2013 Facts and Figures

- 527 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.

- 39,872 persons were injured in 28,747 reported injury crashes and 491 fatal crashes. 3,309, or 8%, of those injured were known at the time of the crash to have sustained incapacitating injuries.

- Of the 527 persons killed, 9% (35 pedestrians and 10 bicyclists) were not drivers or passengers of motor vehicles. Sixteen percent (83) were motorcycle drivers or motorcycle passengers.

- Of the 527 persons killed, 35% died in alcohol-related crashes, 30% died in speed-related crashes and 15% died in crashes that involved both speed and alcohol.

- Of the 359 drivers who were killed and tested for alcohol concentration, 114 drivers (32%) 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-six 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 101,614 (86%) of these crashes.

- The total number of registered vehicles was 5,667,489, a 1.8% increase over 2012.

- The total number of licensed drivers was 4,188,194 a 0.4% increase over 2012.

- The fatality rate per 100-million miles of travel was 0.89.

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.
July 2015

Dear Traffic Safety Advocates:

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation is pleased to provide you with a copy of the 2013 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
One PROPERTY DAMAGE CRASH every 5.9 minutes

One INJURY OR FATAL CRASH every 17.9 minutes

One TRAFFIC CRASH every 4.4 minutes

Wisconsin’s Highway Safety Clock

All events listed occurred in motor vehicle crashes in Wisconsin
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