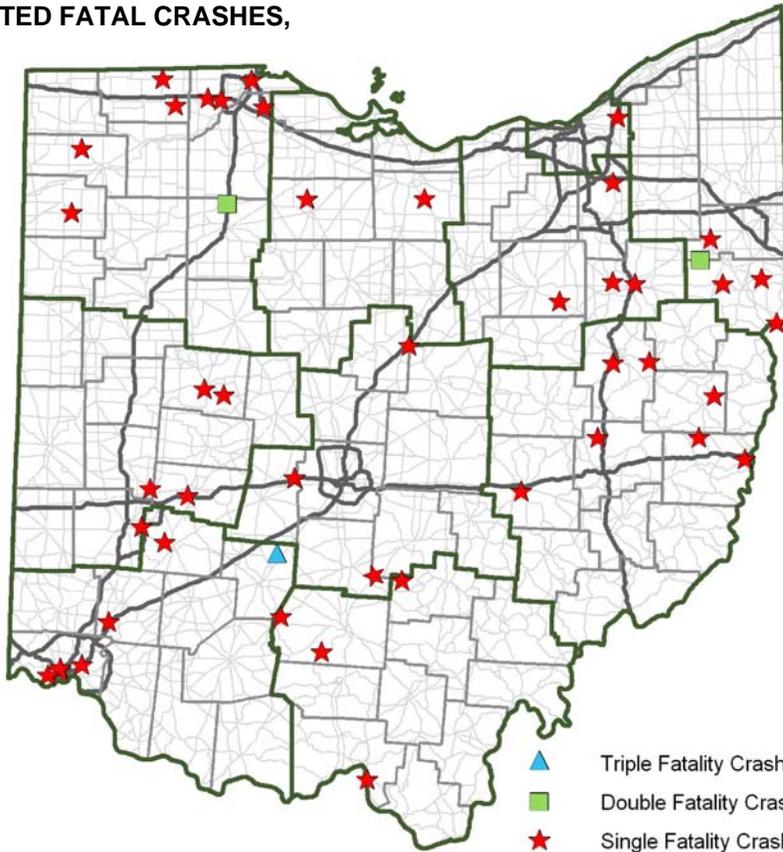




STATEWIDE REPORTED FATAL CRASHES, 1/24/2007- 2/20/2007



Statewide Reported* Fatal Crashes 1/24/07-2/20/07		
Rural	Urban	Total
34	14	48

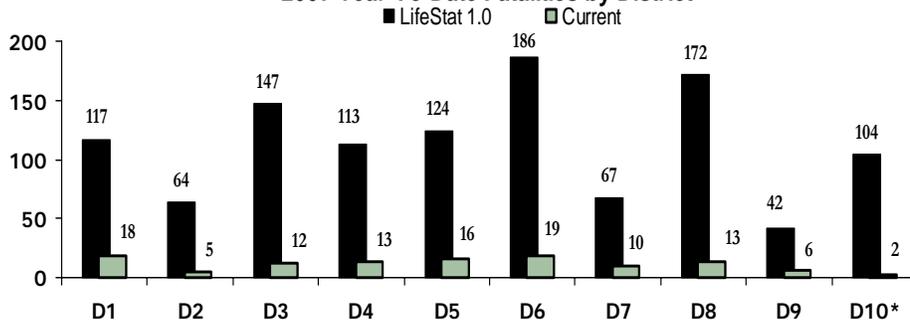
Total Fatalities: 52

- ▲ Triple Fatality Crash (1)
- Double Fatality Crash (2)
- ★ Single Fatality Crash (45)

FATAL CRASH FACTS:

	Past Four Weeks	2007 YTD	Top Crash Causes:	2007 YTD
Alcohol-Related	6	16	Unsafe Speed	22
Intersection	7	20	Failure to Control	17
Commercial Vehicle Involved	9	20	Left of Center	15
Motorcycle Involved	0	0	Failure to Yield	10
Pedestrian	5	15	Drove Off Road, etc.	9

2007 Year-To-Date Fatalities by District



LifeStat 1.0 Goal:
1,136

2007 Year-to-Date:
114

Statewide LifeStat 1.0

* Includes Cuyahoga County



What Kind of Safety Belt System is Appropriate for My Child?¹

Consider these important safety tips when traveling with young passengers:

1. Children need to be properly restrained, in child safety seats or booster seats, in the rear seat of the vehicle.

- The rear seat is always safer for child passengers, particularly as front-seat passenger side air bags become increasingly common in newer vehicles. Passenger side air bags can be very dangerous to young children, especially infants in rear-facing seats, due to the potential for direct impact to the child's head in the event of a crash.

2. Infants should ride rear-facing until they are at least 1 year old AND at least 20 pounds...and longer if possible.

- Riding in the rear-facing position provides far better protection to an infant's head and neck, allowing crash forces to be distributed over the entire trunk. Most child seat manufacturers offer rear-facing seats for children up to 30 pounds. Remember: *never* install a rear-facing infant seat in a front-facing position.

3. Child passengers should be in child safety seats until they are at least 4 years old and 40 pounds.

- Most child safety seats will accommodate children up to 40 pounds and higher. Children should use child safety seats to the highest weight allowed for the seat and then use belt positioning booster seats with lap shoulder belts.
- When changing a convertible child seat (i.e., never a rear-facing-only infant seat) from rear-facing to a front-facing position, be sure to a) change to a more upright seating position to allow for better energy distribution in the event of a crash; b) change the path through which the seat belt is routed; and c) change the child seat's internal harness to the uppermost slots, so that they are at or above the child's shoulders.

4. Fasten safety seats securely in the vehicle, and fasten children securely in the seat.

- Safety seats are designed to fit snugly in a vehicle's rear seat. Installed properly, the seat should not move away from the seat's backrest, and should not move more than one inch from side to side.
- In securing the child properly, the safety seat's harness straps should be tightened until there is no more than one finger's gap between the strap and the clavicle, and the retainer clip should be positioned level with the child's armpits.

5. When they're too big for their child safety seats, children should use belt-positioning booster seats.

- Children who have outgrown their child safety seats have still not reached the appropriate height and weight for adult safety belts to provide adequate protection. Belt-positioning booster seats allow the adult seat belt to fit properly to the child's frame, optimizing safety during a crash. Child passengers should remain in booster seats until they are at least 8 years old, between 60 and 80 pounds, and at least 4 feet, 9 inches tall.
- Belt-positioning booster seats are recommended, as "shield" booster seats do not provide adequate upper body support.

6. Ready for adult seat belts?

- In addition to the age, height, and weight recommendations, consider the following when deciding if your child is ready to transition from a booster seat to an adult seat belt: a) the safety belt's shoulder portion should never be placed behind a child or under the child's arm. If the belt doesn't fit over the shoulder comfortably, then the child may still need to use a booster seat; and b) the lap belt needs to be positioned low, over the child's hips. It should not rise over the abdomen, where it could become a hazard in itself.

¹ The safety tips provided above were developed through a review of multiple governmental, non-governmental, and academic sources. Some notable resources include:

- www.boosterseat.gov
- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
- Insurance Institute for Highway Safety
- *Pediatrics* Journal
- CDC / National Center for Injury Prevention and Control.
- AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety