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The Highway Safety Section of the Department of Roads is charged with the collection, analysis, and publication of information about city, county, and state motor vehicle traffic accidents in Nebraska. This publication provides information about accident trends.

Elevating public awareness is an important step toward reducing the number and severity of traffic accidents. Safety awareness is the best defense as each of us drives our vehicle. This is especially important since driving is probably the most dangerous activity in which most of us will ever engage.

The information in this publication is made possible by the efforts of dedicated law enforcement officers across the state. Without their commitment to collecting accurate and timely information on motor vehicle accidents, monitoring highway safety in Nebraska would be impossible.

Drive Safely,
 Director

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The data contained in this booklet are based on Reportable Accidents Only as defined below. Definitions of various accident categories are also provided.

## Definitions

Reportable Accident
An accident which involves death, injury, or property damage in excess of $\$ 500.00$ to the property of any one person.

All Accidents ........................The total number of reportable motor vehicle accidents including fatal, injury or property damage.

Fatal Accident ......................Motor vehicle accident that results in fatal
Injury Accident ....................Motor vehicle accident that results in injuries, other than fatal, to one or more persons.

## Property Damage

Only Accident (PDO).
Motor vehicle accident in which there is no injury to any person, but only damage to a motor vehicle, or to other property, including injury to domestic animals.


## Death Rate Per 100 Million Vehicle Miles (1961-2000)

 (Figure 1)

Ten-Year Trend in Fatal Accidents (Figure 2)


In 2000, the death rate on Nebraska roadways was 1.6 persons killed per 100 million vehicle miles traveled. The death rate in Nebraska, from 1961 to 2000 is represented in Figure 1 (Page 2). Even though the death rate fluctuates from year to year, there has been a general downward trend. Much of this reduction can be attributed to improvements in vehicle design, roadway engineering, emergency medical services, specific safety programs, enforcement and improved driver awareness.

Figure 2 (Page 2) depicts the number of fatal accidents per year for the last ten years. There were 242 fatal accidents in 2000, thirteen less than were recorded in 1999.

Fatal accidents make up only a small portion of the total accidents in Nebraska. Property damage only (PDO) accidents make up the majority. Figure 3 shows the percentage distribution of all accident types. In 2000, there were 242 fatal accidents, 18,805 injury accidents and 28,886 property damage only accidents. Fatal accidents made up .5\% of all accidents, and injury and PDO accidents made up $39.2 \%$ and $60.3 \%$, respectively.

## All Accidents in Nebraska (2000)

## (Figure 3)


2000
Geographic Summary of Traffic Fatalities by County
Total Traffic Fatalities - 276 / Traffic Fatalities with Apparent Alcohol Involvement -98

Lancaster County, which contains Lincoln, the state's second largest city, had the highest number of traffic fatalities with 27 , followed by Douglas County with 24, and Buffalo County with 13. Twenty-five counties experienced no fatalities in 2000.

