

**AMERICAN SAMOA
HIGHWAY SAFETY ANNUAL
REPORT
FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2025**



**OCTOBER 1, 2024-SEPTEMBER
30, 2025**





American Samoa
Highway Safety Annual Report
Federal Fiscal Year 2025

Prepared for:

U. S. Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Developed and Presented by:

The American Samoa Government
Department of Public Safety
Office of Highway Safety
Pago Pago, AS 96799





January 26, 2026

**Department of Public Safety
Office of Highway Safety**

HTC Taagai'afea'i S. Moliga

Commissioner / Governor's Representative for Traffic Safety,
Department of Public Safety

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Overview

Mission

The mission of the American Samoa Office of Highway Safety is to actively reduce the incidence of traffic crashes, fatalities, and injuries on the roadways of American Samoa. We aim to foster a safer environment for all individuals, including motorists, passengers, and pedestrians.

Program Funding

The American Samoa Highway Safety Program plays a crucial role in enhancing road safety within our island territory by managing federal highway safety funds, which are allocated based on specific criteria and oversight mechanisms. These funds are specifically designated to support initiatives that improve driving behavior and reduce traffic-related incidents, ensuring transparency and accountability in their use.

Led by Commissioner of Public Safety HTC Taagaiafeai S. Moliga, serving as the Governor's representative for Highway Safety, and coordinated by Mr. Duke Vele, the program aims to inspire confidence and pride in our collective efforts to improve road safety.

The Department of Public Safety's Office of Highway Safety develops an annual Highway Safety Plan (HSP), inviting community involvement and fostering shared responsibility to address critical highway safety concerns.

The goal of the program is to foster a culture of safety and encourage responsible driving practices throughout the territory. To achieve this, the annual Highway Safety Plan targets key highway safety issues such as seatbelt use, speeding, and impaired driving, with specific measurable outcomes. The program uses awarded funds to implement effective traffic safety programs and projects, with progress monitored and reported to demonstrate tangible improvements in road safety for all residents and visitors to American Samoa.

This report highlights the results of the FFY 2025 Highway Safety Plan, demonstrating collective progress and reinforcing the vital role of stakeholders in transportation safety efforts.

The allocated funds supported initiatives to reduce fatalities and prevent injuries, including programs that influence driver behavior in key areas of concern.

Our focus on combating impaired driving, occupant protection, traffic records, and police traffic services aims to strengthen your ongoing safety initiatives and inspire further collaboration.

****Occupant Protection:** Aimed at enhancing safety measures for vehicle occupants, such as the use of seat belts and child safety seats.

****Traffic Records:** Concentrated on improving the accuracy and accessibility of traffic-related data to inform policy and practice.



****Police Traffic Services:** Designed to bolster law enforcement efforts in monitoring and managing traffic safety through effective policing strategies.

Core Performance Measures

The guidelines established by NHTSA empower states and territories to pinpoint critical issues and funding necessities within each of the nationally designated program priority areas. The projects selected for funding in FFY 2025 leverage strategies from the American Samoa Office of Highway Safety's four essential areas, demonstrating strong outcomes on the following pages.



Performance Report Chart

FFY 2025 Annual Report

Performance Measure:	Target Period	Target Year(s)	Benchmark Value for FY 24 listed in 3HSP	Data Source/ FY 24 Progress Results	On Track to Meet FY 24 Benchmark: YES/NO/In Progress
C-1) Total Traffic Fatalities	5 Year	2021-2025	0	2020-2024 Territory 2.4	No
C-2) Serious Injuries in Traffic Crashes	5 Year	2021-2025	2	2020-2024 Territory 5	No
**C-3) Fatalities/VMT	N/C	N/C	N/C	N/C	N/C

**American Samoa does not collect VMT data and does not have to have common performance measures in the HSP or HSIP

C-4) Unrestrained Passenger Vehicle Occupant Fatalities, All Seat Positions	Annual	2025	0	2024 Territory 0	Yes
C-5) Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatalities	Annual	2025	0	2024 Territory 0	Yes
C-6) Speeding-Related Fatalities	Annual	2025	0	2024 Territory 0	Yes
C-7) Motorcyclist Fatalities	Annual	2025	0	2024 Territory 0	Yes
C-8) Unhelmeted Motorcyclist Fatalities	Annual	2025	0	2024 Territory 0	Yes
C-9) Drivers Age 20 or Younger Involved in Fatal Crashes	Annual	2025	0	2024 Territory 0	Yes
C-10) Pedestrian Fatalities	Annual	2025	0	2024 Territory 2	No
C-11) Bicyclist Fatalities	Annual	2025	0	2024 Territory 0	Yes
B-1) Observed Seat Belt Use for Passenger Vehicles, Front Seat Outboard Occupants (State Survey)	Annual	2024	77.1%	2025 NHTSA Certified State Survey 84.27%	No

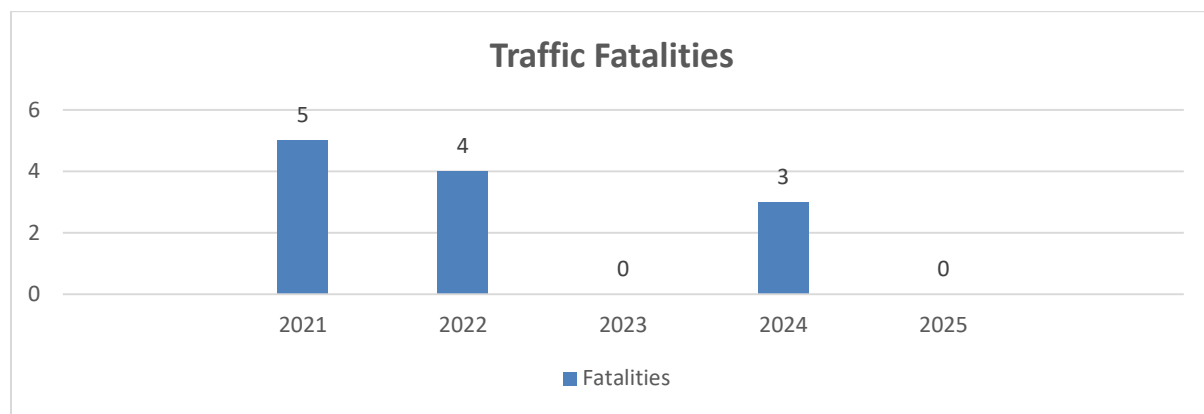
Traffic Safety Core Performance Measures

C-1 Traffic Fatalities:

American Samoa's goal is to decrease traffic fatalities from (2.4) using the 5-year average baseline (2020-2024) to (0) using the five-year target average (2021-2025).

Result: Not Met

Based on preliminary five-year average (2021-2025) state data, there has been an average of 2.4 fatalities since December of 2024

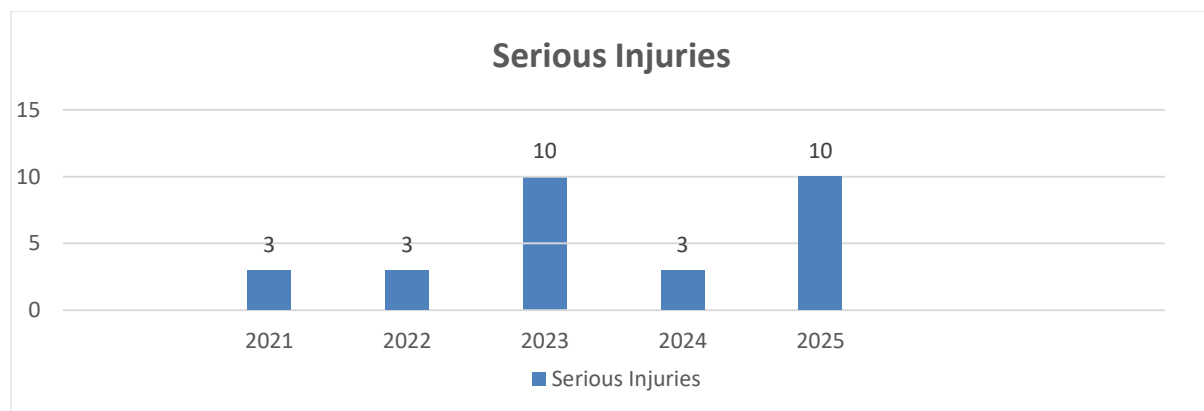


C-2 Serious Injuries:

American Samoa's goal is to decrease serious injuries from (5.8) using the 5-year average baseline (2020-2024) to (2) using the five-year target average (2021-2025).

