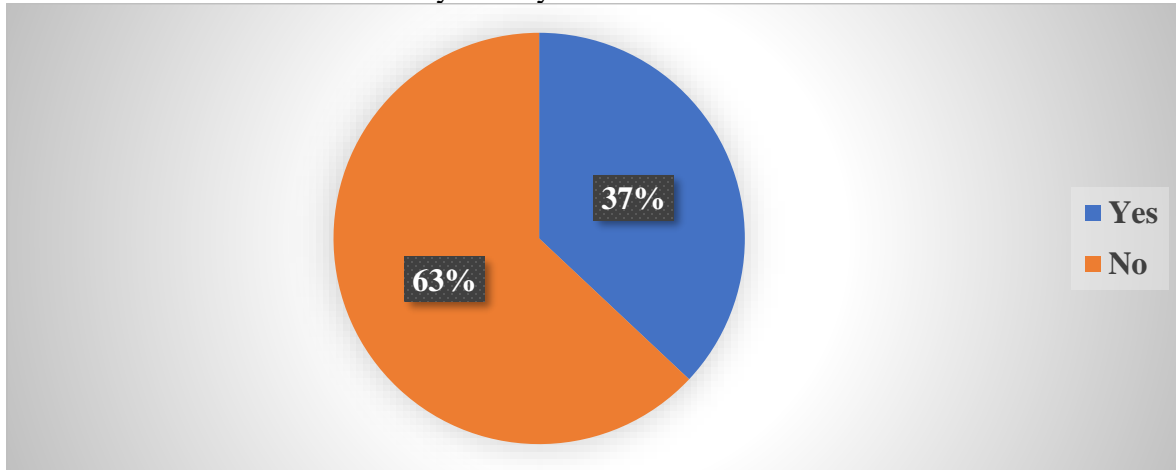
Based on the data obtain from the 2021 Tuscarawas County Community Health Needs Assessment, 7% of adults (19 and older) reported not wearing a seat belt in the last 6 months.

Properly Installed Car Seat or Booster Seat (Q5)

Majority of the responders (73%) said this question was not applicable to them. However, 30 of the 82 applicable respondents said their car seat/booster was installed or checked by a professional car seat technician (37%) while 63% of the applicable respondents stated that their car seat had not been installed or checked by a car seat technician.

Graph 10: Car Seat Booster Seat Installed or Checked by a Technician (Applicable Responses Only)

Data Source: 2022 Traffic Safety Survey



Use of Cell Phone While Driving (Q6)

Nearly forty-seven percent (47%) of the responders said they sometimes or regularly use a cell phone while driving within the last 30 days. This is more than the fifty percent (50%) increase from what drivers reported in the 2017 survey. In 2017 only twenty percent (20%) said they utilize a cell phone while driving.