| 1999 Accident Data by County |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| County | Accidents |  |  |  | Persons Killed and Injured |  |
|  | Total | Fatal | Injury | PDO | Killed | Injured |
| Adams | 848 | 2 | 211 | 635 | 2 | 310 |
| Antelope | 175 | 1 | 47 | 127 | 1 | 72 |
| Arthur | 12 | 0 | 3 | 9 | 0 | 3 |
| Banner | 20 | 1 | 6 | 13 | 1 | 9 |
| Blaine | 15 | 1 | 4 | 10 | 2 | 6 |
| Boone | 112 | 0 | 33 | 79 | 0 | 48 |
| Box Butte | 295 | 2 | 78 | 215 | 2 | 123 |
| Boyd | 39 | 0 | 8 | 31 | 0 | 16 |
| Brown | 73 | 1 | 21 | 51 | 1 | 26 |
| Buffalo | 1,357 | 11 | 508 | 838 | 13 | 793 |
| Burt | 144 | 0 | 50 | 94 | 0 | 75 |
| Butler | 161 | 2 | 61 | 98 | 2 | 94 |
| Cass | 591 | 7 | 198 | 386 | 7 | 298 |
| Cedar | 153 | 2 | 53 | 98 | 2 | 95 |
| Chase | 56 | 0 | 18 | 38 | 0 | 24 |
| Cherry | 93 | 0 | 38 | 55 | 0 | 64 |
| Cheyenne | 247 | 6 | 66 | 175 | 7 | 123 |
| Clay | 146 | 4 | 40 | 102 | 4 | 54 |
| Colfax | 259 | 3 | 62 | 194 | 3 | 102 |
| Cuming | 264 | 2 | 79 | 183 | 4 | 126 |
| Custer | 236 | 1 | 76 | 159 | 1 | 110 |
| Dakota | 478 | 2 | 185 | 291 | 2 | 277 |
| Dawes | 280 | 2 | 62 | 216 | 4 | 98 |
| Dawson | 580 | 8 | 181 | 391 | 8 | 281 |
| Deuel | 76 | 2 | 35 | 39 | 2 | 78 |
| Dixon | 100 | 2 | 30 | 68 | 2 | 44 |
| Dodge | 1,034 | 6 | 364 | 664 | 8 | 549 |
| Douglas | 14,538 | 23 | 6,892 | 7,623 | 24 | 10,647 |
| Dundy | 43 | 0 | 10 | 33 | 0 | 19 |
| Fillmore | 145 | 0 | 48 | 97 | 0 | 73 |
| Franklin | 73 | 1 | 26 | 46 | 1 | 35 |
| Frontier | 79 | 1 | 26 | 52 | 1 | 40 |
| Furnas | 117 | 2 | 28 | 87 | 3 | 46 |
| Gage | 769 | 5 | 212 | 552 | 6 | 304 |
| Garden | 48 | 1 | 13 | 34 | 1 | 18 |
| Garfield | 28 | 1 | 8 | 19 | 1 | 15 |
| Gosper | 62 | 0 | 19 | 43 | 0 | 24 |
| Grant | 21 | 0 | 2 | 19 | 0 | 6 |
| Greeley | 49 | 1 | 17 | 31 | 1 | 25 |
| Hall | 1,814 | 7 | 608 | 1,199 | 7 | 957 |
| Hamilton | 306 | 4 | 81 | 221 | 4 | 139 |
| Harlan | 84 | 1 | 19 | 64 | 2 | 37 |
| Hayes | 18 | 0 | 9 | 9 | 0 | 13 |
| Hitchcock | 62 | 1 | 18 | 43 | 1 | 28 |
| Holt | 268 | 7 | 82 | 179 | 11 | 131 |
| Hooker | 15 | 0 | 5 | 10 | 0 | 8 |


| County | Accidents |  |  |  | Persons Killed and Injured |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Total | Fatal | Injury | PDO | Killed | Injured |
| Howard | 181 | 5 | 47 | 129 | 5 | 72 |
| Jefferson | 241 | 3 | 47 | 191 | 4 | 62 |
| Johnson | 136 | 1 | 25 | 110 | 1 | 37 |
| Kearney | 157 | 1 | 58 | 98 | 1 | 90 |
| Keith | 315 | 6 | 102 | 207 | 7 | 176 |
| Keya Paha | 12 | 0 | 6 | 6 | 0 | 6 |
| Kimball | 145 | 4 | 63 | 78 | 6 | 108 |
| Knox | 131 | 3 | 41 | 87 | 3 | 75 |
| Lancaster | 8,158 | 24 | 3,631 | 4,503 | 27 | 5,600 |
| Lincoln | 1,168 | 4 | 402 | 762 | 4 | 655 |
| Logan | 21 | 0 | 7 | 14 | 0 | 11 |
| Loup | 22 | 0 | 5 | 17 | 0 | 6 |
| Madison | 1,028 | 1 | 381 | 646 | 1 | 590 |
| McPherson | 11 | 0 | 5 | 6 | 0 | 6 |
| Merrick | 200 | 3 | 69 | 128 | 3 | 108 |
| Morrill | 168 | 4 | 43 | 121 | 4 | 79 |
| Nance | 108 | 0 | 30 | 78 | 0 | 39 |
| Nemaha | 213 | 5 | 58 | 150 | 6 | 98 |
| Nuckolls | 95 | 2 | 26 | 67 | 2 | 37 |
| Otoe | 333 | 1 | 113 | 219 | 1 | 176 |
| Pawnee | 114 | 1 | 17 | 96 | 1 | 29 |
| Perkins | 44 | 1 | 11 | 32 | 2 | 14 |
| Phelps | 264 | 1 | 81 | 182 | 1 | 121 |
| Pierce | 160 | 2 | 66 | 92 | 2 | 109 |
| Platte | 1,013 | 4 | 318 | 691 | 7 | 486 |
| Polk | 116 | 0 | 36 | 80 | 0 | 51 |
| Red Willow | 319 | 0 | 95 | 224 | 0 | 140 |
| Richardson | 247 | 2 | 56 | 189 | 2 | 92 |
| Rock | 41 | 0 | 9 | 32 | 0 | 17 |
| Saline | 353 | 4 | 76 | 273 | 4 | 108 |
| Sarpy | 2,245 | 6 | 998 | 1,241 | 7 | 1,602 |
| Saunders | 393 | 2 | 161 | 230 | 2 | 261 |
| Scotts Bluff | 928 | 5 | 321 | 602 | 6 | 503 |
| Seward | 472 | 6 | 147 | 319 | 6 | 228 |
| Sheridan | 150 | 2 | 47 | 101 | 3 | 77 |
| Sherman | 76 | 1 | 25 | 50 | 1 | 49 |
| Sioux | 35 | 0 | 15 | 20 | 0 | 26 |
| Stanton | 107 | 4 | 39 | 64 | 5 | 76 |
| Thayer | 158 | 4 | 33 | 121 | 4 | 56 |
| Thomas | 16 | 0 | 3 | 13 | 0 | 3 |
| Thurston | 128 | 0 | 48 | 80 | 0 | 72 |
| Valley | 103 | 1 | 27 | 75 | 1 | 46 |
| Washington | 410 | 1 | 134 | 275 | 1 | 203 |
| Wayne | 181 | 0 | 53 | 128 | 0 | 78 |
| Webster | 134 | 1 | 35 | 98 | 1 | 53 |
| Wheeler | 21 | 0 | 6 | 15 | 0 | 11 |
| York | 479 | 4 | 149 | 326 | 4 | 211 |
| Total | 47,933 | 242 | 18,805 | 28,886 | 276 | 29,216 |



