



State of the State: Washington Traffic Fatalities

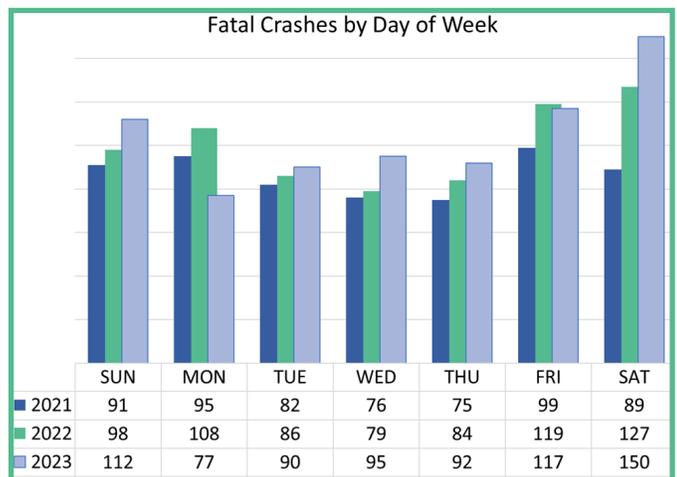
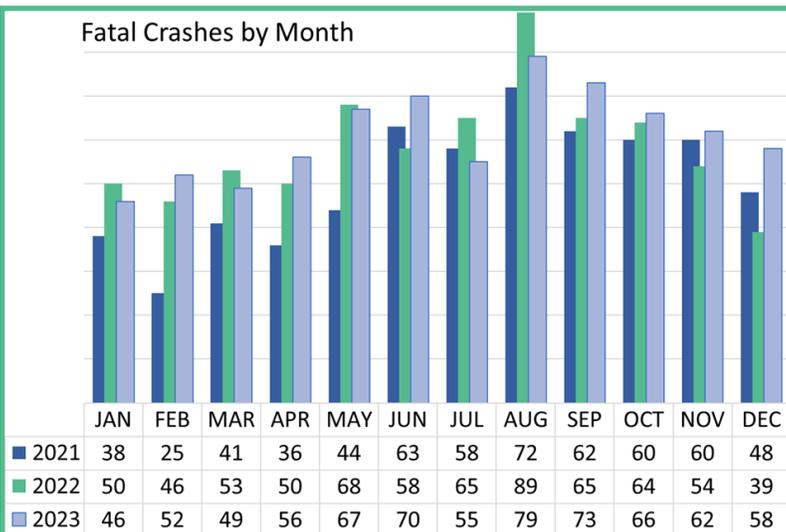
Traffic fatalities on Washington roadways are increasing. In just two years fatalities have increased 20 percent (from 674 in 2021 to 810 in 2023*) and is at the highest number since 1990 (825 fatalities). While there were some expected and unexpected impacts from COVID-19 on traffic fatalities, all high-risk behaviors and factors contributing to fatal crashes have increased. Active transportation and Motorcyclist fatalities are at historical highs.

I care, because 2,227 people have died and 9,436 were seriously injured in traffic crashes in Washington since 2021. In 2023, fatal crashes increased most on U.S. highways (13.2 percent) and on city streets (18.5 percent).

Traffic Fatalities in Washington State					
	2021	2022	% Change in 2022	*2023	% Change in 2023
All Fatalities	674	743	10.2%	810	9.0%
Impaired Driver Involved	345	385	11.6%	400	3.9%
Speeding Involved	207	254	22.7%	251	-1.2%
Distracted Driver Involved	116	99	-14.7%	135	36.4%
Unrestrained Occupants	152	155	2.0%	171	10.3%
Motorcyclists	92	133	44.6%	141	6.0%
Active Transportation Users	160	145	-9.4%	175	20.7%
Driver Ages 16-17 Involved	38	34	-10.5%	26	-23.5%
Driver Ages 18-20 Involved	65	51	-21.5%	95	86.3%
Driver Ages 21-25 Involved	106	100	-5.7%	129	29.0%
Driver Ages 70+ Involved	83	94	13.3%	90	-4.3%
Heavy Truck Involved	96	90	-6.3%	83	-7.8%
Traffic Serious Injuries	2,921	3,102	6.2%	3,413	10.0%