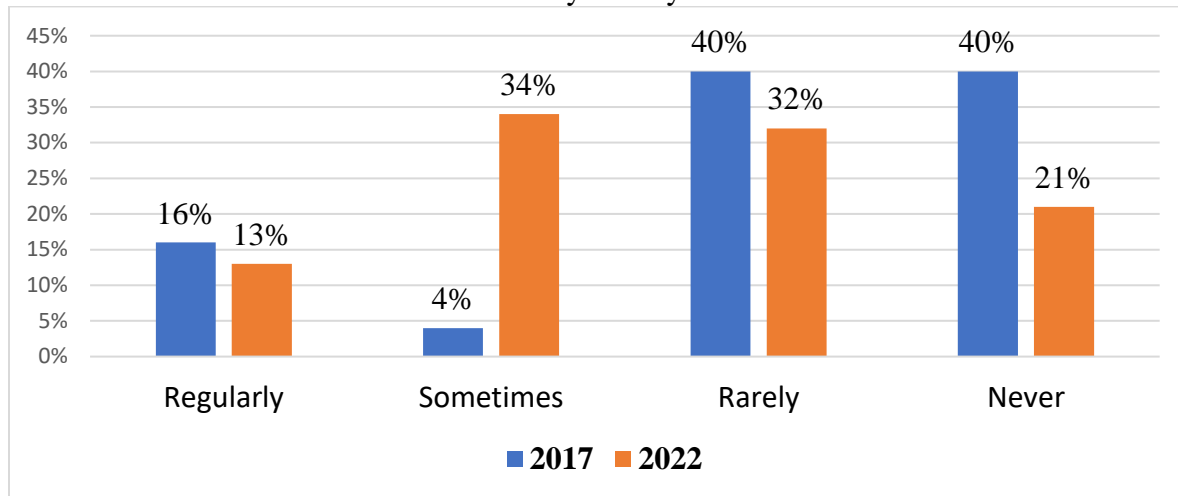
Table 11: Cell Phone Use 2022 vs 2017

Data Source: 2022 and 2017 Traffic Safety Survey

Q6	Count	% Answer 2017	Count	% Answer 2022
Never	68	40%	64	21%
Rarely	68	40%	96	32%
Regularly	26	16%	41	13%
Sometimes	6	4%	103	34%
Total	168	100%	304	100%

Graph 11: 2022 vs 2017 Reported Cell Phone Use

Data Source: 2022 and 2017 Traffic Safety Survey

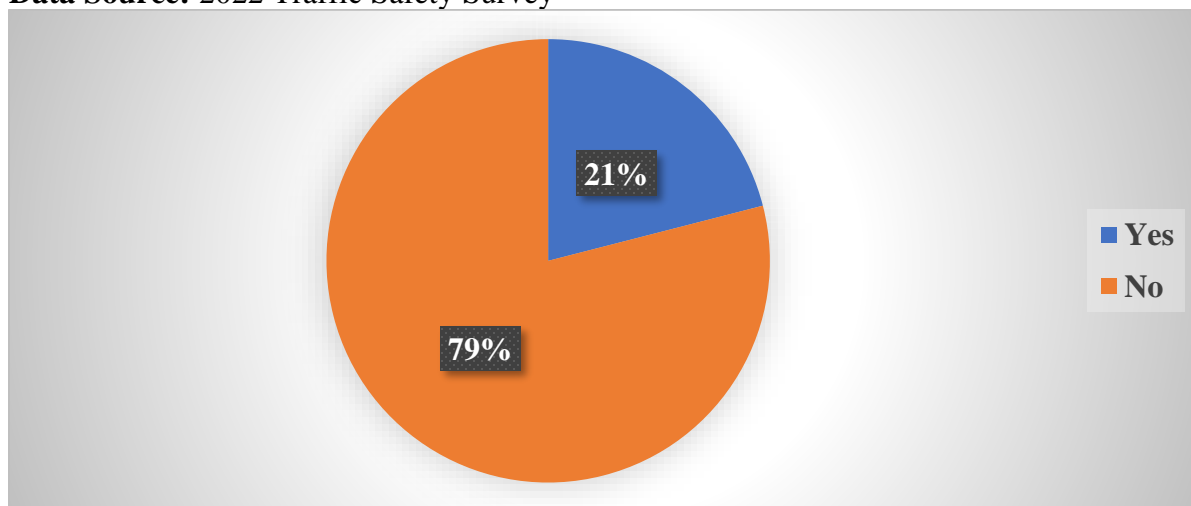


Driving Mistakes Due to Cell Phone Use (Q7)

Drivers were asked if they have ever made a mistake while talking on a cell phone. Fourteen percent (14%) or 43 respondents stated this question did not apply to them. 43 of the 204 applicable respondents, twenty-one percent (21%), stated they have made a driving mistake while talking on their cell phone.

Graph 12: Driving Mistakes Due to Cell Phone Use (Applicable Responses Only)

