



Georgia Department of Public Safety

House Study Committee on Distracted Driving

Office of Planning and Research

Captain Derick Durden

Lieutenant Josh Lamb

National Data (2015) – Distracted Driving

- 10% of Fatal Crashes
- 15% of Injury Crashes
- 14% of ALL police-reported crashes
- Cell-phone use in 14% of all Fatal distracted driving crashes

Crash Data - Underreporting

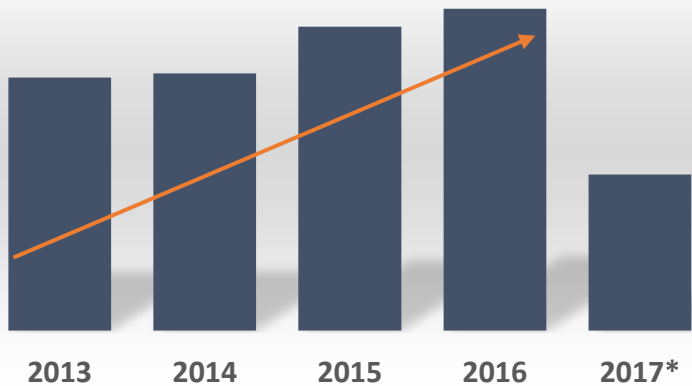
Most likely, there are more distracted driving crashes than the data shows.

Crash Data - Underreporting

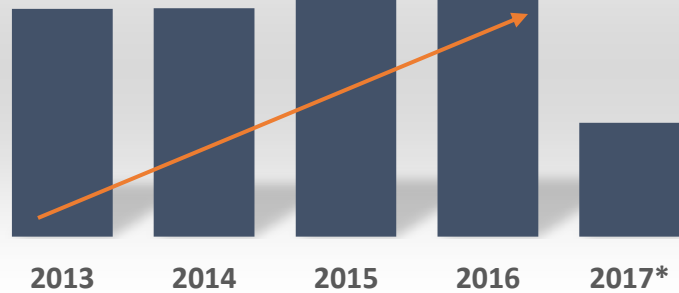
- Self-reporting of negative behavior
- Level of investigation
- Slow changes to Police Accident Report (PAR)

Crash Trends in Georgia

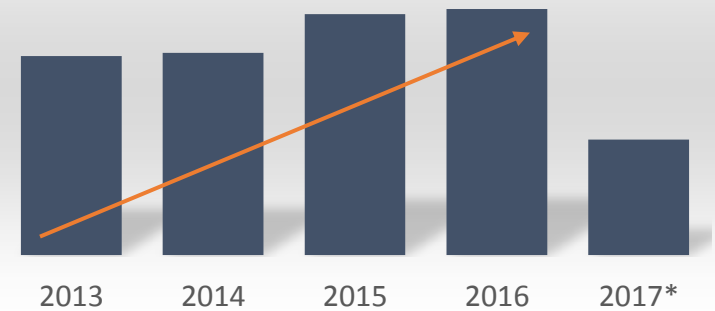
Rear-end Collisions



Single Vehicle Crashes



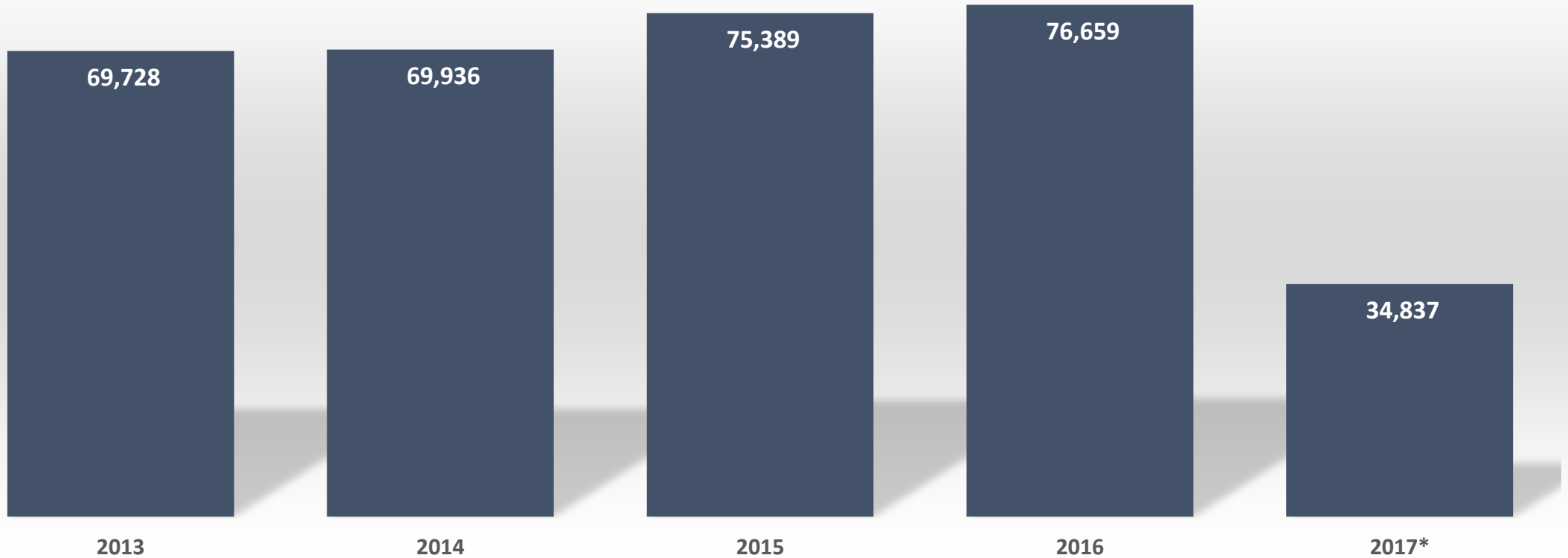
Crashes Involving 15 to 25 Year of Age



*1/1/2017 to 6/30/2017

In 2015, 54% of vehicle deaths in Georgia occurred in single-vehicle crashes.

Single Vehicle Crashes in Georgia



*1/1/2017 to 6/30/2017

Single Vehicle Crashes in Georgia

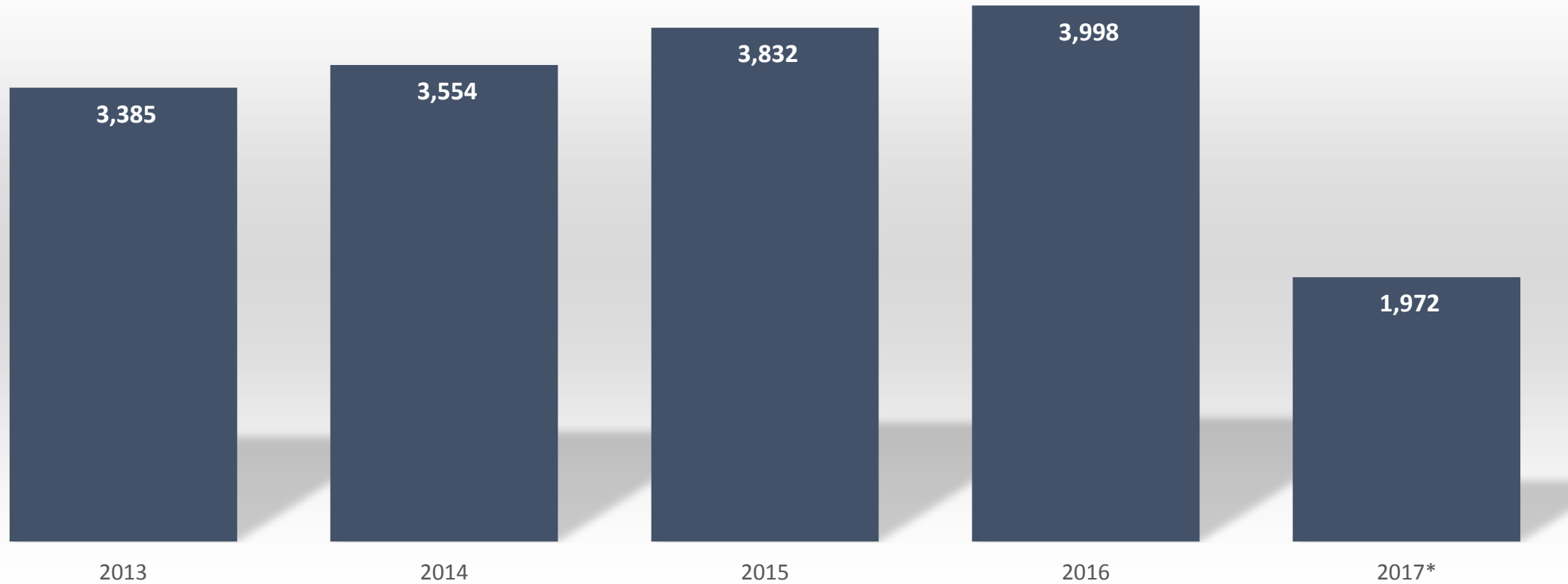
From January 1, 2013 to June 30, 2017

326,549
Crashes

92,438
Injuries

2,391
Fatalities

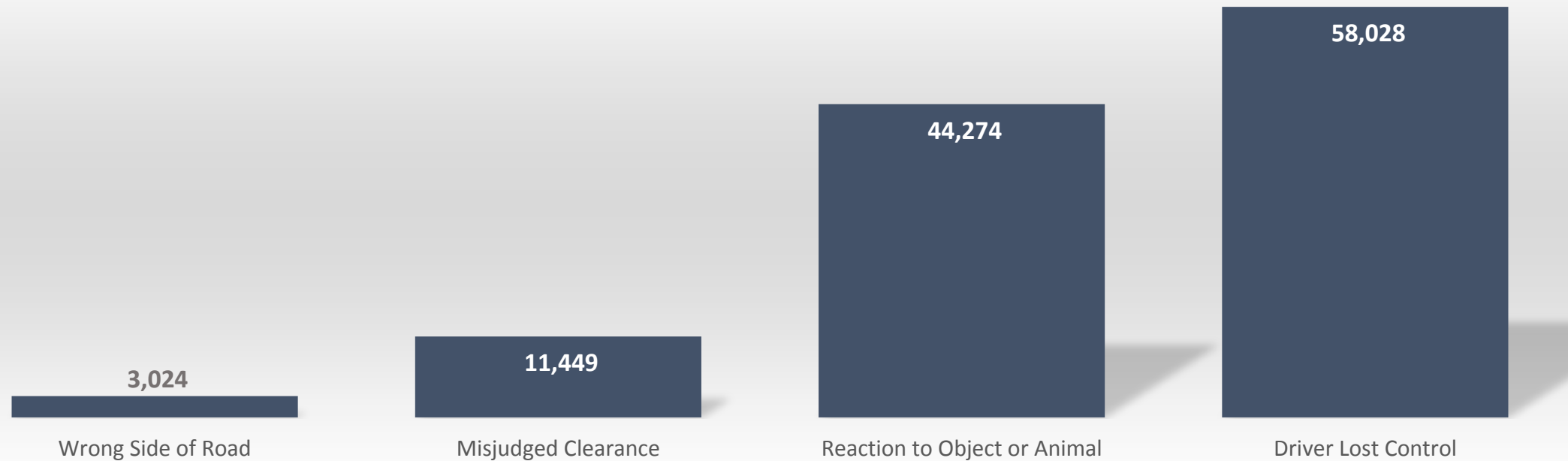
Distracted Driving Related Single Vehicle Crashes



