

## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this publication is to provide the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT), the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles and Public Safety (DMV/PS), and other State and local authorities with information on Nevada's traffic crash problems. It is one in a series to be provided annually. The data has been extracted from NDOT's Crash Analysis System (CAS). The fatal crash data represented within may not be consistent with data produced from the Fatal Analysis Reporting System (FARS). The two systems were developed independently and are used for different purposes.

Each year changes and improvements are incorporated into this document. The 2000 Nevada Traffic Crashes was solely produced from NDOT's Crash Analysis System. Due to change in the National Maximum Speed Limit in December of 1995 and the safety issues surrounding it, we have included statistics depicting speed related crashes, percentages and rates.

This document was prepared by personnel of the Safety/Traffic Division of NDOT; however, the publication and the statistics therein would not be possible if it were not for the dedicated men and women of Nevada's state and local law enforcement agencies who respond to the scene of the 58,000 plus traffic crashes annually on Nevada's streets and highways. After they treat the injured and secure the scene, they methodically and professionally record the facts on a traffic crash report form.

The culmination of their efforts then become the facts and statistics you see reflected in this publication. We appreciate and respect their work. In addition to recording the facts, they provide information necessary for problem identification. Problem identification drives the planning of specific enforcement, engineering, and education efforts, which can be applied to decrease the number and severity of crashes on our streets and highways. Subsequently, lives can be saved, injuries prevented, and property damage and economic loss can be significantly reduced.



STATE OF NEVADA  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**KENNY C. GUINN**  
Governor

101 N. Carson City, Nevada 89701  
Telephone: (775) 684-5670 • Fax: (775) 684-5683

Dear Reader:

It is my pleasure to present this document, which has been developed by the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) with the support of law enforcement officials statewide. The information contained within provides valuable insight into the safety conditions of the state's roadways. With this material, the state can enhance and improve the various educational enforcement, and engineering programs to make our roads safer for the millions of people who use them each year.

For instance, the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles and Public Safety (DMV&PS) will be able to improve its operations including the testing and licensing of drivers, the enforcement of traffic laws and motor carrier safety regulations, and the training of law enforcement personnel.

The Nevada Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) within DMV&PS utilizes this document to develop programs through federal grants targeting such things as speeding and drunk driving. Not only does the crash data highlight the need for these programs, it also helps evaluate their effectiveness.

The NDOT uses the data to improve roadway design and eliminate crash problems. Crash location information helps identify areas that may require modification and provide information for the design of future state highways.

In addition, local public and private agencies and organizations use the document to monitor the success of their efforts.

I hope you find this material as valuable as I do. It is an excellent example of the coordination necessary between state and local government working together to make Nevada's roads safer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kenny C. Guinn".

Kenny C. Guinn  
Governor

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Although Nevada's crash rate per 100 million vehicle miles has been reduced in the past 10 years, Nevada still ranks among the top ten states with the highest crash rates in the nation. Nevada is the seventh largest state in size and 35<sup>th</sup> in population. More than 1.9 million people reside in our state with 55.5% located in urban areas and 44.5% living in rural communities. The growing population in Nevada and heavy tourism traffic are reflected in the trends and statistics presented herein.

## ***Decrease in Accidents, Injuries and Fatalities***

During the 2000 calendar year there was a total of 58,741 traffic crashes – 39,680 were property damage only (PDO); 18,795 were injury producing; and 266 were fatal. This reflects a .05% decrease in overall crashes from the total 59,075 recorded in 1999. Injury crashes decreased by .03%. Most significantly was the decrease in fatal crashes. That percentage dropped by 13.9%. In 2000 there were 323 traffic deaths, 29 less than the 352 recorded in 1999.

## ***Rates Per 100 Million Vehicles***

Nevada's crash rate per 100 million vehicle miles for fatal, injury and total crashes continues to decrease. In 1986 the fatal crash rate was 2.52, and in 2000 only 1.49. Nevada's injury crashes followed a similar pattern with a 1986 rate of 122.11 and a 2000 rate of 104.99 – a drop of 17.1%.

## ***Counties***

The four counties with the most crashes in 2000 were Clark County with 74.2% of the total, Washoe County with 15.4%, Elko County with 2.1% and Carson City with 2.1%. Esmeralda County had the least crashes with only 51 for the entire year. Clark County led the state in fatal, injury and property damage crashes with 59%, 77.5% and 72.8% respectively. Washoe County experienced the next highest numbers with 13%, 13.9% and 16.1% respectively. Clark County fatalities declined from the previous year from 195 to 188 traffic deaths. Washoe County's fatalities rose from the previous year from 41 to 42 traffic deaths.