Data Source: 2022 Traffic Safety Survey

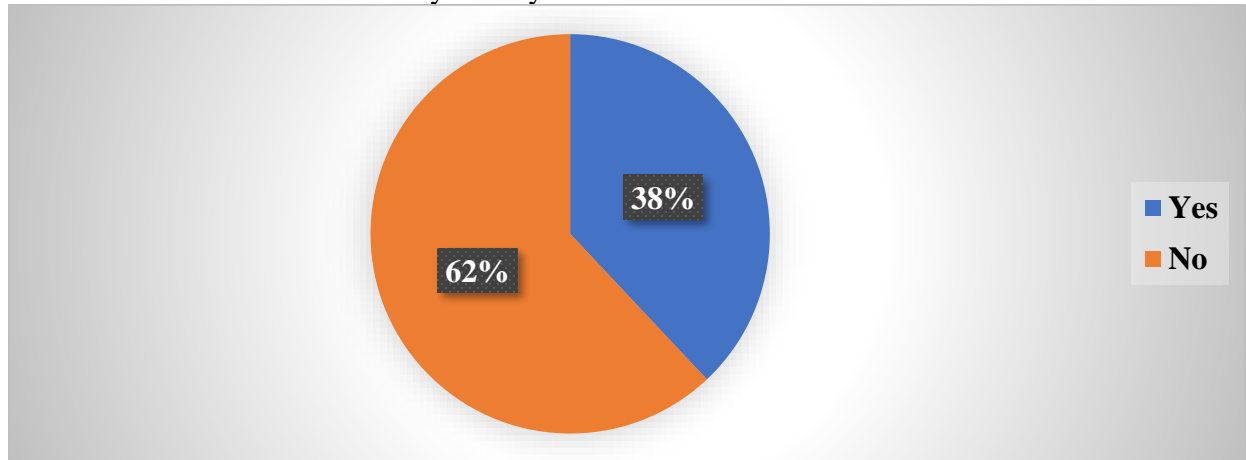


Driving Mistake Due to Texting While Driving (Q8)

Drivers were asked if they have ever made a driving mistake while **texting** on their cell phone. Forty percent (40%) of the responders said this question does not apply to them. Of the 183 applicable respondents, 69 or 38%, stated they have made a driving mistake while texting on their cell phone.

Graph 13: Driving Mistakes Due to Texting While Driving (Applicable Responses Only)

Data Source: 2022 Traffic Safety Survey



Driving While Under the Influence of Drugs and/or Alcohol Last 30 Days (Q9)

Nearly all participants ninety-nine percent (99%) said they have not driven while under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol in the last 30 days.

Table 12: Driving While Under the Influence of Drugs and/or Alcohol in the Last 30 Days

Data Source: 2022 Safety Survey

Q9	Count	% Answer
No	301	99%
Yes	3	1%
Total	304	100%

Based on the 2021 Tuscarawas County Community Health Assessment, 8% of all Tuscarawas County youth (6th -12th grade) had ridden in a car driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol in the last 30 days. Additionally, in the past 30 days, 1% of youth drivers (16-18 years old) had driven in a car after they had been drinking alcohol.

Additionally, 2% of adults (19 and older) reported that they had driven under the influence of alcohol and 2% reported they had driven under the influence of prescription drugs.

Driving While Under the Influence of Drugs and/or Alcohol last 6 Months (Q10)

Ninety-eight percent (98%) of the respondents said they have not driven while under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol in the last 60 days.

Table 13: Driving While Under the Influence of Drugs and/or Alcohol in the Last 6 Months