## Summary <br> Number of Traffic Accidents

All Accidents ..... 47,933
Property Damage Only (PDO) ..... 28,886
Injury Accidents ..... 18,805
Persons Injured ..... 29,216
Fatal Accidents. ..... 242
Fatalities. ..... 276
Number of Registered Vehicles in Nebraska ..... 1,853,962
Number of Licensed Drivers in Nebraska ..... 1,262,755
Number of Vehicles in Accidents* ..... 81,727
Number of Drivers in Accidents* ..... 78,319*There may be more than one vehicle or driver involved in asingle accident. Parked, and driverless vehicles are included.

## During 2000:

One accident occurred every 11 minutes
80 persons were injured each day
One person was killed every 32 hours

The economic loss in terms of dollars was $\$ 2,112,946,000^{* *}$
**Economic loss figures are derived from the Federal Highway Administration's publication No. FHWA-RD-91-055 dated October 1991.

## First Harmful Event

First harmful event (FHE) is the initial incident that causes injury or damage. It is sometimes referred to as "type of accident" and implies a collision with each of the objects listed in the following charts. "Overturned" and "other" accidents refer to accidents where no collision is involved (e.g., a car loses control and overturns, a car catches on fire).

First harmful events for all accidents and for fatal accidents are shown in Figures 5 and 6 . In both instances, collisions between two or more motor vehicles (MV-MV) make up the majority of accidents. Accidents involving fixed objects, vehicles overturning, pedestrians and trains tend to be more severe, as indicated by their overrepresentation in fatal accidents as compared to all accidents.


All Accidents (Figure 5)

Fatal Accidents
(Figure 6)

Railroad 2.1\%


Table 1 provides the number of accidents in each category listed in Figures 5 and 6 on the previous page.

| FIRST HARMFUL EVENT <br> (Current Year) | 2000 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | ACCIDENTS |  |  |  | PERSONS KILLED OR INJURED |  |  |  |  |
|  | TOTAL | FATAL | INJURY | $\stackrel{\star \star}{\text { PDO }}$ | KILLED | NON-FATAL INJURIES |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | total | Aぇ | B $\star$ | C* |
| Pedestrian | 409 | 16 | 392 | 1 | 16 | 424 | 96 | 177 | 151 |
| $\stackrel{\text { O }}{5}$ Motor vehicle in transport | 30546 | 111 | 13582 | 16853 | 132 | 22205 | 1450 | 4843 | 15912 |
| $\stackrel{\text { Or }}{ }$ Parked motor vehicle | 4403 | 5 | 367 | 4031 | 5 | 462 | 37 | 173 | 252 |
| $\underline{\underline{\mathbf{z}}}$ Railroad train | 38 | 5 | 11 | 22 | 5 | 14 | 5 | 6 | 3 |
| 응 Pedalcyclist | 354 | 3 | 346 | 5 | 3 | 374 | 43 | 221 | 110 |
| $\xrightarrow{3}$ Animal | 3982 | 2 | 420 | 3560 | 2 | 525 | 26 | 162 | 337 |
| $\bigcirc$ Fixed object | 6016 | 59 | 2558 | 3399 | 66 | 3568 | 552 | 1628 | 1388 |
| Other object | 162 | 0 | 42 | 120 | 0 | 57 | 7 | 26 | 24 |
| Noncollision overturned | 1522 | 38 | 957 | 527 | 44 | 1430 | 280 | 646 | 504 |
| Other noncollision | 471 | 3 | 122 | 346 | 3 | 147 | 28 | 60 | 59 |
| Unknown | 30 | 0 | 8 | 22 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 5 | 5 |
| - TOTALS - | 47933 | 242 | 18805 | 28886 | 276 | 29216 | 2524 | 7947 | 18745 |

