

General Facts



According to the Michigan Department of Community Health, motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of accidental death among persons living in Michigan 1 to 24 years old.



635,913 motor vehicles were involved in 373,028 reported crashes. 1,055 of these were fatal crashes. These fatal crashes resulted in 1,159 deaths, compared to the 1,283 deaths that were the result of 1,172 fatal crashes in 2003.



Of the 1,159 motor vehicle deaths in 2004, 613 (52.9%) were drivers of vehicles, 277 (23.9%) were passengers in motor vehicles, 140 (12.1%) were pedestrians, 79 (6.8%) were motorcyclists, 21 (1.8%) were bicyclists, 14 (1.2%) were snowmobile operators, 12 (1.0%) were ORV/ATV operators, 2 (0.2%) were operators of farm equipment, and 1 (0.1%) was a moped operator.



Of the 890 drivers and passengers killed, 319 (35.8%) were not wearing seatbelts and 451 (50.7%) were wearing seatbelts. It is unknown whether 120 (13.5%) of the fatalities were belted.



535 deaths resulted from 501 single vehicle fatal crashes.



A higher proportion of all crashes involved male drivers than female drivers. Of the 333,606 crashes involving male drivers, 1,176 (0.4%) were fatal. Of the 251,077 crashes involving female drivers, 475 (0.2%) were fatal.



Excessive speed was reported by police as the hazardous action of 12.4 percent of the drivers in fatal crashes.



Of all fatal crashes, 26.0 percent occurred at intersections.



Most fatal crashes occurred on dry roadways (70.8%) in clear weather conditions (48.4%).



The majority of all crashes occurred during daylight hours (61.0%). Dark conditions created the greatest hazard, as they were overrepresented in fatal crashes.



In 2004:
More fatal crashes occurred between 3:00 and 5:59 PM than any other time period.
More fatal crashes occurred on both Friday and Saturday than any other day.
More fatal crashes occurred in November than any other month.