



North Carolina's Strategies for Driver Focused Enforcement

2024 Southeast CMV
Safety Summit

27-28 August 2024
Tuscaloosa, AL



Thank You



THE UNIVERSITY OF
ALABAMA[®]

Topics

Why Are We Focused On Driver Behavior?

National Trends

North Carolina Trends

Acusensus

eCVSP Percentages

Operation Safe D.R.I.V.E. / T.R.A.F.F.I.C.

TREDS

Why Is This Occurring?

What Are We Doing About It?

“The Man or Woman In the Box”

Why Is The Driver So Important?

- ◇ The driver is responsible for the overall operation of the CMV.
- ◇ Responsible for the pre-trip inspection, load securement, record of duty status, all traffic laws, etc.
- ◇ Responsibilities of a driver: drive safely, obey traffic laws, watch for other drivers. How can one do all these things effectively if he or she is distracted?

Why Is The Driver So Important Continued...

- ◇ The brake is only designed to slow the vehicle. The steering wheel is only designed to steer the vehicle left or right. The gas and brake pedals are only designed to speed the vehicle up or slow it down.
- ◇ What is the one thing that all these parts need to work? Input from the driver.
- ◇ An object at rest will remain at rest or an object in motion will remain in motion unless acted upon by a given (external) force. (Newton's 1st law of motion)

Why Is The Driver So Important Continued...

- ◇ What is the common denominator in most crashes? The driver.
- ◇ Perfect truck but bad driver, there is still a problem.
- ◇ Average truck with a safe driver, less likely to have a crash because the truck is ultimately controlled by the driver...



Why Are We Focused On Driver Behavior?

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), it is estimated that over **90%** of all vehicle crashes are driver related.



What Are The Trends On The National Level With Driver Behavior???

- ◇ In 2022, there were 42,514 fatal motor vehicle crashes in the U.S.
- ◇ According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), in 2022, 3,308 people were killed in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted driving.
- ◇ Estimated 289,310 people injured in crashes involving distracted driving.

Overview of Collision Trends Involving CMVs

- ◆ What trends are FMCSA and the NCSHP following?
 - ◆ Most national studies conducted with CMVs, and passenger vehicles show over the last three to four years the following trends:
 - ◆ Impaired Driving Increase
 - ◆ Drivers Not Wearing Seat Belts
 - ◆ Speeding Violation Increase
 - ◆ Distracted Driving Increase



