



State of the State: Washington Traffic Fatalities

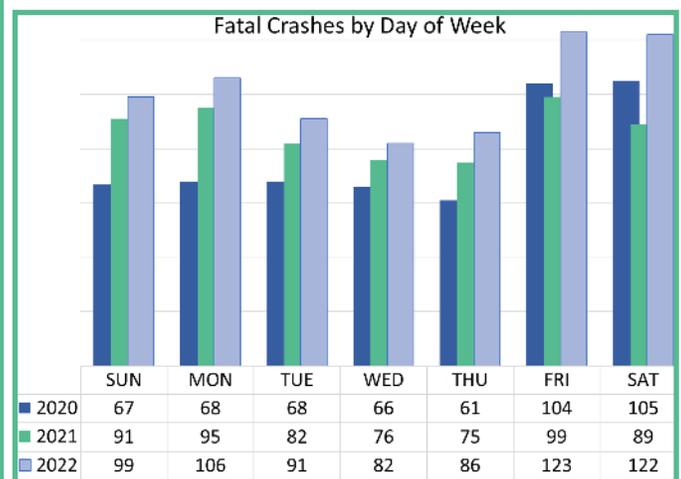
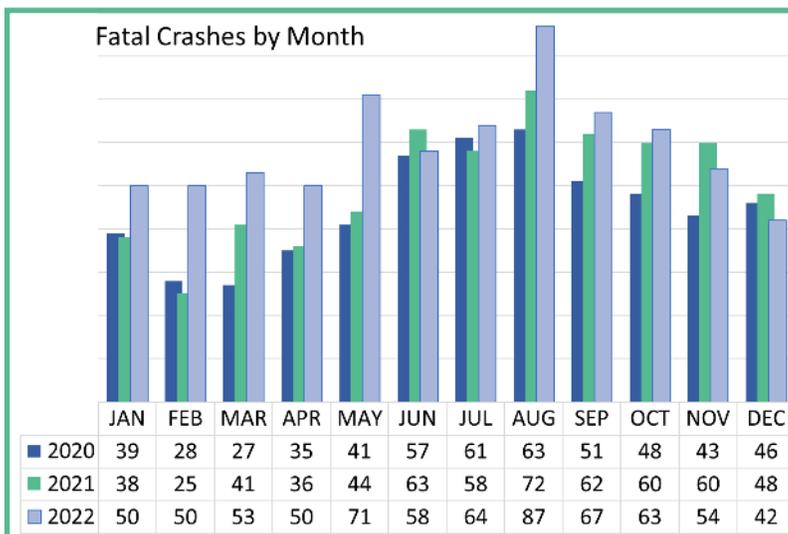
Traffic fatalities on Washington roadways are increasing. In just two years fatalities have increased 31 percent (from 574 in 2020 to 650 in 2022*) and is at the highest number since 1990 (825 fatalities). While there were some expected and unexpected impacts from COVID-19 on traffic fatalities, all high-risk behaviors and factors contributing to fatal crashes have increased. Pedestrian and Motorcyclist fatalities are at historical highs.

I care, because 1,999 people have died in traffic crashes in Washington since 2020. In 2022, fatal crashes increased on all road types, following increases that also occurred in 2021. In 2022, fatal crashes occurring on State Routes and County Roads increased the most and accounted for more than half of all fatal crashes.

