

DESCRIPTION

Road traffic injuries and death cause considerable economic losses to individuals, their families, and to communities. These losses arise from the cost of treatment as well as lost productivity for those killed or disabled by their injuries, and for family members who need to take time off work or school to care for the injured.¹ In 2015 on an average day in Minnesota, there were 205 motor vehicle crashes, 82 injuries and one death.² The average daily cost to the state was \$4,858,135; a total of \$1,773,219,300 for the year. In 2015, speeding caused the loss of 78 lives, distracted driving caused 74, drunk driving led to 95 and the failure to use a seatbelt caused 91 fatalities on Minnesota roads. Traffic crashes cause deaths and injuries to all ages, but they are the leading cause of death for people 1 to 34 years.²

HOW WE ARE DOING

Over the past decade in Ramsey County, motor vehicle crashes have numbered between 10,822 to 11,654 annually. Between 2011-2015, there were 54,324 motor vehicle crashes (14.6 percent of all MN crashes); which resulted in 75 deaths, 22 of which involved alcohol. Among these fatalities, 12 involved a motorcycle, one of which was alcohol-related. Among the 75 deaths, about half (34) were vehicle occupant fatalities.³ Between 2006 and 2016, there was average of 16 motor vehicle deaths in Ramsey County. In 2015, 21.6 percent of all Ramsey County crashes, and 28 percent of all motor vehicle deaths were alcohol-related. Over a five-year period, 3.5 percent of all alcohol-related motor vehicle deaths in Minnesota occurred in Ramsey County.⁴ In 2016, the age-adjusted Ramsey County rate for non-fatal motor vehicle crash-related injuries was 439.6 per 100,000 population⁵ and the rate of motor vehicle crash related deaths was 6.8 per 100,000 population⁶.

BENCHMARK INDICATOR

Healthy People 2020⁷: Reduce non-fatal motor-vehicle crash-related injuries.

U.S. Target: 694.3 per 100,000 population.

Health People 2020: Reduce motor-vehicle crash-related deaths.

U.S. Target: 12.4 per 100,000 population.

DISPARITIES

There are disparities related to gender, race and age. The lowest motor vehicle crash death rate was among youth under 18 years compared to the highest rate among adults 18-44 years.³ Drivers 18-24 years had the highest rate of nonfatal crashes in 2015.² Drivers 15-19 were most likely to have a multiple-vehicle accident caused by driver inattention and distraction. The most common age group to cause a crash due to illegal and unsafe speeds were those ages 20-34.⁴ Racial /ethnic disparities are also evident. The lowest rate of motor vehicle crash deaths in 2016 was among Asians, the highest rate was among American Indians. Females have a crash death rate of 6.7 per 100,000 compared to a rate of 16.9 for men. In Minnesota, males had a higher mortality rate due to alcohol-impaired driving than females (3.2 per 100,000 population versus 1.2 for females).⁸

Information to note

- Over the past decade in Ramsey County, motor vehicle crashes have numbered between 10,822 to 11,654 annually.
- There are significant disparities related to race, gender and age for motor vehicle crash deaths.

¹ Road Traffic Injuries Fact Sheet. World Health Organization. <http://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/road-traffic-injuries>. Published February 19, 2018. Accessed July 2018.

² Minnesota motor vehicle crash facts 2015. Minnesota Department of Public Safety. <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ots/reports-statistics/Documents/2015-crash-facts.pdf>. Accessed July 2018.

³ 2011-2015 Minnesota crash statistics by county. Minnesota Department of Public Safety. <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ots/reports-statistics/Documents/stats-by-county-2011-2015.pdf>. Published June 2016. Accessed July 2018.

⁴ 2013-2015 Minnesota traffic fatalities and severe Injuries by county and seat-belt use. Minnesota Department of Public Safety. <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ots/reports-statistics/Documents/seat-belts-fact-sheet-2013-2015.pdf>. Published June 2016. Accessed July 2018.

⁵ Minnesota Injury Data Access System. Minnesota Department of Health. <http://www.health.state.mn.us/injury/midas/injury/index.cfm>. Accessed October 2018.

⁶ CDC Wonder. Centers for Disease Control. <https://wonder.cdc.gov/>. Accessed October 2018.

⁷ Injury and Violence Prevention. Healthy People 2020. <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/injury-and-violence-prevention/objectives>. Accessed July 2018.

⁸ Sobering Facts: Drunk Driving in Minnesota. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. https://www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/pdf/impaired_driving/Drunk_Driving_in_MN.pdf. Updated December 2014. Accessed July 2018.