Result: Not Met

Based on preliminary five-year average (2021-2025) state data, there has been an average of (5.8) Traffic-related serious injury as of December 2024





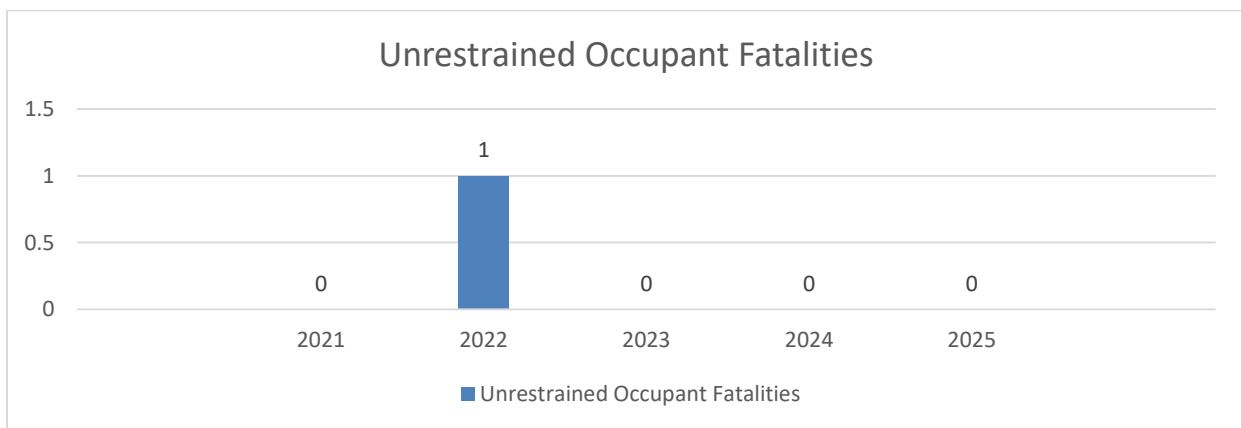
C-3 Fatalities / Vehicle Mile Travel (VMT): *VMT data is not collected in the Territories.*

C-4 Unrestrained Passenger Vehicle Occupant Fatalities, all Seat Positions.

American Samoa's goal is to decrease Unrestrained Passenger Vehicle Occupant fatalities in all seating positions to continue from (0) using the 5-year average baseline (2020-2024) to (0) using the five-year target average (2021-2025).

Result: Met

Based on preliminary state data, there has been an average of 0.2 of unrestrained passenger vehicle occupant fatalities as of December 2024.

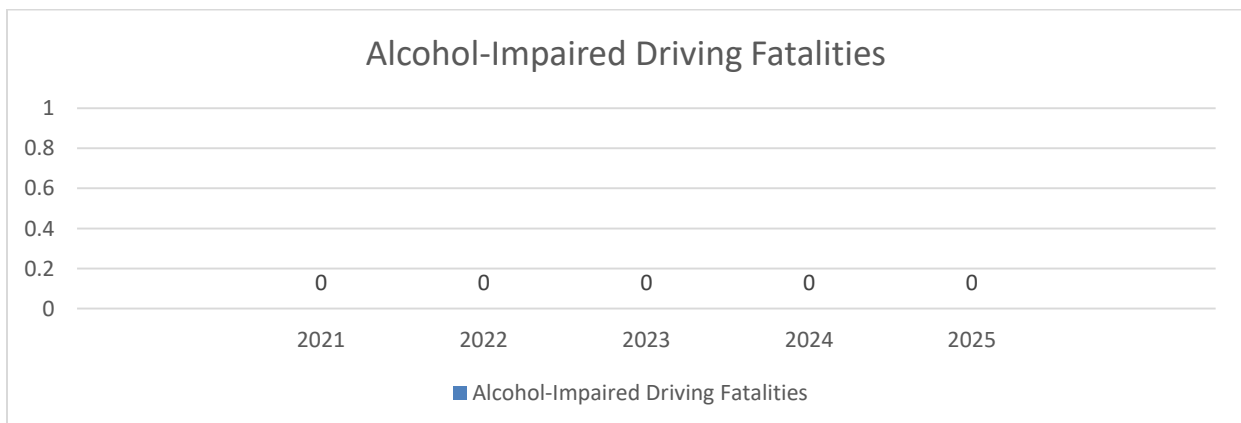


C-5 Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatalities:

American Samoa's goal is to decrease Alcohol-Impaired Driving fatalities from (0) using the 5-year average baseline (2021-2025) to (0) using the five-year target average (2020-2024).

Result: Met

Based on preliminary state data, there has been an average of (0) Alcohol-Impaired Driving fatalities as of December 2024.



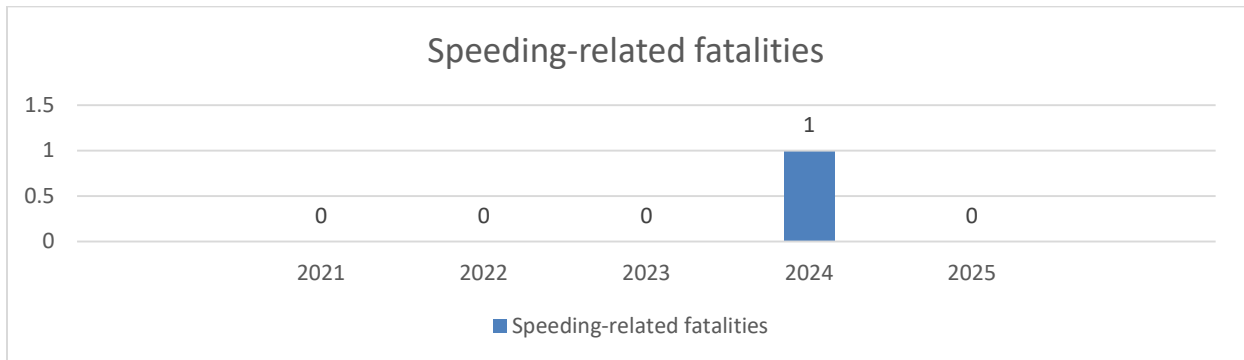


C-6 Speeding-related fatalities:

American Samoa's goal is to maintain Speed-related fatalities from (0) using the 5-year average baseline (2020-2024) to (0) using the five-year target average (2021-2025).

Result: In Progress

Based on preliminary state data, there was an average of 1 speed-related fatality as of December 2024.



C-7 Motorcycle Fatalities:

To maintain the number of motorcycle fatalities at (0) using the (2021-2025) calendar base year average by December 31, 2024.

Result: Met

Based on preliminary five-year average (2021-2025) state data, there have been (0) Motorcycle fatalities as of December 2024.

C-8 Un-helmeted Motorcycle Fatalities:

To maintain the number of Un-helmeted motorcycle fatalities at (0) using the five-year average baseline (2020-2024).

Result: Met

Based on preliminary five-year average (2020-2024) state data, there have been (0) Un-helmeted motorcycle fatalities as of December 2024.

C-9 Drivers Aged 20 or Younger Involved in Fatal Crashes:

To maintain the number of drivers, age 20 or younger involved in fatal crashes at (0) using the five-year average baseline (2020-2024).

Result: Met

Based on preliminary five-year average (2020-2024) state data, there has been (0) driver aged 20 or younger involved in fatal crashes as of December 2024.

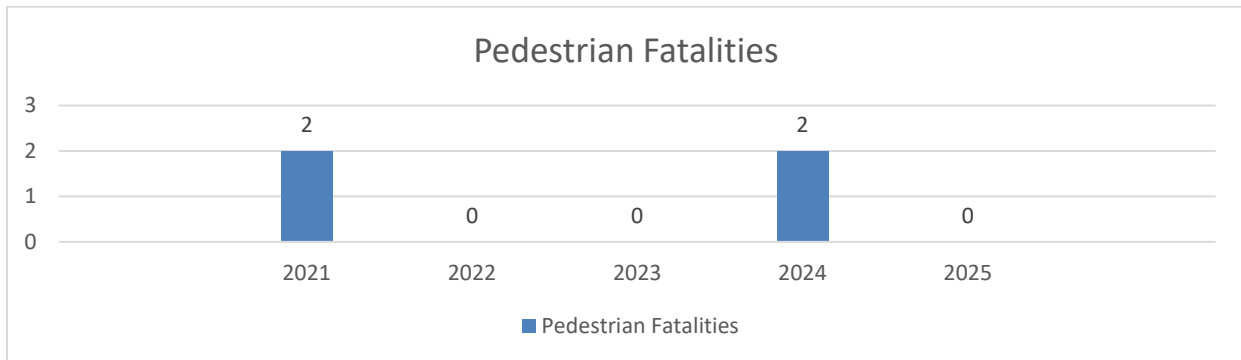


C-10 Pedestrian Fatalities:

To decrease the number of Pedestrian Fatalities by (0) using the five-year average (2021-2025) (1) to (0) using the five-year average baseline (2020-2024).