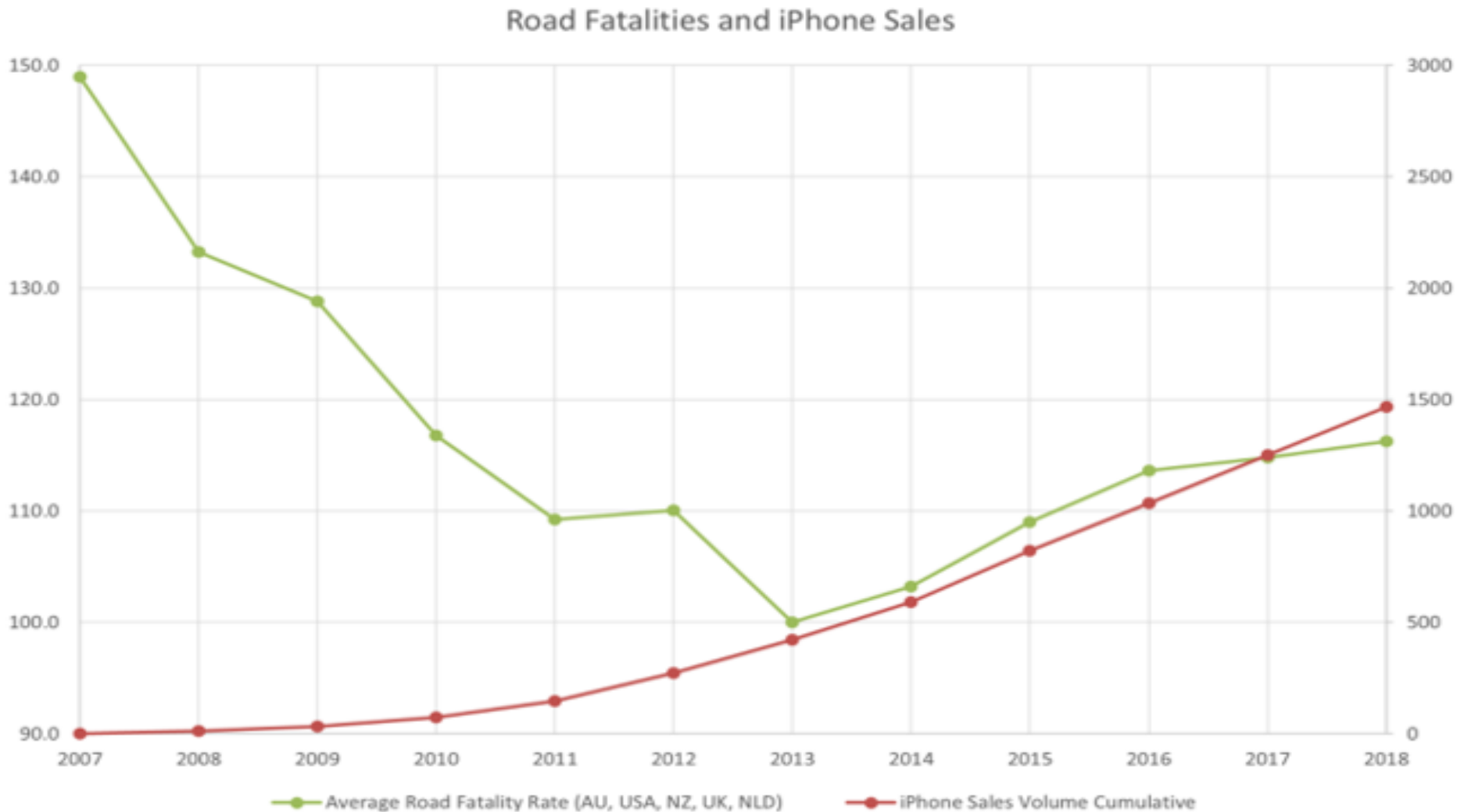
What's The Trend In Our Nation And NC? Driver Inattention/Distracted, Or Fatigued?

- **Distracted driving is dangerous, claiming 3,308 lives on America's roadways in 2022. (NHTSA)**
- **In 2022, fatigued driving claimed the lives 693 people. (NHTSA)**



**NO TEXTING
WHILE
DRIVING**

Trends??? Smart Phones???



States With Hand-Held Bans Versus States Without Bans

- ◇ Hand-held driver phone use declined an estimated 24-76% up to seven (7) years after the bans went into effect than would have been expected without the bans. (Driver Cell Phone and Texting Bans in the United States: Evidence of Effectiveness March 2014)

