

# USVI OFFICE OF HIGHWAY SAFETY

*Fiscal Year 2007 Report*



*St. Croix*



*St. Thomas*



*St. John*



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## Executive Summary

The Virgin Islands Highway Safety program is a combination of traffic safety projects that are funded with federal safety funds with the overall goal of reducing the number and severity of traffic crash deaths and injuries. The Highway Safety Plan Annual Report reflects the use of funding that the US Virgin Islands received from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, through the Section 402 State and Community Highway Safety Funds. The Report also addresses the use of funds from the Section 405 Occupant Protection Incentive Grant, Section 406 Safety Belt Performance Grant and Section 408 Traffic Records System Improvement Grant. Funds received under these sections supported projects in the following areas: alcohol countermeasures, occupant protection and child passenger safety, and traffic records.

These programs are driven each year by the Highway Safety Plan, published and administered by the Virgin Islands Office of Highway Safety, along with funding sources from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Title 23, Section 402 Highway Safety Program, and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program. The Office of Highway Safety received a total of \$3,019,610.56 in federal funds, of which \$788,203.03 was expended, and \$2,231,407.53 was carried forward into FY-2008. FY'07 ended with a 14% reduction in injuries and an 80% reduction in pedestrian fatalities.

The success of the programs implemented by VIOHS in reducing crashes, injuries and deaths is attributed to the high level of sustained enforcement, active participation in the national mobilizations and an aggressive public information and education campaign. One of our greatest accomplishments is the implementation of the first phase of the Traffic Records Plan. One of the stated goals were to develop and implement a crash data system which can deliver timely, complete and accurate motor vehicle crash data to all users. This was accomplished through the identification, acquisition and use of an electronic MMUCC compliant crash report system, that make available crash data and reports within seven days of the crash. This is a significant decrease from thirty days, which was the amount of time it took to finalize a crash report. We are continuing to work through the active Traffic Records Coordinating Committee to achieve all of the goals and objectives as identified in the Strategic Traffic Records Plan.

Throughout the coming year, we will continue to work towards achieving our goals in each priority area, to identify additional highway safety partners, and continue to work toward improving the Virgin Islands data and analysis process.

## II. 2007 STATEWIDE ANALYSIS

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This section addresses statewide progress towards achieving 2007 Highway Safety Plan performance goals. The Virgin Islands met most performance goals as set forth in the 2007 HSP. The following is an overview of the program results:

### **PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION**

#### **Goals**

To provide management, supervision and support services necessary to operate the highway safety program in the U. S. Virgin Islands. These activities included, but were not limited to the following:

- To provide effective and efficient management to the Virgin Islands Highway Safety Programs.
- Provide the operation and administration of the Virgin Islands Highway Safety Programs in compliance with territorial and federal laws, regulations and procedures.
- Ensure that the policies and procedures for the operation of the Highway Safety Programs are current.
- Maintain a system of training and development for Highway Safety Program staff and project personnel.
- To develop the annual Evaluation Report by December 31, 2007.
- To utilize all available means for improving and promoting the Virgin Islands traffic safety program.

#### **Accomplishments**

The Virgin Islands Office of Highway Safety provided funding for the management, supervision support and operating services necessary to conduct the Virgin Islands Highway Safety program during fiscal year 2007. During that fiscal year 6 onsite visits were conducted.

VIOHS worked with the program coordinators in the implementation of their programs, assisting with public information and education campaigns, seat belts surveys, and necessary funding.

The Office participated in Community Outreach activities, Child Seat Checks and media messages before the planned national mobilizations.

The Highway Safety Policy and Procedures Manual is currently undergoing its second revision, and will be finalized by April of 2008. The final document is on hold pending receipt of the Governor's Highway Safety Association's model standardized manual, which all states and territories are encouraged to use.



All of the Highway Safety Program Staff have received the NHTSA program management training. Staff members participated in NHTSA's Financial Management training Data Evaluation training, and FARS New Analyst training. These trainings were augmented by our active participation in NHTSA sponsored workshops and conferences.

Another attempt was made to encourage the passage of two key pieces of legislative amendments, which are vital to the territory's active enforcement efforts. Draft legislations were submitted to the Police Department's Office of legal Counsel for review, and were sent on to the Legislature for consideration. These amendments are to Title 20 section 466, the child passenger safety law to include a provision for the mandatory use of Booster Seats and mandate that all rear seat passengers wear seatbelts; and an amendment to Title 20 chapter 43 section 493d, to prohibit the consumption and/or possession of alcoholic beverages while operating a vehicle.

As per our signed Certification and Assurances, the office assisted the Police Department in revising their Vehicle Pursuit Policy. This recommended policy is based on the International Association of Chiefs of Police, Highway Safety Sub-Committee adopted policy.

The final draft was delivered to the Virgin Islands Police Department's management team, who intend to begin training all sworn personnel using the new policy, and implement the policy thereafter.

