

Executive Summary

In this annual document, *Idaho Traffic Crashes 2008*, the Idaho Transportation Department, Office of Highway Safety presents descriptive statistics about reportable traffic crashes.

A summary of findings for 2008 are listed below:

- Idaho's fatality rate per 100 million vehicle miles traveled was 1.52 in 2008, down from 1.59 in 2007.
- The number of motor vehicle crashes decreased by 5.5 percent to 25,002 in 2008.
- The number of fatalities resulting from motor vehicle crashes decreased from 252 in 2007 to 232 in 2008, an 8 percent decrease. The number of fatal crashes only decreased from 218 in 2007 to 212 in 2008. There were fewer fatal crashes resulting in multiple fatalities in 2008.
- The decreases in crashes and fatalities could be attributed to the increase in the price of gas. We saw consistent decreases for July through September, while gas was around \$4.00 gallon. This is also evidenced by the fact that the only consistent increases were with motorcycle crashes and bicycle crashes, alternate forms of transportation utilized because of the price of gas.
- Just over 41 percent of the motor vehicle fatalities were the result of impaired driving. Of the 96 persons killed in impaired driving crashes, 94 percent were either the impaired driver, a person riding with an impaired driver, an impaired ATV driver, or an impaired pedestrian.
- Idaho's observed seat belt use decreased slightly to 77 percent in 2008. While the observed rate was 77 percent, only 33 percent of the motor vehicle occupants killed in crashes were wearing seat belts. If everyone had been wearing seat belts, 53 lives may have been saved. There were 105 unbelted passenger motor vehicle occupants killed in 2008.
- Aggressive driving was a contributing factor in 54 percent of the motor vehicle crashes and 100 people were killed in aggressive driving crashes in 2008.
- Youthful drivers, ages 15 to 19, continue to be over-involved in motor vehicle crashes. In 2008, youthful drivers were 2.8 times as likely as all other drivers to be involved in a fatal and injury crash. There were 39 people killed in crashes involving youthful drivers.
- There were 11 pedestrians and 2 bicyclists killed in motor vehicle crashes in 2008.
- There were 29 motorcyclists killed in motor vehicle crashes in 2008. Just under half (48 percent) of fatal motorcycle crashes involved just the motorcycle, while just over half (55 percent) of all motorcycle crashes involved just the motorcycle.
- Fatal crashes involving commercial motor vehicles increased by 7 percent in 2008 and the number of injury crashes involving commercial motor vehicles decreased by 14 percent. There were 36 people killed and 680 people injured in commercial motor vehicle crashes.