Fatal Crashes in Washington State					
	2021	2022	% Change in 2022	*2023	% Change in 2023
Interstate	87	84	-3.4%	76	-9.5%
US highway	49	53	8.2%	60	13.2%
State route	166	203	22.3%	208	2.5%
County road	157	194	23.6%	184	-5.2%
City street	139	157	12.9%	186	18.5%
Other/Unk	9	10	N/A	19	N/A
Total Crashes	607	701	15.5%	733	4.6%

Fatal crashes are typically highest in the summer months and on weekends. However in 2023 the rise in fatal crashes was primarily concentrated in the months September—December. Fatal crashes occurring in September and October have been rising since 2021. In 2023, the largest increases in fatal crashes occurred on Saturday and Sunday. There was a large decline of fatal crashes occurring on Mondays and an increase of fatal crashes occurring on Wednesdays.



Data Notes:

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

*2023 numbers are preliminary at the time of this publication (May 2024)

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



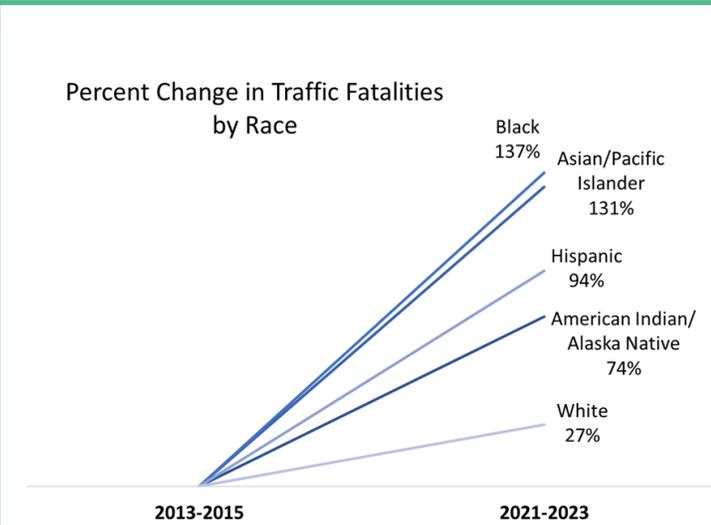
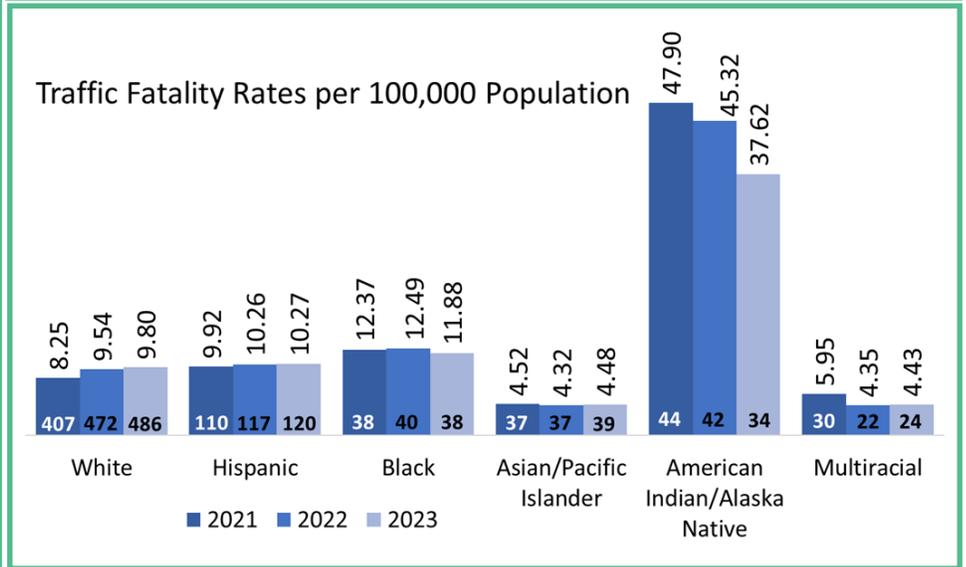
State of the State: Washington Traffic Fatalities