Result: Not Met

Based on preliminary annual data, there had been 4 pedestrian fatalities, 2 in 2021 and 2 in 2024.



C-11 Bicyclist Fatalities:

To maintain the number of Bicyclist Fatalities at (0) using the five-year average baseline (2020-2024)

Result: Met

Based on preliminary five-year average (2021-2025) state data, there have been (0) Bicyclist Fatalities as of December 2024.

Core Behavior Measure:

B-1 Seat Belt Use Rate (Observed Seat Belt Use Survey):

Goal: To increase observed Seat Belt use for passenger vehicles' front seats or occupant's 6 percent from 77.1 percent in 2024 to 90 percent of seat belt use by December 31, 2024.

Results: Not Met

In 2025, an observational seat belt use survey recorded a usage rate of 84.27%. While the program set a target of 90% usage by December 31, 2025, the territory achieved a 7.2 percentage-point increase in seat belt use over the year.

**Core Activity Measure:****A-1 Seat Belt Citation Issued During Mobilization/Enforcement***May 2025 – Mobilization CIOT*

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Occupant Protection	165	402	317	154	152	199
Child Restraint	77	34	403	16	24	31

A-2 Impaired Driving Arrests made during Crackdown/Enforcement.*December 2025 to January 2026 – Mobilization/Enforcement*

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	*2025
DWI Arrests	18	24	16	10	19	AD

AD – Awaiting Data report from Traffic Division*A-3 August 2025 – Mobilization/Enforcement**

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
DWI Arrests	N/C	7	2	9	18	9

A-3 Speed Citations Issued during Enforcement.*(2020-2023 January, May, August) (July 2025 – Speed Month)*

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Speeding	868	956	940	295	406	59

Project Implementation

All project proposals for FY 2025 were implemented and completed.



Public and Participation and Engagement

The American Samoa Office of Highway Safety (ASOHS) has successfully implemented its initial Public Participation and Engagement (PP&E) strategy, resulting in strengthened community trust, expanded partnerships, and improved accessibility of traffic safety information across all districts. With foundational objectives completed, ASOHS is now positioned to advance into a more strategic, community-empowered phase of engagement that deepens participation, enhances cultural relevance, and supports data-driven safety initiatives.

This narrative outlines the anticipated outcomes of the completed PP&E strategy and presents the next phase of initiatives designed to sustain and expand community involvement in highway safety.

I. Outcomes of Completed PP&E Objectives

1. Strengthened Community Trust and Cultural Accessibility

ASOHS has established a consistent and visible presence across the Western District, Eastern District, and Manu'a. These efforts have increased public confidence in ASOHS and improved understanding of roadway safety issues.

Town hall meetings, listening sessions, and public data sharing have enabled residents to better understand local crash trends and risk factors. Community feedback has directly informed enforcement priorities, particularly regarding distracted driving, speeding, and pedestrian safety. This collaborative approach has strengthened alignment between community concerns and ASOHS countermeasures.

ASOHS has developed strong partnerships with village councils, NGOs, private sector organizations, and local media. These partnerships have expanded the reach of safety messaging, increased cultural relevance, and supported the recruitment of new grantees to implement occupant protection, impaired driving, and youth engagement initiatives.

2. Increased Community Ownership of Safety

Residents now play an active role in identifying roadway hazards, participating in safety workshops, and supporting enforcement visibility campaigns. Youth, elders, and community leaders have emerged as advocates for safer driving behaviors, reinforcing ASOHS messaging within their own networks.



II. Phase 2: Strategic Expansion of Public Participation & Engagement

Building on the success of the initial PP&E strategy, ASOHS will implement a second phase of initiatives designed to deepen community integration, enhance cultural responsiveness, and expand the agency's capacity to address roadway safety challenges. This next phase will strengthen village-level partnerships, broaden outreach to underserved and high-risk populations, and embed community perspectives more directly into program planning and decision-making. Through expanded listening sessions, culturally grounded engagement practices, and coordinated collaboration with public- and private-sector partners, ASOHS will advance a more inclusive, community-driven approach to roadway safety that reflects the values, priorities, and lived experiences of the Territory's residents.

1. "Voices of the Village" Mobile Listening Sessions

To reach residents who may not attend formal meetings, ASOHS will conduct mobile listening sessions at markets, bus stops, village halls, and community events. These sessions will collect real-time feedback and lived experiences that will inform future countermeasures and program planning.

2. Youth Road Safety Leadership Council

ASOHS will establish a youth council to engage high school and college students in peer-to-peer safety campaigns, social media content creation, school-based safety audits, and data collection projects. This initiative will cultivate long-term cultural change and empower youth as safety advocates.

III. Conclusion

With the successful completion of its initial PP&E objectives, ASOHS is prepared to advance into a more innovative and community-empowered phase of engagement. The Phase 2 strategies outlined in this narrative will deepen relationships, expand participation, and strengthen the cultural relevance of roadway safety initiatives across American Samoa. By continuing to listen, collaborate, and innovate, ASOHS will foster a safer, more informed, and more connected island community.



Ongoing Engagement Planning

The American Samoa Office of Highway Safety (ASOHS) remains firmly committed to deepening engagement with the diverse populations of both the Western and Eastern Districts. Looking ahead, ASOHS will continue to involve communities in every aspect of traffic safety, including occupant protection, police traffic services, and the prevention of alcohol-related and impaired driving incidents. Through meaningful dialogue and culturally grounded outreach, we aim to identify countermeasures that reflect the unique needs, values, and lived experiences of each district.

Our engagement strategy extends beyond conversation. ASOHS will actively recruit potential grantees capable of implementing targeted initiatives in occupant protection and impaired driving awareness. Their local knowledge and community insight will help shape program design, ensuring that interventions are relevant, effective, and responsive to district-specific challenges.

Partnerships will continue to play a central role in refining and strengthening our countermeasures across all program areas. By gathering input from community members during the development of safety strategies and the launch of new projects, ASOHS seeks to better understand the underlying risk factors contributing to roadway incidents. This collaborative approach supports early identification of trends and enables the development of proactive, data-informed solutions that enhance safety for all road users.

Key Engagement Initiatives

• Enhanced Stakeholder Collaboration

ASOHS will expand collaboration with government agencies, NGOs, and other partners during community events. Interactive displays, educational booths, and hands-on demonstrations will be used to spark interest and encourage public participation. In-person interviews conducted at these events will provide valuable feedback to guide future programming.

• Village-Level Education and Outreach

ASOHS will strengthen partnerships with village councils, coalitions, and private sector organizations to promote the enforcement of road safety regulations. Outreach will emphasize occupant protection, proper use of child car seats, the dangers of impaired driving, and the risks associated with speeding. These efforts aim to cultivate safer driving habits within villages and communities.



• Media Collaboration and Public Awareness

Ongoing collaboration with local media outlets will support the dissemination of roadway safety information and highlight opportunities for community involvement. ASOHS will share before-and-after data to demonstrate the impact of safety initiatives and encourage continued public engagement.

Building a Continuous Presence in Communities

Rather than relying solely on scheduled events or annual campaigns, ASOHS will maintain a consistent presence in villages, workplaces, schools, and community gathering spaces. This ongoing visibility reinforces our commitment to listening, learning, and responding to the evolving needs of each district. Through informal conversations, community walk-throughs, and participation in local activities, ASOHS will gather real-time insights that help identify emerging risks and opportunities for intervention.

