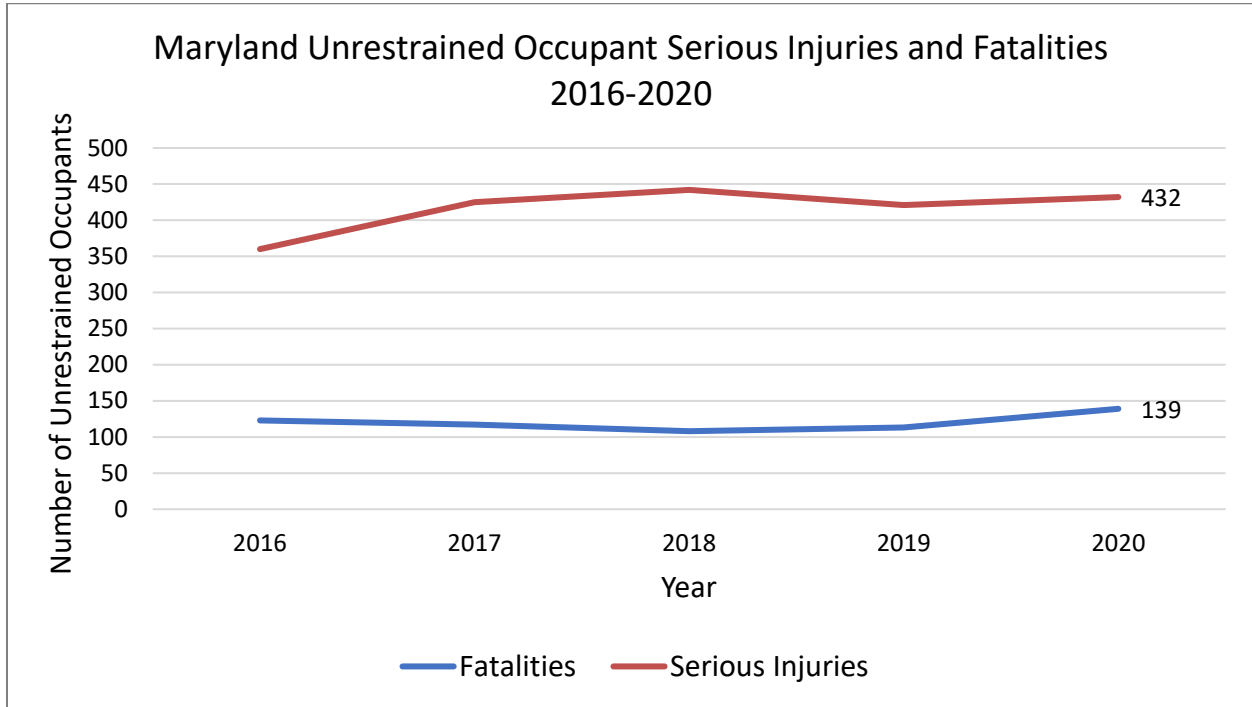


THE FACTS



- **Motor vehicle crashes are a huge threat to public health.** Motor vehicle crashes continue to be a leading cause of death in the United States¹. In 2019, approximately 6.8 million crashes were reported; approximately 29 percent resulted in an injury or fatality².
- **The number of seriously injured unbelted motor vehicle occupants is increasing.** In 2020, more than 430 unbelted passenger vehicle occupants were seriously injured in a motor vehicle crash.³ Between 2016 and 2020, the number of unbelted passenger vehicle occupants seriously injured