Traffic Fatalities in Washington State					
	2020	2021	% Change in 2021	*2022	% Change in 2022
All Fatalities	574	675	17.6%	750	11.1%
Impaired Driver Involved	274	340	24.1%	339	-0.3%
Speeding Involved	173	207	19.7%	251	21.3%
Distracted Driver Involved	90	116	28.9%	101	-12.9%
Unrestrained Occupants	110	153	39.1%	154	0.7%
Motorcyclists	93	92	-1.1%	132	43.5%
Active Transportation Users	123	160	30.1%	147	-8.1%
Driver Ages 16-17 Involved	22	33	50.0%	34	3.0%
Driver Ages 18-20 Involved	63	65	3.2%	51	-21.5%
Driver Ages 21-25 Involved	84	129	53.6%	120	-7.0%
Driver Ages 70+ Involved	74	83	12.2%	98	18.1%
Heavy Truck Involved	69	96	39.1%	95	-1.0%
Traffic Serious Injuries	2,428	2,921	20.3%	3,090	5.8%

Fatal Crashes in Washington State					
	2020	2021	% Change in 2021	*2022	% Change in 2022
Interstate	54	87	61.1%	89	2.3%
US highway	36	49	36.1%	51	4.1%
State route	137	166	21.2%	213	28.3%
County road	152	157	3.3%	189	20.4%
City street	145	139	-4.1%	160	15.1%
Other	15	9	-40.0%	7	-22.2%

Fatal crashes are typically highest in the summer months and on weekends. However in 2022 the rise in fatal crashes was primarily concentrated in the months January—May. Fatal crashes occurring in August have been rising since 2020. In 2021, the biggest increases in fatal crashes occurred on weekdays, but in 2022 Friday and Saturday had the highest increases following decreases in 2021.



Data Notes:

Washington Coded Fatal Crash (CFC) Files, Washington Traffic Safety Commission

*2022 numbers are preliminary at the time of this publication (May 2023)

For more information, please contact (360) 725-9860. <https://wtsc.wa.gov/research-data/>



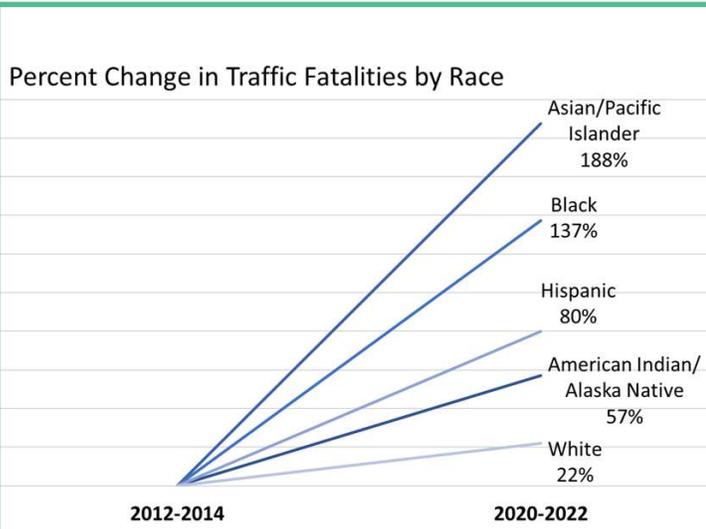
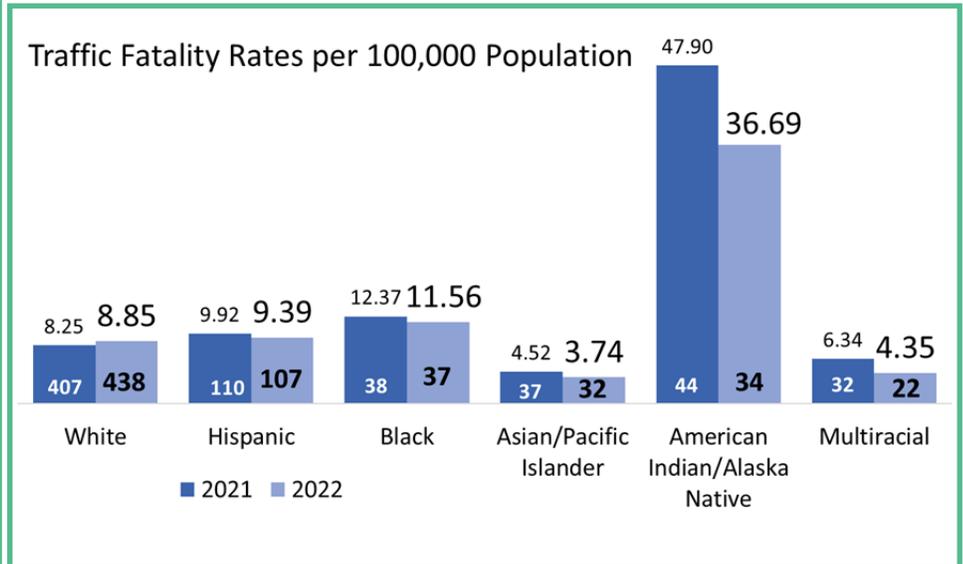
State of the State: Washington Traffic Fatalities

