Horst Shewmaker Addresses Rising Serious Injury Rates Despite Traffic Fatality Decline in Augusta Following New State Report

March 11, 2026

AUGUSTA, GA - March 11, 2026 -
A new report from the Georgia Governor's Office of Highway Safety reveals a concerning trend for Augusta motorists: while traffic fatalities declined 10 percent statewide in 2023, serious crash injuries rose 12 percent between 2019 and 2023, creating complex challenges for accident victims seeking recovery through Georgia's comparative negligence system.

The Georgia Traffic Safety Facts 2023 Data report, released in October 2025, documents 1,615 traffic fatalities in 2023 compared to 1,796 in 2022. Despite this improvement, Georgia still ranks fourth nationally for total traffic deaths, and suspected serious crash injuries climbed from 7,308 to 8,171 during the five-year period. For Augusta residents, where the city ranks second among all Georgia cities for total car crashes, and Richmond County consistently places among the top ten counties for traffic fatalities, these statistics underscore persistent roadway dangers.

Augusta recorded more than 8,735 collisions in 2022, resulting in 2,861 injuries and 39 fatalities, according to Georgia Department of Transportation crash data. The financial impact proves equally sobering, with motor vehicle traffic-related hospitalizations and emergency room visits generating $2.4 billion in healthcare charges statewide in 2023.

"The data reveals that while modern vehicle safety features and improved emergency response are saving lives, crash survivors face increasingly complex injuries requiring extensive medical treatment and rehabilitation," said Michael Horst, founding partner at Horst Shewmaker Augusta Car Accident Lawyer. "For Augusta accident victims navigating Georgia's modified comparative negligence law, which reduces compensation proportionally if they bear any fault, securing legal representation after a crash can become critical to protecting their recovery rights."

Georgia recorded 367,523 total car crashes statewide in 2024, averaging roughly 1,007 crashes daily according to GOHS data. Under Georgia law, O.C.G.A. § 51-12-33, injured parties can recover damages only if they are less than 50 percent at fault, with recovery reduced based on their assigned percentage of responsibility. Insurance companies routinely leverage this statute to minimize settlements by assigning partial blame to injured claimants.

The rising severity of non-fatal injuries creates particular challenges for accident victims dealing with insurance carriers. As former insurance defense attorneys, the legal team at Horst Shewmaker understands the internal claim evaluation processes insurers use to reduce payouts, especially when serious injuries involve long-term medical costs, lost earning capacity, and ongoing rehabilitation needs.

The paradox of declining fatalities alongside rising serious injuries reflects improvements in emergency trauma response and vehicle safety technology that keep more crash victims alive but often with life-altering consequences. These survivors frequently face spinal injuries, traumatic brain injuries, and other catastrophic harm requiring years of treatment.

For Augusta Car Accident Lawyer representation, the timing of legal involvement can be important. Insurance adjusters begin investigating immediately after crashes, gathering evidence and recorded statements that can impact fault determination and compensation amounts.

Horst Shewmaker, LLC, founded in 2019, maintains offices at 930 Stevens Creek Road in Augusta. The firm handles car accidents, truck accidents, motorcycle accidents, pedestrian accidents, and other personal injury cases throughout Georgia. Recognized as a Best of Georgia 2025 recipient, the firm operates on a contingency fee basis with direct attorney involvement from initial consultation through resolution.
###
For more information about Horst Shewmaker, LLC, contact the company here:Horst Shewmaker - Augusta, LLCMichael Horst(706) 528-5920info@horstshewmaker.com930 Stevens Creek Rd Suite 1, Augusta, GA 30907

Horst Shewmaker, LLC

Horst Shewmaker, LLC is a personal injury law firm based in Augusta, Georgia, that specializes in motorist vehicle accidents and personal injuries due to negligence. Their attorneys serve clients throughout Richmond County.

Website: https://horstshewmaker.com/

Email: info@horstshewmaker.com

Phone: (706) 528-5920