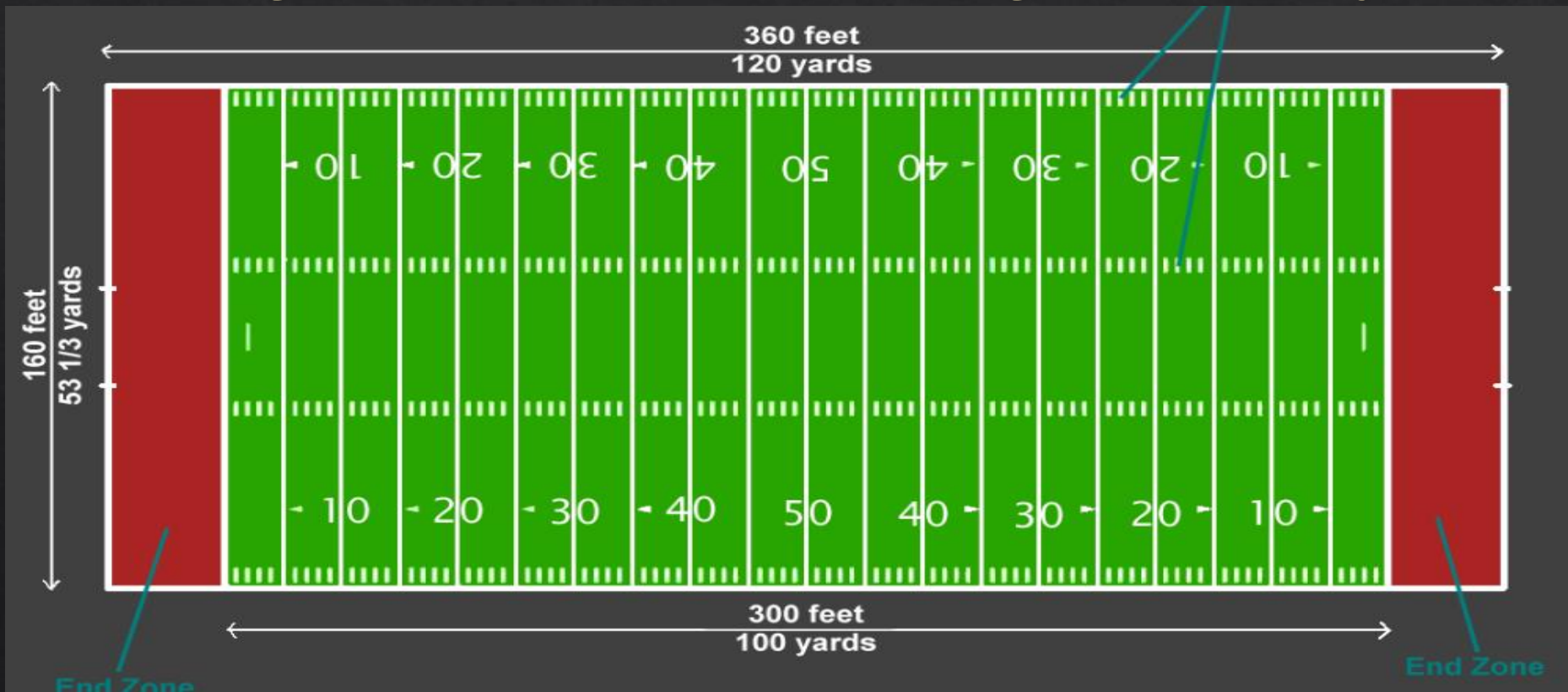
Distracted Driving And Odds of A Collision Occurring?

Research commissioned by FMCSA shows that the odds of being involved in a safety-critical event (e.g., crash, near-crash, unintentional lane deviation) are 23.2 times greater for CMV drivers who text while driving than for those who do not.