Data Source: 2022 Safety Survey

Q10	Count	%Answer
No	300	98%
Yes	5	2%
Total	305	100%

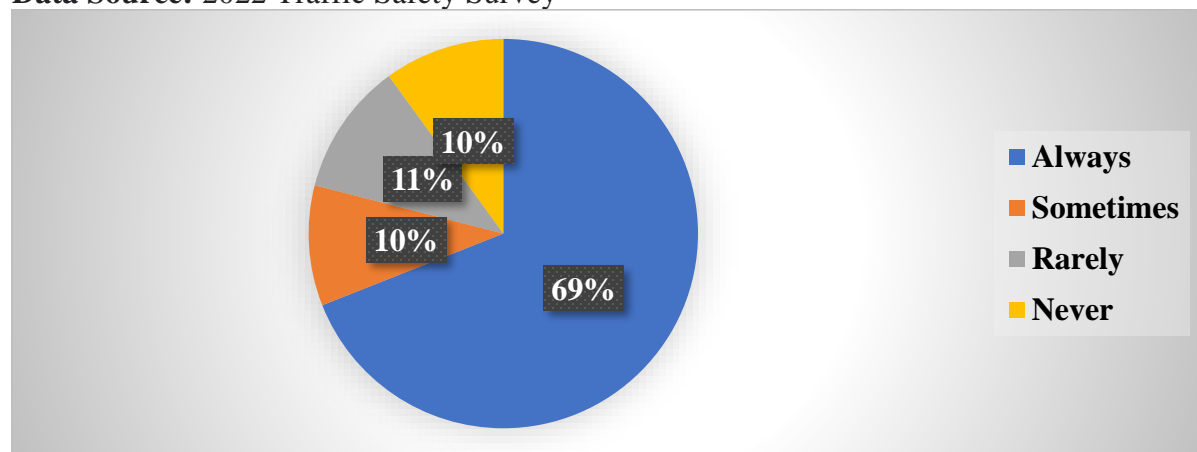
Based on the 2021 Tuscarawas County Community Health Needs Assessment, 9% of Tuscarawas County adults (19 and older) reported driving a vehicle or other equipment after having any alcoholic beverage.

Use of Helmets While Riding a Motorcycle (Q11)

Seventy-seven percent (77%) of respondents stated this question did not apply to them. Of the 70 respondents, 48 stated that they always wear a helmet when riding a motorcycle (69%). Of the applicable respondents, 7 or 10%, stated they sometimes wear a helmet, while 15, or thirteen percent (13%), of applicable respondents stated they rarely or never wore a helmet while riding a motorcycle.

Graph 14: Use of Helmets While Riding Motorcycle (Applicable Responses Only)

Data Source: 2022 Traffic Safety Survey



Driving 5-10 MPH Over the Speed Limit (Q12)

Seventy-two percent (72%) of the responders reported that they regularly or sometimes drive 5-10 mph over the speed limit. This indicates a three percent (3%) decrease in responders who report driving 5-10 mph over the speed limit as compared to responders in 2017.

Table 14: Driving 5-10 MPH over the speed limit

Data Source: 2022 Safety Survey

Q12	Count	% Answer
Never	16	5%
Rarely	71	23%
Regularly	91	30%
Sometimes	128	42%
Total	306	100%

Driving 11-15 MPH Over the Speed Limit (Q13)

Approximately eleven percent (11%) of the responders said they regularly or sometimes drive 15 MPH over the speed limit.

Table 15: Driving 11-15 MPH over the speed limit

Data Source: 2022 Safety Survey

Q13	Count	% Answer
Never	147	48%
Rarely	124	41%
Regularly	7	2%
Sometimes	28	9%
Total	306	100%

Driving 15 MPH Over the Speed Limit (Q14)

Only three percent (3%) of the responders said they regularly or sometimes drive more than 15 mph over the speed limit.

Table 16: Driving 15 MPH over the speed limit

Data Source: 2022 Safety Survey

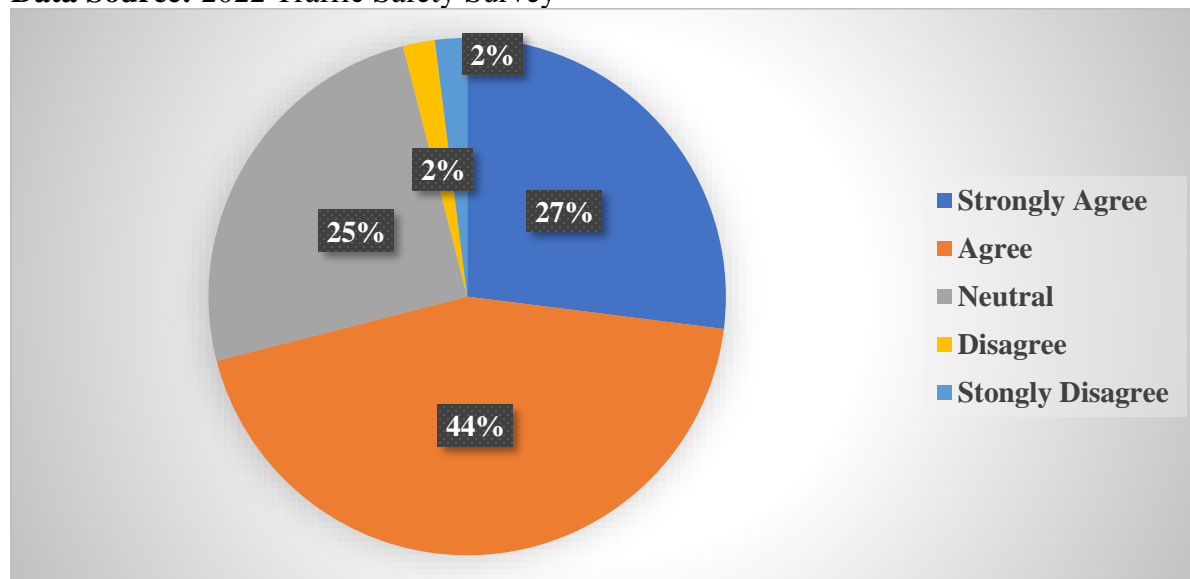
Q14	Count	% Answer
Never	248	81%
Rarely	48	16%
Regularly	3	2%
Sometimes	7	1%
Total	306	100%