Strengthening Multi-Sector Partnerships

ASOHS will deepen collaboration with village councils, faith-based groups, youth organizations, NGOs, and private sector partners. These partnerships will support:

- Community-hosted safety workshops
- Joint enforcement and education campaigns
- Village-level demonstrations on child passenger safety
- Collaborative impaired-driving prevention initiatives

By aligning efforts across sectors, ASOHS builds a unified front that reinforces consistent safety messages throughout the Territory.

Leveraging Media as a Community Connector

Local media will continue to serve as a bridge between ASOHS and the public. Through interviews, data-driven stories, and community-focused features, ASOHS will highlight both challenges and successes in roadway safety. Sharing before-and-after data will help the public see the tangible impact of their participation and reinforce the value of community-driven solutions.

Supporting Section 405(c) Initiatives through Community Integration

ASOHS's commitment to Section 405(c) extends beyond project implementation. By integrating translation services, maintaining a visible presence at community events, and building long-term relationships, ASOHS ensures that roadway safety initiatives are accessible, inclusive, and reflective of community priorities. Feedback gathered through these engagements will directly



inform future programming, ensuring that ASOHS remains responsive and aligned with the needs of all demographic groups across the Territory.

Law Enforcement Community Collaboration

The American Samoa Office of Highway Safety (ASOHS), operating under the Department of Public Safety, continues to play a vital role in promoting roadway safety and safeguarding the well-being of our residents. The Police Department is staffed by 126 sworn officers and 39 non-sworn personnel who work together with professionalism, compassion, and a shared commitment to keeping our island community safe.

In October 2025, the Department successfully completed a Police Academy that graduated 60 new police officers. This significant addition to the force strengthens our manpower, enhances our operational capacity, and supports our ongoing efforts to provide timely, effective, and community-focused public safety services across the territory. Their dedication ensures that both residents and visitors can experience the beauty of American Samoa with confidence and peace of mind.

“Community safety is strongest when everyone plays a part.” Effective public safety requires more than enforcement — it depends on strong, trusting relationships between law enforcement and the communities they serve. While police officers cannot address every challenge on their own, meaningful partnerships among public safety agencies, community members, stakeholders, and resource groups can lead to transformative outcomes. These relationships are often complex, yet when grounded in trust and mutual respect, they become powerful tools for reducing crime, strengthening communication, and enhancing overall community well-being.

Youth Engagement through Wellness Activities

A key component of these efforts has been youth engagement. Through the Department’s wellness program, police officers participated in community basketball and baseball games, creating informal and positive interactions with young people. These activities allowed officers to connect with youth in a relaxed environment, demonstrating that law enforcement is not only an authority figure but also a supportive partner invested in their safety, growth, and well-being.

The results, though gradual, are promising. Young people are increasingly open to conversations with officers, and early signs of improved trust are emerging. Continued engagement will help deepen these relationships and foster long-term cooperation.

Cultural Foundations of Community Safety

American Samoa’s cultural heritage remains central to community safety. Our High Chiefs and councils of chiefs play a critical role in maintaining order within villages, including setting



penalties for violations of village laws. This traditional governance structure, grounded in fa'a Samoa, complements the work of law enforcement and reinforces shared responsibility for safety.

Villages are encouraged to collaborate closely with Police Officers when addressing cases involving their residents. This cooperative approach ensures that responses are culturally appropriate, community-supported, and focused on the well-being of all individuals involved.

Moving Forward: Department of Public Safety Priorities for the Coming Year

In the year ahead, the Department of Public Safety (DPS) will continue strengthening its commitment to a safer, more connected, and more resilient American Samoa. Building on the progress made in recent years, DPS officers will focus on deepening community partnerships, enhancing roadway safety, and expanding proactive engagement efforts that reflect the values of fa'a Samoa and the needs of our island communities.

DPS will prioritize a renewed emphasis on community policing, ensuring that officers remain visible, approachable, and actively engaged in the daily life of the villages they serve. Officers will work closely with village leaders, councils of chiefs, and community organizations to address local concerns, resolve conflicts, and reinforce shared responsibility for public safety. This collaborative approach will help strengthen trust, improve communication, and ensure that responses to community issues are culturally grounded and community supported.

A major focus for the coming year will be youth engagement and prevention efforts. Officers will expand their participation in school visits, wellness activities, and youth-centered programs that encourage positive relationships and early intervention. By creating more opportunities for informal interaction — whether through sports, mentorship, or educational outreach — DPS aims to foster a generation of young people who feel safe approaching officers and confident in their role as partners in community safety.

To support roadway safety, DPS officers will continue working alongside the American Samoa Office of Highway Safety to increase enforcement visibility, promote safe driving behaviors, and participate in targeted operations that address speeding, impaired driving, and other high-risk behaviors. Officers will also assist in strengthening data collection and reporting practices to support evidence-based decision-making and improve the Territory's overall traffic safety system.

Internally, DPS will focus on professional development and capacity building, ensuring that officers receive ongoing training in areas such as crisis response, cultural competency, community engagement, and modern policing strategies. These efforts will help enhance officer readiness, improve service delivery, and support a high standard of professionalism across the department.



Finally, DPS will continue to cultivate partnerships with government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and community resource groups to expand access to services, support vulnerable populations, and coordinate responses to emerging safety concerns. Through these collaborative efforts, the Department aims to build a safer, healthier, and more resilient Territory for all who call American Samoa home.

I. Overview

The Department of Public Safety (DPS) is committed to strengthening trust, transparency, and collaboration with communities across American Samoa. In the upcoming year, DPS will implement targeted strategies to rebuild community relationships, enhance engagement, and support culturally grounded public safety practices aligned with fa'a Samoa.

II. Strengthening Community Presence

A. Increased Officer Visibility

- Participation in village council meetings
- Attendance at church, school, and cultural events
- Regular presence in high-traffic community areas

B. Open Communication Channels

- Scheduled community listening sessions
- Informal meet-and-greet opportunities
- Expanded outreach through public information efforts

III. Collaboration with Traditional Leadership

A. Engagement with High Chiefs and Councils of Chiefs

- Regular consultation on village-level concerns
- Joint problem-solving for culturally sensitive issues
- Reinforcement of shared responsibility for safety

B. Alignment with Fa'a Samoa

- Respect for traditional governance structures
- Integration of cultural expectations into enforcement strategies
- Support for village-driven approaches to conflict resolution



IV. Youth-Focused Engagement Initiatives

A. School-Based Outreach

- Safety presentations and educational sessions
- Officer participation in school assemblies and programs

B. Mentorship and Wellness Activities

- Youth sports engagement through DPS wellness programs
- Informal mentorship opportunities with officers
- Activities designed to build trust and positive early interactions

C. Officer-Led Community Sports Participation

To further strengthen relationships with youth and families, DPS will continue supporting officer participation in community sports activities. The Department will maintain and expand sports teams composed of police officers who compete in local leagues and community tournaments. These teams provide a positive, informal setting for officers to interact with residents, model teamwork and leadership, and demonstrate the Department's commitment to being an active, supportive presence in community life. Participation in these activities reinforces trust, encourages open communication, and helps bridge generational gaps through shared recreational experiences.

V. Officer Training and Capacity Building

A. Professional Development Priorities

- Cultural competency and communication skills
- Conflict de-escalation and community-oriented policing
- Training aligned with national best practices

B. Enhanced Service Delivery

- Improved responsiveness to community concerns
- Strengthened officer readiness and professionalism
- Consistent application of community-focused strategies

VI. Interagency and Cross-Sector Partnerships

A. Government and Nonprofit Collaboration

- Coordination with agencies addressing mental health, substance misuse, and youth development
- Joint initiatives to support vulnerable populations



B. Resource Integration

- Leveraging community organizations to expand service reach
- Shared data and information to support problem-solving

VII. Moving Forward

DPS will continue advancing a public safety framework rooted in trust, partnership, and shared responsibility. Through sustained engagement, culturally aligned practices, and collaborative problem-solving, the Department remains committed to building a safer, more connected, and more resilient American Samoa.

Evidence-Based Enforcement Plan (EBE)

The American Samoa Office of Highway Safety (ASOHS) remains firmly committed to reducing roadway fatalities, serious injuries, and fatal crashes across the territory. In support of this mission, ASOHS conducted a comprehensive analysis of historical and current crash data to identify high-risk locations, behavioral trends, and contributing factors. This evidence-based approach ensures that enforcement resources are strategically deployed to address the most critical safety challenges.