(Table 1)
ћ = Injury severity codes
$\mathrm{A}=$ Disabling injury
$B=$ Visible injury (not disabling)
C = Possible injury (not visible)
**PDO = Property damage only

| FIRST HARMFUL EVENT <br> (Current Year) | 1999 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | ACCIDENTS |  |  |  | PERSONS KILLED OR INJURED |  |  |  |  |
|  | TOTAL | FATAL | INJURY | $\stackrel{\star \star}{\text { PDO }}$ | KILLED | NON-FATAL INJURIES |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | total | A ${ }^{\text {® }}$ | B ${ }^{\text {d }}$ | C* |
| Pedestrian | 468 | 13 | 455 | 0 | 13 | 490 | 104 | 225 | 161 |
| $\stackrel{\sim}{2}$ Motor vehicle in transport | 30774 | 125 | 13697 | 16952 | 153 | 22627 | 1400 | 4828 | 16399 |
| ) Parked motor vehicle | 4332 | 0 | 386 | 3946 | 0 | 480 | 48 | 193 | 239 |
| $\underline{\geq}$ Railroad train | 51 | 5 | 25 | 21 | 5 | 30 | 9 | 6 | 15 |
| \% Pedalcyclist | 392 | 4 | 384 | 4 | 4 | 404 | 33 | 229 | 142 |
| $\xrightarrow{\text { a }}$ Animal | 4175 | 2 | 413 | 3760 | 2 | 555 | 32 | 178 | 345 |
| $\bigcirc$ Fixed object | 6073 | 59 | 2647 | 3367 | 67 | 3752 | 594 | 1730 | 1428 |
| Other object | 136 | 1 | 40 | 95 | 1 | 55 | 4 | 27 | 24 |
| Noncollision overturned | 1423 | 46 | 881 | 496 | 50 | 1315 | 261 | 604 | 450 |
| Other noncollision | 368 | 0 | 98 | 270 | 0 | 142 | 22 | 46 | 74 |
| Unknown | 25 | 0 | 6 | 19 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| - TOTALS - | 48217 | 255 | 19032 | 28930 | 295 | 29856 | 2508 | 8068 | 19280 |

(Table 2)
Table 2 provides 1999 data for comparison to 2000. There were 13 less fatal accidents in 2000, as compared to 1999, and the number of deaths resulting from these accidents decreased by 19. Both injury accidents and injuries decreased, by 227 and 640 respectively. The number of PDO accidents increased by 44 .

## Surface Condition

The condition of the road surface plays an important role in motor vehicle accidents. Slick road conditions are generally more hazardous than dry conditions, but drivers tend to compensate for this by being more cautious. Fewer fatal accidents occur under slick road surface conditions than under dry road conditions. The percentage of all accidents which occurred on slick roads was about the same in 2000 as it was in 1999.


The following table provides the number of accidents in each category.

| ROAD SURFACE CONDITION | TOTAL | FATAL | INJURY | PDO |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Dry | 34932 | 189 | 14257 | 20486 |
| Wet | 5363 | 28 | 2383 | 2952 |
| Snowy or icy | 5667 | 24 | 1709 | 3934 |
| Other | 199 | 1 | 60 | 138 |
| Not stated | 1772 | 0 | 396 | 1376 |
| - TOTALS - | 47933 | 242 | 18805 | 28886 |

(Table 3)

## Type of Roadway

The distributions of all accidents and fatal accidents, by roadway type, are shown in Figures 9 and 10. Table 4 (page 13) shows the actual number of accidents and casualties by roadway type. The percent of fatal accidents that occur on the interstate and on other state highways is larger than the percent of all accidents that occur on the interstate and on other state highways. Accidents on interstate and other state highways tend to occur at higher speeds, accounting for the increased severity of these accidents.