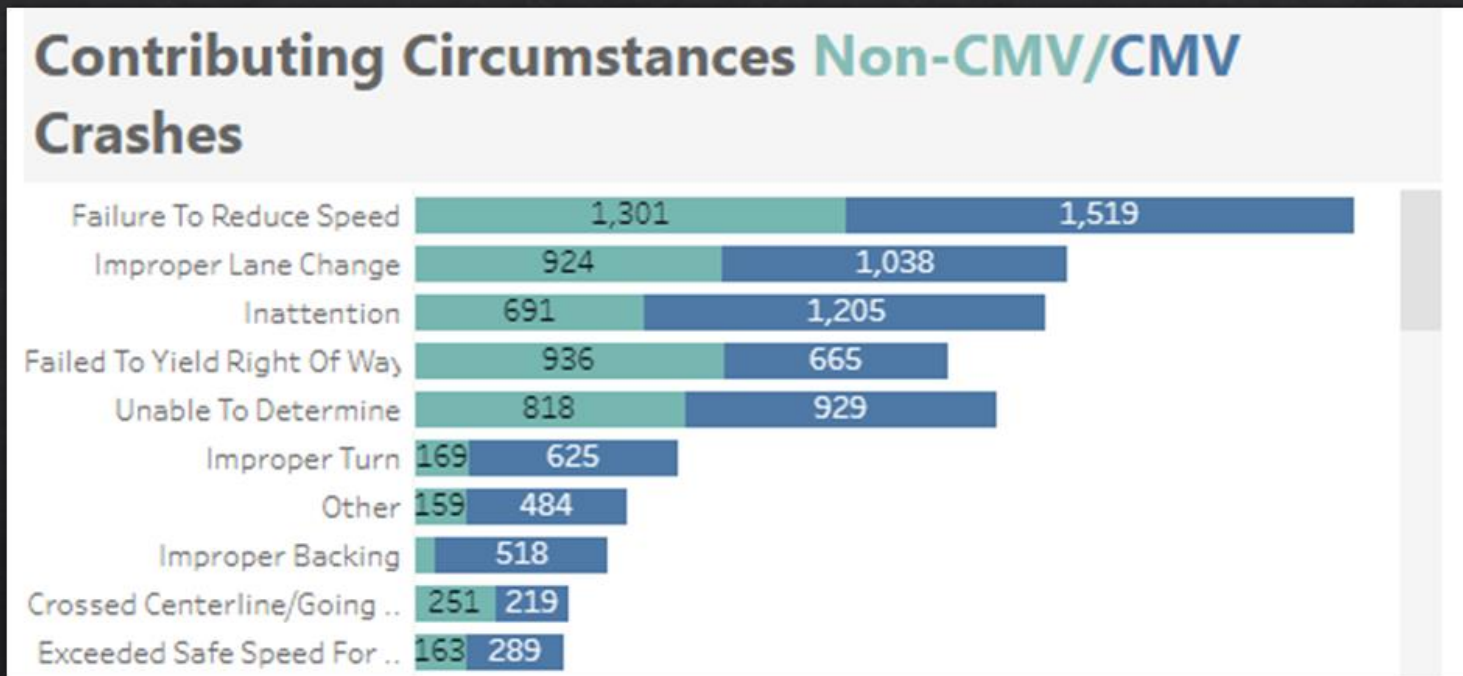


Distracted Driving Put Into Real World Example...

- ◆ Texting drivers took their eyes off the forward roadway for an average of 4.6 seconds. At 55 mph, this equates to a driver traveling 371 feet, or the approximate length of a football field (including the end zones)—without looking at the roadway!

