

The information contained in this Traffic Crash Facts booklet is extracted from law enforcement agency long-form reports of traffic crashes. A law enforcement officer must submit a long-form crash report when investigating:

Motor vehicle crashes resulting in death or personal injury, or

Motor vehicle crashes in which one or more of the following conditions occur:

Leaving the scene involving damage to an attended vehicle or property (Section 316.061 (1), F.S.);

Driving while under the influence of alcoholic beverages, chemical substances, or controlled substances or with an unlawful blood alcohol level (Section 316.193, F.S.).

An investigating officer *may* report other traffic crashes on the long-form. In particular, applicable statutes specify an officer's discretion to submit a long-form report in crashes where a vehicle is rendered inoperable to the degree that a wrecker is required to remove it from traffic.

Statutory revisions in 1983 and 1989 reduced the number of non-injury crashes required to be reported to the Department. Any presentation of historical data that includes such crashes, such as total traffic crash counts, will reflect these changes. Data on traffic crashes involving death, injury, or other criteria for law enforcement long-form reports as outlined above are not affected.

Please Note:

All 1992 data in this publication have been updated from preliminary figures published in the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles *Traffic Crash Data*, 1992. Figures from the 1992 publication should not be used for year-to-year comparisons.

The following terms are defined as they apply to the crash data presented in this publication. These definitions may differ from legal or other uses of the same terms.

Alcohol-related traffic crash-	A crash involving a driver and/or pedestrian for whom alcohol use was reported (does not presume intoxication).
Bicycle-	A vehicle propelled solely by human power or a motorized bicycle propelled by a combination of human power and an electric helper motor rated at 200 watts or less (this term does not include a vehicle with a seat height less than 26 inches from the ground when the seat is adjusted to its highest position, or a scooter or similar device).
Bicyclist-	The driver of a bicycle. A passenger on a bicycle is considered a vehicle passenger.
Driver-	Unless otherwise indicated, the operator of a motor vehicle or bicycle. Driver data typically exclude uninjured persons presumed to have been operating hit-and-run, phantom, or properly parked vehicles.
Fatal traffic crash-	A traffic crash that results in one or more fatalities within ninety days of occurrence.
First harmful event-	The first damage-producing event in a traffic crash.
Injury-	Hurt, damage, or loss sustained by a person as a result of a traffic crash.
Moped-	A motor-powered cycle with a pedal-activated motor and two brake horse-power maximum.
Motor vehicle-	Any motorized vehicle not operating on rails.
Motorcycle-	A motor vehicle, with a seat or saddle for the driver's use, traveling with no more than three wheels in contact with the ground, excluding a tractor or a moped.
Motorcyclist-	The driver of a motorcycle. A passenger on a motorcycle is considered a vehicle passenger.
Property damage only-	Loss of all or part of an individual's property resulting from a traffic crash not involving injury to a person.
Traffic crash-	A crash involving at least one motor vehicle on a roadway way that is open to the public.
Traffic fatality-	The death of a person as a direct result of a traffic crash within ninety days of the crash occurrence.
Vehicle occupants-	Drivers and passengers of automobiles, vans, trucks, buses, and motor homes.

ALL CRASHES

Compared to 1997, there was a 2% increase in traffic crashes investigated and reported.

Traffic crashes	245,440
Drivers involved	390,213
Average crashes per day	672

FATAL CRASHES AND FATALITIES

Compared to 1997, there was a 2.8% increase in traffic fatalities.

Fatalities	2,889
Fatal crashes	2,605

INJURY CRASHES

Compared to 1997, there was a .78% increase in traffic injuries.

Injuries	241,863
Injury crashes.....	149,315

ALCOHOL-RELATED CRASHES AND FATALITIES

29.8% of traffic fatalities and 9.3% of traffic crashes were alcohol-related.

Alcohol-related fatalities	862
Alcohol-related injuries	20,066
Alcohol-related crashes.....	22,741
Alcohol-related fatal crashes	771
Alcohol-related injury crashes.....	12,260

CRASH ENVIRONMENTS

60.1% of all crashes occurred in primarily business areas, while 57.8% of fatal crashes were in open country or residential areas.

Crashes in Business Areas	147,558
Crashes in Residential Areas	69,715
Crashes in Open Country.....	28,167
Fatal Crashes in Business Areas.....	1,100
Fatal Crashes in Residential Areas.....	623
Fatal Crashes in Open Country	882

PEDESTRIAN CRASHES

19.0% of all traffic fatalities were pedestrians.

Pedestrians killed.....	548
Pedestrians injured	8,074
Pedestrian crashes*	8,730

BICYCLE CRASHES

3.4% of all traffic fatalities were bicycle drivers.

Bicycle drivers killed.....	97
Bicycle drivers injured	5,137
Bicycle crashes	5,655

MOTORCYCLE CRASHES

5.5% of all traffic fatalities were motorcycle drivers.

Motorcyclists killed	158
Motorcyclists injured.....	3,820
Motorcycle crashes	4,325

*Pedestrian and bicycle crashes included all crashes involving pedestrians or bicycles and are not comparable to crashes by first harmful event as reported in previous editions.