<b>FISCAL REVIEW—By Projects</b>						
Project	OBLIGATED		402 Funds Claimed	Reprogrammed	Revised Obligation	Project Balance
	402	Local				
Planning and Admin. Project No. PA-07-00-00	\$45,000.00		\$25,736.38	\$19,263.62	\$25,736.38	-0-
TOTAL	\$45,000.00		\$25,736.38	\$19,263.62	\$25,736.38	-0-

## POLICE TRAFFIC SERVICES

### Goals

To reduce the percentage of speed-related fatal crashes and injuries to 30% by the end of calendar year 2007.

To reduce the high level of crashes due to the Virgin Island's five predominant contributing factors, by 30% with an emphasis on speeding.

### Accomplishments

Traffic Fatalities remained the same as in FY 2006.

Traffic injuries decreased by 14 percent

The number of speed related crashes is still being analyzed; the results will be published under separate cover and will be made available before the end of FY 2008.

All of the officers that are assigned to the Traffic investigation Bureau and those that were scheduled to work on grant funded and sustained enforcement initiatives received Standard Field Sobriety Test training; two officers received train-the-trainer SFST training. Officers received training in the following areas: Advanced Crash Investigation, Laser/Radar Instructor/Operator, Laser Operation, certification in the use and operation of the Intoxilyzer 5000 equipment for the administration of breath test to suspects in DUI cases, and traffic crash diagramming.

Through the use of highway safety grant funds, Laser Radars were purchased along with the necessary supplies to enable law enforcement to prevent and investigate crashes.

Project	OBLIGATED		402 Funds Claimed	Reprogrammed	Revised Obligation	Project Balance
	402	Local				
Police Traffic Services	\$300,000.00		\$104,199.94	\$195,800.06	\$104,199.94	-0-
Project No. PT-07-00-00	\$300,000.00		\$104,199.94	\$195,800.06	\$104,199.94	-0-
TOTAL						



## OCCUPANT PROTECTION ENFORCEMENT

- To reduce the percentage of serious (fatal and A) injuries resulting from motor vehicle crashes from 921 in 2006, to 500 in 2008.
- To increase the use of child restraint devices for children 0-4 years old and to encourage the use of restrain devices for children over 4 years old.

### **Accomplishments:**

The Virgin Islands achieved an 80.2% seat belt usage rate, as determined by the Scientific Survey that was conducted by the University of the Virgin Islands in 2006. Another survey was conducted by the University of the Virgin Islands in December of 2007; the results are to be determined. The number of serious injuries resulting from motor vehicle crashes where the occupants were not wearing their seatbelts has not been determined to date. The process of analyzing the data will be completed before the end of FY 2008 and will be reported in a separate document.

The Virgin Islands Police Department in an effort to reduce the incidents of deaths and injuries associated with motor vehicle accidents have participated in the national "Click it or Ticket" enforcement campaign. Paid and electronic media were used to publicize the vent, along with private and business partnerships. Five hundred and twelve(512) man hours were expended on this campaign which yielded 749 seatbelt citations along with 442 citations for other infractions. Nighttime enforcement was also attempted, however; due to poor lighting it was almost impossible to conduct an effective initiative. The total seatbelt citations that were issued this fiscal year is estimated at or around 8,000. The number that was issued last fiscal year was 6,495.

We are currently working with the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, the Superior Court and the Police Department to implement the point system in the territory. This we believe will decrease the number of violations overall but particularly increase compliance with the seatbelt law, since this a moving violation.

Project	OBLIGATED		402 Funds Claimed	Reprogrammed	Revised Obligation	Project Balance
	402	Local				
OP Enforcement						
Project No. J2-2007-00-00 K2-2007-00-00	\$275,237.37		\$109,473.78	\$165,763.59	\$109,473.78	-0-
TOTAL	\$275,237.37		\$109,473.78	\$165,763.59	\$109,473.78	-0-

**OCCUPANT PROTECTION**

**Goal:**

- To reduce the percentage of serious (fatal and A) injuries resulting from motor vehicle crashes from 921 in 2006 to 500 in 2008.
- To increase the use of child restraint devices for children 0-4 years old and to encourage the use of restraint devices for children over 4 years old.

**Accomplishments:**

Three car seat clinics were conducted in the territory during which a total of 125 seats were distributed.

Partnered with the Department of Health Emergency Medical Services for Children program, to increase the number of public information and education mediums in the territory.

A Car Seat Program has been established at the Juan Luis Hospital on the island of St. Croix. This was done to reinstate the hospital's policy of having newborns transported safely in child safety seats upon discharge. This Hospital Based Child Safety Seat Program was turned over to the Nursery staff on Friday September 14, 2007.