The 2024–2026 Triennial Highway Safety Plan (HSP) highlights the need for targeted enforcement strategies, enhanced data utilization, and strengthened partnerships. ASOHS continues to collaborate with law enforcement agencies, community partners, and federal stakeholders to implement coordinated, data-driven enforcement initiatives.

II. Priority Program Areas

ASOHS focuses its enforcement efforts on three core program areas identified as primary contributors to roadway fatalities and serious injuries:

1. Impaired Driving

- Targets alcohol- and drug-impaired drivers.
- Supports enforcement operations that deter impaired driving and reduce associated crashes.
- Reinforces public awareness through coordinated messaging and high-visibility enforcement.

2. Occupant Protection

- Promotes proper seat belt and child restraint use.
- Supports enforcement during periods and locations with low restraint-use rates.
- Aligns with national campaigns such as Click It or Ticket.



3. Speed Enforcement

- Addresses excessive speed as a major contributing factor in crash severity.
- Utilizes targeted enforcement in high-speed corridors and high-crash zones.
- Integrates speed enforcement with impaired-driving operations when appropriate.

Section 402 funding is allocated to areas with the highest concentrations of traffic-related issues, particularly those involving alcohol impairment, speeding, and low seat belt use.

III. Deployment of Resources

The Department of Public Safety (DPS) Traffic Division, in partnership with ASOHS and the primary grant recipient, will implement a comprehensive suite of evidence-based enforcement strategies. These strategies are informed by crash data, enforcement activity reports, and community feedback.

A. Targeted Enforcement

- Deploy officers to high-risk locations identified through crash mapping and trend analysis.
- Prioritize enforcement during peak violation periods, including late-night hours and weekends.
- Focus on violations with the highest correlation to fatal and serious-injury crashes (impaired driving, speeding, and non-use of restraints).

B. High-Visibility Enforcement (HVE)

- Participate in national mobilizations such as:
- Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over
- Click It or Ticket
- Conduct local HVE operations supported by coordinated media outreach.
- Maintain a visible law-enforcement presence to deter unsafe driving behaviors.

C. Saturation Patrols and Holiday Operations

- Implement mandatory saturation patrols during high-risk holidays and special events.
- Coordinate multi-agency operations to maximize coverage and deterrence.
- Utilize overtime enforcement funded through Section 402 grants.
-

D. Equipment and Training

- Support acquisition of essential enforcement equipment (e.g., breath-testing devices, radar units, safety gear).



- Provide training to enhance officer effectiveness in impaired-driving detection, crash reporting, and data-driven policing.

IV. Effectiveness Monitoring and Evaluation

ASOHS is committed to continuous improvement through rigorous monitoring and evaluation of enforcement activities.

A. Data Systems and Reporting

- Utilize the Online State Crash Analysis Reporting System (OSCAR) to track fatalities, serious injuries, and contributing factors.
- Review monthly and quarterly enforcement activity reports submitted by DPS and sub-recipients.
- Analyze trends to refine enforcement strategies and resource allocation.

B. Performance Measurement

ASOHS will assess progress using performance indicators such as:

- Number of impaired-driving arrests
- Seat belt citations issued
- Speed-related citations
- Changes in fatality and serious-injury trends
- Enforcement hours and deployment patterns

C. Collaboration and Accountability

- Program managers will work closely with DPS and local partners to evaluate productivity and ensure alignment with HSP goals.
- Findings will inform future enforcement planning and grant funding decisions.
- Emphasis will remain on transparency, accountability, and community safety.

V. Commitment to Public Safety

ASOHS and its law-enforcement partners remain steadfast in their mission to protect the lives of all road users. Through evidence-based strategies, high-visibility enforcement, and continuous evaluation, the territory will continue advancing toward safer roadways and a stronger culture of responsible driving.



Program Areas

Planning & Administration

PA-OHS-2025: Highway Safety Program Management

Funding Source: 402

Budget: \$325,633.27

Expended: \$143,862.76

Description:

In 2025, the American Samoa Office of Highway Safety and the DPS Traffic Division expanded their community presence through a full calendar of outreach events. Officers delivered roadway safety education across villages, schools, churches, community centers, and major public gatherings, ensuring that vital safety messages reached residents of all ages and backgrounds. These efforts strengthened public engagement, increased program visibility, and reinforced the Territory's commitment to safer roads.

The 2025 outreach activities were essential to meeting the Public Participation and Engagement requirements of the FY 2024–2026 Triennial Plan. By maintaining a consistent presence across the Territory, the Traffic Division ensured meaningful interaction with residents, gathered valuable community feedback, and identified emerging safety concerns to guide future programming.

Beyond compliance, these efforts helped spark a broader cultural shift toward shared responsibility for roadway safety. Families, schools, youth groups, and village leaders increasingly embraced safety education and welcomed deeper collaboration with OHS and DPS. This growing momentum demonstrates the impact of sustained engagement and reinforces the value of investing in community-centered strategies.

The progress made in 2025 lays a strong foundation for continued advancement in 2026 and beyond. The relationships formed, lessons learned, and visibility gained throughout the year will support expanded programming, deeper community partnerships, and more targeted safety initiatives. As the Office of Highway Safety continues to implement the FY 2024–2026 Triennial Plan, the momentum built through these outreach efforts will remain a driving force in reducing traffic-related injuries and fatalities across American Samoa.

Program Highlights – FY2025–FY2026

- Submitted the FY2026 Annual Grant Application to NHTSA Headquarters, ensuring timely compliance with federal requirements and continued support for the Territory's traffic safety initiatives.
- Completed a comprehensive Public Participation & Engagement (PP&E) assessment across the island to meet the Triennial Highway Safety Plan requirements and to strengthen community-driven planning for future safety priorities.



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- Participated in National traffic safety Conferences, including the LifeSavers Conference in March 2025 (Long Beach, CA) and the GHSA Annual Meeting in July 2025 (Boston, MA), enhancing staff capacity and bringing back best practices to inform local programming.
- Leveraged grant funding to expand community outreach, delivering educational messages through social media campaigns, billboard placements, and radio advertisements to increase public awareness of key roadway safety issues.





Police Traffic Services

PT HVE-2025: Impaired Driving and Speed Enforcement and Education

Funding Source: 402

Budget: \$654,022.20

Expended: \$530,659.02

Description:

The program's funding supported a comprehensive suite of enforcement and educational initiatives designed to reduce impaired driving, speeding, and other high-risk behaviors across American Samoa. Resources were strategically directed toward impaired-driving enforcement, speed enforcement, and public education efforts emphasizing occupant protection, pedestrian safety, and distracted-driving prevention in both urban and rural communities.

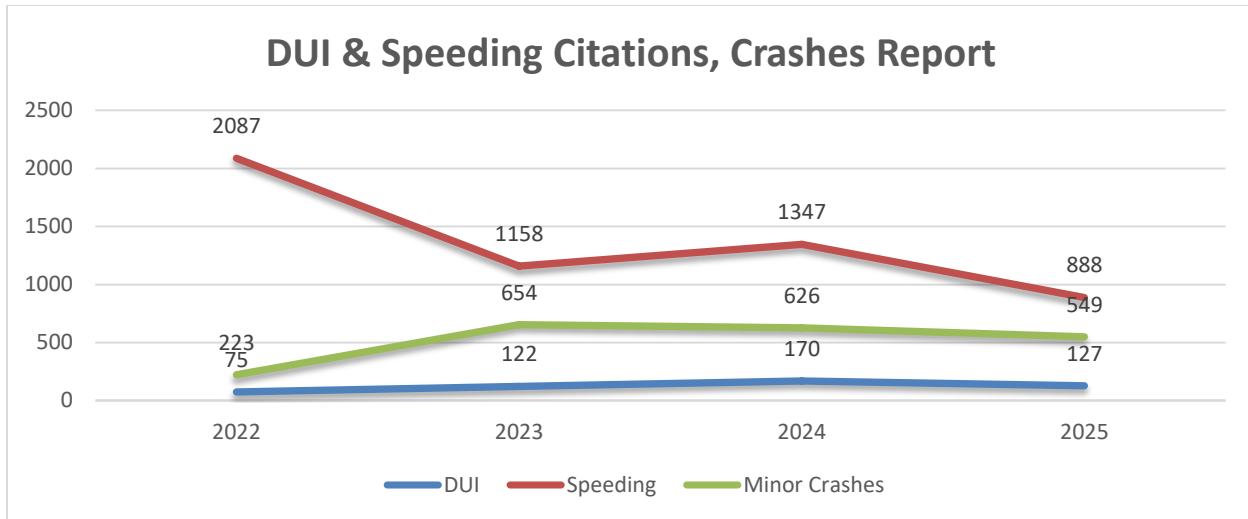
Enforcement activities included saturation patrols, high-visibility enforcement operations, and targeted patrols in school zones, villages, and areas with high pedestrian activity, crash frequency, and injury rates. In addition to NHTSA-designated national mobilizations, the Traffic Division and the Office of Highway Safety expanded enforcement during DSOGPO campaigns, local holidays, major events, and graduation season to address seasonal increases in risky driving behaviors.