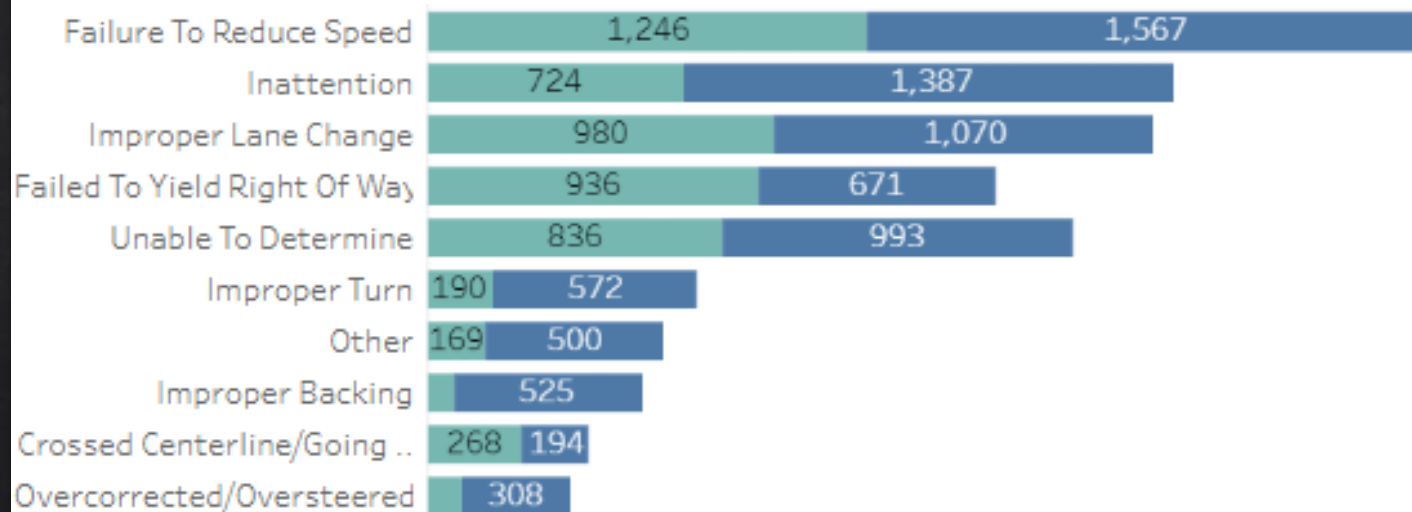


FFY-2022 Contributing Circumstances North Carolina



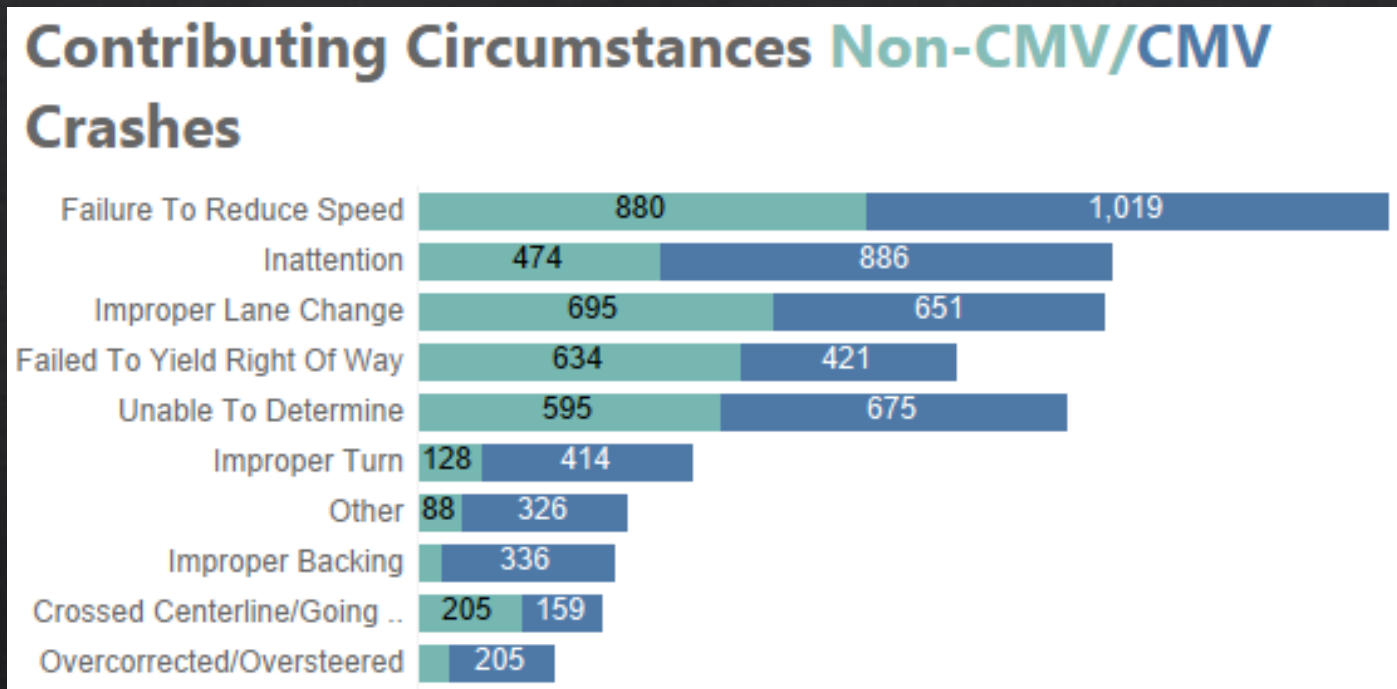
FFY-2023 Contributing Circumstances North Carolina

Contributing Circumstances Non-CMV/CMV Crashes



FFY-2024 Contributing Circumstances North Carolina

****As of May 2024****



What Are We Doing About It?

