

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - UPPER PENINSULA

The 2006 Upper Peninsula traffic fatality count was 44, up 15.8 percent from the 2005 figure of 38. Compared with 2005, injuries were down 8.8 percent and total crashes were down 5.0 percent. These figures translated into a death rate of 1.35 per 100 million miles of travel, up 16.4 percent from the 2005 death rate.

Exposure factors in 2006 showed decreases in the travel mileage and in motor vehicle registrations, an increase in the number of drivers on Upper Peninsula roads. The number of licensed drivers was up 0.3 percent to 228,831, vehicle miles traveled was down 0.7 percent to 3.25 billion. Motor vehicle registrations were down 1.3 percent to 266,390.

Consumption of alcohol continues to be a major factor in Upper Peninsula crashes, particularly the more serious crashes. In 2006, 4.3 percent of all crashes, including property damage only, were reported to involve drinking. While 14.7 percent of all crashes resulted in injury or death, 44.7 percent of alcohol-related crashes involved injury or death. 44.2 percent of fatal crashes involved drinking.

Data on crashes in this book was obtained from 2006 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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