The primary goal of the Office of Highway Safety's Police Traffic Services (PTS) program—implemented in partnership with the Department of Public Safety's Traffic Division—is to reduce impaired-driving and speeding-related crashes, injuries, and fatalities to zero each year. This goal is pursued through a balanced approach that integrates community education, high-visibility enforcement, and deterrence strategies.

Beyond enforcement, officers from the Traffic Division and the Office of Highway Safety collaborated to deliver educational presentations and conduct outreach across schools, field trips, villages, churches, and community events. This partnership also produced traffic-safety videos, commercials, and newspaper, radio, and billboard advertisements to raise year-round awareness about the dangers of impaired driving, speeding, distracted driving, and other unsafe behaviors.

ASOHS continued its partnerships with vendors and local media outlets to ensure consistent public messaging on roadway safety. These collaborations play a critical role in educating residents about safe driving practices that prevent injuries, reduce property damage, and save lives.

In 2025, enforcement activities resulted in an estimated 127 DUI citations, 888 arrests, 593 minor crashes with minor injuries, and one fatality related to speeding. There were zero fatalities attributed to impaired driving. Despite the single speeding-related fatality and increases in DUI arrests, minor crashes, and speeding citations, ASOHS and the Traffic Division remain committed to aggressive enforcement of traffic safety laws. The agencies will maintain a strong roadway presence through frequent short-duration saturation patrols focused on speeding, as well as continued nighttime DUI enforcement operations.



****Result:****

- Funded the purchase of two (2) new Police Vehicles, pickup truck and SUV, equipped for Traffic Enforcement support
- Funded Vehicle Mileage Reimbursements for Speed, CIOT and DSOGPO enforcement initiatives
- Purchased educational materials i.e. coloring books for children, flyers, and brochures for community outreach and event informational booths
- Funded paid media through local media vendors providing services for commercials and advertisements via newspaper, radio, television, movie theatre ads, and digital & traditional billboards
- Funded December-January Holiday DSOGPO Mobilization, June Graduation DUI and Speed Enforcement, July 4th DUI enforcement, July Speed campaign enforcement and August-Labor Day DSOGPO Enforcement overtime
- Funded Travel of two Traffic Officers and program manager to attend the Lifesavers Conference and Training in Long Beach, CA
- Funded Travel of two Traffic officers for At-Scene Crash Investigation training in Guam, USA
- Funded Travel for PTS program manager to attend GHSA Conference and Training in Boston, MA.



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Occupant Protection

OP-PM-EETISM-2025: Occupant Protection, Enforcement and Seatbelt Survey

OP-CARST-2025

OP-DHSS-2025 **

Funding Source: 402

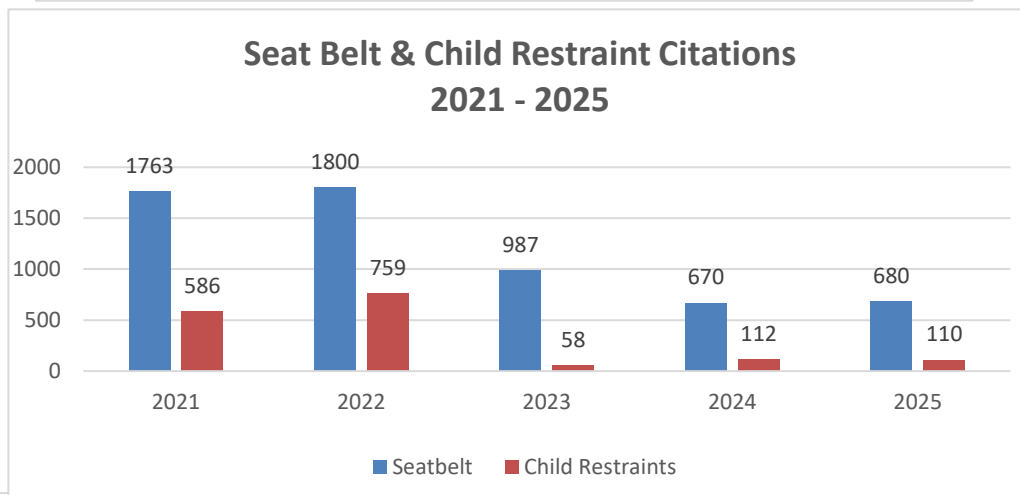
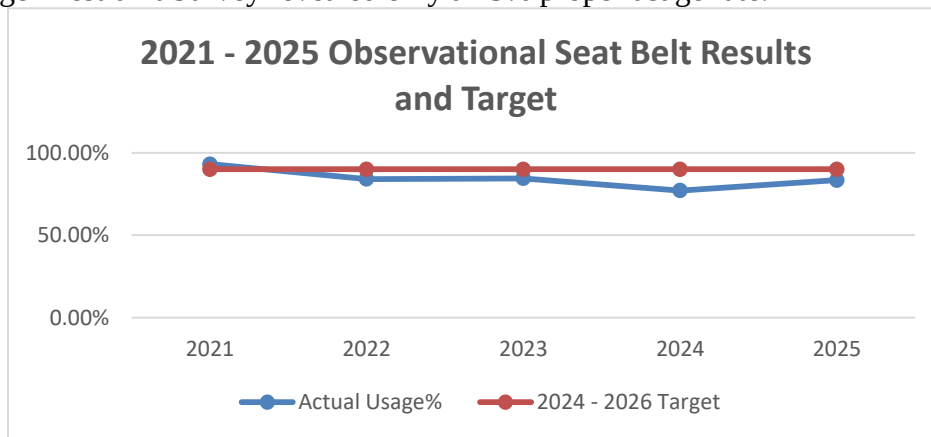
Projected Budget: \$512,888.22

Expended: \$366,569.17

The funding allocated for these initiatives supports education on the proper installation of child safety seats, highlights the importance of seat belt and child safety seat use, strengthens enforcement of occupant protection laws, and supports participation in the *Click It or Ticket* campaign. Additional efforts include quarterly saturation seat belt enforcement, pre- and post-observational seat belt surveys, and the distribution of child safety seats to new parents and families in need throughout American Samoa.

The primary goal of the Office of Highway Safety's Occupant Protection Program, in partnership with the Department of Public Safety Traffic Division, is to reduce traffic-related crashes, injuries, and fatalities by educating the community on the importance of seat belt use, child safety seats, and overall occupant safety.

Funding was also used to conduct pre- and post-observational seat belt surveys, as well as American Samoa's first Child Passenger Restraint Survey. Results from the post-survey showed an 84.3% seat belt usage rate, which is an increase from 2024's 77.1% result, while the Child Passenger Restraint Survey revealed only a 15% proper usage rate.





National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) grant funding was utilized to support the Traffic Division's collaboration with the Office of Highway Safety in conducting community outreach and educational activities. These efforts included engagement with high school teen drivers and community members to educate the public on the risks associated with operating or occupying a motor vehicle without proper restraint. Grant funds also supported coordinated outreach with public and media partners to increase awareness among parents and the public regarding the importance of seat belt use and child passenger restraint safety.

Over the four quarters, a total of **680 seat belt citations and 110 child restraint citations** were issued. Notably, there were zero fatalities involving unrestrained occupants during this period. When compared to the previous three years, seat belt and child passenger restraint citations have decreased, while maintaining a zero-fatality rate.

Project: OP-DHSS-2025 – Due to organizational and staffing changes within the Child Care Department, including the availability of Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Technicians and the designated point of contact (POC), project funds were not expended during the reporting period. As a result, scheduled child passenger safety checks and required quarterly reports were not conducted or submitted.