Participated in other territorial activities such as the Week of the Young Child, the St. Croix Agriculture Fair, World Health Day celebration, National Night Out Against Crime and Drugs, Child Passenger Safety Week, Fire Jamboree, St. Croix Taxi Association Workshop, and St. Thomas Taxi Association Workshop. A combined total of approximately, 5,000 residents were reached during these activities.

Child safety seat compliance rate is undetermined.

The "Using It Right", Kids in the Car, and Buckle Up Don't Mash Up brochures were distributed locally. These brochures contain excellent information to assist law enforcement, parents and caregivers in installing their car seats correctly, and to identify misuse.

230 citations for nonuse of child restraint seats were issued during FY 2007.

The Child Passenger Safety Workshop that was planned was substituted for individual contacts with the technicians. During these sessions the OP Coordinator assisted the technician with installations at their facilities to ensure that they are continuing to follow proper installation procedures.

The annual seatbelt survey will be conducted this year in December 2007; the results of the survey will be finalized and made available before the end of the first quarter of 2008.

Project	OBLIGATED		402 Funds Claimed	Reprogrammed	Revised Obligation	Project Balance
	402	Local				
Occupant Protection						
Project No. OP-07-00-00	\$175,000.00		\$126,131.03	\$48,868.97	\$126,131.03	-0-
TOTAL	\$175,000.00		\$126,131.03	\$48,868.97	\$126,131.03	-0-





**PEDESTRIAN/BICYCLE SCHOOL BUS SAFETY**

**Goal:**

- To reduce the number of crashes involving pedestrians from 5 in FY 2006, to 3 by the year 2008.
- Increase pedestrian and bicycle safety knowledge and awareness for children and adults.

**Accomplishments**

This program area lacked a centralized coordinated effort, due in part to the inability of the office to recruit a qualified professional to coordinate the activities as specified in the goals and objectives. However, there were several PI&E activities that were undertaken to include, World Health Day, the Week of the Young Child, Child Passenger Safety Week, The VI Fire Services Fire Jamboree and the St. Croix rescue Community Health Fair.

The number of Pedestrian fatalities decreased from 5 in FY 2006 to 3 in FY 2007. The number of pedestrian injuries reduced from 45 in FY 2006 to 23 in FY 2005. The reduction in the pedestrian fatality and injury rates is directly attributed to the increase in sustained enforcement, increase in the PI&E campaign and reduction in the overall reported crashes.

Project	OBLIGATED		402 Funds Claimed	Reprogrammed	Revised Obligation	Project Balance
	402	Local				
Pedestrian Safety						
Project No. PS-07-00-00	\$50,000.00		\$-0-	\$50,000.00	\$-0-	-0-
TOTAL	\$50,000.00		\$-0-	\$50,000.00	\$-0-	-0-

## TRAFFIC RECORDS

### Goal

- To develop and implement a crash data system which can deliver timely, complete and accurate motor vehicle crash data to all users.
- To design, develop and implement a traffic citation/ adjudication data subsystem, which can deliver traffic citation, and adjudication data in a timely fashion to all users by the year 2008.
- To make available to stakeholders complete traffic information, to aid in their resource allocation and decision making

### Accomplishments:

The NHTSA Traffic Records Assessment was planned and completed by the first week of January 2007. All reasonable recommendations were continuously reviewed, and corrective measures are being taken to implement recommendations.

The Territory's Traffic Records Coordinating Committee is fully functional, and has identified a new Traffic Accident Report form to be used electronically by Law Enforcement Officers.

An electronic version of the Crash Report was designed, tested and fully implemented in the Police Department. The total number of full Model Minimum Uniform Crash Criteria ( MMUCC) elements and attributes of the crash report was increased. To date the documented average length of time it takes to finalize a crash report and have crash data available have been decreased from thirty (30) days to seven (7) days.

Work has been completed on the design of the E-citation system workflow and design. The goal of completing the system by the end of 2008 is on target.

The Strategic Traffic Records Plan has listed the establishment of an EMS Registry as the next project to be undertaken via the plan. The EMS Patient Care Electronic Report (PCR) is an integral part of this Registry. As a result, work has begun to identify an ideal system, one that will be compatible with the 911 emergency system as well as that of the Departments of Health and Hospital.

Project	OBLIGATED		402 Funds Claimed	Reprogrammed	Revised Obligation	Project Balance
	402	Local				
Section 406,408&402	\$1,649,373.19	-0-	\$327,409.69	\$1,321,963.50	\$ 327,409.69	-0-
TOTAL	\$1,649,373.19	-0-	\$327,409.69	\$1,321,963.50	\$327,409.69	-0-



**ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS**

**Alcohol Program Management and Enforcement**

Goal:

To reduce the number of alcohol related crashes by 10% from the four year average of 40% to 20% by the end of the fiscal year 2007, with a further 2% reduction by the end of fiscal year 2008.

To increase the number of DUI arrest by 30% in 2007.

