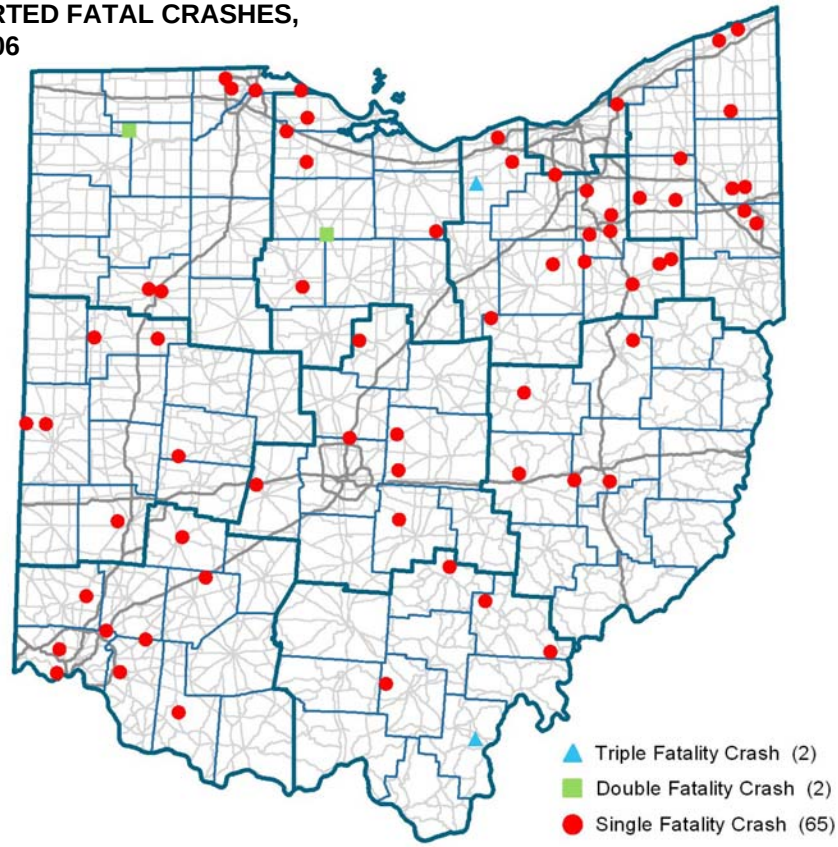
Issue #53

LifeStat 1.0 Weekly

Office of Strategic Services

10/18/2006

STATEWIDE REPORTED FATAL CRASHES, 09/20/2006-10/17/2006

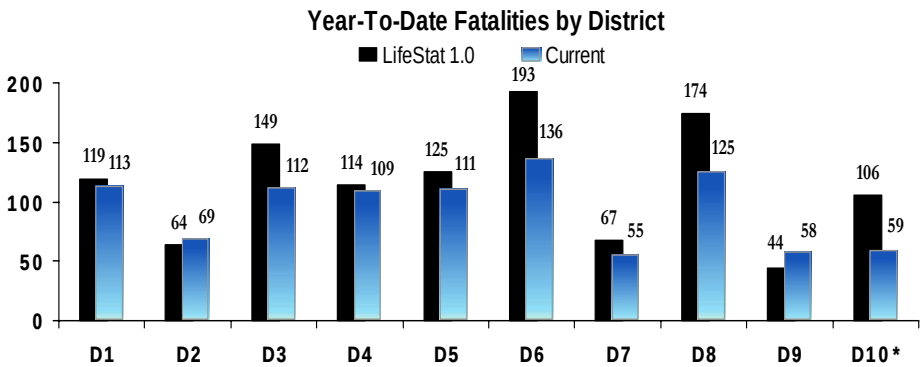


Statewide Reported* Fatal Crashes 09/20/06-10/17/06		
Rural	Urban	Total
53	16	69

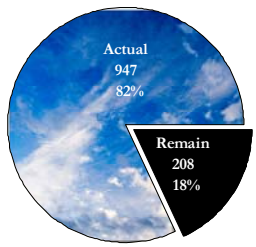
Total Fatalities: 75

FATAL CRASH FACTS:

	Past Four Weeks	*YTD*	**Top Crash Causes:**	*YTD*
Alcohol-Related	10	275	Improper Speed	235
Intersection	19	205	Failure to Yield	180
Commercial Vehicle Involved	9	130	Driving Off Roadway	178
Motorcycle Involved	10	130	Left of Center	97
Pedestrian	6	66	Following too Closely	31