## All Accidents

(Figure 9)


Fatal Accidents
(Figure 10)

Other
State System 47.5\%


| ROADWAY |  | ACCIDENTS |  |  |  | PERSONS |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | total | fatal | InJURY | PDO | KILLED | injured |
|  | Interstate | 1048 | 5 | 511 | 532 | 5 | 722 |
|  | Other State System Highways | 8134 | 23 | 3771 | 4340 | 26 | 6051 |
|  | Local Roads and Streets | 25478 | 21 | 9490 | 15967 | 22 | 14414 |
|  | URBAN SUBTOTAL | 34660 | 49 | 13772 | 20839 | 53 | 21187 |
|  | Interstate | 1558 | 30 | 601 | 927 | 34 | 1082 |
|  | Other State System Highways | 5941 | 92 | 1950 | 3899 | 109 | 3219 |
|  | Local Roads and Streets | 5774 | 71 | 2482 | 3221 | 80 | 3728 |
|  | RURAL SUBTOTAL | 13273 | 193 | 5033 | 8047 | 223 | 8029 |
| - TOTALS - |  | 47933 | 242 | 18805 | 28886 | 276 | 29216 |

(Table 4)
Rather than referring to numbers of accidents, the relative safety of different roadway classifications can be compared by using accident rates. Table 5 provides accident rates for 2000. These rates are based on accidents per 100 million vehicle miles driven.

## Accidents Per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Traveled

|  | ACCIDENT SEVERITY |  |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | FATAL | INJURY | PDO | TOTAL |
| Interstate | 1.0 | 30.1 | 39.5 | 70.6 |
| Other State Highways | 1.5 | 74.4 | 107.1 | 183.0 |
| Local Roads and Streets | 1.5 | 189.0 | 302.8 | 493.3 | (Table 5)

The interstate actually has the lowest accident rate for all roadway categories, followed by other state highways and local roads.

## Day and Time

Accidents can occur at any time, but they tend to be more frequent during certain times of the day. Accident frequency follows the daily activity cycle, increasing from a low in the early morning hours to a peak in the late afternoon. The highest 3 -hour time period for accidents in 2000 was from 3:00-6:00 p.m., when $25 \%$ of all accidents occurred. Fatal accidents are also most likely to take place during the afternoon peak traffic period. Other common times for fatal accidents are during the late night and early morning hours when many alcohol-related crashes occur.

Accident trends on the weekends differ from those which take place during the work week. Saturday and Sunday are the lowest days for total accidents, but among the highest days for fatal accidents. During 2000, more accidents happened on Friday than on any other day. Wednesday was the highest day for fatal accidents, recording $16.9 \%$ of the total.

Day of Week
(Figure 11)


Time of Accident
(Figure 12)


## Month

The seasonal cycles of all accidents and fatal accidents are illustrated in Figures 13 and 14. Accidents tend to increase during the late fall and winter as weather conditions worsen. Fatal accidents usually decrease during bad weather conditions, once motorists adjust to less than perfect driving conditions. This pattern was not as clear in 2000, as fatal accidents stayed generally low, but with distinct spikes in January, May and July.

All Accidents by Month
(Figure 13)


Fatal Accidents by Month
(Figure 14)


## Age

Younger drivers are involved in a disproportionate number of accidents. In 2000, $53.6 \%$ of the drivers involved in accidents were age 34 or younger. Drivers in the youngest age bracket, ages 15 to 24 , had the highest percentage involvement of all age groups in both all accidents (34.6\%) and fatal accidents (29.1\%) during 2000.

Figure 16 represents percentages of nonfatal and fatal injuries by age groups. Persons aged 55 and over are overrepresented in fatal injuries as compared to nonfatal injuries. Nearly $68 \%$ of all injuries, however, are suffered by persons between the ages of 15 and 44 .

Driver Age
(Figure 15)


Age of Casualties
(Figure 16)


## Restraint Use

Restraint usage is the best available means of preventing fatalities and injuries in motor vehicle accidents. Passive restraints, such as air bags, which require no occupant action to be put in use, are becoming standard equipment for drivers and front seat passengers in newer vehicles. For these passive systems to provide effective protection, however, seat belts must still be used.

Effective January 1, 1993, Nebraska passed a mandatory seat belt law. This law calls for secondary enforcement, meaning that a citation for not wearing a seat belt can only be issued if the driver is first charged with another violation. Although not as effective as a primary enforcement law, indications are that the law has been successful in promoting seat belt use.

The most accurate measure of safety belt usage in Nebraska comes from the results of surveys conducted by the Nebraska Office of Highway Safety and approved by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). In 2000, the observed statewide safety belt usage rate was $70.5 \%$.

Although usage rates have increased in recent years, there is still room for improvement. Belt use is particularly low in accidents which result in the most severe injuries. Only $23.8 \%$ of those vehicle occupants who died and 49.9\% of those who suffered disabling injuries in 2000 accidents were confirmed as belted.

## Statewide Safety Belt Usage Rate (1991-2000)

(Figure 17)


## Restraint Use for Disabling Injuries

(Figure 18)


## Restraint Use for Fatal Injuries (Figure 19)



## Motorcycle Accidents

In 2000, Nebraska recorded 279 motorcycle accidents. Three of these were fatal accidents-five less than in 1999. A generally downward trend in motorcycle accidents has existed in recent years, aided by the passage of the mandatory helmet law in 1989. (See Figures 20 and 22).