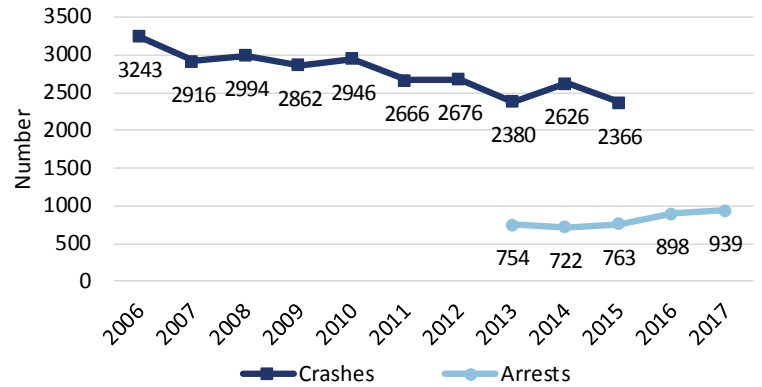
RISK FACTORS

The World Health Organization (WHO) identifies five primary risk factors for motor vehicle crashes: speed, driving under the influence of alcohol, and inadequate use of helmets, seat belts, and child restraints. Another factor that significantly increases the risk of a crash is distracted driving, which may include: using electronic devices while driving for activities such as calling, texting, watching video, and searching the internet.⁹ Binge drinkers (men who consume more than five or more drinks, or women who drink four or more drinks in two hours) make up a majority of drunk-drivers, and have a higher chance of getting behind the wheel when over the legal limit.¹⁰

WHAT RAMSEY COUNTY GOVERNMENT IS DOING

Saint Paul - Ramsey County Public Health provides data monitoring and reporting for this topic in order to better understand the overall health and current conditions in the community. The information may help inform community partners, policy makers or county program leadership.

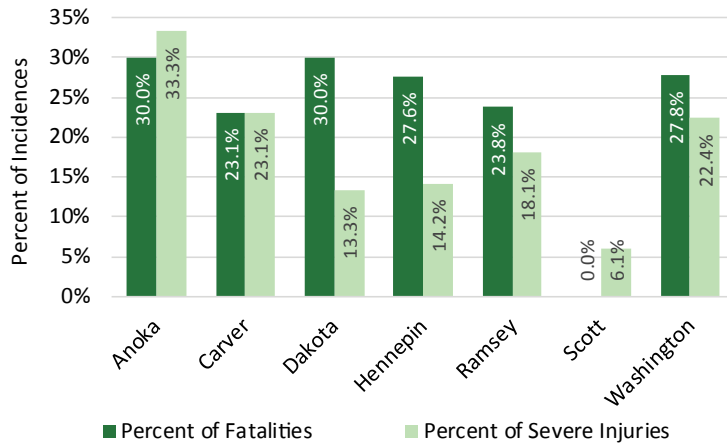
DWI Incidents Over Time*, Ramsey County



* Most recent detailed county-level data is available through 2015.

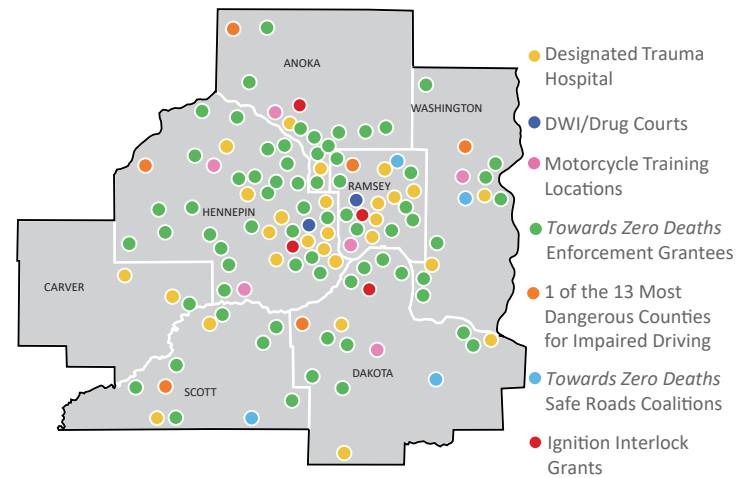
Source: Minnesota Department of Public Safety Crash Facts and Uniform Crime Reports.¹¹

Motor Vehicle Deaths and Severe Injuries Due to Failure to Use Seatbelt, 2013-2015



Source: MN Department of Public Safety.¹²

Traffic Safety Initiatives, 7-County Metro, as of March, 2018



Source: Towards Zero Deaths Minnesota.¹³

⁹ Road Traffic Injuries Fact Sheet. World Health Organization. <http://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/road-traffic-injuries>. Published February 19, 2018. Accessed July 2018.

¹⁰ Fact Sheets- Binge Drinking. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/alcohol/fact-sheets/binge-drinking.htm>. Updated May 10, 2018. Accessed July 2018.

¹¹ Minnesota Department of Public Safety. <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ots/reports-statistics/Documents/crash-facts-summary-2016.pdf>. Accessed July 2018.

¹² 2013-2015 Minnesota Traffic Fatalities and Severe Injuries by County and Seat-Belt Use. MN Department of Public Safety Website. <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ots/reports-tactics/Documents/seat-belts-fact-sheet-2013-2015.pdf>. Accessed February 6, 2018.

¹³ Towards Zero Deaths Minnesota. www.MinnesotaTZD.org/initiatives. Accessed July 2018.