*1/1/2017 to 6/30/2017

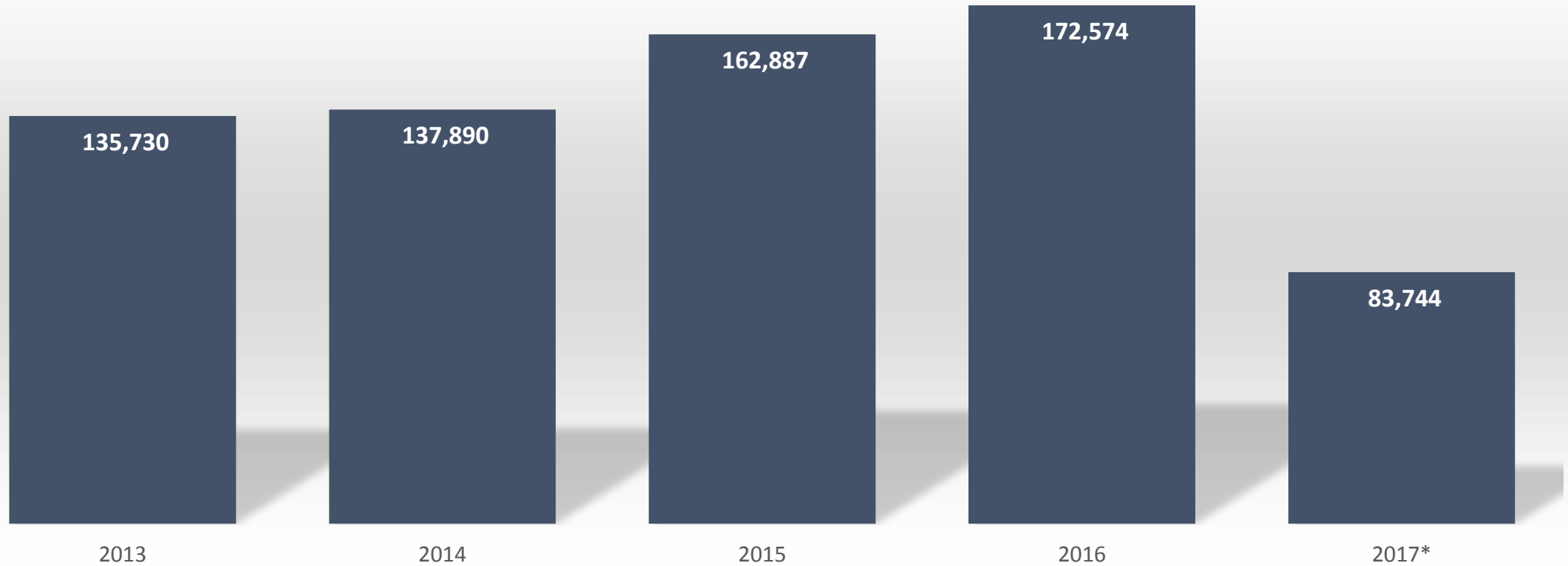
Distracted Driving???