## ***Fatal Crashes***

The three major types of fatal crashes are: ran off roadway-overtaken, pedestrian, and angle collisions. Major risk factors contributing to fatal crashes are D.U.I. alcohol, inattentive driving and failure to yield.

## ***Injury and Property Damage Only (PDO) Crashes***

The three major injury crashes are: rear-end collision, angle collision, and left turn collision. For both injury and property damage only crashes the major contributing factors are: failure to yield, failure to reduce speed and inattentive driving.

### ***Holiday Influences***

With 18 fatalities each in 2000, New Year's Day and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July became the deadliest holiday periods. Nevada Day and Thanksgiving Day followed with 16 recorded fatalities each. Veteran's Day was the third deadliest time in 2000 with 14 persons killed.

### ***Pedestrians***

In 1998, there were 47 pedestrian deaths and 1,012 pedestrians injured. The figures jumped in 1999 when a total of 71 pedestrian lives were claimed and 1,086 injured. In 2000, Nevada experienced a decrease to 46 pedestrian fatalities and 938 injuries. Pedestrian fatalities in Washoe County decreased from 10 in 1999 to 6 in 2000 along with Clark County with a decrease of 48 in 1999 to 38 in 2000. There were 5 bicycle fatalities in 2000 – 3 occurred in Clark County, 1 in Elko County and 1 in Washoe County.

### ***Effect on Economy***

Over a billion dollar loss resulted from highway deaths and injuries in Nevada. The total estimated economic loss (based on national figures) resulting from traffic crashes in Nevada for the year 2000 is \$1,209,749,000.

# **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Crash Analysis Unit of the Nevada Department of Transportation would not be able to produce this report without the fine work of the following individuals who were responsible for the coding and analysis of all our crash data for this publication. We wish to express our heartfelt thanks to each of you and keep up the good work!

## **Data Input Staff**

**Dave Clark  
Jeri Casey  
Dianna Marshall  
Paige Clyde**

## **Crash Analysis Staff**

**Theresa Pacheco  
Trish Giomi**

Special Gratitude to our other providers of data and information including:

**The Nevada Department of Transportation – Planning Division  
The Nevada Department of Transportation – Multimedia Division  
The Nevada Department of Transportation – Imagery Division**

In addition, we wish to acknowledge the men and women working in law enforcement and public safety agencies that are responsible for the production of all crash data in the field. We rely on their accurate completion of crash reports and without their attention to detail we would be unable to maintain a meaningful database.

## 2000 NEVADA HIGHWAY CRASH QUICK FACTS

	1998	1999	2000
<b>TRAFFIC CRASHES</b>			
FATAL CRASHES	315	309	266
INJURY CRASHES	18,487	18,862	18,795
PROPERTY DAMAGE CRASHES	40,924	39,904	39,680
TOTAL CRASHES	59,726	59,075	58,741
<b>ALCOHOL CRASHES</b>			
FATAL ALCOHOL CRASHES	126	112	106
INJURY ALCOHOL CRASHES	1,711	1,826	1,795
PERCENT OF TOTAL FATAL CRASHES ALCOHOL INVOLVED	40.0%	36.3%	39.9%
PERCENT OF TOTAL INJURY CRASHES ALCOHOL INVOLVED	9.26%	9.7%	9.6%
<b>TRAFFIC CASUALTIES</b>			
TOTAL FATALITIES	361	352	323
TOTAL INJURIES	28,400	29,020	28,536
TOTAL ALCOHOL FATALITIES	146	124	113
TOTAL ALCOHOL INJURIES	2,696	2,906	2,825
PERCENT OF TOTAL FATALITIES ALCOHOL INVOLVED	40.4%	35.2%	35.0%
PERCENT OF TOTAL INJURIES ALCOHOL INVOLVED	9.5%	10.0%	9.9%
<b>OCCUPANTS</b>			
DRIVERS KILLED	189	160	173
PASSENGERS KILLED	120	113	99
<b>NON-OCCUPANTS</b>			
PEDESTRIANS KILLED	47	71	46
PEDESTRIANS INJURED	1,018	1,086	942
PEDALCYCLISTS KILLED	5	8	5
PEDALCYCLISTS INJURED	754	788	715
<b>DEMOGRAPHICS</b>			
POPULATION	1,855,790	1,967,650	1,998,257
VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED (IN MILLIONS)	16,400	17,400	17,900
NEVADA'S FATAL CRASH RATE PER 100 MILLION VMT	1.92	1.78	1.49
NATIONAL FATAL CRASHES RATE PER 100 MILLION VMT	1.41	1.38	***1.39

\*\*\* Early Assessment of 2000 Crash Data