LifeStat 1.0 = 1,155
Year-To-Date = 947



Statewide LifeStat 1.0

* Includes Cuyahoga County

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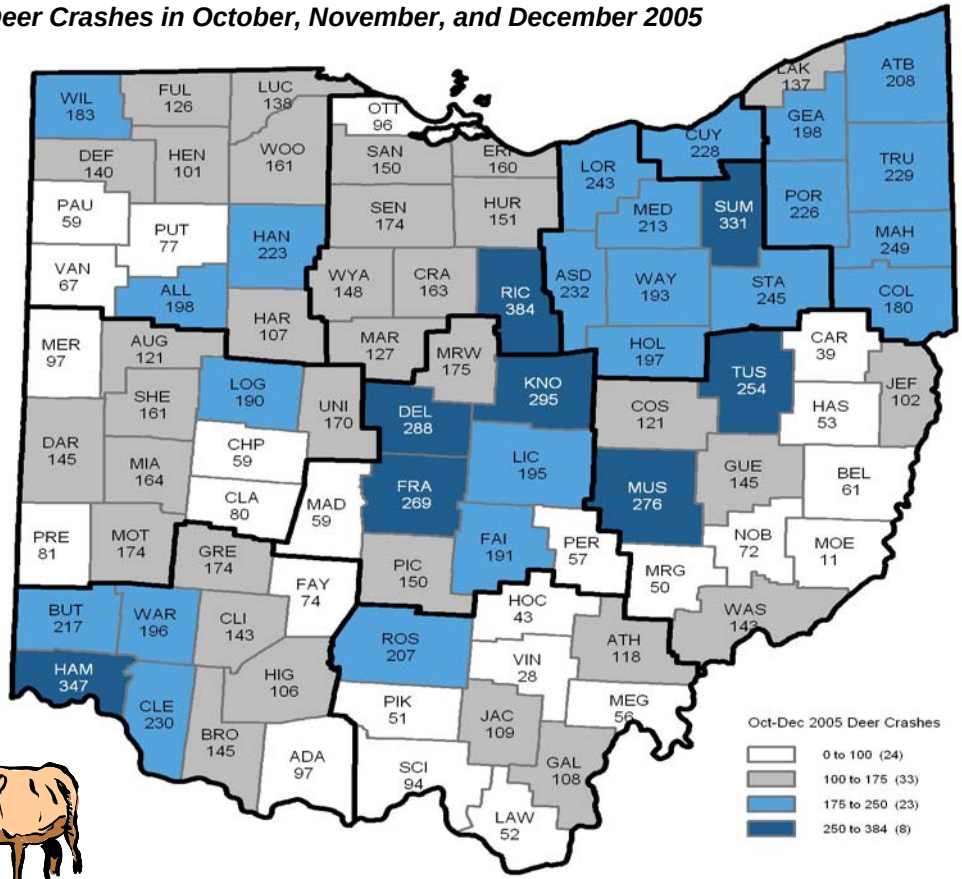
Total Deer Crashes in October, November, and December 2005



WEEKLY FOCUS: DEER CRASHES

- Nationwide, there are about 500,000 deer crashes each year, resulting in approximately 150-200 fatalities, 29,000 injuries, and $1 billion in property damage.[1] Ohio is the fourth highest state in the US for deer crashes, with almost 90,000 reported from 2003 to 2005.[2]
- Nearly half (49%) of Ohio deer crashes from 2003 to 2005 occurred in October, November, and December. More than one in five (22%) took place in November alone. Counties reporting the highest number of deer crashes from October through December 2005 include Richland (384); Hamilton (347); Summit (331); Knox (295); and Delaware (288).
- From 2003 to 2005, nearly two-thirds (64%) of deer crashes took place *at night* on *unlit roadways*. The majority (81%) of the crashes were on *dry roads* (15% on wet roads; 2% on snow/ice).
- Sixty-two percent of fatal deer crashes from 2003 to 2005 involved motorcycles; In 2005, seven of the nine fatal deer crashes involved motorcycles.
- Drivers should not swerve to avoid hitting a deer, because in doing so they risk losing control of the vehicle – *potentially a much more dangerous situation*. Often, the "most harmful event" recorded on reports of fatal and injury deer crashes is not the actual collision with the deer, but resulting vehicle *rollovers*, crashes with *other motor vehicles*, and crashes with *fixed objects*.

[1] Frishkorn, J. 2006. "Drivers Getting Ready to Go On Defense." *News-Herald.Com*. October 12.

[2] State Farm Insurance. 2006. "Midwestern States Among Most Dangerous for Vehicles Striking Deer." http://www.statefarm.com/about/media/media_archive/deer.asp

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