

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - UPPER PENINSULA

The 2005 Upper Peninsula traffic fatality count was 38, down 28.3 percent from the 2004 figure of 53. Compared with 2004, injuries were down 10.5 percent and total crashes were down 12.5 percent. These figures translated into a death rate of 1.16 per 100 million miles of travel, down 25 percent from the 2004 death rate.

Exposure factors in 2005 showed an decreases in the travel mileage, in the number of drivers on Upper Peninsula roads and in motor vehicle registrations. The number of licensed drivers was down 0.4 percent to 228,071, vehicle miles traveled was down 1.4 percent to 3,272,146 thousands. Motor vehicle registrations were down 1.1 percent to 269,813.

Consumption of alcohol continues to be a major factor in Upper Peninsula crashes, particularly the more serious crashes. In 2005, 4.3 percent of all crashes, including property damage only, were reported to involve drinking. While 15.2 percent of all crashes resulted in injury or death, 43.6 percent of alcohol-related crashes involved injury or death. 38.9 percent of fatal crashes involved drinking.

Data on crashes in this book was obtained from 2005 Michigan Traffic Crash Report Forms (UD-10) submitted by local police departments, sheriff's offices, and the Department of State Police. Other related information was obtained from the Departments of Transportation, State, and Community Health.

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