Other Contributing Factors in Single Vehicle Crashes 2013-2017*



*1/1/2017 to 6/30/2017

Rear-end Collisions in Georgia



*1/1/2017 to 6/30/2017

Rear-End Collisions in Georgia

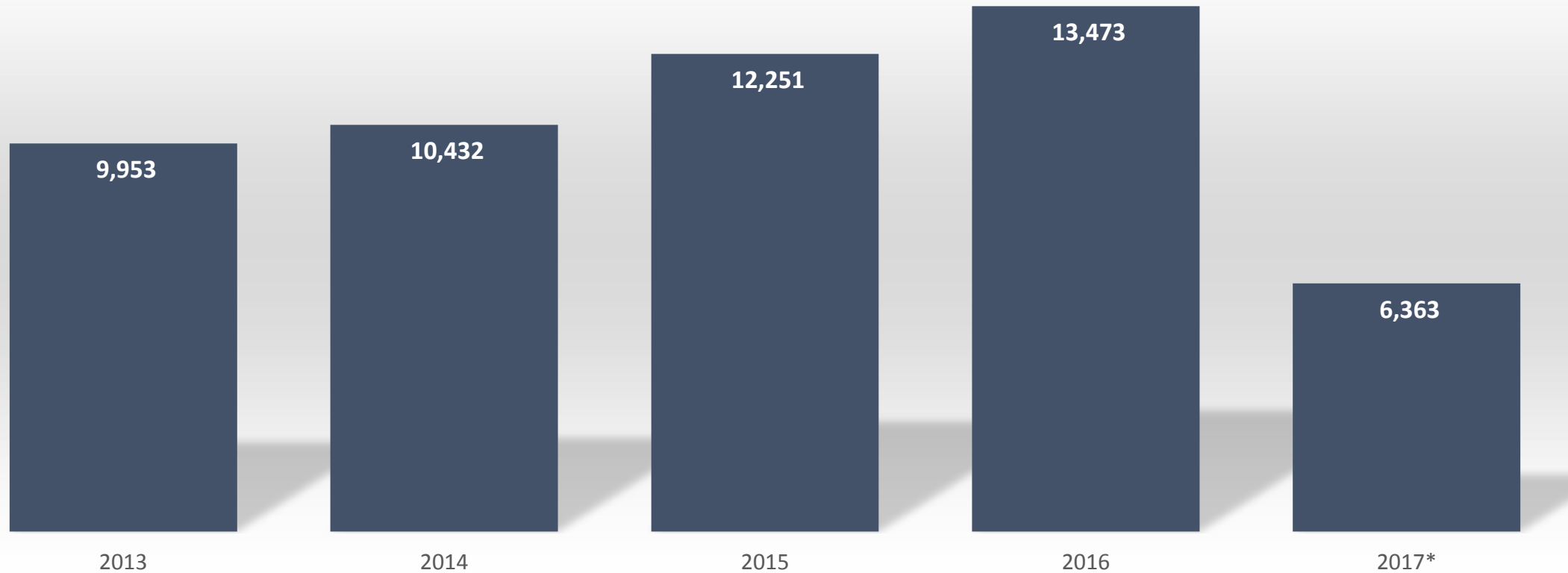
From January 1, 2013 to June 30, 2017

692,825
Crashes

231,968
Injuries

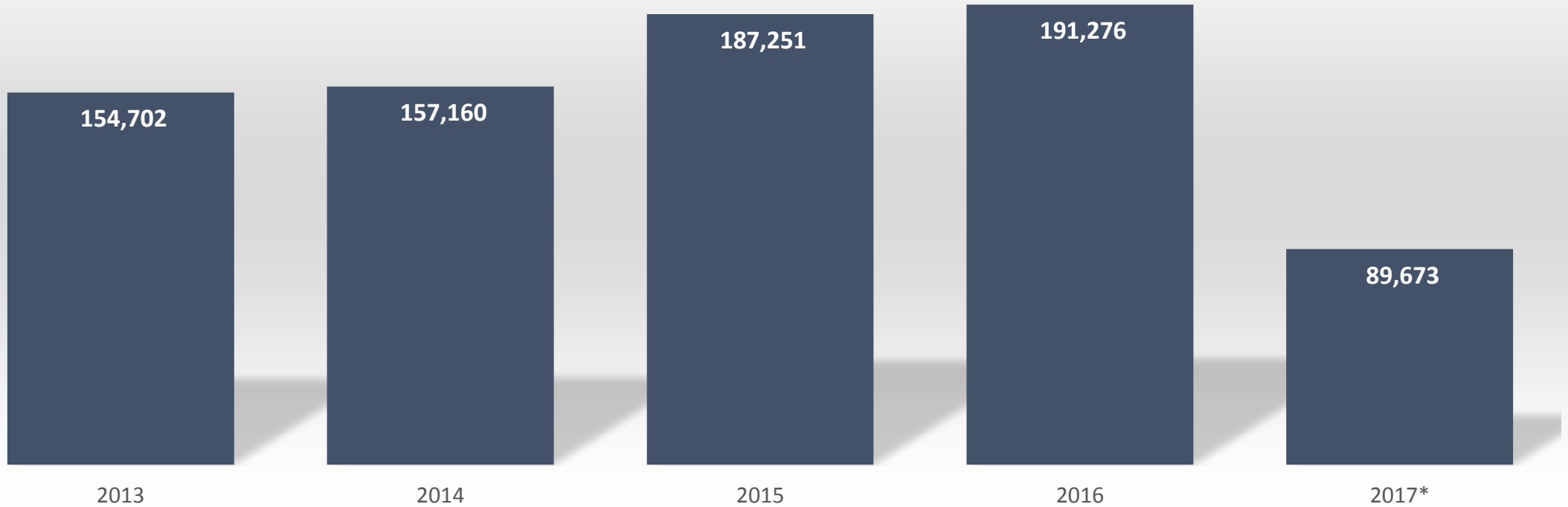
783
Fatalities

Distracted Driving Related Rear-end Crashes



*1/1/2017 to 6/30/2017

