

2001 Michigan Traffic Crash FACT SHEET



Contrary to common belief, motor vehicle-deer crashes are happening most often in Michigan's southern, heavily populated counties.



Michigan had 66,993 reported motor vehicle-deer crashes during 2001. This is a 57.7 percent rise from 42,494 vehicle-deer crashes in 1992.



62.2 percent of the vehicles involved in vehicle-deer crashes in 2001 were passenger cars.

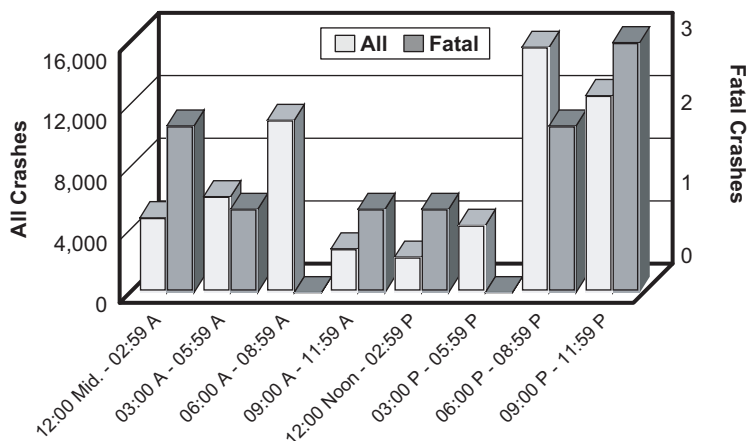


2,109 people were injured and 11 people were killed as a result of those collisions.



All motor vehicle-deer involved/associated crashes peaked during the 6:00 PM - 8:59 PM time period. Fatal deer crashes occurred during the 12:00 Mid - 5:59 AM, 9:00 AM - 2:59 PM, and 6:00 PM - 11:59 PM time periods.

TIME AND SEVERITY OF ALL MOTOR VEHICLE-DEER CRASHES

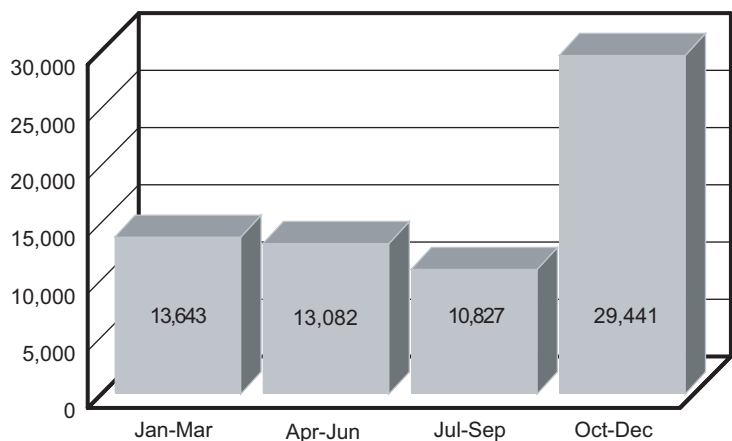


The top ten counties, each experiencing over 1,370 vehicle-deer crashes in 2001, were: Kent 2,327, Jackson 2,051, Calhoun 1,959, Montcalm 1,643, Oakland 1,633, Eaton 1,479, Ingham 1,433, Kalamazoo 1,411, Washtenaw 1,395 and Mecosta 1,379.



29,441 (43.9%) of all reported motor vehicle-deer collisions occurred during the fourth quarter of the year.

ALL MOTOR VEHICLE-DEER CRASHES



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The Michigan Deer Crash Coalition offers this advice to drivers:



Stay aware, alert, awake, and sober.



Wear your seat belt.



Heed deer crossing and speed limit signs. Deer crossing signs are an excellent reminder for driving cautiously in areas where the deer population is heaviest.



Drive at moderate speeds through posted deer areas at all times of the day and night.



Deliberately look for deer and if you see them, slow down.



Don't rely on deer whistles or high-beam headlights to deter deer. Drive cautiously at all times.



When possible, adjust travel time during peak evening crash periods, especially in October, November and December.



Striking the deer is frequently the safest action to take. Motorists making evasive maneuvers may be involved in a more serious crash.



Beware: Deer are unpredictable when faced with headlights, blowing horns, and fast-moving vehicles. They dart into traffic and often move in groups running zigzag courses across roadways.