

Crashes by Roadway Classification

Table 9 compares the number of fatal, injury, and total crashes by urban and rural classification. Urban roadways are defined as those within the city limits of cities with 5,000 people or more. Urban roadways tend to carry higher volumes of traffic at lower speeds, while rural roads carry lower traffic volumes at higher speeds.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Change 2007-2008	Avg. Change 2004-2007
Fatal Crashes	243	243	239	218	212	-2.8%	-3.5%
Urban	47	49	62	47	49	4.3%	2.2%
Rural	193	194	177	171	163	-4.7%	-3.9%
Injury Crashes:	9,810	9,810	9,536	9,234	8,227	-10.9%	-2.0%
Urban	5,738	5,996	5,871	5,764	5,053	-12.3%	0.2%
Rural	4,105	3,814	3,665	3,470	3,174	-8.5%	-5.4%
Total Crashes:	28,238	28,238	24,225	26,452	25,002	-5.5%	-1.7%
Urban	17,101	17,504	14,810	16,693	15,362	-8.0%	-0.1%
Rural	11,231	10,734	9,415	9,759	9,640	-1.2%	-4.4%

In 2008, 77% of fatal crashes occurred on rural roads, whereas 39% of all crashes occurred on rural roads. In Idaho in 2008, 88% of the total road mileage was classified as rural roadway. Rural roads tend to have higher speed limits. Crashes at higher impact speeds have a greater probability of resulting in a fatality.³

The high percentage of rural roadways in Idaho primarily contributes to the fact that Idaho's fatality rate is consistently higher than the U.S. fatality rate as evidenced in Table 10.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Change 2007-2008	Avg. Change 2004-2007
Fatal Crash Rate	1.64	1.62	1.57	1.38	1.39	0.8%	-5.5%
Urban Fatal Crash Rate	0.82	0.82	1.00	0.73	0.77	6.0%	-1.9%
Rural Fatal Crash Rate	2.12	2.16	1.95	1.82	1.83	0.1%	-4.7%
Injury Crash Rate	66.17	65.54	62.49	58.31	53.84	-7.7%	-4.1%
Urban Injury Crash Rate	100.58	100.26	94.88	89.14	79.46	-10.9%	-3.9%
Rural Injury Crash Rate	45.01	42.43	40.40	37.03	35.57	-3.9%	-6.3%
Total Crash Rate	190.48	188.65	158.75	167.03	163.61	-2.0%	-3.9%
Urban Total Crash Rate	299.76	292.70	239.35	258.14	241.58	-6.4%	-4.2%
Rural Total Crash Rate	123.15	119.42	103.78	104.15	108.04	3.7%	-5.3%

Table 11 shows the number of crashes and crash rates on local and state system roadways (both interstate and non-interstate) for 2004-2008, and the number of crashes and crash rates statewide. Crash rates are lower than the statewide fatality and injury rates shown in Table 2 because multiple fatalities or injuries may result from a single crash.

Table 11
Crash Rates for Local and State System Roadways: 2004-2008

Roadway Information	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Change 2007-2008	Avg. Change 2004-2007
Local Roads:							
VMT (100 millions)	67.3	67.5	69.2	72.7	71.4	-1.8%	2.6%
Fatal Crashes	75	99	105	88	84	-4.5%	7.3%
Injury Crashes	5,465	5,648	5,517	5,824	5,240	-10.0%	2.2%
Total Crashes	16,508	17,857	14,031	16,950	16,079	-5.1%	2.5%
Fatal Crash Rate	1.1	1.5	1.5	1.2	1.2	-2.8%	4.9%
Injury Crash Rate	81.2	83.6	79.7	80.1	73.4	-8.4%	-0.4%
Total Crash Rate	245.2	264.4	202.6	233.1	225.2	-3.4%	-0.2%
U.S. and State Highways:							
VMT (100 millions)	47.4	48.2	48.5	49.9	48.0	-3.7%	1.7%
Fatal Crashes	112	107	96	88	90	2.3%	-7.7%
Injury Crashes	3,333	3,179	3,162	2,635	2,283	-13.4%	-7.3%
Total Crashes	8,824	8,775	7,797	7,090	6,537	-7.8%	-6.9%
Fatal Crash Rate	2.4	2.2	2.0	1.8	1.9	6.2%	-9.2%
Injury Crash Rate	70.3	66.0	65.2	52.8	47.5	-10.0%	-8.7%
Total Crash Rate	186.0	182.2	160.8	142.2	136.1	-4.2%	-8.5%
Interstate Highways:							
VMT (100 millions)	33.5	34.0	34.9	35.8	33.4	-6.7%	2.2%
Fatal Crashes	53	37	38	42	38	-9.5%	-5.7%
Injury Crashes	1,045	983	857	775	704	-9.2%	-9.4%
Total Crashes	3,000	1,606	2,397	2,412	2,386	-1.1%	1.1%
Fatal Crash Rate	1.6	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.1	-3.0%	-7.8%
Injury Crash Rate	31.2	28.9	24.6	21.7	21.1	-2.7%	-11.4%
Total Crash Rate	89.6	47.2	68.7	67.4	71.5	6.0%	-1.2%
Statewide Totals:							
VMT (100 millions)	148.2	149.7	152.6	158.4	152.8	-3.5%	2.2%
Fatal Crashes	240	243	239	218	212	-2.8%	-3.1%
Injury Crashes	9,843	9,810	9,536	9,234	8,227	-10.9%	-2.1%
Total Crashes	28,332	28,238	24,225	26,452	25,002	-5.5%	-1.8%
Fatal Crash Rate	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.4	1.4	0.8%	-5.1%
Injury Crash Rate	66.4	65.5	62.5	58.3	53.8	-7.7%	-4.2%
Total Crash Rate	191.1	188.6	158.8	167.0	163.6	-2.0%	-4.0%