Crashes Involving 15 to 25 Year Old Drivers



*1/1/2017 to 6/30/2017

Crashes Involving 15 to 25 Year Old Drivers

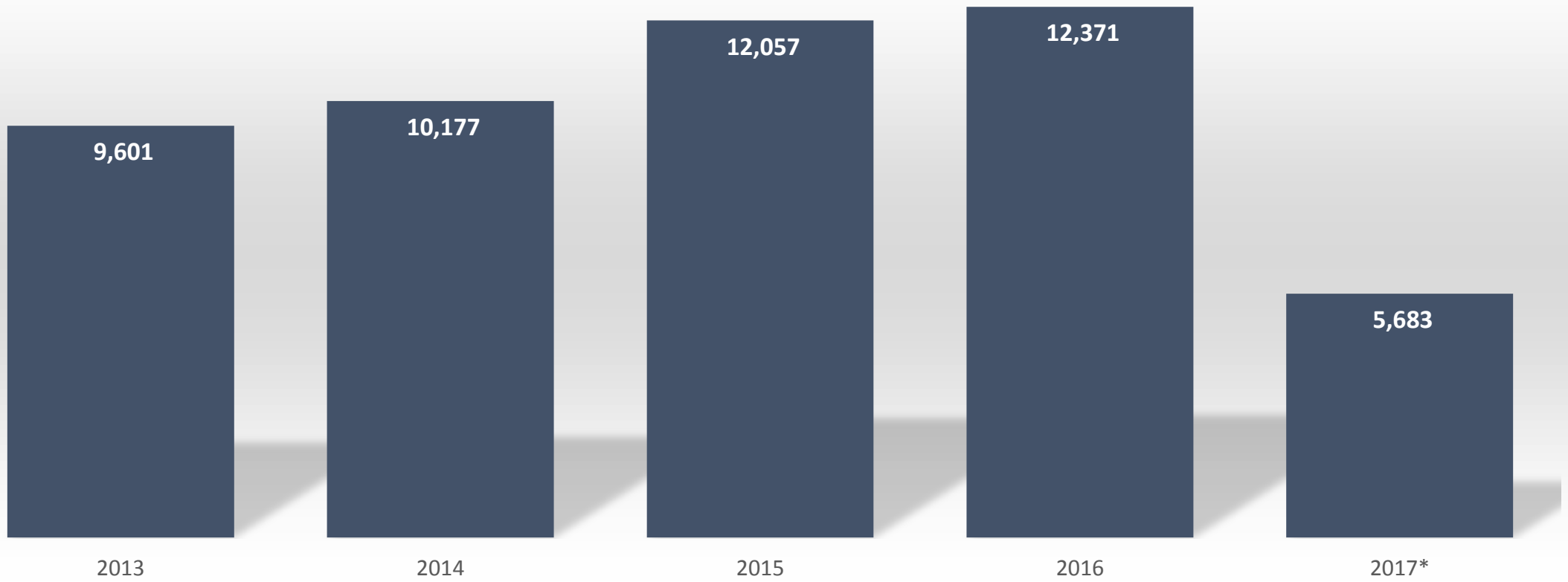
From January 1, 2013 to June 30, 2017

780,062
Crashes

430,662
Injuries

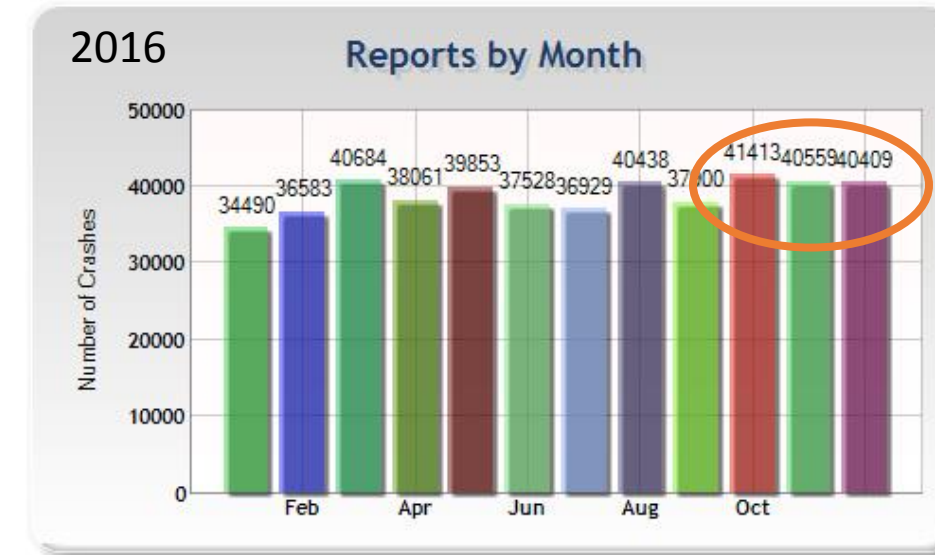
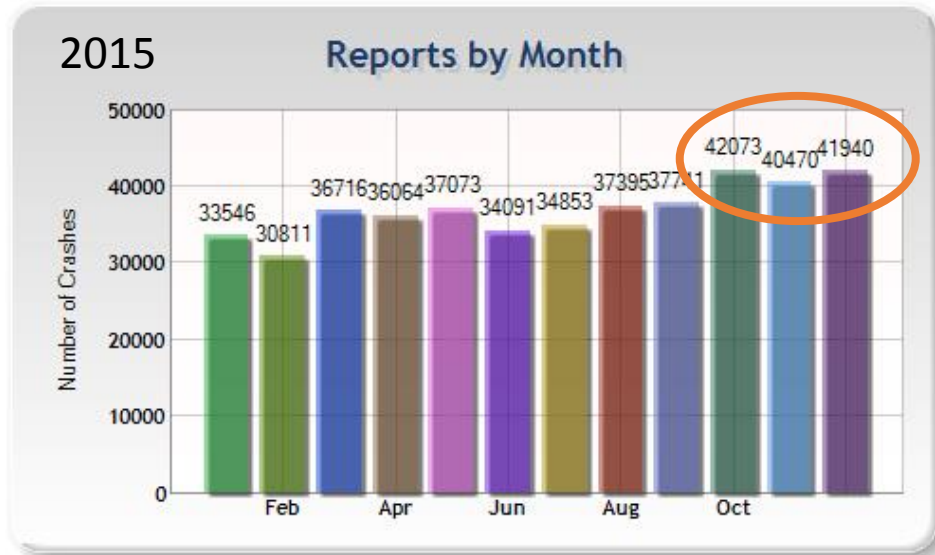
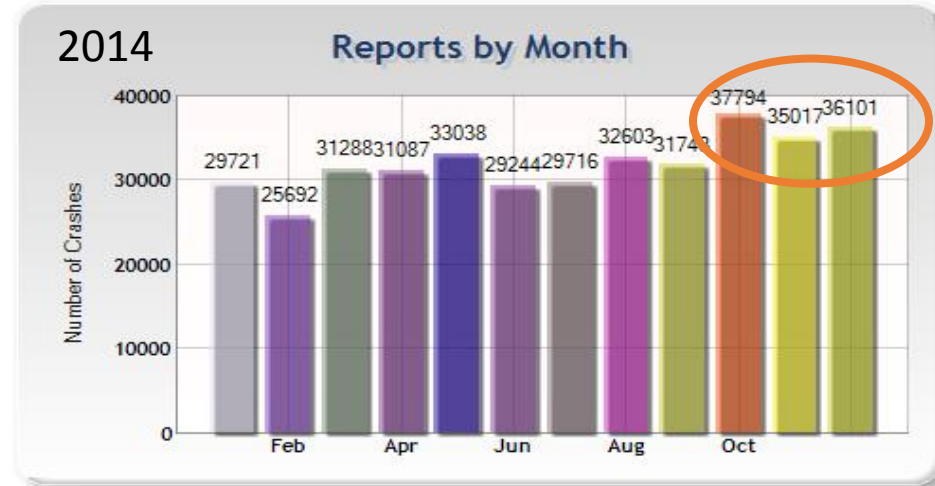
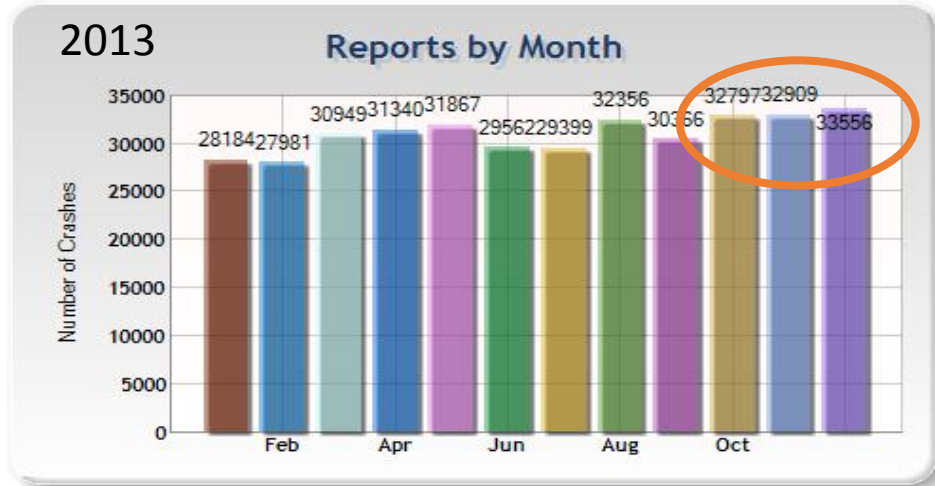
2,748
Fatalities