- ◆ Continue to increase Level III inspection percentage in the MCSAP Basic Grant (45% *Currently*). Increasing to **50%** for FFY 2025.
- ◆ **117** CVSA NAS Part-A Certified troopers assigned to non-District IX (regular districts) to conduct Level III inspections
- ◆ High-Visibility Special Overtime Projects
 - ◆ Operation Safe D.R.I.V.E.
 - ◆ T.R.A.F.F.I.C.
- ◆ Acusensus
 - ◆ CMV Distracted Driving and Seat Belt Enforcement

Acusensus –Heads Up Real Time Distracted Driving System



acusensus

What Is It?

In short, Acusensus is:

High-performance artificial intelligence designed to detect mobile phone and seatbelt use.



Image From Acusensus



Seatbelt and Distracted Driving Violations Since Deployment of Acusensus

Seat Belts FFY-21 283 Total Statewide

Seat Belts FFY-22 468 Total Statewide

Seat Belt FFY-23 1,041 Total Statewide

Distracted Driving Cell Phone FFY-21 74 Total Statewide

Distracted Driving Cell Phone FFY-22 201 Total Statewide

Distracted Driving Cell Phone FFY-23 570 Total Statewide

This Federal Fiscal Year: (10/01/2023 – 08/16/2024)

2,176 Seat Belt Violations

691 Handheld (cell phone) Violations

Life of the Project: (06/01/2023 – 08/16/2024)