**Accomplishments:**

During FY-2007 the Virgin Islands participated in 3 national mobilizations

All Officers assigned to DUI Traffic Initiatives received Standardize Field Sobriety Test and Breathalyzer Operation training, to ensure that they are prepared to fully investigate DUI cases.

There were 100 DUI arrest in the territory, sixty-four (64) in the St. Croix district and 36 in the St. Thomas/St. John District. This represents a 19% increase in DUI arrests. See table for a three (3) year comparison.

This fiscal year, the number of reported crashes was 6724; the number of these crashes that can be attributed to DUI is undetermined. As the data is finalized, a report will be submitted that will include the actual total for FY 2007.

Public Information and Education to include paid and earned media are an integral part of the Alcohol enforcement and awareness efforts. Prior to each mobilization the public is made aware of the increased enforcement activity via PSAs, billboard advertisements, earned media and press conferences. As part of the PI&E campaign the office partnered with several businesses to sponsor two walkathons themed "Soccer Against Drunk Driving", and "It's a Family Affair". The goals of these activities were to make the community aware of the devastating effects of crashes and fatalities that are caused as a result of driving under the influence.

	CITATIONS	ARREST	FATALITIES
2004	110	69	0
2005	61	50	0
2006	11	81	0
2007	N/A	100	undetermined

Project	OBLIGATED		402 Funds Claimed	Reprogrammed	Revised Obligation	Project Balance
	402	Local				
Alcohol Involvement	\$375,000.00		\$96,688.15	\$278,311.85	\$70,774.42	-0-
Project No. AL-07-00-00	\$375,000.00		\$96,688.15	\$278,311.85	\$70,774.42	-0-
TOTAL						

## ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS

### YOUTH ALCOHOL

Few of the goals that were planned for this year were accomplished; this is due in part to the inability of the Office to attract a qualified person to fill the vacant Coordinator's position. Towards the end of the fiscal year an individual was identified and will be coordinating the activities under this program area to ensure that we meet our stated goal and objectives. Contact was made with four agencies who expressed interest in conducting youth alcohol awareness, prevention and intervention programs. However; they were unable to submit a proposal for funding. This activity area is the focal point of our FY 2008 Alcohol Underage Drinking and Driving campaign.

The Youth Alcohol initiatives undertaken in FY 2007 included:

The Office participated in the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Agriculture and Food Fair, and was able to make contact with over 300 persons. Alcohol as well as Child Safety Restraint and Seat Belt information (pamphlets, brochures, questionnaire), were distributed.

The Office also participated in a Town Hall Meeting sponsored by the interagency Coordinating Committee for the Prevention of Underage Drinking. The meeting was well attended by community residents, Junior and High School students and their parents. The highlight of the meeting was the concerns and issues raised by the youths, and their proposed solution to the problem of underage drinking.

The Office of Highway Safety was represented on the Territory's Epidemiology workgroup. Through this collaboration we were able to gather the statistical data that highlights the magnitude of the Youth Alcohol problem in the territory.

Project	OBLIGATED		402 Funds Claimed	Reprogrammed	Revised Obligation	Project Balance
	402	Local				
Youth Alcohol	\$150,000.00		\$-0-	\$150,000.00	\$-0-	-0-
Project No. YA-07-00-00	\$150,000.00		\$-0-	\$150,000.00	\$-0-	-0-
TOTAL						



## PAID MEDIA ACTIVITIES



**BANNERS PLACED THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY DURING “CLICK IT OR TICKET MOBILIZATIONS”.**



**BANNERS PLACED DURING THE DRUNK DRIVING CAMPAIGNS**



**SUNVISOR WORN BY ENFORCMENT OFFICERS AND DISTRIBUTED TO THE PUBLIC DURING THE “CLICK IT OR TICKET MOBILIZATION”**

**900 RADIO PSA \$5,620.00 (Aired on 15 different local stations)**

“Some of you don’t use seat belts at night because it’s dark and you think you won’t get caught. You couldn’t be more wrong. The Virgin Islands Police Department is on the lookout 24 hours a day to catch safety belt violators. It doesn’t matter when or where you drive; if you’re not buckled up you will get a ticket. So, remember. When it comes to safety belt enforcement, there is no difference between night & day. Click it or ticket”.



## **EARNED MEDIA ACTIVITIES**





## **1. Section 402 Program**

The State and Community Highway Safety grant program is administered at the federal level by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in conjunction with the Federal Highway Administration. The funds are intended to supplement other state, local and private resources. The 402 program improves enforcement of existing laws, changes public attitudes through educational programs and builds state and local leadership in highway safety. Funds in the amount of \$1,160,123.19 were obligated in the Section 402 program.

## **2. Section 405 Program**

The Section 405 Occupant Protection Incentive grant program (J2&K2 on the Fiscal Review), provides incentive grants to encourage states and the territories to adopt and implement effective programs to reduce highway deaths and injuries resulting from individuals riding unrestrained or improperly restrained in motor vehicles. Funds in the amount of \$275,237.37 were obligated, all of the funds were awarded to the Virgin Islands Police Department.