Rates of traffic fatalities and serious injuries in Washington are increasing across all population exposure measures; vehicle miles traveled (VMT), state population, number of licensed drivers, and number of registered vehicles. Rates by race/ethnicity are only available for traffic fatalities as that demographic information is collected on death certificates. Like many other health outcomes, traffic fatality rates vary greatly by race/ethnicity.

Traffic Fatality and Serious Injury Rates in Washington State			
	2020	2021	*2022
Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) (in 1,000s)	53,512	57,797	Not Available
Fatality Rate per 100 Million VMT	1.073	1.168	Not Available
Serious Injury Rate per 100 Million VMT	4.537	5.054	Not Available
Population	7,706,310	7,766,975	7,864,400
Fatality Rate per 100,000 Population	7.4	8.7	9.5
Serious Injury Rate per 100,000 population	31.5	37.6	39.3
Licensed Drivers	5,888,294	5,920,572	5,977,980
Fatality Rate per 100,000 Lic. Drivers	9.7	11.4	12.5
Serious Injury Rate per 100,000 Lic. Drivers	41.2	49.3	51.7
Registered Vehicles	8,042,128	8,139,392	8,049,484
Fatality Rate per 100,000 Reg. Vehicles	7.1	8.3	9.3
Serious Injury Rate per 100,000 Reg. Vehicles	30.2	35.9	38.4

Did you know?

- ⇒ Native Americans/Alaska Natives have the highest traffic fatality rate per 100,000 population.
- ⇒ The percent change in the number of traffic fatalities over the previous ten years has increased most rapidly among Asian/Pacific Islanders and Blacks.
- ⇒ Although the traffic fatality rate per 100,000 population among Whites is low, this group has the highest number of traffic fatalities and was the only fatality rate that increased in 2022.



Traffic fatalities have increased for all race/ethnicity groups. However, the rate at which traffic fatalities are increasing is disparate among these groups. White fatalities occur in the highest numbers; Asian/Pacific Islander and Black fatalities are increasing in numbers the fastest; and American Indian/Alaska Natives continue to have the highest traffic fatality rate per 100,000 population.

Data Notes:

VMT (WSDOT Travel Data), Population (OFM Population Estimates), Licensed Drivers and Registered Vehicles (DOL Statistics at a Glance 2022) *2022 numbers are preliminary at the time of this publication (May 2023)

For more information, please contact (360) 725-9860.

<https://wtsc.wa.gov/research-data/>



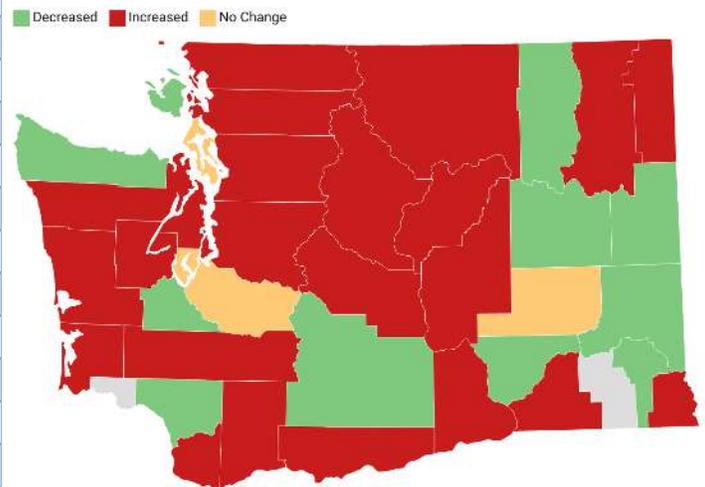
State of the State: Washington Traffic Fatalities

