

May 17, 2000

Dear Reader:

I am pleased to present the ***1999 Florida Crash Facts Report***. This report contains data from the Department's crash database, compiled from traffic crash reports completed by state and local law enforcement agencies. The mission of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles is to make highways safe through service, education and enforcement. Overall, in 1999, there were:

***9,638 fewer traffic injuries and 2,031 fewer crashes*** compared to 1998;

***32% of traffic fatalities and 9% of traffic crashes were alcohol-related;***

***64% of drivers using safety belts avoided injury;***

***78% of children under 4 years of age avoided injuries by being properly restrained; and***

***73% of children 4-5 years of age avoided injury by being properly restrained.***

The tables in this report are used to assist in understanding problems and creating solutions that will ultimately aid in reducing deaths and injuries from motor vehicle crashes. This information is also available on the Department's WEB site <http://www.hsmv.state.fl.us>. Should you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact our Office of Management Research and Development at (850) 488-4300.

On behalf of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, we hope you will find this publication useful.

Sincerely,

Fred O. Dickinson  
Executive Director

## 1999 FLORIDA TRAFFIC CRASH STATISTICS

Traffic crashes	243,409
Drivers involved	373,693
Average crashes per day	667
Fatalities	2,920
Fatal crashes	2,625
Injuries	232,225
Injury crashes	143,172
Property damage only crashes	97,612
Alcohol-related fatalities	936
Alcohol-related injuries	19,073
Alcohol-related crashes	22,252
Alcohol-related fatal crashes	847
Alcohol-related injury crashes	11,534
Pedestrians killed	501
Pedestrians injured	7,536
Pedestrian crashes	8,157
Bicyclists killed	117
Bicyclists injured	4,766
Bicycle crashes	5,295
Motorcyclists killed	155
Motorcyclists injured	3,964
Motorcycle crashes	4,443

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**This publication is available on the  
Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles  
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<http://www.hsmv.state.fl.us>**

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## **Source of Data**

## **1999 Florida Traffic**

## Crash Facts

The information contained in this Traffic Crash Facts booklet is extracted from law enforcement agency long-form reports of traffic crashes. <sup>1</sup>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 crash report. 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Short form crash reports are for property damage that is less than \$500.00.

## Definition of Terms

## 1999 Florida Traffic Crash Facts

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.

<b>Alcohol-related traffic crash</b>	A crash involving a driver and/or pedestrian for whom alcohol use was reported (does not presume intoxication).
<b>Bicycle</b>	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).
<b>Bicyclist</b>	The driver of a bicycle. A passenger on a bicycle is considered a vehicle passenger.
<b>Driver</b>	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.
<b>Fatal traffic crash</b>	A traffic crash that results in one or more fatalities within thirty days of occurrence.
<b>First harmful event</b>	The first damage-producing event in a traffic crash.
<b>Injury</b>	Hurt, damage, or loss sustained by a person as a result of a traffic crash.
<b>Possible injury</b>	No visible signs of injury but complaint of pain or momentary unconsciousness.
<b>Non-Incapacitating injury</b>	Any visible injuries such as bruises, abrasions, limping, etc.
<b>Incapacitating injury</b>	Any visible signs of injury from a crash or person(s) who had to be carried from the scene.
<b>Total injury</b>	The sum of possible, non-incapacitating, and incapacitating injuries.
<b>Injury crash</b>	A traffic crash that results in one or more injuries that is not fatal.
<b>Moped</b>	A motor-powered cycle with a pedal-activated motor and two brakes horsepower maximum.
<b>Motor vehicle</b>	Any motorized vehicle not operating on rails.

## Definition of terms

## 1999 Florida Traffic

(Continued)

## Crash Facts

<b>Motorcycle</b>	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.
<b>Motorcyclist</b>	The driver of a motorcycle. A passenger on a motorcycle is considered a vehicle passenger.
<b>Property damage only crash</b>	Loss of all or part of an individual's property resulting from a traffic crash not involving injury to a person.
<b>Traffic crash</b>	A crash involving at least one motor vehicle on a roadway that is open to the public.
<b>Traffic fatality</b>	The death of a person as a direct result of a traffic crash within thirty days of the crash occurrence.
<b>Vehicle occupants</b>	Drivers and passengers of automobiles, vans, trucks, buses, and motor homes.

# State of Florida Summary

# 1999 Florida Traffic Crash Facts

## ALL CRASHES

Compared to 1998, there was a .83% decrease in traffic crashes investigated and reported.

Traffic crashes .....	243,409
Drivers involved.....	373,693
Average crashes per day .....	667

## FATAL CRASHES AND FATALITIES

Compared to 1998, there was a 1.07% increase in traffic fatalities.

Fatalities.....	2,920
Fatal crashes.....	2,625

## INJURY CRASHES

Compared to 1998, there was a 3.98% decrease in traffic injuries.

Possible injuries .....	126,077
Non-incapacitating injuries .....	76,147
Incapacitating injuries.....	30,001
Total injuries.....	232,225
Injury crashes.....	143,172

## ALCOHOL-RELATED CRASHES AND FATALITIES

32.1% of traffic fatalities and 9.1% of traffic crashes were alcohol-related.

Alcohol-related fatalities .....	936
Alcohol-related injuries.....	19,073
Alcohol-related crashes.....	22,252
Alcohol-related fatal crashes.....	847
Alcohol-related injury crashes .....	11,534

## CRASH ENVIRONMENTS

60.3% of all crashes occurred in primarily business areas, while 61.0% of fatal crashes were in open country or residential areas.

Crashes in Business Areas.....	146,845
Crashes in Residential Areas.....	69,279
Crashes in Open Country.....	27,285
Fatal Crashes in Business Areas.....	1,023
Fatal Crashes in Residential Areas.....	688
Fatal Crashes in Open Country.....	914

# State of Florida Summary

## 1999 Florida Traffic Crash Facts

### PEDESTRIAN CRASHES

17.2% of all traffic fatalities were pedestrians.

Pedestrians killed .....	501
Pedestrians injured .....	7,536
Pedestrian crashes* .....	8,157

### BICYCLE CRASHES

4.0% of all traffic fatalities were bicycle drivers.

Bicyclists killed .....	117
Bicyclists injured.....	4,766
Bicycle crashes* .....	5,295

### MOTORCYCLE CRASHES

5.3 % of all traffic fatalities were motorcycle drivers.

Motorcyclists killed .....	155
Motorcyclists injured.....	3,964
Motorcycle crashes .....	4,443

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