## **3. Section 406 Program**

The Section 406 Safety Belt Performance Grant provides incentive grants to encourage the enactment and enforcement of laws requiring the use of safety belts in passenger motor vehicles. Grant funds may be used for any safety purpose under Title 23 or for any project that proactively addresses highway safety problems. Funds in the amount of \$784,250.00 were received. The funds will be used to assist in meeting the goals and objectives of the Territory's Strategic Traffic Records Plan.

## **4. Section 408 Program**

Section 408 established a state and territory traffic safety information system improvement grant program. The program seeks the coordination of safety data systems across agencies and calls for the development and maintenance of a comprehensive traffic safety information system. Projects that improve the timeliness, completeness, uniformity, accessibility and quality of crash data will be funded from this program. A total of \$800,000.00 was received, however \$500,000 was received at the end of the fiscal year and will be carried over into FY 2008.

# FISCAL REVIEW

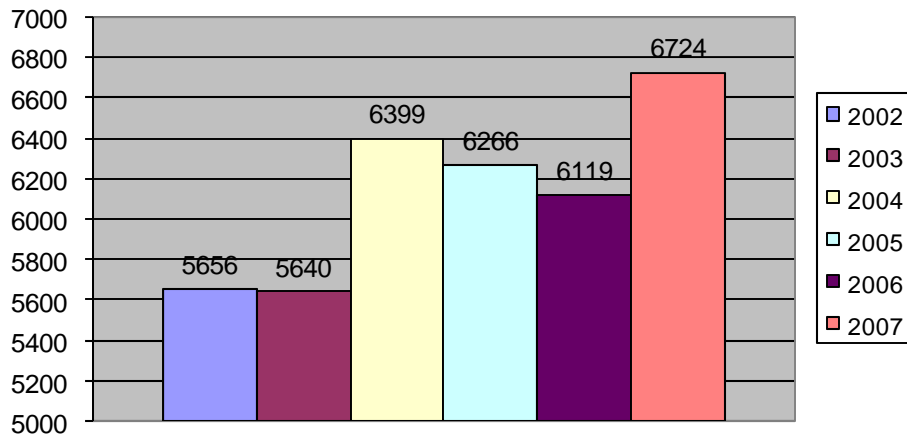
Project	OBLIGATED		402 Funds Claimed	Reprogrammed	Revised Obligation	Project Balance
	402	Local				
Planning and Administration PA-2007-00-00	\$45,000.00	-0-	\$ 25,736.38	\$ 19,263.62	\$ 25,736.38	-0-
Alcohol Involvement AL-2007-00-00	\$375,000.00	-0-	\$96,688.15	\$278,311.85	\$96,688.15	-0-
Youth Alcohol YA-2007-00-00	\$150,000.00	-0-	\$-0-	\$150,000.00	\$-0-	-0-
Occupant Protection OP-2007-00-00	\$175,000.00	-0-	\$126,131.03	\$48,868.97	\$126,131.03	-0-
Pedestrian Safety PS-2007-00-00	\$50,000.00	-0-	\$-0-	\$50,000.00	\$-0-	-0-
Police Traffic Services PT-2007-00-00	\$300,000.00	-0-	\$102,764.00	\$195,800.06	\$102,764.00	-0-
Traffic Records TR-2007-00-00-00	\$65,123.19	-0-	\$ 65,123.19	\$-0-	\$65,123.19	-0-
<b>TOTAL-NHTSA 402</b>	<b>\$1,160,123.19</b>	<b>-0-</b>	<b>\$ 416,442.75</b>	<b>\$740,184.50</b>	<b>\$416,442.75</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>TOTAL-J2&amp;K2</b>	<b>\$275,237.37</b>	<b>-0-</b>	<b>\$109,473.78</b>	<b>\$165,763.59</b>	<b>\$109,473.78</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>TOTAL-406</b>	<b>\$784,250.00</b>	<b>-0-</b>	<b>\$173,542.50</b>	<b>\$610,707.50</b>	<b>173,542.50</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>TOTAL-408</b>	<b>\$800,000.00</b>	<b>-0-</b>	<b>\$88,744.00</b>	<b>\$711,256.00</b>	<b>\$88,744.00</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,919,610.56</b>	<b>-0-</b>	<b>\$788,203.03</b>	<b>\$2,231,407.53</b>	<b>\$788,203.03</b>	<b>-0-</b>