Traffic Fatalities in Washington State by County*

	2020	2021	% Change in 2021		2022	% Change in 2022	
Adams	5	6	20.0%	↑	6	0.0%	→
Asotin	0	0	0.0%	→	3	Increase	↑
Benton	12	18	50.0%	↑	19	5.6%	↑
Chelan	6	5	-16.7%	↓	9	80.0%	↑
Clallam	10	8	-20.0%	↓	6	-25.0%	↓
Clark	35	31	-11.4%	↓	37	19.4%	↑
Cowlitz	7	13	85.7%	↑	10	-23.1%	↓
Douglas	5	4	-20.0%	↓	9	125.0%	↑
Ferry	2	4	100.0%	↑	0	-100.0%	↓
Franklin	5	8	60.0%	↑	5	-37.5%	↓
Garfield	0	2	Increase	↑	1	-50.0%	↓
Grant	17	20	17.6%	↑	30	50.0%	↑
Grays Harbor	6	10	66.7%	↑	14	40.0%	↑
Island	7	5	-28.6%	↓	5	0.0%	→
Jefferson	3	4	33.3%	↑	7	75.0%	↑
King	107	126	17.8%	↑	149	18.3%	↑
Kitsap	11	15	36.4%	↑	19	26.7%	↑
Kittitas	7	3	-57.1%	↓	13	333.3%	↑
Klickitat	5	0	-100.0%	↓	8	Increase	↑
Lewis	12	7	-41.7%	↓	10	42.9%	↑
Lincoln	0	3	Increase	↑	1	-66.7%	↓
Mason	14	9	-35.7%	↓	18	100.0%	↑
Okanogan	5	6	20.0%	↑	9	50.0%	↑
Pacific	1	1	0.0%	→	5	400.0%	↑
Pend Oreille	2	3	50.0%	↑	5	66.7%	↑
Pierce	67	92	37.3%	↑	92	0.0%	→
San Juan	0	3	Increase	↑	1	-66.7%	↓
Skagit	17	13	-23.5%	↓	18	38.5%	↑
Skamania	6	3	-50.0%	↓	6	100.0%	↑
Snohomish	45	34	-24.4%	↓	59	73.5%	↑
Spokane	51	56	9.8%	↑	41	-26.8%	↓
Stevens	4	3	-25.0%	↓	7	133.3%	↑
Thurston	17	21	23.5%	↑	20	-4.8%	↓
Walla Walla	1	4	300.0%	↑	9	125.0%	↑
Whatcom	8	16	100.0%	↑	17	6.3%	↑
Whitman	2	3	50.0%	↑	2	-33.3%	↓
Yakima	37	48	29.7%	↑	39	-18.8%	↓



Fatal Crashes by County in 2022



Did you know?

- ⇒ Despite the statewide increase in traffic fatalities in 2022, 14 counties (out of 39) had less, no change, or no fatalities compared to 2021.
- ⇒ Some less populated counties experienced significant increases in fatalities, most notably Grant, Kittitas, Klickitat, and Mason.
- ⇒ Ferry county had zero traffic fatalities in 2022. Columbia and Wahkiakum counties have had no traffic fatalities 2020-2022.