Distracted Driving Related Crashes Involving 15 to 25 Year Old Drivers



*1/1/2017 to 6/30/2017

What About the Rest of 2017?



Georgia's Distracted Driving Laws

- 40-6-241
- 40-6-241.1
- 40-6-241.2

Georgia's Distracted Driving Laws

- **40-6-241 – Driver to Use Due Care**

- No action which shall distract driver from safe operation (other than mobile phone)
- Allows for “proper use” (not defined) of mobile phone
- Up to \$1000 fine, 3 points assessed

- **40-6-241.1 – Cellphone Ban <18 with Class D or Instruction Permit**

- Emergency exceptions
- \$150 fine, 1 point assessed
- \$300 fine if involved in crash

- **40-6-241.2 – Cannot Write, Send, or READ text based communication**

- Emergency exceptions
- \$150 fine, 1 point

Problems with Georgia Distracted Driving Laws

- **Difficult to enforce**
 - Violator can point to emergency exceptions or claim “proper use” of a mobile phone
- **Difficult to prosecute**
 - Prosecutor/Judge interpretation and/or willingness to prosecute
- **“Due Care Law” allows for “proper use” which is not defined**
- **<18 cell phone ban**
 - Cannot determine age of violator by visual observation
- **Texting ban (Read/Write/Send)**
 - Solo patrol – visual observation attempts not safe
 - Dual patrol – effective, but manpower intensive
 - High-Visibility Enforcement details – effective, but manpower intensive

DPS Recommendations

- **Hands-Free Law**

- Easier to enforce
 - Current law discourages enforcement
 - Violator can simply say they were using the phone for voice call
 - Prosecutors and Judges may not be inclined to prosecute the case for lack of evidence
 - Mobile phone in hand = Violation
- More enforcement = Greater Deterrence

- **Unmarked Patrol Cars**

- Easier to detect violators
- Special Details are difficult to resource
 - Few unmarked vehicles available – assigned to Managers/Investigators
 - Manpower intensive
- More enforcement = Greater Deterrence
- Amend 40-1-7 and 40-8-91 to modify the requirement for marking of patrol vehicles and top mounted blue lights

Effectiveness of Hand's Free Law

- 15 States have some variation of hand-held ban
- Evidence that leads to changes in behavior
 - 1 study showed use was reduced from 24-76% 7 years after law enacted
- High visibility enforcement that was publicized reduced rate of hand-held conversations by 57% in Hartford, CT
- Successful Traffic Safety Campaigns – “Three E” approach
 - Enact law
 - Educate the public
 - Rigorously Enforce the law

DPS Initiatives

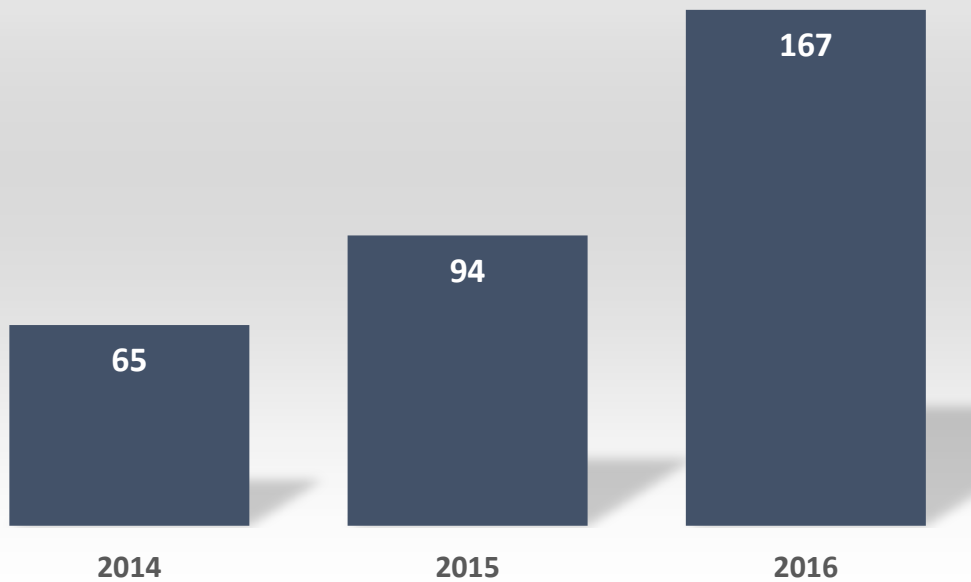
- DPS Strategic Plan – FY2018 Update
 - Colonel McDonough has prioritized distracted driving enforcement
 - Included a new strategy for goals of reducing traffic fatalities and crashes for FY2018

