

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2004 traffic fatality count was 1,159, down 9.7 percent from the 2003 figure of 1,283. Compared with 2003, injuries were down 5.6 percent and total crashes were down 4.7 percent. These figures translated into a death rate of 1.1 per 100 million miles of travel, down 15.4 percent from the 2003 death rate.

Exposure factors in 2004 showed increases in the number of drivers on Michigan roads and travel mileage, and a decrease in motor vehicle registrations. The number of licensed drivers was up 0.5 percent to 7.2 million, and vehicle miles traveled was up 1.6 percent to 101.8 billion. Motor vehicle registrations were down 1.5 percent to 8.6 million. The last time Michigan experienced a drop in motor vehicle registrations was in 1981.

Consumption of alcohol continues to be a major factor in Michigan crashes, particularly the more serious crashes. In 2004, 3.9 percent of all crashes, including property damage only, were reported to involve drinking. While 19.9 percent of all crashes resulted in injury or death, 42.0 percent of alcohol-related crashes involved injury or death. 32.0 percent of fatal crashes involved drinking.

Data on crashes in this book was obtained from 2004 Michigan Traffic Crash Report Forms (UD-10) submitted by local police departments, sheriffs, and the Department of State Police. Other related information was obtained from the Departments of Transportation, State, and Community Health.

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