

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

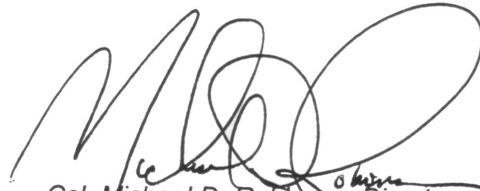
*The 1997 traffic fatality count was 1,446, down 3.9 percent from the 1996 figure of 1,505. Compared with 1996, injuries were down 3.5 percent and total crashes were down 2.2 percent. These figures translated into a death rate of 1.6 per 100 million miles of travel, down 5.9 percent from the death rate of 1.7 reported in 1996. Nationally, fatalities were down 0.2 percent.*

*Exposure factors in 1997 showed increases in vehicle registrations, the number of drivers on Michigan roads, and travel mileage. They included motor vehicle registrations up 0.1 percent to 8.12 million, the number of Drivers of Record up 1.6 percent to 7.09 million, and vehicle travel mileage up 1.7 percent to 89.2 billion.*

*Consumption of alcohol continues to be a major factor in Michigan crashes, particularly the more serious crashes. In 1997, 4.7 percent of all crashes, including property damage only, were reported to involve drinking, and 22.7 percent resulted in injury or death. However, 46.3 percent of alcohol-related crashes involved injury or death, and 37.5 percent of fatal crashes involved drinking. Over 58.4 percent of alcohol-related fatal crashes involved only one vehicle, whereas only 30.2 percent of all crashes involved one vehicle.*

*Data on crashes in this book was obtained from 1997 Michigan Traffic Crash Report Forms (UD-10) submitted by local police departments, sheriff jurisdictions, and the Department of State Police. Other related information was obtained from the Departments of Transportation, State, and Community Health.*

*The University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute produced this publication for the Office of Highway Safety Planning with data on file at the Michigan Department of State Police as of May 1, 1998. We acknowledge, with appreciation, all involved agencies for their assistance.*



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## INTRODUCTION

We are pleased to present the *1997 Michigan Traffic Crash Facts*. Michigan experienced a decrease in the number of traffic deaths in 1997, and in the death rate (calculated on the basis of traffic deaths per 100 million motor vehicle miles traveled). We are encouraged by these decreases, and, have dedicated ourselves to providing traffic safety programs that will foster safer travel on Michigan roads.

This year we have divided the *1997 Michigan Traffic Crash Facts* into two volumes. Volume one provides statewide statistical information on Historical, Special Focus (Age, Alcohol, and Deer), Crash, Vehicle/Driver and Occupant/Person. Volume two is titled *1997 Michigan Traffic Crash Facts for County/Communities*. This volume provides crash statistics for Michigan counties and communities. Although some of this information was previously provided, the section has been significantly expanded to provide quick access to more local information.

Your comments about this report are important to us. If you discover something that you think would be helpful to see next year, please let us know. We rely on your input to make this document user friendly and a valued technical resource.

This report will also be available after December 1998 on the Internet at [www.ohsp.msp.state.mi.us](http://www.ohsp.msp.state.mi.us).

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betty J. Mercer".

BETTY J. MERCER  
Division Director  
Office of Highway Safety Planning





## UD-10 (FRONT)

## UD-10 (BACK)

## ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS

- **BAC** **Bodily Alcohol Content** (formerly referred to as Blood Alcohol Content or Blood Alcohol Concentration). Determination of percent by weight of ethyl alcohol in blood. Usually measured in grams.
- **CJDC** **Criminal Justice Data Center**. A division of the Michigan Department of State Police.
- **CRD** **Child Restraint Device**. Also called child safety seats.
- **FHWA** **Federal Highway Administration**. A part of the United States Department of Transportation.
- **HBD** **Had Been Drinking** and/or under the influence of drugs.
- **HNBD** **Had Not Been Drinking** and/or under the influence of drugs.
- **KABC** Injury severity scale for traffic crash-related injuries: **K - Fatal**, **A - Incapacitating**, **B - Nonincapacitating**, **C - Possible**. See Glossary for definitions.
- **MALI** **Michigan Accident Location Index** (pronounced "MAY-lie")
- **MDCH** **Michigan Department of Community Health** (formerly Michigan Department of Public Health)
- **MDOS** **Michigan Department of State**
- **MDOT** **Michigan Department of Transportation** (pronounced "EM-dot")
- **NHTSA** **National Highway Traffic Safety Administration** (pronounced "NIT-zah"). A part of the United States Department of Transportation.
- **OHSP** **Office of Highway Safety Planning**. A division of the Michigan Department of State Police.
- **OUIL** **Operating Under the Influence of Liquor**. More serious of the drinking and driving violations in Michigan. Refers to driving with bodily alcohol content of 0.10g or more.
- **OWI** **Operating While Impaired**. Less serious of the drinking and driving violations in Michigan. Refers to driving with bodily alcohol content levels of 0.08g or 0.09g.
- **PDO** **Property Damage Only**. Refers to a traffic crash lacking personal injuries.
- **UD-10** Form number ascribed to *Michigan Traffic Crash Report* form, official document used to report traffic crashes in Michigan.
- **UMTRI** **University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute** (pronounced "UM-tree")
- **USDOT** **United States Department of Transportation**
- **VMT** **Vehicle Miles Traveled** The estimated total number of miles traveled annually by motor vehicles on Michigan trafficways.