This trend has continued despite the fact that motorcycle registrations, after a decade of decline, have increased the last few years. (See Figure 21 on page 20).

Educational efforts aimed at motorcyclists may also have contributed toward the accident reduction. These include the Motorcycle Safety Education Act and MAY (Motorcycle Awareness and You) Days. During May, Nebraska motorcyclists are encouraged to enhance their driving skills by completing various riding courses and motorcycle clubs hold awareness events.

Fatal Motorcycle Accidents (1991-2000)
(Figure 20)


Motorcycles Registered (1991-2000)
(Figure 21)


All Motorcycle Accidents (1991-2000)
(Figure 22)


## Sex of Driver

Figure 23 shows the difference between male and female drivers' involvement in motor vehicle traffic accidents. Males represented $57.7 \%$ of the drivers in all accidents in Nebraska in 2000, yet they were involved in $73.8 \%$ of all fatal accidents. At least a part of this difference can be attributed to the fact that males drive more miles than females and, thus, have greater exposure to accidents.
(Figure 23)


| SEX OF DRIVER | TOTAL | FATAL | INJURY | PDO |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Male | 44827 | 271 |  | 26113 |
| Female | 32835 | 96 | 15265 | 17474 |
| Not stated | 657 | 1 | 286 | 370 |
| - TOTALS - | 78319 | 368 | 33994 | 43957 |

(Table 6)

| $\begin{gathered} \text { AGE AND } \\ \text { SEX OF } \\ \text { CASUALTIES } \end{gathered}$ | ALL ACCIDENTS |  |  |  |  |  | ALCOHOL RELATED ACCIDENTS |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | KILLED |  |  | INJURED |  |  | KILLED |  |  | INJURED |  |  |
|  | TOTAL | M | F | TOTAL | M | F | TOTAL | M | F | TOTAL | M | F |
| 0-4 years | 4 | 1 | 3 | 743 | 385 | 358 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 22 | 11 | 11 |
| 5-9 years | 7 | 3 | 4 | 837 | 409 | 428 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 20 | 9 | 11 |
| 10-14 years | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1191 | 515 | 676 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 37 | 15 | 22 |
| 15-19 years | 45 | 25 | 20 | 5817 | 2624 | 3193 | 17 | 12 | 5 | 362 | 212 | 150 |
| 20-24 years | 35 | 26 | 9 | 4063 | 1962 | 2101 | 23 | 18 | 5 | 385 | 270 | 115 |
| 25-34 years | 38 | 25 | 13 | 4948 | 2386 | 2562 | 19 | 15 | 4 | 380 | 264 | 116 |
| 35-44 years | 38 | 24 | 14 | 4260 | 1959 | 2301 | 15 | 11 | 4 | 286 | 202 | 84 |
| 45-54 years | 34 | 21 | 13 | 3020 | 1368 | 1652 | 15 | 7 | 8 | 144 | 91 | 53 |
| 55-64 years | 23 | 16 | 7 | 1571 | 708 | 863 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 53 | 29 | 24 |
| 65-74 years | 20 | 10 | 10 | 999 | 444 | 555 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 27 | 18 | 9 |
| 75 and older | 31 | 20 | 11 | 769 | 352 | 417 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 19 | 10 | 9 |
| Age not stated | 0 | 0 | 0 | 633 | 314 | 319 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 48 | 27 | 21 |
| - TOTALS - | 276 | 172 | 104 | 28851 | 13426 | 15425 | 98 | 69 | 29 | 1783 | 1158 | 625 |

(Table 7)

## Body Style

The major vehicle body styles involved in all accidents and fatal accidents are displayed in Figures 24 and 25 on page 23. Compared to their involvement in all accidents, motorcycles and heavy trucks are overrepresented in fatal accidents. Motorcycles offer little protection to riders involved in accidents, and heavy trucks tend to be involved in more severe accidents due to their large size. The number of vehicles in each body style group which were involved in accidents is provided in the table below.

| BODY STYLE OF <br> ACCIDENT VEHICLES | total | FATAL | INJURY | PDO |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Bus | 200 | 0 | 76 | 124 |
| Semi-trailer truck | 1118 | 31 | 364 | 723 |
| Other heavy truck | 1565 | 24 | 546 | 995 |
| Automobile | 46917 | 157 | 21197 | 25563 |
| Van | 6593 | 30 | 2720 | 3843 |
| Utility vehicle | 6655 | 26 | 2945 | 3684 |
| Pickup truck | 14727 | 88 | 5652 | 8987 |
| Motorcycle | 285 | 3 | 245 | 37 |
| Motorhome | 41 | 1 | 8 | 32 |
| Farm equipment | 100 | 1 | 42 | 57 |
| Other | 133 | 4 | 44 | 85 |
| Unknown | 3393 | 10 | 793 | 2590 |
| - TOTALS - | 81727 | 375 | 34632 | 46720 |

(Table 8)

## Vehicle Body Style in All Accidents

(Figure 24)

*Other includes: motorcycles .4\%, buses .3\%, motor home .1\%, farm equipment . $1 \%$, and all others . $2 \%$.