## FISCAL YEAR STATISTICAL TABLE

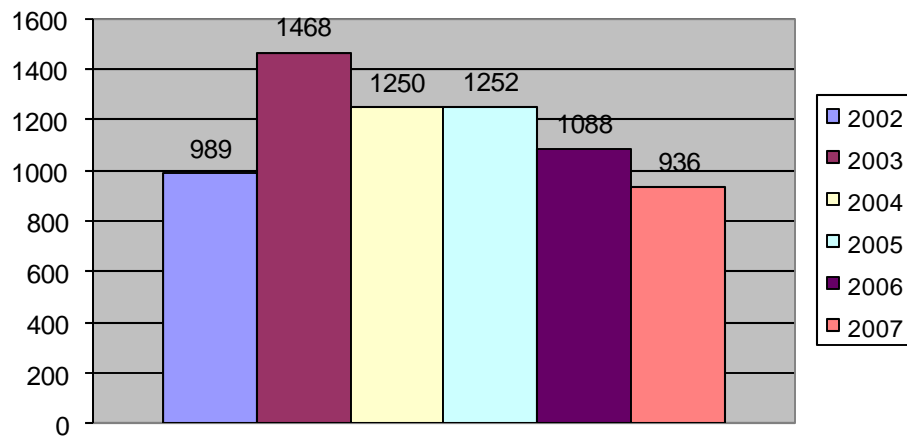
YEAR	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>TOTAL CRASHES</b>	5656	5640	6399	6266	6119	6724
<b>TOTAL INJURIES</b>	989	1468	1250	1252	1088	936
<b>TOTAL FATALITIES</b>	15	7	17	4	13	13
<b>TOTAL FATAL MV CRASHES</b>	14	7	9	4	6	9
<b>PEDESTRIAN FATATALITES</b>	3	3	7	3	5	3
<b>BICYCLE FATALITIES</b>	0	1	1	0	0	0
<b>MOTORCYCLE FATALITIES</b>	2	0	0	1	1	1
<b>CAR SEAT &amp; SEATBELT CITATIONS</b>	2345	3010	4911	4592	6495	7018



