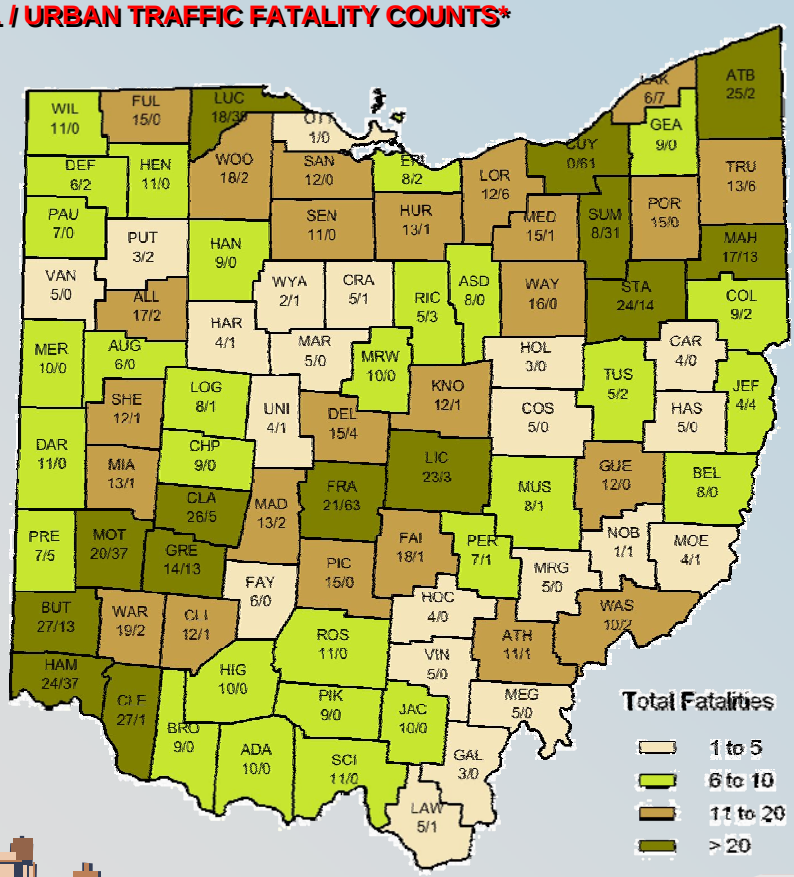
LifeStat 1.0 Weekly

Office of Strategic Services

01/25/2006

2005 RURAL / URBAN TRAFFIC FATALITY COUNTS*



WEEKLY FOCUS: RURAL-URBAN

***(2005 data is complete through approximately 11/15/2005)**

- More than two-thirds (68%) of 2005 fatal crashes in Ohio were rural, while 32% were urban.
- One-third (33%) of rural and 39% of urban fatal crashes in 2005 were alcohol-related. Although the rate is higher for urban crashes, rural alcohol-related fatal crashes comprised nearly one quarter (23%) of all 2005 fatal crashes.
- Over half (53%) of 2005 rural motorist fatalities were not wearing safety belts, while 63% of urban motorist fatalities were unbelted. Despite the higher fatality percents for unbelted urban motorists, 41% of *all* 2005 motorist fatalities were rural and unbelted[1].
- Urban fatal crashes occurred most frequently on city streets (57%), followed by interstate routes (18%), state routes (18%), and U.S. routes (7%). Rural fatal crashes occurred most often on secondary roads[2] (41%), followed by state routes (36%), U.S. routes (15%), and interstate routes (8%).
- Compared with urban crashes nationwide, rural fatal crashes more frequently involve vehicle rollovers, head-on collisions, passenger deaths, ejections, and multiple fatalities.[3]

[1] Cases in which motorists' safety equipment use was coded as "unknown" are not included in the percentages reported.

[2] Secondary roads in rural areas include county roads, township roads, and named streets for which a county or township number could not be identified.

[3] Source: NHTSA. (2005). Contrasting Rural and Urban Fatal Crashes 1994-2003. Online: http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/pdf/nrd-30/NCSA/Rpts/2005/809896.pdf

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