Concerns for Traffic Safety (Q15)

The majority of the responders (71%) agreed or strongly agreed that traffic safety in Tuscarawas County is a concern for them. Based on the 2017 traffic safety survey, seventy-four percent (74%) of participants agreed or strongly agreed that traffic safety was a concern for them.

Graph 15: Traffic Safety Concerns

Data Source: 2022 Traffic Safety Survey



CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The five-year (2017-2021) historical data discussed in this report shows the stay-at-home orders, implemented Statewide to contain the spread of COVID-19 in late March through April 2020, may have resulted in less overall incidents of crashes in Tuscarawas County when compared to the three years before the pandemic and in 2021. Unfortunately, the data did not show a positive correlation between lockdowns and reduction of vehicle fatality rates as would be expected. On the contrary, fatality rates increased from 2019 and remained elevated. These trends may be here to stay and therefore must be monitored closely to affect positive change.

Fatal crash variables in 2020 included drug related involvement which increased by more than thirty percent (30%) from 2019, roadway departure, and speeding. While drug involvement in vehicle crash fatalities has gone down in 2021, reckless driving, such as not wearing seat belts while driving, speeding and OVI-related crashes continue to be overrepresented in fatalities. The preliminary data from 2020 – April 6th, 2022, illustrates this point where seventy percent (70%) of fatalities is attributed to OVI and speed related crashes in the county. Other worrisome trend during the same time period includes the nearly eighty percent (80%) of fatal crashes that have occurred in rural parts of Tuscarawas County.

An area of opportunity for improvement includes bringing down the number of unbelted-related fatal crashes, which accounted for nearly 40% of total fatal crashes that occurred in the most recent five-year period from 2017-2021.

It is encouraging to see that the majority (71%) of drivers who participated in the survey said traffic safety is a concern to them. This indicates Safe Communities of Tuscarawas County has buy-in from drivers of Tuscarawas County where future projects will have a greater chance of being impactful.

APPENDIX A



Tuscarawas County's Traffic Statistics



Data covers Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2019 and Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2020. Data was obtained from the Ohio State Highway Patrol crash dashboard.

Crash Characteristics	2019	2020	Change from 2019 to 2020
Total #	2,522	2,083	-17.4% ↓
# Fatal	9	11	+22.2% ↑
# Youth Related (15-24 yrs.)	830	693	-16.5% ↓
# Unbelted Related	506	481	-4.9% ↓
# Speed Related	537	465	-13.4% ↓
# Pedestrian Related	15	10	-33.3% ↓
# Alcohol Related	113	114	+0.9% ↑
# Drug Related	37	33	-10.8% ↓
# Motorcycle Related	50	43	-14.0% ↓
# Mature Driver Related (55+ yrs.)	946	739	-21.9% ↓
# Distracted Related	115	111	-3.5% ↓
# Deer Related	419	370	-11.7% ↓
# Commercial Related	103	128	+24.3% ↑
Day of Week	Wednesday	Friday	
Time of Day	4-4:59 PM	4-4:59 PM	

Created on 7/21/22

Tuscarawas County's Traffic Statistics



Data covers Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2020 and Jan. 1- Dec. 31, 2021. Data was obtained from the Ohio State Highway Patrol crash dashboard.