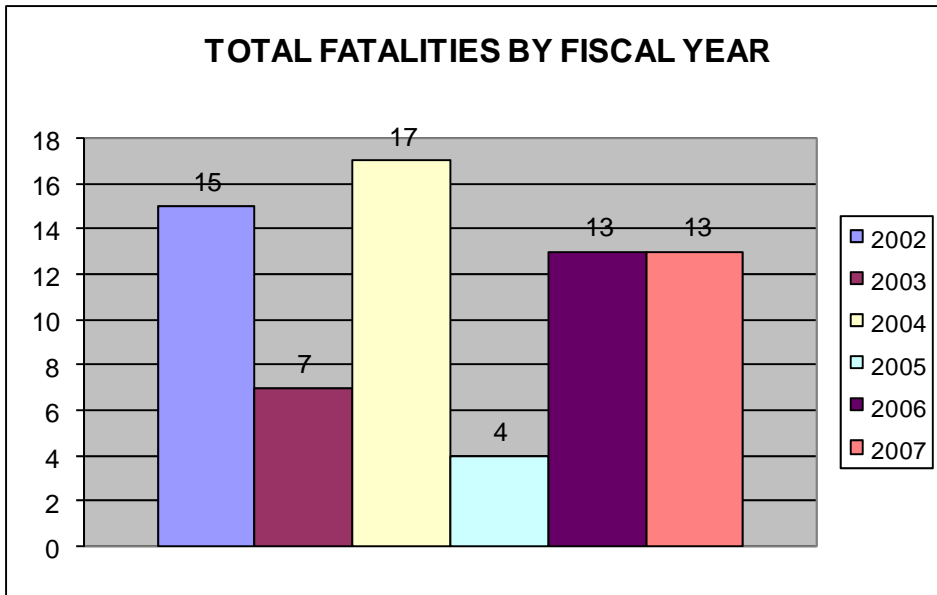
### TOTAL CRASHES BY FISCAL YEAR



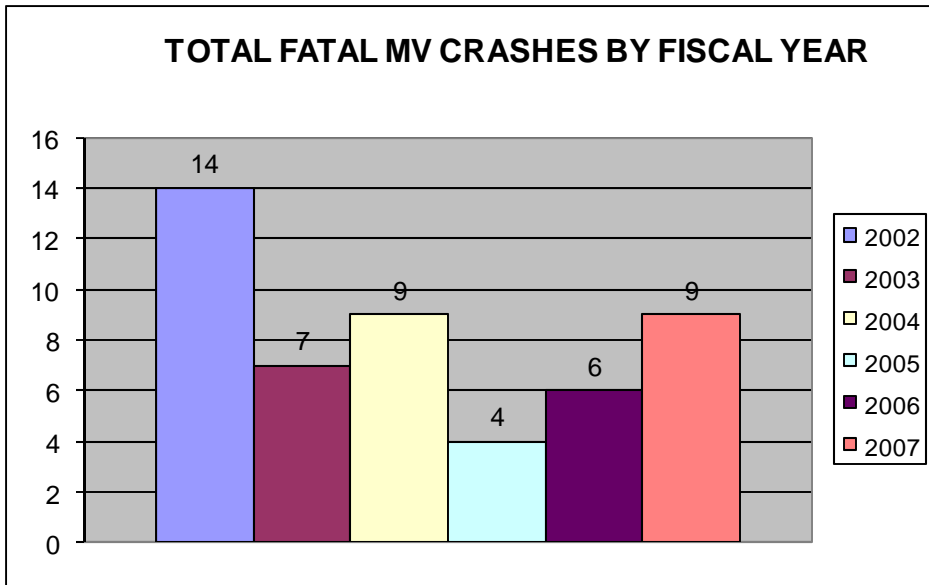
### TOTAL INJURES BY FISCAL YEAR



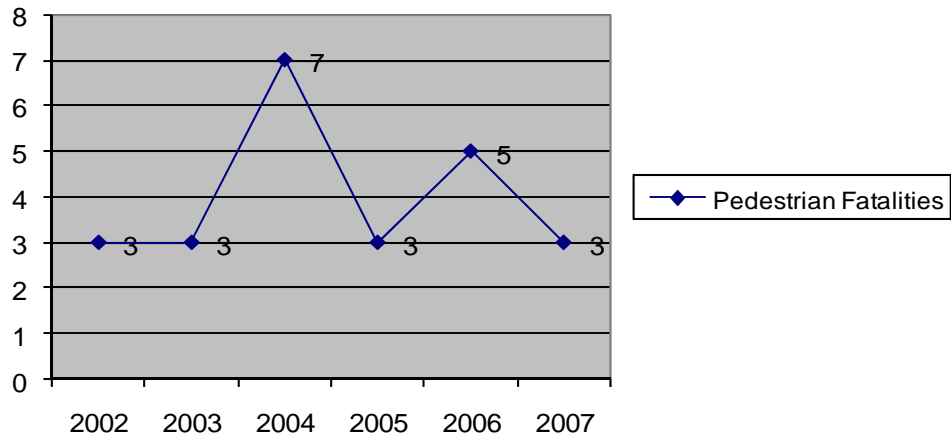
### TOTAL FATALITIES BY FISCAL YEAR



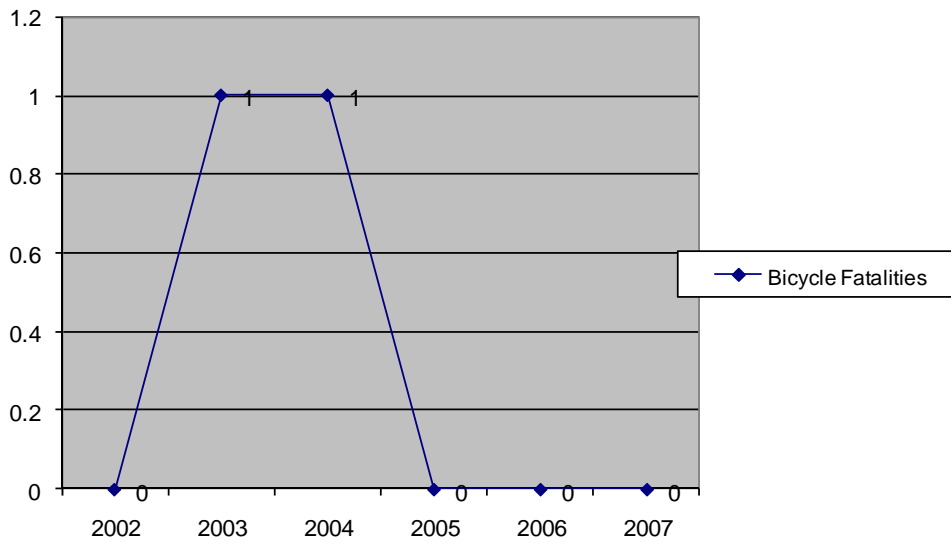
### TOTAL FATAL MV CRASHES BY FISCAL YEAR