Data Notes:

Columbia and Wahkiakum counties are excluded from the table due to zero traffic fatalities 2020-2022. "Increase" means an increase from a ZERO baseline. Visit the WTSC dashboards page— <https://wtsc.wa.gov/research-data/dashboards/>



State of the State: Washington Traffic Fatalities

Walker/Roller Fatalities in Washington State by County

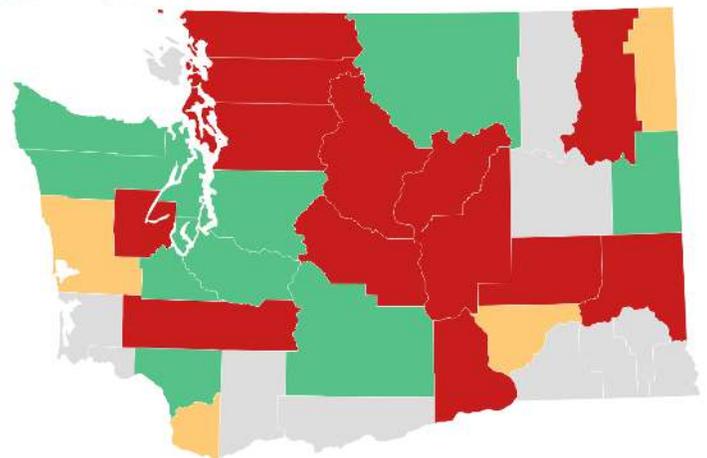
	2020	2021	% Change in 2021		2022	% Change in 2022	
King	44	51	16%	↑	48	-6%	↑
Pierce	15	22	47%	↑	19	-14%	↓
Snohomish	15	15	0%	→	18	20%	↑
Whatcom	4	6	50%	↑	9	50%	↑
Spokane	12	16	33%	↑	8	-50%	↓
Clark	9	7	-22%	↓	7	0%	→
Grant	1	2	100%	↑	4	100%	↑
Skagit	3	0	-100%	↓	4	Increase	↑
Thurston	4	6	50%	↑	4	-33%	↓
Adams	0	0	0%	→	2	Increase	↑
Benton	0	1	Increase	↑	2	100%	↑
Douglas	0	0	0%	→	2	Increase	↑
Island	0	0	0%	→	2	Increase	↑
Kitsap	2	6	200%	↑	2	-67%	↓
Lewis	2	0	-100%	↓	2	Increase	↑
Mason	1	1	0%	→	2	100%	↑
Okanogan	0	3	Increase	↑	2	-33%	↓
Yakima	5	11	120%	↑	2	-82%	↓
Chelan	0	0	0%	→	1	Increase	↑
Clallam	1	3	200%	↑	1	-67%	↓
Franklin	1	1	0%	→	1	0%	→
Grays Harbor	2	1	-50%	↓	1	0%	→
Kittitas	0	0	0%	→	1	Increase	↑
Pend Oreille	0	1	100%	↑	1	0%	→
Stevens	0	0	0%	→	1	Increase	↑
Whitman	0	0	0%	→	1	Increase	↑
Cowlitz	1	5	400%	↑	0	-100%	↓
Jefferson	1	2	100%	↑	0	-100%	↓

Did you know?

- ⇒ Nearly 60 percent of walker/roller fatalities occur in just three counties; King, Pierce and Spokane.
- ⇒ Seven counties experienced walker/roller fatalities in 2022 after having zero fatalities 2020-2021.
- ⇒ Nine counties have had zero walker/roller fatalities in the past three years. Cowlitz and Jefferson counties had zero walker/roller fatalities in 2022.

Walker/Roller Fatalities by County in 2022

Decreased Increased No Change



Counties with zero walker/roller fatalities 2020-2022:

- | | | |
|-----------|----------|-------------|
| Columbia | Ferry | Garfield |
| Klickitat | Lincoln | Pacific |
| San Juan | Skamania | Walla Walla |

Data Notes:

"Increase" means an increase from a ZERO baseline. For questions about this brief please contact (360) 725-9860. <https://wtsc.wa.gov/research-data/>

