



DANGEROUS COMMUTE¹

A CLOSER LOOK AT COMMUTING TRENDS AND FATAL CRASHES...

THE TREND:²

- **More vehicles on the road:** estimates indicate a continuing rise in the number of vehicles on roads across the U.S. during peak commuting hours. Factors related to the increase include a growing number of households; a decrease in the number of people per household; an increase in single-occupant vehicles; and a continuing migration of population to suburban and rural areas to live.
- **Longer commutes:** commuters' travel times are increasing as well. The number of miles Americans drive has tripled since 1970, and is expected to continue to grow 2% per year. The average American commuter wastes about 47 hours per year sitting in traffic, and our cars burn about 3.5 million barrels of oil per day. Factors related to longer commutes include suburban population growth; an increase in industries located on outer edges of metropolitan areas; an increase in commuting between suburbs or between adjacent metropolitan areas; and an increase in the number of people working outside their home county.
- The combination of more vehicles on the road and longer commuting times may result in a **greater risk of being involved in a fatal or serious injury crash.**

OHIO FATAL CRASHES:

- From 2005 to 2007 year-to-date, one in five (20%) fatal crashes have occurred during commuting times¹ – a total of 730 traffic fatalities in less than three years.
- Crashes involving commercial trucks comprised a greater percent of total fatal crashes during commuting times (21%) as compared to non-commuting times (13%).
- The percent of pedestrian-involved fatal crashes was about the same for commuting versus non-commuting times (8% versus 7%).
- The most frequently cited cause of fatal crashes during commuting times was "failure to yield"; and fatal crashes at intersections were more frequent during commuting times (31% of fatal crashes) compared to non-commuting times (25% of fatal crashes).
- Drivers 16 to 20 years old and over 65 years of age were involved more frequently in fatal crashes during commuting times, as compared to non-commuting times.

TIPS FOR COMMUTERS:

To ensure a safe commute, lower your crash risk by:

- Completing in-vehicle preparations before driving (e.g., adjust mirrors and seat; program radio stations and load CDs; secure cargo; and fasten your safety belt).
- Traveling at safe speeds and keeping plenty of distance between yourself and the vehicle in front of you – and always leaving yourself an "out" in case traffic stops unexpectedly.
- Refraining from aggressive driving behaviors such as weaving through traffic, tailgating, and ignoring traffic signals. Allowing yourself plenty of travel time to get to work will help to alleviate the temptation to drive aggressively.
- Continually scanning your environment in order to stay aware of approaching intersections, pedestrians, traffic signals, backing vehicles, and other potential hazards.

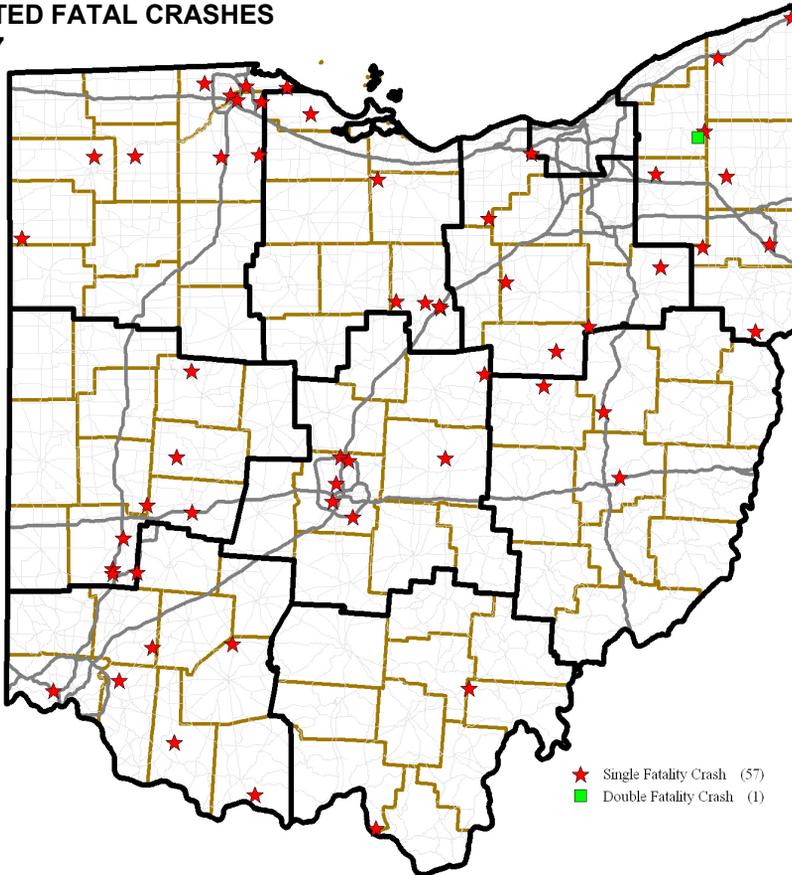
¹ Commuting times are defined as Monday-Friday 6:00 to 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

² Information on commuting trends excerpted from: [Commuting in America III](#). Pisarski, Alan. (2006). A report from the Transportation Research Board.



STATEWIDE REPORTED FATAL CRASHES

10/10/2007-11/06/2007



Statewide Reported*
Fatal Crashes
10/10/07-11/06/07

Rural	Urban	Total
44	14	58

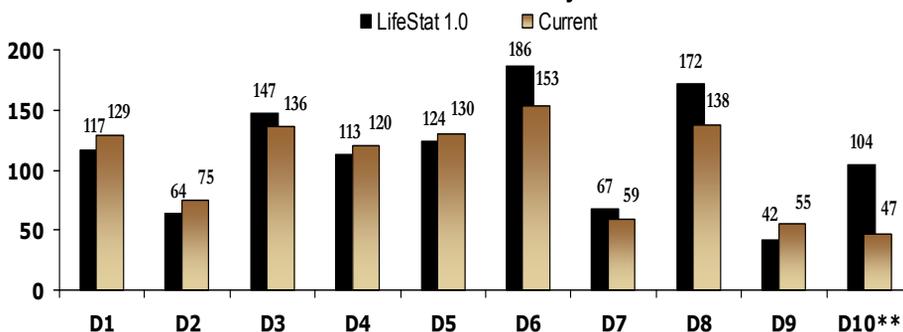
Total Fatalities: 59

★ Single Fatality Crash (57)
■ Double Fatality Crash (1)

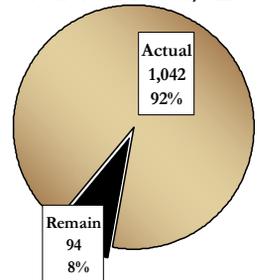
FATAL CRASH FACTS:

	Past Four Weeks	YTD	Top Crash Causes:	YTD
OVI-Related	9	309	Failure to Yield	193
Intersection	16	235	Unsafe Speed	189
Commercial Vehicle Involved	8	124	Failure to Control	135
Motorcycle Involved	8	173	Driving Off Roadway	118
Pedestrian	7	83	Left of Center	85

Year-To-Date Fatalities by District



LifeStat 1.0 = 1,136
Year-To-Date = 1,042



Statewide LifeStat 1.0

* Only fatal crashes that have been reported in the LINCOS fatal crash reporting system are included in this update.

**Includes Cuyahoga County