

Monthly Insights from the Maryland Chiefs and Sheriffs' Association's Traffic Safety Committee

# THE CHECKPOINT

September 2017

## Message from the Chief

Welcome to the first issue of *The Checkpoint*. Each month, we'll bring you best practices, news and ideas for developing the most effective program for your local traffic and crime issues.

As law enforcement professionals, our job is to save lives. While our list of challenges is growing, traffic enforcement needs to be a priority. It's a proven difference maker in our efforts to keep our communities safe.

Our commitment not only provides Marylanders the help they need in trying times, it gives them hope that their families and friends are safe traveling our roadways. We stand ready to help you fulfill this noble purpose.

Be safe,  
Jerry Jones  
Chairman, MCPA  
Traffic Safety Committee



*"People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care"*

- Theodore Roosevelt

## Monthly Hot Topic

### *Making Communities Safer: Traffic Enforcement*

Just as the MCPA Traffic Safety Committee was discussing the launch of *The Checkpoint*, an article appeared in the July 2017 issue of "The Police Chief" magazine about how critical traffic enforcement is for creating safer communities.

In today's world of policing, traffic safety often takes a back seat to other priorities. At the same time, the number of traffic deaths nationwide outpaced the number of homicides by more than two to one. Like crime, crashes can be prevented. And doing so not only reduces death in our communities, but allows agencies to devote limited resources elsewhere. Specific other returns from traffic stops include:

- Specific and general deterrence to traffic violations and dangerous driving behaviors
- Specific and general deterrence to crime
- Intelligence

However, as the authors point out, enforcement needs to be done right. It should be data and purpose driven, place-based and legally sound. In Maryland, we combine such enforcement with targeted education in our High Visibility Enforcement model. The Maryland Highway Safety Office is a solid partner for providing the data and education – as well as grant support – for effective HVE efforts.



*Sobriety checkpoint during Labor Day holiday weekend in Allegany County .*

Law enforcement doesn't act alone in keeping our roads safe. Engineers, EMS, educators and motorists, to name a few, all play a role. But only police can conduct traffic enforcement. The traffic stop may be the officer's most important self-initiated activity to keeping our communities safe and sound.

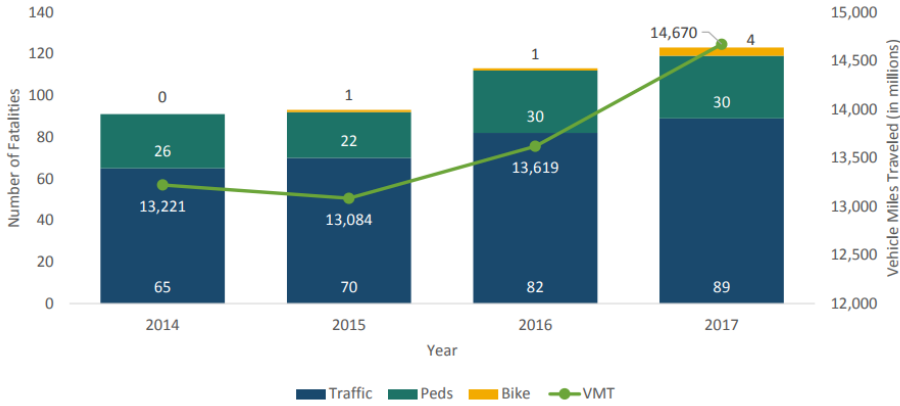
We encourage you to take a few minutes and read the entire article here: [www.policechiefmagazine.org/traffic-enforcement-calculating-benefits/](http://www.policechiefmagazine.org/traffic-enforcement-calculating-benefits/).

# Fatalities and Serious Injuries

The charts below display the 1st Quarter data for the number of traffic-related fatalities and traffic-related serious injuries on all roads in Maryland, as compared to vehicle miles traveled (VMT).

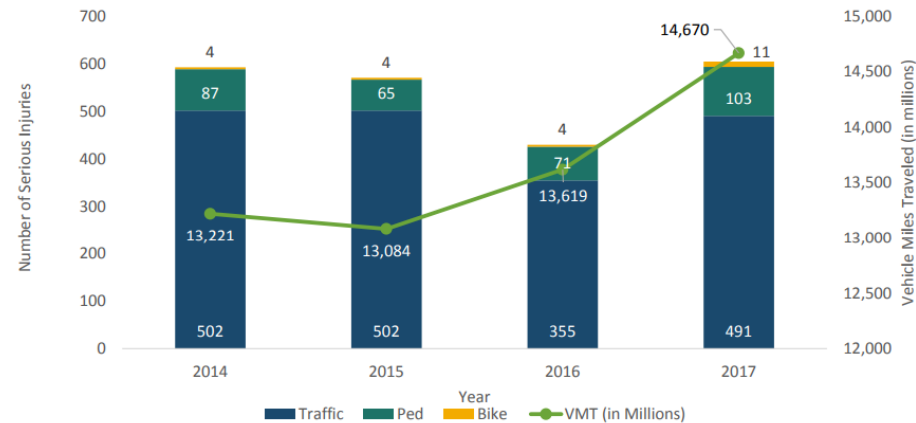
## Number of Traffic-Related Fatalities on All Roads

PM 3.2.3: Q1 Comparison of Traffic-Related Fatalities CY2014-CY2017



## Number of Traffic-Related Serious Injuries on all Roads

Chart 3.4.3: Q1 Comparison of Traffic-Related Serious Injuries CY2014-CY2017



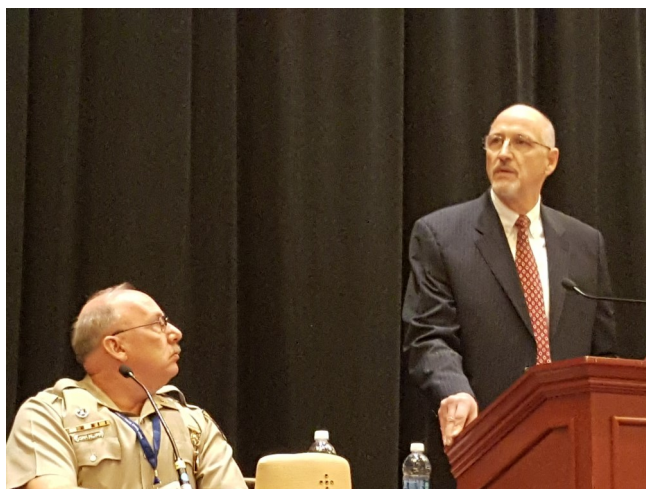
## Upcoming Training

September 25—28, 2017  
 Leading Effective Traffic Enforcement Program (LETEP)  
 Charles County Sheriff's Headquarters

March 25—27, 2018  
 Traffic Safety Supervisor Conference  
 Ocean City, MD



Baltimore City officers pose at the ADAPT awards ceremony.



The MHSO's Chief, Tom Gianni, delivers opening remarks at the 2017 International Drug Recognition Expert Conference at the National Harbor.

On August 29, more than 30 law enforcement agencies across the State were honored at the Maryland Department of Transportation's ADAPT (Aggressive Drivers Are Public Threats) Aggressive Driving Prevention Awards. Between 2011 and 2015, more than 3,200 persons either were killed or injured in a crash involving an aggressive driver in Maryland. ADAPT combines education and enforcement to encourage motorists to ADAPT their driving and avoid aggressive behaviors.

During four, 10-day periods this year, enforcement efforts culminated in more than 124,000 citations issued to drivers exhibiting aggressive and other illegal driving behaviors.

"As police, our priority is to save lives," said Colonel Jerry Jones, Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) Police Chief and Chairman of the MCPA Traffic Safety Committee. "Enforcing aggressive driving laws sends a clear message: aggressive driving isn't just unacceptable, it's deadly."

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