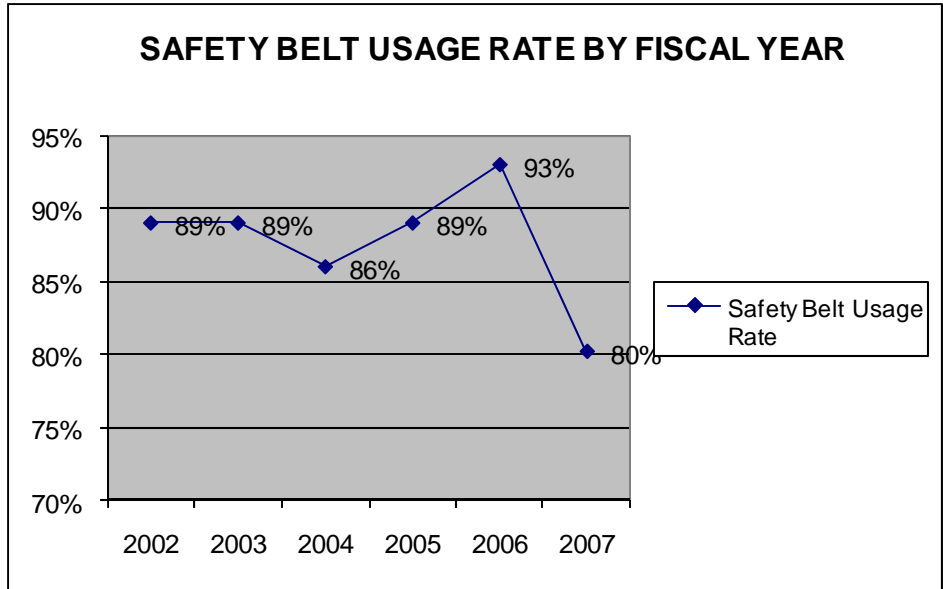
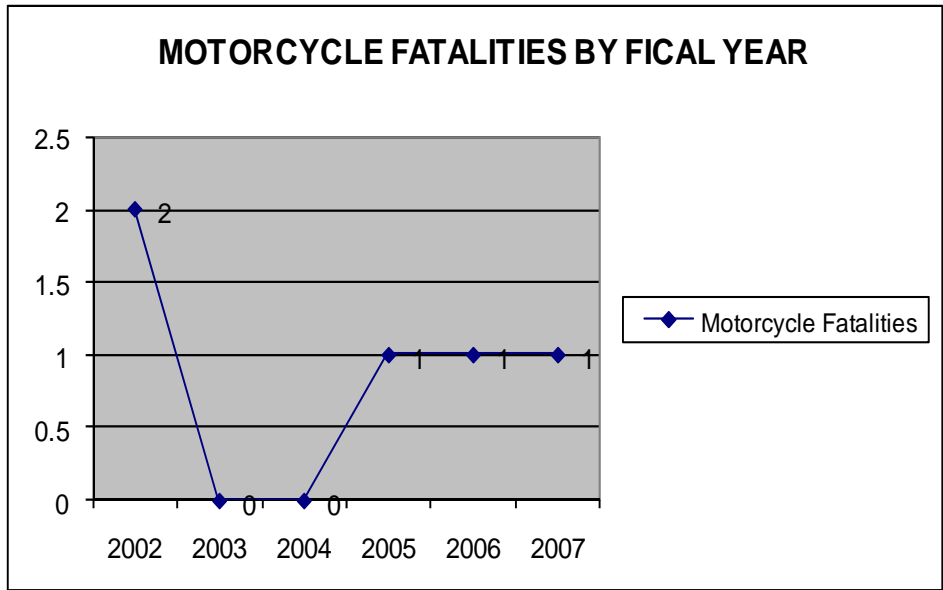


### PEDESTRIAN FATALITIES BY FISCAL YEAR



### BICYCLE FATALITIES BY FISCAL YEAR





## Legislation

During Fiscal Year 2007, the Office of Highway Safety through the Office of the Police Commissioner drafted three key pieces of legislative amendments, which were submitted to the VI Legislature for consideration. These amendments to the Virgin Islands Code are critical to the successful enforcement of laws governing roadway safety, however; none of these amendments were considered during the 2007 legislative session. We will continue to pursue these issues until the appropriate actions are taken.

- A) Title 20, Part II, Virgin Islands Code section 424**, to be amended by adding sub-sections (b), (C) and (d), to add these sections to provide for a Booster seat law and to mandate that children 12 years of age and under ride in the rear seat of vehicles.
  
- B) To amend Title 23 chapter 485, Virgin Islands Code**, to add new Sections 485f, 485g; Selling or serving alcoholic beverages to minors; employing minors to mix or dispense alcoholic beverages. The amendment sought to prohibit business establishments from selling or serving alcoholic beverages by the bottle or drink to any person under the age of 21 years; or employ a person under the age of 21 to mix and/or dispense alcoholic beverages.
  
- C) To amend Title 20 chapter 43, Virgin Islands Code**, to add a new Section 493d to prohibit the consumption of all alcoholic beverages while operating a motor vehicle on the public roads and highways in the Virgin Islands; and to prohibit a person from operating a Motor Vehicle while there is an alcoholic beverage, opened or unopened inside the motor vehicle.

During the 2007 Legislative session two key pieces of legislation were passed. i) To reduce the speed limit around all schools in the Virgin Islands to 10MPH, and to authorize the erection of flashing lights signaling the speed limit in those areas.

ii) The Second piece of legislation states that even when accompanied by an adult, children under 18 years of age are not allowed to remain in or about places where alcoholic beverages are sold or dispensed by the drink.

# USVI OFFICE OF HIGHWAY