Corrective Actions and Future Plans: The Office of Highway Safety will work with the Department of Health and Social Services to reestablish a designated project point of contact and ensure CPS Technician availability. Project roles and reporting requirements will be clarified, and technical assistance will be provided as needed to support compliance. Program activities, including child passenger safety checks and data reporting, are anticipated to resume in the next grant period to ensure full utilization of awarded funds and alignment with NHTSA grant objectives.

****Results:****

- Funded National Click It or Ticket Mobilization overtime.
- Conducted 2 saturation patrols during the mobilization.
- Conducted 2 Occupant Protection/Child Passenger Safety presentations at Community Public Events
- Funded Travel Cost for CPS Technician to attend Lifesaver's Conference
- Funded Travel Cost for Traffic Division officer (CPST) to attend the Crash Investigation course in Saipan
- Funded media advertisements (Radio, Newspaper, Commercials, Billboards, Mobile Displays for heatstroke awareness)
- Displayed grant funded vehicles at 2 Community Events, also during CPS week installations
- Purchased car seats for Child Passenger Safety Program
- Forwarded press releases and news articles related to grant activities to the Department of Public Safety and NHTSA
- Provided quarterly reports to update the progress of goals and objectives



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- Did you know that nearly 30% of our children are still riding in the back seat? The front seat can be dangerous for young passengers in a crash.

- Data collected by the Office of Highway Safety resulted in an 80% decrease in car seat usage rate for 2024.

American Samoa's Child Passenger Restraint Law:

- Under 3 years old: Use a child safety seat
- Ages 3 to under 4: Use a child safety seat or a seat belt.

All safety seats and seat belts must be DOT-approved for your child's protection.

Let's work together to protect what matters most—keep kids safely buckled in the back seat until they're at least 13 years old.



Need Help with Your Child's Car Seat?

Not sure if your child is in the right car seat? Don't know how to install it or where the buckles should go? Or maybe you just want to learn more— we even have a car seat!

We're here to help!

Our Community Protection Program offers free car seat services to families in our community. Visit one of our certified car seat technicians at these locations:

- Central Tagataga Police Station
- Tafa'ofu Station
- Lualaba Station
- Saliu - Tagataga Police Station
- OHSS - Child Care Division & Training Office

The American Samoa Office of Highway Safety and the Department of Public Safety remind you to start road safety habits early—protect our children every trip, every time.

Contact us to schedule a car seat check, or a car seat fitting.

American Samoa DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

OFFICE OF HIGHWAY SAFETY

CHILD PASSENGER RESTRAINTS

CAR SEATS





Traffic Records

TR-PM-2025

Funding Source: 402

Budget: \$235,067.68

Expended: \$168,687.66

Description:

The allocated funding will support the contractor in maintaining and enhancing the Island-wide Traffic Safety Information System (ITSIS), ensuring the system remains reliable, secure, and fully functional. These resources will also enable targeted improvements to system usability, functionality, and data quality.

The contractor will collaborate closely with the American Samoa Office of Highway Safety to address recommendations from the NHTSA Traffic Records Assessment Team, strengthen system performance, and improve data integration across partner agencies. Additionally, the Traffic Records Strategic Plan will be updated to align with endorsed strategies and priority system needs, reinforcing the Territory's commitment to accurate crash reporting, data-driven decision-making, and continued compliance with federal expectations.

During the FY2025 reporting period, the Island-wide Traffic Safety Information System (ITSIS) Program Management activities under NHTSA Section 402 focused on sustaining system operations, improving data quality, and supporting statewide traffic safety planning and grant compliance. Core efforts included full system maintenance and cloud operations, continuous support to law enforcement and the Court, completion of Traffic Records Strategic Plan updates, preparation of the FY2026 Section 405(c) Grant Application, and data analysis support for the FY2026 Highway Safety Plan. These activities ensured system reliability, strengthened data integration and accessibility, and supported compliance with NHTSA performance and reporting requirements.

Key Accomplishments:

- **ITSIS System Maintenance & Support** – 100% completed, including ongoing maintenance of all ITSIS applications, VPN connectivity, user domain accounts, cloud servers, and weekly system utilization reporting.
- **Cloud Infrastructure Migration** – Successfully migrated the ITSIS centralized database to a new Microsoft Azure environment, ensuring compliance with security and technology requirements and improving system reliability.
- **Law Enforcement & Court Support** – Provided continuous operational support for E-Citation and crash data transmission to the Court JustWare System, including troubleshooting connectivity issues and maintaining timely data flow to meet court schedules.
- **Traffic Records Strategic Plan Update** – 100% completed and aligned with TRCC-approved solutions and NHTSA recommendations to support long-term traffic records improvement and federal grant eligibility.
- **FY2026 Section 405(c) Grant Application Support** – Successfully prepared performance measures, coordinated TRCC activities, conducted required meetings, and completed documentation for federal submission.



- **TRCC Coordination & Support** – Conducted multiple TRCC meetings, prepared meeting minutes, and supported planning discussions for upcoming traffic records initiatives.
- **FY2026 Highway Safety Plan (HSP) Support** – 100% completed, including development of system queries, five-year traffic data trend analysis, crash injury analysis (2018–2024), and generation of citation statistics for seatbelt, DUI, child restraint, and speeding enforcement.

TR-MS-2025 M3DA TR 405(c) Data Improvement Program

Funding Source: 405c

Budget: \$280,336.17

Expended: \$146,092.35

Description:

Funding for this initiative supports the development of a Driver and Vehicle Data Lookup System for DPS Traffic, leveraging the existing Crash and E-Citation platforms to provide real-time license and registration information and auto-populate crash and citation forms. The contractor will also integrate RIMS roadway inventory data with the Island roadway map, add a crash data layer, and enhance GIS-based tools within the ITSIS Reporting Dashboard. Training on ArcGIS and dashboard use will be provided to DPS staff.

During FY2025, the Traffic Records Program advanced key system improvements aligned with NHTSA Section 405(c) requirements, including expanded reporting dashboards, system upgrades supporting enforcement and adjudication, completion of core lookup modules, and delivery of technical assistance. These efforts improved data accuracy, strengthened system integration, and enhanced the Territory's capacity for data-driven roadway safety planning and enforcement.

Key Accomplishments:

- **ITSIS Reporting & Analysis Dashboard** – 100% completed and deployed, utilizing ArcGIS and Power BI to support crash analysis, high-injury network identification, and fatal and serious injury location mapping.
- **Law Enforcement Dashboard (LED) Upgrade** – 100% completed, providing single sign-on access, E-Citation retrieval and PDF printing, and improved access to crash and citation records.
- **E-Citation & Court Adjudication Enhancements** – 100% completed, including JustWare Bridge upgrades, improved data transmission, and electronic officer signature capture to support timely judicial processing.
- **Driver License Lookup Module** – 100% completed and deployed, enabling offline access, daily Azure synchronization, and automated population of crash and citation reports.
- **Vehicle Registration Lookup Module** – 95% completed, with system design, UI development, and synchronization methodology finalized; pending API integration with the Motor Vehicle Registration System.



- **Training & Technical Assistance** – Training materials developed, ArcGIS Online and dashboard training delivered, and field training coordinated to support system adoption and sustainability.

2025 Mobilization

1. Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over Campaign (December 2024 – January 2025)

In December 2024, the Traffic Division participated in the national **Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over** mobilization, which included **Daytime Seat Belt** and **Speed Control** enforcement, through the implementation of high-visibility impaired-driving enforcement activities funded by **NHTSA**. During the mobilization period, six sobriety checkpoints were conducted within the village of Nu'uuli. Over the two-week enforcement effort, officers conducted nighttime operations and sustained enforcement activities throughout the month, resulting in **39** driving under the influence (DUI) arrests and **238** speeding citations. Additionally, **23** child passenger restraint citations and **148** seat belt citations were issued during this period. The enforcement efforts supported the program's objective to deter impaired and unsafe driving behaviors and to reduce alcohol-related crashes, injuries, and fatalities.

2. February March April 2025 Flag Day Routine Patrol

In February to April, traffic officers were actively conducting their routine day and night patrol enforcement during designated NHTSA impaired driving & speeding campaigns and the American Samoa Flag Day holiday. During this period of routine patrols, officers issued 18 DUI citations and 155 speeding citations.