## Vehicle Body Style in Fatal Accidents

(Figure 25)

*Other includes: farm equipment .3\%, motorcycles .8\%, motor home .3\%, and all others $1.1 \%$.

## Intersection Accidents

## 2000 <br> Type of Multi-Vehicle Collisions at Intersections* <br> Total Accidents: 23,445

|  | \% OF TOTAL |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| NUMBER OF | INTERSECTION | \% RESULTING |
| ACCIDENTS | ACCIDENTS | IN INJURY |

13,641
58.2
45.3

7,547
32.2
53.3


88
. 4
33.0


705
3.0
58.0


Unknown
635
2.7
15.6

Total
23,445
100\%

[^0]
## Non-Intersection Accidents

## 2000 <br> Type of Multi-Vehicle Collisions Not at Intersections* <br> Total Accidents: 7,101

|  | NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS | \% OF TOTAL NON-INTERSECTION ACCIDENTS | \% RESULTING IN INJURY |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\overrightarrow{\text { Rear-end }}$ | 3,295 | 46.4 | 47.9 |
|  | 747 | 10.5 | 25.6 |
|  | 202 | 2.8 | 34.7 |
| $\rightarrow \longleftarrow$ | 132 | 1.9 | 64.4 |
| $\underset{\text { Backing }}{\rightarrow}$ | 545 | 7.7 | 12.3 |
|  | 2,151 | 30.3 | 33.4 |
| $\underset{\text { Leaving }}{\text { Left }} \begin{array}{r} \text { Lurn } \\ \text { Tun } \end{array}$ | 8 | . 1 | 50.0 |
| Unknown | 21 | . 3 | 19.1 |
| Total | 7,101 | 100\% |  |

* Multi-vehicle accidents not at intersections comprise $14.8 \%$ of all accidents.


## Alcohol Involvement

Figures 26, 27, and 28 show the relationship between alcohol involvement and accident severity. As accident severity increased, so did alcohol involvement. In 2000, $35.1 \%$ of the fatal accidents in Nebraska involved alcohol. This represents a decrease from the $41.2 \%$ registered in 1999. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that during 2000, $40 \%$ of fatal accidents nationally involved alcohol. Since alcohol testing is only required in fatal accidents, the alcohol involvement indicated for injury and PDO accidents is probably understated.




Fatal Accidents (Figure 28)

## Driver Age and Alcohol Involvement

The relationship between driver age and alcohol involvement in motor vehicle accidents is illustrated in Figure 29. Compared to their involvement in all accidents, drivers aged 21-34 are overrepresented in alcohol related accidents. In fact, these drivers are in $45.9 \%$ of alcohol involved accidents. Drivers aged 21-24 are most overrepresented, being involved in $21.2 \%$ of alcohol related accidents but only $11.1 \%$ of all accidents. Note that drivers between the ages of 15 and 20 are in $20.1 \%$ of alcohol related accidents, despite the fact that the legal drinking age in Nebraska is 21.
(Figure 29)


| AGE OF DRIVER | TOTAL |  | FATAL |  | INJURY |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
|  | ALL <br> ACCIDENTS | ALCOHOL <br> INVOLVED | ALL <br> ACCIDENTS | ALCOHOL <br> INVOLVED | ALL <br> ACCIDENTS | ALCOHOL <br> INVOLVED |
|  | 703 | 7 | 3 | 0 | 300 | 5 |
| 16 | 4102 | 43 | 13 | 2 | 1831 | 22 |
| 17 | 3714 | 55 | 8 | 0 | 1637 | 36 |
| 18 | 3602 | 95 | 15 | 4 | 1559 | 51 |
| 19 | 3270 | 116 | 13 | 6 | 1523 | 66 |
| 20 | 2838 | 94 | 16 | 6 | 1287 | 39 |
| 21 | 2563 | 139 | 11 | 5 | 1212 | 81 |
| 22 | 2203 | 118 | 10 | 4 | 1042 | 63 |
| 23 | 2053 | 97 | 11 | 2 | 930 | 47 |
| 24 | 1813 | 78 | 7 | 3 | 828 | 38 |
| 25 to 34 | 14724 | 504 | 70 | 18 | 6774 | 278 |
| 35 to 44 | 13911 | 413 | 64 | 12 | 6071 | 226 |
| 45 to 54 | 10078 | 188 | 48 | 9 | 4244 | 106 |
| 55 to 64 | 5436 | 58 | 24 | 3 | 2137 | 31 |
| 65 to 74 | 3735 | 26 | 32 | 3 | 1403 | 13 |
| 75 and older | 2844 | 8 | 23 | 0 | 997 | 6 |
| Not stated | 730 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 219 | 4 |
| - TOTALS - | 78319 | 2046 | 368 | 77 | 33994 | 1112 |