Crash Characteristics	2020	2021	Change from 2020 to 2021
Total #	2,083	2,364	+13.5% ↑
# Fatal	11	11	0.0% —
# Youth Related (15-24 yrs.)	693	783	+13.0% ↑
# Unbelted Related	481	545	+13.3% ↑
# Speed Related	465	463	-0.4% ↓
# Pedestrian Related	10	8	-20.0% ↓
# Alcohol Related	114	128	+12.3% ↑
# Drug Related	33	52	+57.6% ↑
# Motorcycle Related	43	54	+25.6% ↑
# Mature Driver Related (55+ yrs.)	739	823	+11.4% ↑
# Distracted Related	111	127	+14.4% ↑
# Deer Related	370	442	+19.5% ↑
# Commercial Related	128	101	-21.1% ↓
Day of Week	Friday	Tuesday	
Time of Day	4-4:59 PM	4-4:59 PM	

Created on 7/21/22

APPENDIX B

Below is a copy of the online survey questionnaire that was launched in the first quarter of 2022 to obtain additional traffic safety information from individuals who spend time driving in Tuscarawas County.

Tuscarawas County Safe Communities Traffic Safety Survey

This survey is intended for anyone who spends time driving in Tuscarawas County. Individual responses will be kept anonymous. Survey results will be used to help plan traffic safety programming.

What do you feel are the largest traffic safety concerns in Tuscarawas County? (You may choose more than 1 answer)

- ☐ Unsafe Child restraints (car seats, booster seats)
- ☐ Lack of seat belt use
- ☐ Unsafe roadways
- ☐ Unsafe intersections
- ☐ Driving under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol
- ☐ Texting and other distracting driving
- ☐ Speeding
- ☐ Motorcycle safety
- ☐ Lack of bicycle lane
- ☐ Lack of crosswalks and/or sidewalks
- ☐ Motorized wheelchairs on roadways
- ☐ Golf carts on roadways
- ☐ Other

What specific roads, intersections, etc. in Tuscarawas County do you feel are most dangerous to motorists or pedestrians and why?

Your answer

In your opinion, what is the MOST serious distraction for drivers?

- ☐ Cell phone conversation
- ☐ Texting while driving
- ☐ Passengers in the vehicle
- ☐ Eating while driving
- ☐ GPS/navigation systems
- ☐ Vehicle issues
- ☐ Roadside billboards
- ☐ Other:

How often in the last 30 days did you wear your seat belt while in a vehicle?

- ☐ Always
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Rarely
- ☐ Never

If you have a car seat or booster seat in your vehicle, did you have it installed or checked by a professional car seat technician?

- ☐ Regularly
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Rarely
- ☐ Never

Have you ever made a driving mistake while talking on a cell phone?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ N/A

Have you ever made a driving mistake while texting on a cell phone?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ N/A

In the past 30 days, have you driven while under the influence of drug and/or alcohol?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

In the past 6 months, have you driven while under the influence of drug and/or alcohol?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

When riding a motorcycle do you wear a helmet?

- ☐ Regularly
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Rarely
- ☐ Never

How often do you drive 5-10 mph over the speed limit?

- ☐ Regularly
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Rarely
- ☐ Never

How often do you drive 11-15 mph over the speed limit?

- ☐ Regularly
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Rarely
- ☐ Never

Traffic safety in Tuscarawas County is concern for me.

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

Please identify your gender.

- ☐ Male

☐ Female

☐ Prefer not to answer

How old are you?

☐ 16-20

☐ 21-25

☐ 26-30

☐ 31-35

☐ 36-40

☐ 41-45

☐ 46 -50

☐ 51-55

☐ 56-60

☐ 61 -65

☐ 66-70

☐ 71- 75

☐ 76 - 80

☐ 81+

What is your education level?

☐ High school or less

☐ Some college/associates degree

☐ College degree

☐ Advanced degree