3. May Click It Or Ticket Campaign (May 27th to June 15th, 2025)

May's **Click It or Ticket** Campaign was initiated through proclamation and supported by a coordinated media outreach effort to increase public awareness of occupant-protection laws. During the campaign period, law enforcement agencies conducted high-visibility enforcement activities, including both stationary checkpoints and roving patrols, to deter noncompliance with seat belt and child passenger safety laws. These enforcement efforts resulted in the issuance of **176 seat belt citations** and **30 child passenger restraint citations**, reflecting the program's continued emphasis on increasing occupant-protection compliance and reducing traffic-related injuries and fatalities.

4. June 2025 Graduation Speed, Impaired Driving and Seatbelt Enforcement

Traffic and Patrol officers conducted enforcement for a week focused on speeding, impaired driving, and seatbelt compliance during graduation week in American Samoa. Graduation season includes many celebrations and parties and goes beyond a week of graduations and enforcement. In June, officers yielded 59 speeding citations and issued 14 DUI citations and



arrests. This proactive approach is intended to enhance road safety during this celebratory period.

5. July 4th Impaired Driving and July Speed Campaign Enforcement

In July, Traffic officers participated in NHTSA's national July 4th impaired driving's *Buzzed Driving is Driving* enforcement and the July Speed campaign enforcement. Officers were actively conducting saturation patrols in key areas known for high speeding incidents and DUI citations issued. During this initiative, 15 DUI citations were issued and 114 speeding citations were issued.

6. August - Labor Day Weekend DSOGPO & Speed Campaign Enforcement

In August, the Department of Public Safety's traffic and patrol officers participated in the national *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over* mobilization and conducted routine and saturation patrols. During this initiative, the officers' enforcement efforts resulted in 10 DUI citations and arrests, while speed enforcement efforts yielded 125 speeding citations.





MOVING FORWARD – FY 2026

- The ASOHS is committed to enhancing its public participation and engagement initiatives, aiming to foster greater community involvement as we move towards the development of our next Triennial Plan, scheduled for 2026. This proactive approach will ensure that community voices are heard and incorporated into our planning process.
- In our efforts to build a more comprehensive network of support, ASOHS will actively engage a diverse array of stakeholders, including the Army Reserve and the LBJ Medical Center OBGYN clinic. This collaboration is in line with the recommendations provided by NHTSA officials during our recent Management Review, emphasizing the importance of multidisciplinary partnerships.
- ASOHS is dedicated to partnering with Law Enforcement and Traffic departments to enhance outreach activities in schools and surrounding communities across the territory. Through these efforts, we aim to heighten awareness of roadway safety and encourage students and residents to diligently practice safe behaviors as pedestrians, drivers, and vehicle occupants.
- ASOHS will prioritize gathering valuable feedback from students during our school visit program. While recent data does not indicate an increase in teen fatalities, these students represent the next generation of drivers. Their perspectives will be instrumental in shaping educational strategies that promote safe driving behaviors and help to prevent future accidents within our communities.
- We will collaborate closely with the Traffic Unit to underscore the critical importance of activities funded by grants. This partnership will ensure that all initiatives align with our strategic objectives and enhance community safety.
- ASOHS is committed to securing and maintaining funding dedicated to ongoing enforcement efforts beyond the scope of national mobilization events, ensuring a sustained focus on traffic safety throughout the year.
- We look forward to participating in the NHTSA Region 9 Partners Meeting, where we will share insights, strategies, and experiences with other stakeholders to collectively improve traffic safety initiatives.
- Our team will systematically assess and address personnel needs to strengthen our operations and enhance our effectiveness in traffic safety management.
- ASOHS will closely monitor and oversee the implementation of traffic safety grants and related operations to ensure accountability and maximize the positive impacts of our programs.
- We are focused on improving the accuracy and efficiency of traffic collision data collection and reestablishing a robust Traffic Records Program. This initiative is vital for informed decision-making and the development of targeted traffic safety interventions.



FY 2025 ACTIVITIES AND OUTREACHES:



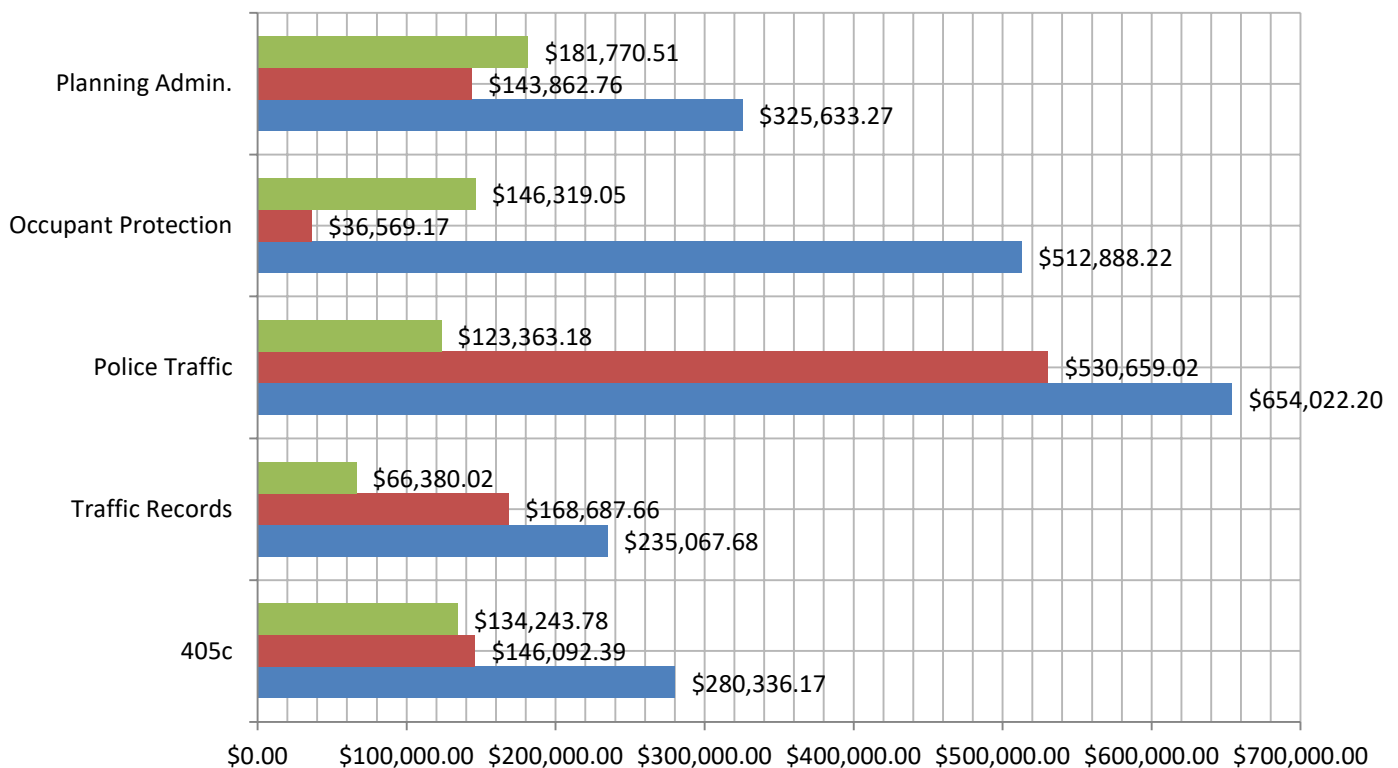


**NHTSA FAST ACT 402 & 405c
HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAM FUNDING**

NHTSA Financial Report as of January 26, 2026

Program Area:	FY Appropriated	Expended:	Carry- Forward to FY26
PA-OHS-2025 PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION	\$325,633.27	\$143,862.76	\$181,770.51
OP-PM-EETIS-2025 OCCUPANT PROTECTION	\$512,888.22	\$366,569.17	\$146,319.05
PTS-HVE-2025 POLICE TRAFFIC SERVICES	\$654,022.20	\$530,659.02	\$123,363.18
TR-PM-2025 TRAFFIC RECORDS	\$235,067.68	\$168,687.66	\$66,380.02
MEDA-TR-2025 DATA IMPROVEMENT (405C)	\$280,336.17	\$146,092.39	\$134,243.78
Total:	\$2,015,861.35	\$1,355,871	\$659,990.35

■ Carry Forward FY26 ■ Expenditures ■ Allocated Funds





The following graphs represent FY25 Total Funding, Expenditure, and Carry Forward to Fiscal Year 2026.

