

General Facts



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

- 476,801 motor vehicles were involved in 290,978 reported crashes. 806 of these were fatal crashes. These fatal crashes resulted in 871 deaths, compared to the 980 deaths that were the result of 915 fatal crashes in 2008.
- Of the 871 motor vehicle deaths in 2009, 425 (48.8%) were drivers of vehicles, 173 (19.9%) were passengers in motor vehicles, 121 (13.9%) were pedestrians, 103 (11.3%) were motorcyclists, 19 (2.2%) were bicyclists, 9 (1.0%) were ORV/ATV operators, 14 (1.6%) were snowmobile operators, 5 (0.6%) were moped operators, and 1 (0.1%) was an operator of farm equipment.
- Of the 598 drivers and passengers killed, 210 (35.1%) were not wearing seatbelts and 304 (50.8%) were wearing seatbelts. It is unknown whether 84 (14.0%) of the fatalities were belted.
- 427 deaths resulted from 409 single vehicle fatal crashes.
- More male drivers are involved in crashes than female drivers. Of the 242,490 male drivers involved in crashes, 840 (0.3%) were involved in fatal crashes. Of the 199,166 female drivers involved in crashes, 375 (0.2%) were involved in fatal crashes.
- Excessive speed was reported by police as the hazardous action of 13.2 percent of the drivers in fatal crashes.
- Of all fatal crashes, 27.9 percent occurred at intersections.
- Most fatal crashes occurred on dry roadways (73.2%) in clear weather conditions (53.1%).
- The majority of all crashes occurred during daylight hours (59.0%). Dark conditions created the greatest hazard, as they were overrepresented in fatal crashes.
- In 2009:
 - More fatal crashes occurred between 6:00 and 8:59 PM than any other time period.
 - More fatal crashes occurred on both Saturday and Sunday than any other day.
 - More fatal crashes occurred in September than any other month.