(Table 9)

## Major Contributing Human Factor

In 2000, there were 47,933 reportable motor vehicle traffic accidents in Nebraska with 78,319 drivers. In an effort to determine why an accident occurred, officers investigating an accident cite the "Major Contributing Human Factor." Only one contributing human factor is recorded for each accident. Most accidents are the result of improper driving. The table below lists some of the contributing human factors reported and the number of accidents for which they were reported in 2000.

| MAJOR CONTRIBUTING <br> HUMAN FACTOR | TOTAL | FATAL | INJURY | PDO |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Speed too fast for condition | 4367 | 40 | 1856 | 2471 |
| Exceeding speed limit | 457 | 17 | 214 | 226 |
| Backing unsafely | 2321 | 0 | 237 | 2084 |
| Ran stop sign | 945 | 20 | 529 | 396 |
| Disregarded traffic signal | 1916 | 6 | 1121 | 789 |
| Failure to yield | 8772 | 32 | 4185 | 4555 |
| Following too closely | 6343 | 3 | 3427 | 2913 |
| Improper right turn on red | 86 | 0 | 23 | 63 |
| Other improper turn | 1113 | 5 | 294 | 814 |
| Improper /no turn signal | 94 | 0 | 34 | 60 |
| Wrong way in one-way | 70 | 2 | 30 | 38 |
| Improper lane change | 972 | 3 | 241 | 728 |
| Drove left of center | 803 | 30 | 351 | 422 |
| Evasive action | 1879 | 16 | 794 | 1069 |
| Improper overtaking | 625 | 2 | 215 | 408 |
| Improper loading of cargo | 123 | 0 | 35 | 88 |
| Other | 6439 | 41 | 2602 | 3796 |
| None | 10608 | 25 | 2617 | 7966 |
| - TOTALS - | 47933 | 242 | 18805 | 28886 |

(Table 10)


## Pedestrian and Pedalcycle Accidents

Figure 30 represents the number of accidents where a collision with a pedestrian or pedalcycle was the first harmful event. These accidents cover the last 10 years. Pedestrian accidents fell from 468 in 1999 to 409 in 2000. In 2000, the number of fatal pedestrian accidents increased to 16. Pedalcycle accidents decreased from 392 in 1999 to 354 in 2000. There were three fatal pedalcycle accidents in 2000, down from four in 1999.
(Figure 30)


## Animal Accidents

The number of accidents involving animals, over the last 10 years, is depicted in Figure 31. Animal accidents have generally increased through the period. In 2000 animal accidents fell from 4,175 to 3,982 . Deer are the most frequently involved animals in motor vehicle-animal accidents.
(Figure 31)


## Railroad Accidents

The number of railroad accidents fell from 51 in 1999 to 38 in 2000. In 2000, 5 people died in motor vehicle/train accidents in Nebraska.
(Figure 32)


## Body Style

More passenger cars are involved in accidents than any other body style of vehicle. The percentage of automobiles in the total mix of vehicles in accidents, however, has been declining over the last decade. Figure 33 displays this trend.
Light trucks have been the fastest growing segment of the vehicle mix. The percentages of utility vehicles, pickup trucks, and vans involved in accidents have all shown recent growth. The percentage of heavy trucks involved in accidents, on the other hand, has remained relatively steady. Figure 34 shows the trends in the percentage of various truck types involved in accidents since 1994.
(Note: In any one year, the combined percentages of passenger cars, light trucks, heavy trucks and motorcycles will not total 100\%. The percentage of "other" body styles, like buses, is not shown.)

Passenger Cars in All Accidents
(Figure 33)


Truck Types in All Accidents
(Figure 34)


## Notes ...

Additional information about the material contained in this publication may be obtained from:

Nebraska Department of Roads
Highway Safety Section
PO BOX 94759
LINCOLN NE 68509-4759
(402) 479-4645
www.dor.state.ne.us

|  |
| :---: |

Address Service Requested

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1500 Highway 2
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[^0]:    * Multi-vehicle accidents at intersections comprise $48.9 \%$ of all accidents.

