

AASHTO SCOHTS: Ohio Safety Report

Ohio Traffic Deaths Continue to Rise

In 2015, Ohio had 1,110 traffic deaths and 9,079 serious injuries, representing a 10% and 3% increase respectively compared to 2014. VMT increased 3% statewide. While deaths rose across all crash categories, Ohio saw significant increases in deaths involving Older Drivers, Young Drivers, Commercial Motor Vehicles, Pedestrians, and Bicycles. Work Zone related deaths nearly doubled.



Crash trends this year in Ohio are continuing to rise. Through July, Ohio has recorded more than 629 deaths, or about 4% more than 2015. So far, VMT has also risen by 3%.

In 2016:

- So far this year, fatal crashes are roughly a 40/60 split of urban vs. rural.
- 44% of the fatal crashes were on the ODOT-maintained road network (or about 16% of the total system of 121,000 miles).
- Ohio has seen an increase in traffic deaths involving intersections, speed and motorcycles.
- We've also seen an increase in serious injuries involving intersections, motorcycles and work zones.
- In the first four months of the year, Ohio had a dramatic spike in wrong-way traffic deaths. In 2016, Ohio has had 18 deaths compared to eight last year. At least half of the crashes were alcohol related. **The number of wrong way deaths this year is the second highest number in a decade.**
- Motorcycle deaths also spiked in June. Ohio had 39 motorcycle-related deaths, which represents the 4th highest month in a decade. About 53% of the crashes occurred on curves, almost 60% were single-unit, and 70% of the riders or passengers killed were not wearing a helmet.

Ohio Increases Local Government Share of HSIP Funds

In July, the department awarded \$32M in HSIP funds during the first of two application rounds this year that are open to ODOT district offices and local governments. Local governments received 53% of the funding or more than \$17M.

ODOT sets aside \$102M annually for its Highway Safety Program. The department accepts applications twice a year on April 30 and September 30. These funding requests are reviewed by multi-disciplinary committees at the District level and Central Office. The committees include staff with a background in funding and program management, safety analysis, traffic operations, roadway design and highway management. We also include participation from the Local Technical Assistance Program, which works closely with local government sponsors.

Statewide Action Team to Combat Rise in Older Driver Deaths

In 2015, Ohio experienced a 23% increase in older-driver related deaths compared to 2014. There were 259 deaths involving drivers over the age of 64, which is the highest level in a decade.

Nationally, demographers estimate that 10,000 people a day will turn 60 between 2011 and 2029. These people will likely live and drive longer than their predecessors, and many will do so with visual, cognitive and physical impairments.

Ohio has already seen an increase in licensed drivers over the age of 60. Over a five-year period, the number of licensed drivers over the age of 60 grew by 30%. It was the largest increase among any other age group in the state.

As a result, ODOT is working with MPOs, the Ohio Department of Aging and other organizations to convene an action team this fall to examine older driver safety issues. The committee will likely meet about four times to review historical crash trends and other data, discuss best practices and prioritize strategies for implementation.

Ohio Kicks Off New Award Program



Ohio's Strategic Highway Safety Plan Steering Committee has established a new awards program called "The Safetys" to recognize the hard work and collaboration necessary to reach "Toward Zero Deaths."

The award will recognize the efforts of regional traffic safety teams that are collaborating to drive down traffic deaths and serious injuries across Ohio. Winners will be selected by a multi-disciplinary team that will consider the effectiveness of the activity or program, and how well it contributes to Ohio's SHSP and TZD efforts.

Awards will be given on a quarterly basis at regional "TZD Network" meetings, which will feature a speaker. Winners will receive \$3,000 that they can use to promote traffic safety issues in their region.

ODOT and MPOs Hosting Safety Peer Exchange

This summer, ODOT and the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission will host a peer exchange for the state's MPOs and Regional Transportation Planning Organizations. The purpose of the exchange is to review statewide safety planning efforts, share best practices and challenges, and

develop common goals and safety performance targets. It will be a unique opportunity for regional planning agencies to share their work and better understand their role in transportation safety.

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