

Date: August 16, 2000

To: District Directors
Attn: District System Planning and Operations Section

From: Pete F. Rusch,
State Traffic Engineer

Subject: Statewide Crash Rates

The definition of a "reportable crash" changed starting January 1, 1996. For a Property Damage Only crash, the reporting threshold was raised from \$500 to \$1,000 to "any one person's property". Government-owned property changed to \$1,000 for government-owned vehicles, and remained at \$200 for all other government-owned property, such as traffic control devices.

The Table I lists the Wisconsin statewide crash rates for 1995-1999. These rates are expressed as crashes per 100 million vehicle-miles. The vehicle miles have been provided by the Division of Transportation Investment Management and the crashes are from the Accident File which is maintained by the Division of Motor Vehicles. The rates do not include non-reportable crashes (<\$1000).

Table II includes the 1995-1999 crash rates for the same highway classifications, as Table I, but is computed excluding hit deer crashes. Please note that this rate is just additional information and is being made available upon request. The official rates will be the ones shown in Table I, which includes the deer hit crashes.

All the crashes that have happened on both urban STH and city streets have been combined into a single category called Urban Streets.

The crash rate for County Trunk Highways dropped this year (2000) because the methodology change on how vehicle miles of travel were estimated for town roads and county trunk highways. The vehicle miles of travel on the County Trunk System went up and the vehicle miles of travel on the town road system went down. The total number of crashes on the CTH system went up by 800 but the rate fell because the increase in VMT went up by 33%. If there are questions about how VMT estimates are made, please contact Bruce Aunet at 608-266-9990.

Table I

WISCONSIN STATEWIDE AVERAGE CRASH RATES

	<u>RURAL INTERSTATE</u>			<u>URBAN INTERSTATE</u>		
	TOTAL	FATAL	NFI	TOTAL	FATAL	NFI
1995	85	.4	21	107	.2	35
1996	82	.5	21	103	.2	35
1997	76	.5	19	107	.2	35
1998	71	.4	18	101	.4	33
1999	70	.5	16	115	.3	34

	<u>RURAL STH</u>			<u>URBAN STREETS</u>			<u>COUNTY TRUNKS</u>		
	TOTAL	FATAL	NFI	TOTAL	FATAL	NFI	TOTAL	FATAL	NFI
1995	210	1.8	54	365	.6	121	376	3.2	94
1996	195	1.9	54	355	.6	125	338	3.0	95
1997	181	1.8	51	313	.6	111	342	2.9	96
1998	169	1.7	49	293	.5	107	315	3.3	90
1999	177	1.7	49	295	.5	103	249	2.6	70

Table II

WISCONSIN STATEWIDE AVERAGE CRASH RATES
DEER ACCIDENTS HAVE BEEN EXCLUDED

	<u>RURAL INTERSTATE</u>			<u>URBAN INTERSTATE</u>		
	TOTAL	FATAL	NFI	TOTAL	FATAL	NFI
1995	66	.4	20	104	.2	34
1996	64	.5	20	100	.2	35
1997	57	.5	18	104	.2	35
1998	51	.4	17	98	.4	33
1999	52	.5	16	112	.3	34

	<u>RURAL STH</u>			<u>URBAN STREETS</u>			<u>COUNTY TRUNKS</u>		
	TOTAL	FATAL	NFI	TOTAL	FATAL	NFI	TOTAL	FATAL	NFI
1995	136	1.8	52	359	.6	121	219	3.1	91
1996	132	1.9	53	349	.6	125	214	3.0	91
1997	122	1.7	49	307	.6	111	219	2.9	93
1998	111	1.6	47	288	.5	107	193	3.3	87
1999	114	1.7	47	289	.5	103	152	2.6	67