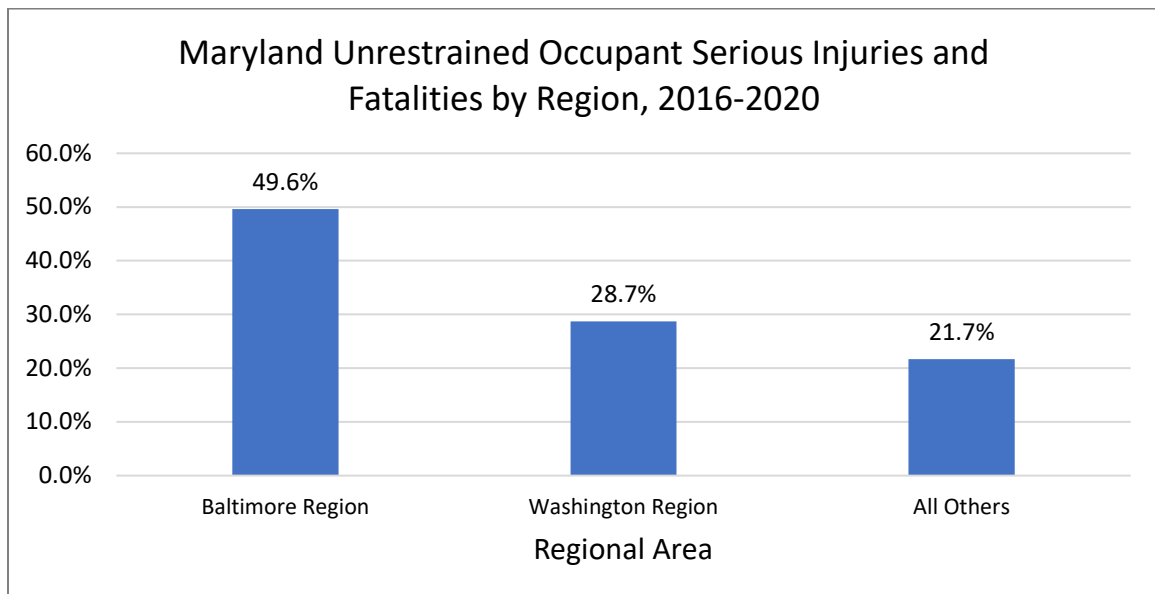
¹ CDC National Vital Statistics Reports – 10 Leading Causes of Death, United States, 2018

² Motor Vehicle Crash Data Querying and Reporting All Motor Vehicle Crashes Years: 2015-2019. Report Generated: Thursday, January 20, 2022 (10:39:20 AM).

³ In 2020, the world experienced the COVID-19 pandemic which contributed to significant changes in roadway travel and driver behavior. Reduced vehicle miles traveled and open roadways resulted in an increase in speed and other risky driving behaviors. Consequently, 573 people died in traffic-related crashes on Maryland’s roads, representing an increase of more than seven percent from the previous year’s total of 535, with pedestrian and bicycle fatalities comprising over one-quarter of the State’s roadway deaths. While overall fatalities increased in 2020, the reduced travel contributed to marked decreases for injury and overall crashes at the statewide and jurisdictional level. Therefore, this anomalous year must be considered when drawing conclusions based on the use of 2020 crash data to evaluate highway safety programs and trends.

in crashes has increased by 20 percent, despite a 33 percent drop in the total number of unbelted passenger vehicle occupants

- **The number of fatally injured unbelted occupants has increased.** In 2020, there were 139 unrestrained occupants killed in crashes. These unbelted motor vehicle occupants represented one third of all vehicle occupants fatally injured in crashes statewide and 24 percent of all statewide traffic fatalities (including pedestrians).
- **Metropolitan areas have the highest concentration of crashes involving unbelted motor vehicle occupants⁴.** From 2016 to 2020, seriously and fatally injured unbelted occupants were mostly concentrated in Baltimore and Prince George’s Counties. More than three-fourths (78 percent) of all seriously and fatally injured unbelted occupants were involved in crashes in metropolitan areas.



STATEWIDE SEAT BELT USE

- In 2021, the observed statewide seat belt use in Maryland was 91.4 percent, an increase of 1.5 percentage points from the observed rate of 89.9 percent in 2020.
- The historic change in the statewide seat belt use rate is depicted in the graph below:

⁴ Baltimore Metropolitan area is comprised of Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, Howard and Queen Anne’s Counties, and Baltimore City, as designated by the Baltimore Metropolitan Council. The Washington Metropolitan Area is defined as Charles, Frederick, Montgomery, and Prince George’s Counties, as designated by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.