## GLOSSARY

- **Crash Rate** - The number of crashes per 100 million vehicle miles traveled.
- **Crash Type** - A crash is typed by the first injury or damage-producing event, which may or may not be the most serious or significant event.
- **Death Rate** - Deaths per 100 million vehicle miles.
- **Driver/Operator** - The person who is in actual physical control of a vehicle in transit.
- **All Drivers** - Includes deceased drivers, out-of-state drivers with Michigan violations, former licensed drivers who hold expired licenses, and no license holders (QVF - Qualified Voter File, Child Support, Identification Card holders). Excludes records with sex code other than M or F, a zero birth date, or a birth date with non-numeric characters.
- **Drivers of Record** - Includes all valid drivers, plus any invalid drivers with any conviction; FAC/FCJ (Failure to Appear in Court/Failure to Comply with Judgement), crash involvement, or action during the listed time period.
- **Fatal Crash** - A fatality is counted when a person dies due to injuries from a traffic crash. Prior to 1979 deaths were counted if they occurred up to one year after the crash, in 1979 this time period was reduced to 90 days. In 1988 this was further reduced to 30 days.
- **Had Been Drinking (HBD) Crash** - Drinking and/or drug use prior to the crash by a driver, pedestrian, or cyclist as reported by the police, the coroner, or other accepted authorities.
- **Injury Severity**
  - K (Fatal)** - Any injury that results in death.
  - A (Incapacitating Injury)** - Any injury, other than a fatal injury, that prevents the injured person from walking, driving or normally continuing the activities the person was capable of performing before the injury occurred.
  - B (Nonincapacitating Injury)** - Any injury not incapacitating but evident to observers at the scene of the crash in which the injury occurred.
  - C (Possible Injury)** - Any injury reported or claimed that is not a fatal injury, incapacitating injury or nonincapacitating injury.
- **In Transport** - Denotes a motor vehicle in motion or on a roadway.
- **Most Severe Outcome in Crash** - The most severe injury sustained by any person involved in the crash, or property damage only.
- **Most Severe Outcome in Vehicle** - The most severe injury sustained by any person in the vehicle, or property damage only.
- **Motor Vehicle Crash** - A crash that involves a motor vehicle in transport on a public trafficway (in Michigan) and results in injury, death or at least \$400.00 in property damage.
- **Noncollision** - A crash that does not involve a collision with another motor vehicle. Types of noncollision crashes include; explosion or fire in vehicle, rollover, immersion, etc.
- **Occupant** - Any person in or on a motor vehicle, this includes the driver.
- **Property Damage Only (PDO) Crash** - A crash that results in no fatalities or injuries, with a value of \$400.00 as a reporting threshold.
- **Traffic Unit** - Anything in transit on a public trafficway (i.e., motor vehicle, motorcycle, bicycle, pedestrian, snowmobile, farm equipment).
- **Transition Area** - Increase or decrease in the number or travel lanes.
- **Valid Drivers** - Excludes non-valid categories such as no license, out-of-state drivers with Michigan violations, deceased, and licenses expired three months prior to Department of State run date.
- **“Zero Tolerance”** - Law which began November 1, 1994, making it illegal for any person in Michigan under the age of 21 to consume alcohol in the presence of a law enforcement officer, or to have a BAC of 0.02 percent or more. Sometimes referred to as Michigan’s “Point Oh Two” law.

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