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			
	2021	2022	*2023
Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) (in 1,000s)	57,797	58,483	Not Available
Fatality Rate per 100 Million VMT	1.166	1.270	Not Available
Serious Injury Rate per 100 Million VMT	5.054	5.304	Not Available
Population	7,766,975	7,864,400	7,951,150
Fatality Rate per 100,000 Population	8.7	9.4	10.2
Serious Injury Rate per 100,000 population	37.6	39.4	42.9
Licensed Drivers	5,786,830	5,871,902	5,922,281
Fatality Rate per 100,000 Lic. Drivers	11.6	12.7	13.7
Serious Injury Rate per 100,000 Lic. Drivers	50.5	52.8	57.6
Registered Vehicles	8,200,332	8,080,884	8,019,967
Fatality Rate per 100,000 Reg. Vehicles	8.2	9.2	10.1
Serious Injury Rate per 100,000 Reg. Vehicles	35.6	38.4	42.6

Did you know?

- ⇒ Native Americans/Alaska Natives have the highest traffic fatality rate per 100,000 population.
- ⇒ Whites experience the highest number of fatalities (over half of all fatalities), followed by Hispanics (15 percent of fatalities).
- ⇒ The percent change in the number of traffic fatalities over the previous ten years has increased most rapidly among Blacks and Asian/Pacific Islanders and is higher for all groups compared to Whites.



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 2023) *2023 numbers are preliminary at the time of this publication (May 2024)

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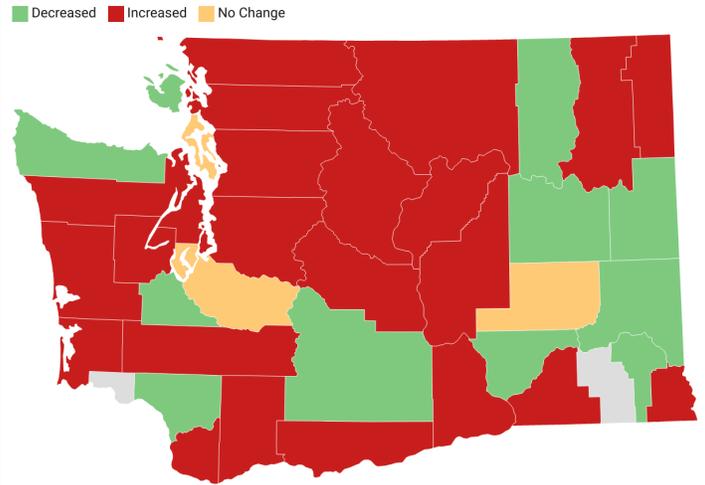