2,975 Seat Belt Violations

1,211 Handheld (cell phone) Violations





Crash Reduction Over Two FFYs



**-4 % Percentage
Change in Crashes**

10-1-2021- 12-31-2023

Roadside Inspections By Percentage Trends

FFY-2021

Level-1= 25%

Level-2= 41%

Level-3= **33%**

FFY-2025

Level-1= 18%

Level-2= 31%

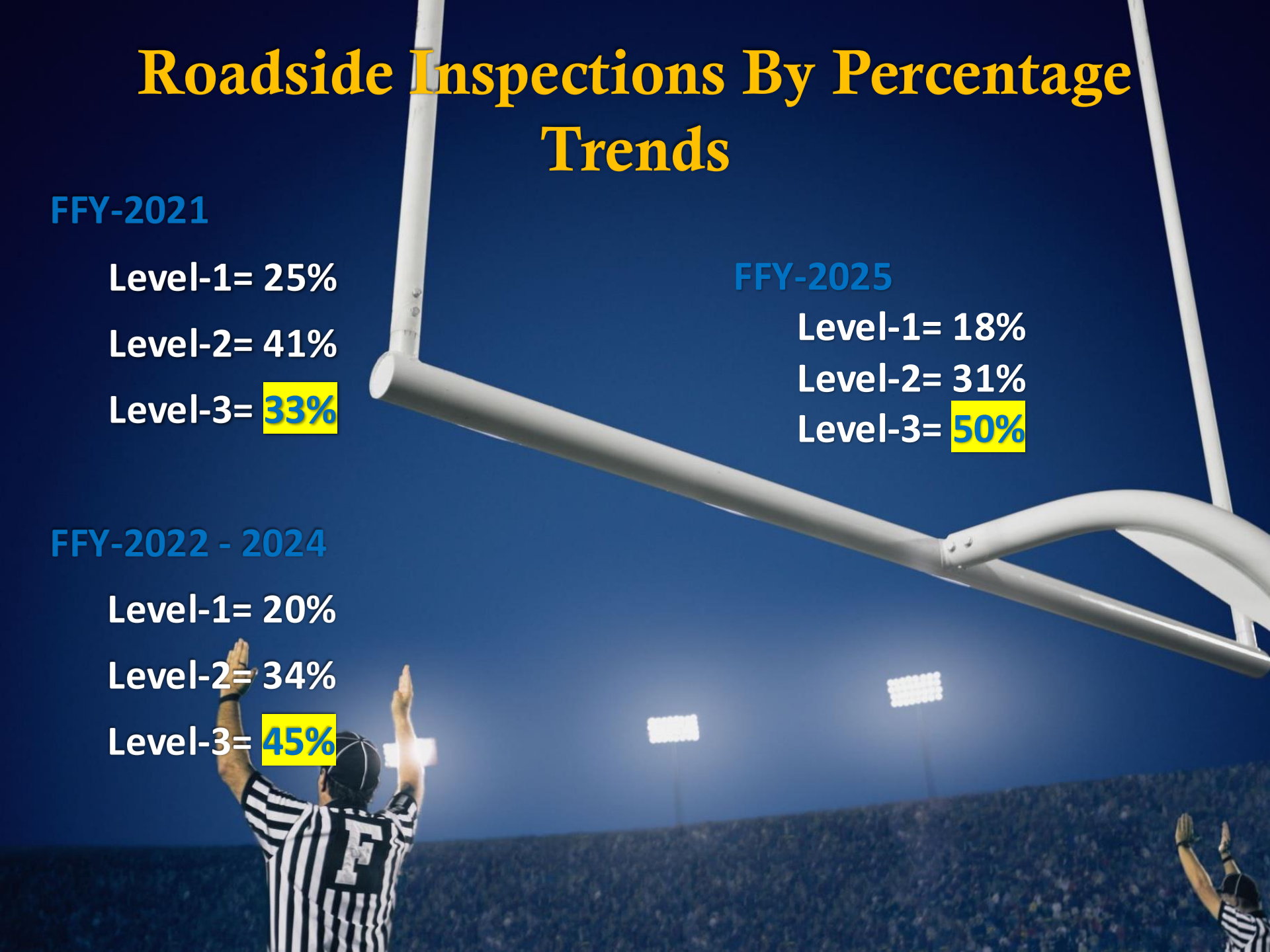
Level-3= **50%**

FFY-2022 - 2024

Level-1= 20%

Level-2= 34%

Level-3= **45%**



Level III Inspection Program

- ◇ Currently, we have approximately 117 Troopers in non-District IX positions trained
- ◇ Pros-
 - ◇ High-Visibility enforcement
 - ◇ 15 to 20 minutes approximately to complete
 - ◇ CMVs can be stopped for a Level III inspection whether a moving violation has been committed or not
 - ◇ Level IIIs can be conducted in congested areas that are high-crash corridors to provide high-visibility



High Visibility Enforcement





Safe DRIVE



Operation Safe *D.R.I.V.E.* *D*istracted *R*eckless *I*mpaired *V*isibility *E*nforcement

- ◆ **Distracted** – Inattention
 - ◆ **Reckless** – Aggressive, Careless, Fatigued
 - ◆ **Impaired** – Commercial DWI, DWI, other Implied Consent
 - ◆ **Visibility** – Saturation Patrols, Wolf Packs
 - ◆ **Enforcement** – NCUC's, Written Warnings, Driver/Vehicle Examination Reports, OOS Citations
- ◆ Operation *D.R.I.V.E.* (**D**istracted, **R**eckless, **I**mpaired, high **V**isibility, **E**nforcement) is a high visibility, multi-state traffic enforcement effort on interstate corridors from Maine, to Florida, and west to Texas that is designed to eliminate traffic fatalities by reducing crashes involving large trucks, buses, and passenger vehicles.



Safe DRIVE

A blue graphic element consisting of a horizontal line with a small square at the end, resembling a road sign or a marker.

T.R.A.F.F.I.C.