Strategy

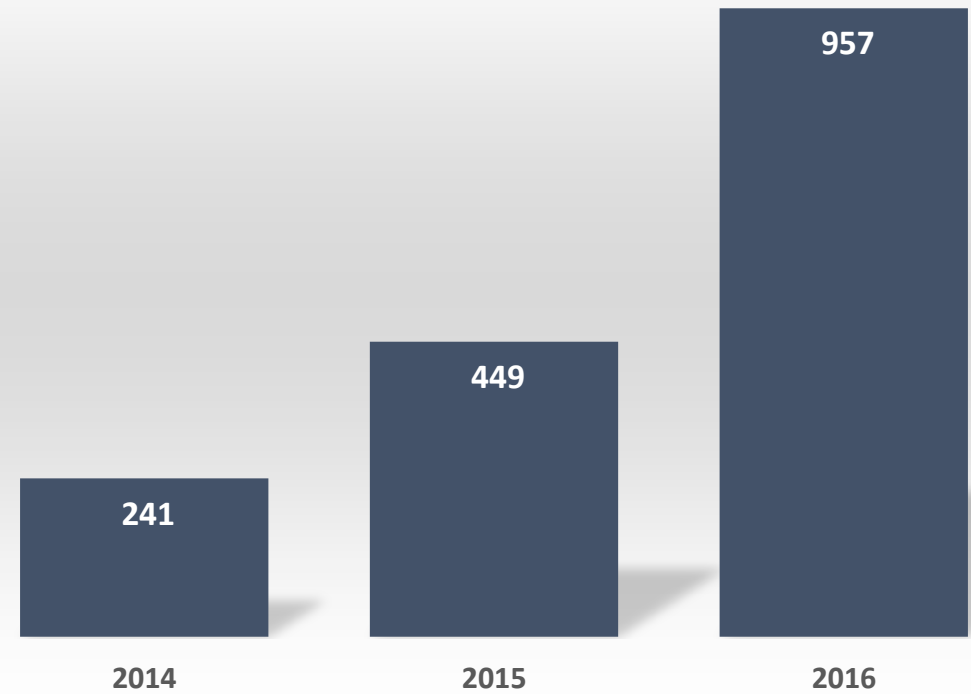
“Increase distracted driving enforcement from 14,000 distracted driving contacts to 20,000 contacts by December 31, 2020.”