Fatal Crashes in Washington State by County

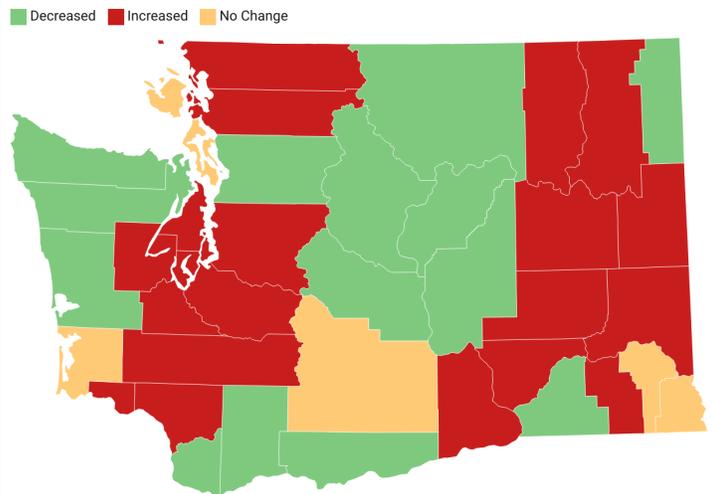
	2021	2022	% Change in 2022		2023	% Change in 2023	
Adams	6	6	0.0%	→	8	33.3%	↑
Asotin	0	3	Increase	↑	3	0.0%	→
Benton	18	19	5.6%	↑	28	47.4%	↑
Chelan	5	9	80.0%	↑	7	-22.2%	↓
Clallam	8	6	-25.0%	↓	4	-33.3%	↓
Clark	31	38	22.6%	↑	34	-10.5%	↓
Columbia	0	0	0.0%	→	1	Increase	↑
Cowlitz	13	10	-23.1%	↓	14	40.0%	↑
Douglas	4	9	125.0%	↑	4	-55.6%	↓
Ferry	4	2	-50.0%	↓	4	100.0%	↑
Franklin	8	5	-37.5%	↓	11	120.0%	↑
Garfield	2	1	-50.0%	↓	1	0.0%	→
Grant	20	28	40.0%	↑	21	-25.0%	↓
Grays Harbor	10	15	50.0%	↑	9	-40.0%	↓
Island	5	5	0.0%	→	5	0.0%	→
Jefferson	4	7	75.0%	↑	6	-14.3%	↓
King	126	146	15.9%	↑	150	2.7%	↑
Kitsap	15	20	33.3%	↑	22	10.0%	↑
Kittitas	3	13	333.3%	↑	11	-15.4%	↓
Klickitat	0	8	Increase	↑	4	-50.0%	↓
Lewis	7	9	28.6%	↑	17	88.9%	↑
Lincoln	3	1	-66.7%	↓	7	600.0%	↑
Mason	9	18	100.0%	↑	19	5.6%	↑
Okanogan	6	10	66.7%	↑	5	-50.0%	↓
Pacific	1	5	400.0%	↑	5	0.0%	→
Pend Oreille	3	5	66.7%	↑	3	-40.0%	↓
Pierce	92	86	-6.5%	↓	95	10.5%	↑
San Juan	3	1	-66.7%	↓	1	0.0%	→
Skagit	13	16	23.1%	↑	17	6.3%	↑
Skamania	3	6	100.0%	↑	2	-66.7%	↓
Snohomish	34	57	67.6%	↑	41	-28.1%	↓
Spokane	56	40	-28.6%	↓	57	42.5%	↑
Stevens	3	7	133.3%	↑	8	14.3%	↑
Thurston	21	18	-14.3%	↓	33	83.3%	↑
Wahkiakum	0	0	0.0%	→	1	Increase	↑
Walla Walla	4	9	125.0%	↑	7	-22.2%	↓
Whatcom	16	16	0.0%	→	19	18.8%	↑
Whitman	3	2	-33.3%	↓	4	100.0%	↑
Yakima	48	45	-6.3%	↓	45	0.0%	→

Fatal Crashes by County

Fatal Crashes by County in 2022



Fatal Crashes by County in 2023



Did you know?

- ⇒ Despite the statewide increase in traffic fatalities in 2023, 20 counties (out of 39) had less or no change in fatalities compared to 2022.
- ⇒ Some counties experienced significant increases in fatalities in 2023 compared to 2022, most notably Benton, Franklin, Lewis, Lincoln, Spokane and Thurston counties.
- ⇒ Nearly half of fatal crashes in 2023 occurred in just five counties; King, Pierce, Snohomish, Spokane, and Yakima.

Data Notes:

“Increase” in the table means any increase from a ZERO baseline. For more information 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

