

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this publication is to provide the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT), the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), the Nevada Department of Public Safety (DPS), 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 2006 Nevada Traffic Crashes Book was solely produced from data extracted from NDOT's Crash Analysis System. 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.

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 62,000 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 becomes 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.

In the last quarter of 2003 Nevada started to phase in a new data collection system. The data now collected is based on the Federal Model Minimum Uniform Crash Criteria (MMUCC). During transition some data elements collected in the old system were no longer collected, different or additional data is collected in the new system and many records were missing data elements. No longer are there just contributing factors to the collision but factors further defined as vehicle factors and driver factors. Data for 2004 and 2005 was not viable for analysis and it was decided to not publish those years (fatal data is accurate). Using the new MMUCC data standards, data can be analyzed more effectively from state to state and at the national level. As this data presentation is reviewed keep in mind that some data elements have a different name or are no longer collected. There are notations at the bottom of the pages indicating when the data was incomplete.

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 remains 35th in population. More than 2.4 million people reside in our state with 55.8% located in urban areas and 44.2% living in rural communities. The growing population in Nevada and heavy tourism traffic are reflected in the trends and statistics presented herein.

Increase in Accidents, Injuries and Fatalities

During the 2006 calendar year there was a total of 62,225 traffic collisions – 40,962 were property damage only (PDO); 20,876 were injury producing; and 387 were fatal. This reflects a 1.3% increase in overall collisions from the total 61,339 recorded in 2005. Injury collisions decreased by 3.9%. Fatal collisions increased 2.1% with 387 in 2006 and 379 in 2005. There was an increase in fatalities also. That percentage increased by 1.1%. In 2006 there were 432 traffic deaths, 5 more than the 427 recorded in 2005.

Rates Per 100 Million Vehicles

Nevada's crash rate per 100 million vehicle miles for fatal, injury and total collisions continues to decrease. In 1996 the fatal crash rate was 2.01, and in 2006 only 1.75, a decrease of 12.9%. Nevada's injury crashes followed a similar pattern with a 1996 rate of 98.31 and a 2006 rate of 94.59 – a decrease of 3.9%.

Counties

The four counties with the most crashes in 2006 were Clark County with 80.44% of the total, Washoe County with 11%, Carson City with 1.84 and Douglas County with 1.3%. Storey County had the least crashes with only 20 for the entire year. Clark County led the state in fatal, injury and property damage crashes with 68.2%, 81.2% and 80.1% respectively. Washoe County experienced the next highest numbers with 8.0%, 11.3% and 10.8% respectively. Clark County fatalities increased by 14 from the previous year to 285 traffic deaths. Washoe County's fatalities decreased from the previous year from 39 to 32 traffic deaths.

Fatal Collisions

The top three collisions types in a fatal collision are: Angle, Non Collision, and Head on. Vehicle factors contributing to fatal collisions are Failure to keep in proper lane, failed to yield right of way and Driving too fast for conditions. Driver factors contributing to fatal collisions are apparently normal, had been drinking and drug involvement.

Injury and Property Damage Only (PDO) Collisions

The top three collision types in an injury collision: Angle, rear-end, and non-collision. For both injury and property damage only collisions the vehicle factors contributing were failure to yield right of way, failure to keep in proper lane and following too close. Driver factors were apparently normal, had been drinking and inattention/distracted.

Notably of all the inattention distracted factors identified, cell phone use represented 9.2%.

Holiday Influences

From 2005 to 2006, Labor Day with a two-year total of 15 fatalities, Nevada Day with 8 and Memorial Day with 7 were the three deadliest holiday periods. Followed next by Thanksgiving and Christmas with 6 each recorded over the two-year period.

Pedestrians

In 2004, there were 87 pedestrian fatalities and 1,408 pedestrians injured. The number of fatalities increased in 2005 when a total of 98 pedestrian lives were claimed, and 1,306 pedestrians were injured. In 2006, there was a decrease in fatalities to 69 and an increase in injuries to 1,326. Pedestrian fatalities in Clark County decreased from 80 in 2005 to 46 in 2006. Washoe County increased by 1 with 14 in 2005 and 15 in 2006. There were 10 bicycle fatalities in 2006 – 7 occurred in Clark County and 2 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 collisions in Nevada for the year 2006 is \$1.873 billion.

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Crash Analysis Staff

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The Nevada Department of Transportation – Imagery Division
The Nevada Office of Traffic Safety**

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 and local input of crash reports and without their attention to detail we would be unable to maintain a meaningful database.

2006 NEVADA HIGHWAY CRASH QUICK FACTS			
	2004	2005	2006
TRAFFIC CRASHES			
FATAL CRASHES	363	379	387
INJURY CRASHES	21,412	21,742	20,876
PROPERTY DAMAGE CRASHES	37,891	39,278	40,962
TOTAL CRASHES	59,666	61,399	62,225
ALCOHOL CRASHES			
FATAL ALCOHOL CRASHES	93	107	114
INJURY ALCOHOL CRASHES	1,936	1,941	2147
PERCENT OF TOTAL FATAL CRASHES ALCOHOL INVOLVED	25.6%	28.2%	29.5%
PERCENT OF TOTAL INJURY CRASHES ALCOHOL INVOLVED	9.0%	8.9%	10.3%
TRAFFIC CASUALTIES			
TOTAL FATALITIES	398	427	433
TOTAL INJURIES	32,760	32,609	32,669
TOTAL ALCOHOL FATALITIES	98	112	123
TOTAL ALCOHOL INJURIES	3,065	3,007	3319
PERCENT OF TOTAL FATALITIES ALCOHOL INVOLVED	24.6%	26.2%	28.4%
PERCENT OF TOTAL INJURIES ALCOHOL INVOLVED	9.4%	9.2%	10.2%
OCCUPANTS			
DRIVERS KILLED	207	260	252
PASSENGERS KILLED	90	88	115
NON-OCCUPANTS			
PEDESTRIANS KILLED	69	67	61
PEDESTRIANS INJURED	1,408	1,306	1,326
PEDALCYCLISTS KILLED	11	9	10
PEDALCYCLISTS INJURED	538	623	605
DEMOGRAPHICS			
POPULATION	2,410,769	2,518,870	2,623,050
VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED (IN MILLIONS)	20,476	20,833	22,075
NEVADA'S FATAL CRASH RATE PER 100 MILLION VMT	1.77	1.82	1.76
NATIONAL FATAL CRASH RATE PER 100 MILLION VMT	1.31	1.31	1.30