- ◇ TOGETHER *R*EDUCING *A*CCIDENTS *F*ATALITIES *F*ATIGUE ON *I*NTERSTATE *C*ORRIDORS
- ◇ Places an emphasis on Level III inspections and traffic enforcement on both CMV and passenger vehicles.
- ◇ Tuesday through Thursday each week.
- ◇ Interstate high-crash corridor specific.
- ◇ Since 2023



TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH AND EDUCATION FOR DRIVING SAFETY

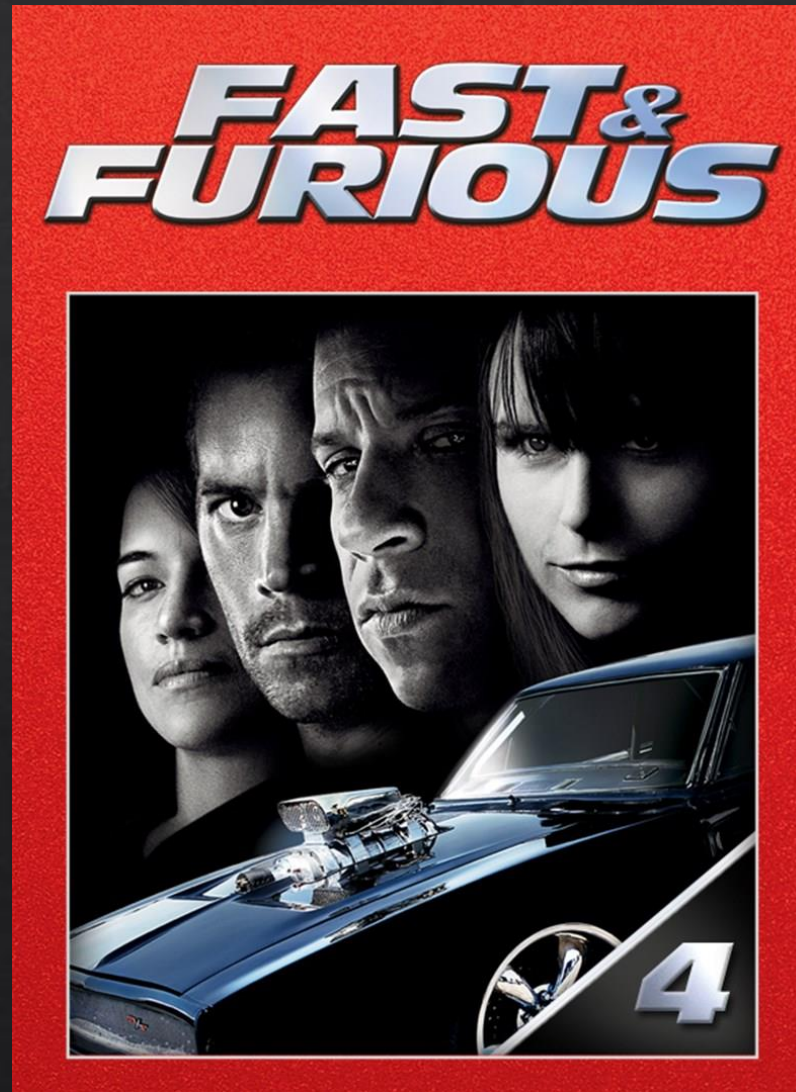
- ◇ Distracted driving focused
- ◇ Developed by the University of California at San Deigo
- ◇ Presented close to 400 presentations

WHY?



**I Feel The Need...
The Need For Speed!**

Cultural Norms???



Questions For The Group...

- ◇ Does your state follow the trends of the 2013 introduction of the smart phone slide?
- ◇ Is your state looking to adjust the percentage of Level III inspections for the eCVSP? Already has?
- ◇ If your state has a driver issue, what are you doing to address these issues/concerns?
- ◇ Should the southeast participate in some type of driver-focused study when it comes to roadside inspections and driver related crash events?
- ◇ Is there a relationship between high-visibility enforcement and the number of crashes within each state?
- ◇ Is FMCSA going to assist in mandating a nationwide hands-free law for all vehicles



QUESTIONS???

The End