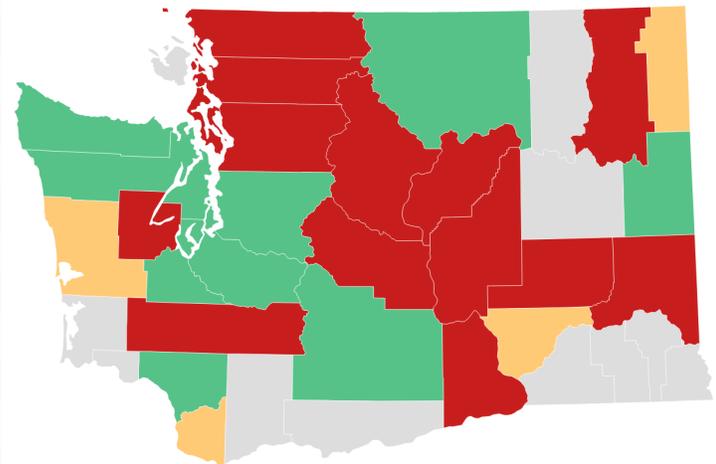
	2021	2022	% Change in 2022	2023	% Change in 2023
King	51	50	-2% ↓	59	18% ↑
Pierce	22	16	-27% ↓	19	19% ↑
Spokane	16	7	-56% ↓	27	286% ↑
Snohomish	15	17	13% ↑	11	-35% ↓
Yakima	11	3	-73% ↓	9	200% ↑
Clark	7	7	0% →	7	0% →
Thurston	6	5	-17% ↓	7	40% ↑
Whatcom	6	8	33% ↑	3	-63% ↓
Kitsap	6	2	-67% ↓	6	200% ↑
Grant	2	4	100% ↑	3	-25% ↓
Benton	1	2	100% ↑	4	100% ↑
Mason	1	2	100% ↑	3	50% ↑
Clallam	3	1	-67% ↓	1	0% →
Cowlitz	5	0	-100% ↓	0	0% →
Grays Harbor	1	2	100% ↑	2	0% →
Lewis	0	2	Increase ↑	3	50% ↑
Okanogan	3	2	-33% ↓	0	-100% ↓
Skagit	0	3	Increase ↑	2	-33% ↓
Adams	0	2	Increase ↑	1	-50% ↓
Franklin	1	1	0% →	1	0% →
Island	0	2	Increase ↑	1	0% →
Kittitas	0	1	Increase ↑	2	100% ↑
Chelan	0	1	Increase ↑	1	0% →
Douglas	0	2	Increase ↑	0	-100% ↓
Jefferson	2	0	-100% ↓	0	0% →
Pend Oreille	1	1	0% →	0	-100% ↓
Stevens	0	1	Increase ↑	1	0% →
Ferry	0	0	0% →	1	Increase ↑
Pacific	0	0	0% →	1	Increase ↑
Whitman	0	1	Increase ↑	0	-100% ↓

Did you know?

- ⇒ Sixty percent of walker/roller fatalities occur in just three counties; King, Pierce and Spokane.
- ⇒ Ferry and Pacific counties each had one walker/roller fatality in 2023 after having zero in 2021 and 2022.
- ⇒ Nine counties have had zero walker/roller fatalities in the past three years. Six more counties had zero walker/roller fatalities in 2023; Cowlitz, Okanogan, Douglas, Jefferson, Pend Oreille, and Whitman.

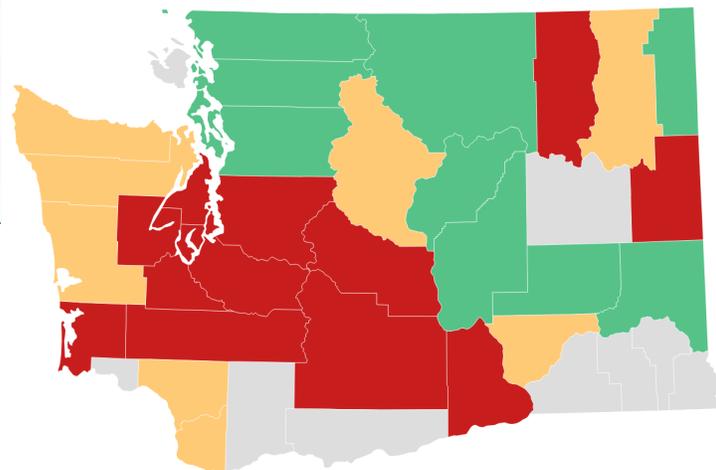
Walker/Roller Fatalities by County in 2022

Decreased Increased No Change



Walker/Roller Fatalities by County in 2023

Decreased Increased No Change



Counties with zero walker/roller fatalities 2021-2023:

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-------------|
| Asotin | Klickitat | Skamania |
| Columbia | Lincoln | Wahkiakum |
| Garfield | San Juan | Walla Walla |

Data Notes:

“Increase” in the table means any increase from a ZERO baseline. For more information visit the WTSC dashboards page— <https://wtsc.wa.gov/research-data/dashboards/>