2012 WISCONSIN TRAFFIC CRASH FACTS

Prepared by the
Wisconsin Department
of Transportation

2012 Facts and Figures

- 601 persons were killed in Wisconsin motor vehicle traffic crashes. This is an average of just over one life lost each day on Wisconsin traffic arteries.
- 39,370 persons were injured in 28,453 reported injury crashes and 535 fatal crashes. 3,582, or 9%, of those injured were known at the time of the crash to have sustained incapacitating injuries.
- Of the 601 persons killed, 9% (44 pedestrians and 11 bicyclists) were not drivers or passengers of motor vehicles. Nineteen percent (112) were motorcycle drivers or motorcycle passengers.
- Of the 601 persons killed, 37% died in alcohol-related crashes, 28% died in speed-related crashes and 16% died in crashes that involved both speed and alcohol.
- Of the 372 drivers who were killed and tested for alcohol concentration, 125 drivers (34%) had an alcohol concentration of .08 or above.
- 52% of persons killed in passenger car and light truck crashes (for instances in which safety belt use could be determined) were not using safety restraints.
- 73% of all motorcyclists killed in crashes (for instances in which helmet use could be determined) were not wearing helmets.
- Fifty-seven percent of all crashes occurred off the state highway and Interstate systems, on county trunk and local roads. City police and county sheriffs responded to 94,270 (86%) of these crashes.
- The total number of registered vehicles was 5,569,097, a 0.8% increase over 2011.
- The total number of licensed drivers was 4,171,428 a .7% increase over 2011.
- The fatality rate per 100-million miles of travel was 1.02.

Crashes, Not Accidents

Traffic crashes are not accidents, but avoidable events caused by a single variable or chain of variables. Dedicated to reducing traffic injuries and fatalities by addressing the factors that cause them, the Bureau of Transportation Safety coordinates a statewide behavioral highway safety program.

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Dear Traffic Safety Advocates:

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation is pleased to provide you with a copy of the 2012 edition of the Wisconsin Traffic Crash Facts book. This book serves as a resource for traffic safety professionals and those interested in making Wisconsin's roadways, sidewalks, and bicycle paths safe for all of us who travel them.

This book contains statewide information about traffic crashes and their human consequences. The statewide counts are parsed out in several levels of detail including: types of crashes, the county or municipality location of crashes, types of vehicles in crashes, severity of injuries, and age and gender of drivers. I extend my thanks to the principal researcher of this project, Donald Lyden.

To view this publication online, visit http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/safety/motorist/crashfacts/index.htm. To obtain additional copies of the Crash Facts Book or more information about transportation safety in Wisconsin, please contact us.

Sincerely,

David Pabst, Director
Bureau of Transportation Safety
Wisconsin State Patrol

Wisconsin's Highway Safety Clock

one
PERSON KILLED
every 14.6 hours

one
PERSON INJURED
every 13.3 minutes

one DRIVER AGE 19 OR UNDER
in fatal or injury crashes
every 1.6 hours

one
INJURY OR FATAL CRASH
every 18.2 minutes

one person injured or killed
in SPEED-RELATED CRASHES
every 1.2 hours

one
TRAFFIC CRASH
every 4.8 minutes

one person injured or killed
in ALCOHOL-RELATED CRASHES
every 2.8 hours

one MOTORCYCLIST
injured or killed
every 3.5 hours

one
PROPERTY DAMAGE CRASH
every 6.6 minutes

one PEDESTRIAN
injured or killed
every 6.9 hours

one BICYCLIST
injured or killed
every 8.3 hours

one SCHOOL BUS OCCUPANT
injured or killed
every 75.1 hours

All events listed occurred in motor vehicle crashes in Wisconsin

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