DPS Enforcement Statistics

DPS Distracted Driving Arrests

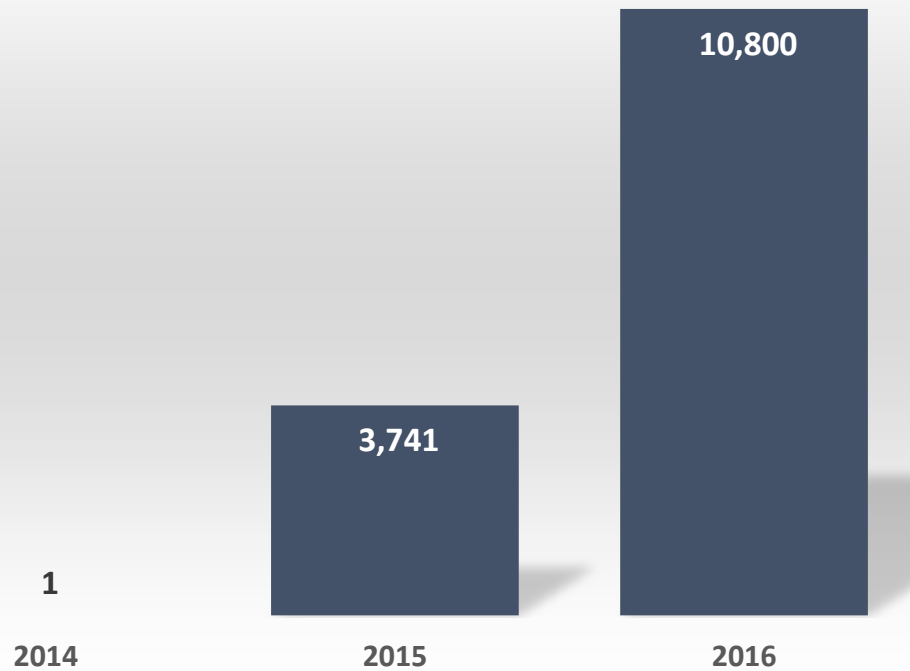


DPS-Worked Distracted Driving Crashes

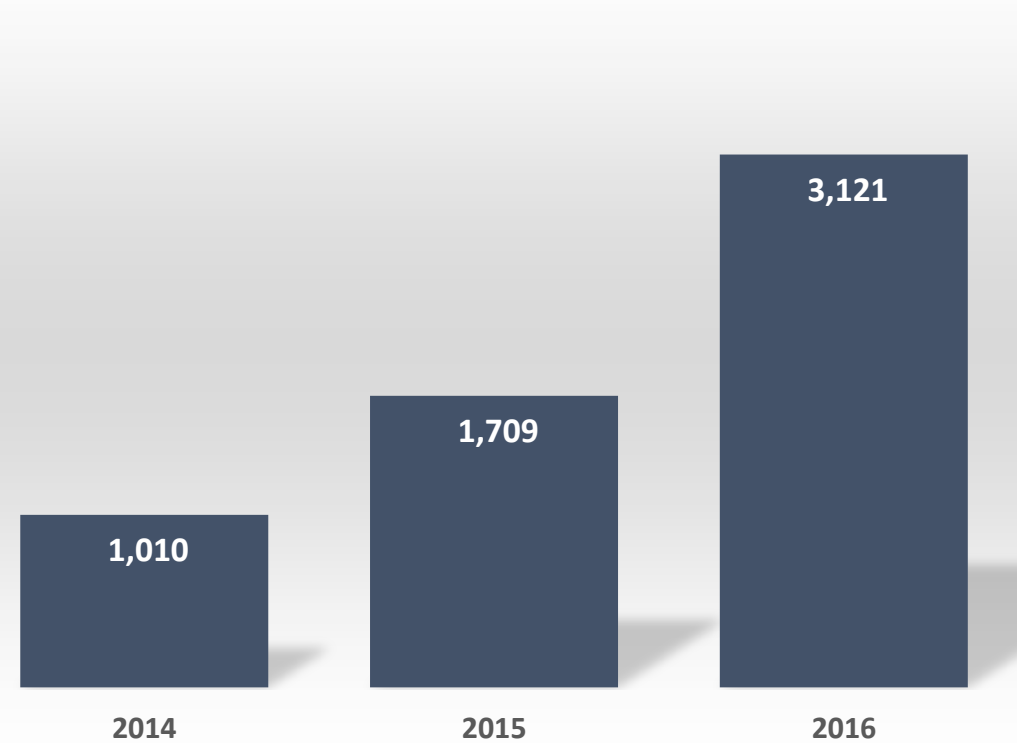


DPS Enforcement Statistics

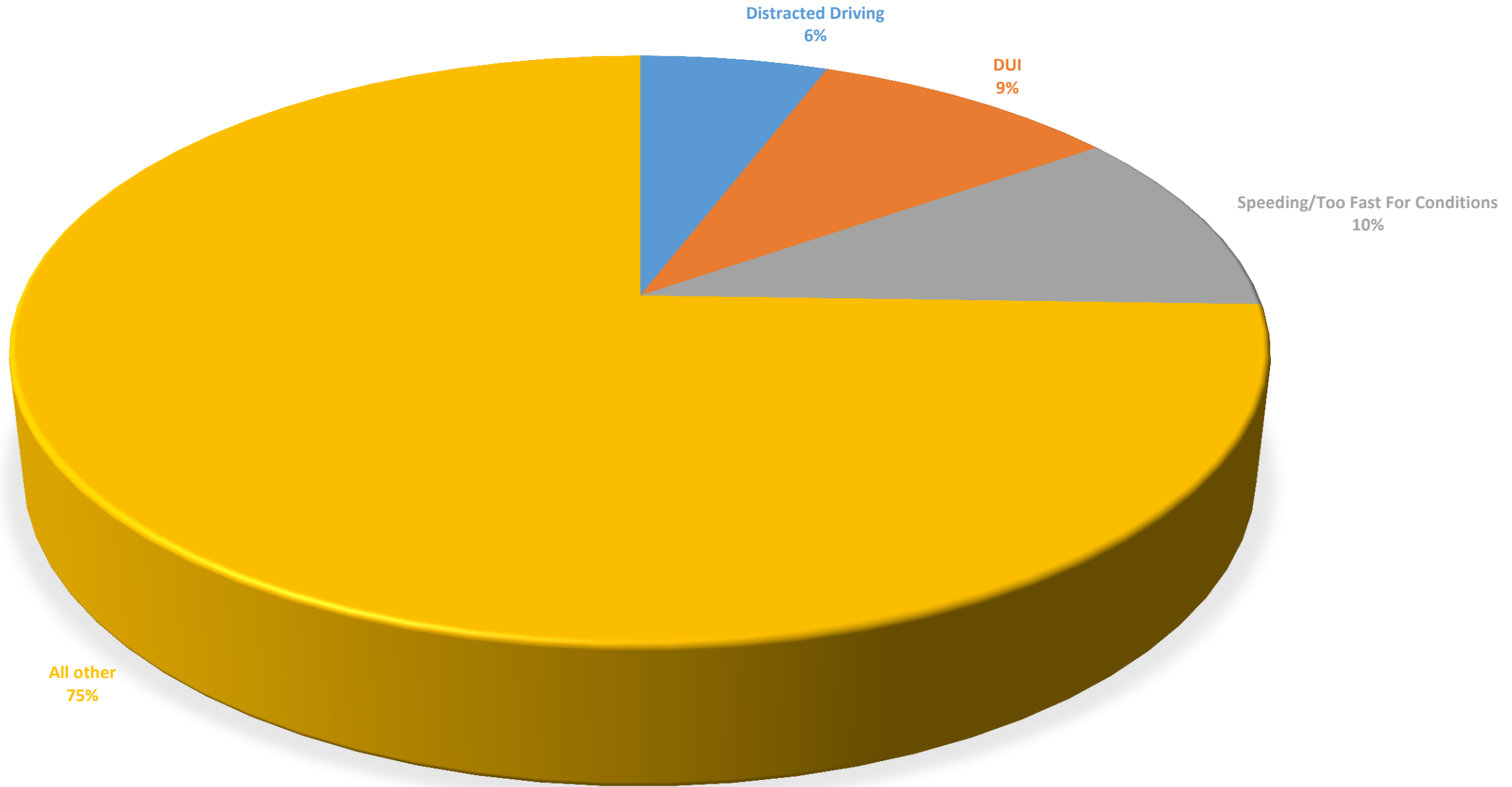
DPS Distracted Driving Warnings



DPS Distracted Driving Citations



FACTORS REPORTED IN FATAL CRASHES IN GEORGIA (2013-2017)?



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