

1992 Fatal Collisions in Washington

April 1993



*Source:
Washington Fatal Accident
Reporting System (FARS)*



WASHINGTON TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION
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Preface

This document summarizes fatal traffic collisions which occurred during 1992 on Washington State roadways. The major data source used is the Washington Fatal Accident Reporting System (FARS), a traffic records system managed by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

A more comprehensive report, the Data Summary and Problem Analysis, is published later in the year. It will include data on all reported collisions, including injury and property damage as well as fatal collisions.

Note: The FARS data included in this document are based on all fatal collisions for 1992 reported as of March 1993. There may be minor revisions in FARS statistical information after the date of this publication.

Other data sources used in this report are the Washington State Patrol (WSP), Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), Department of Licensing (DOL), and the Office of Financial Management (OFM).

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I. Overview

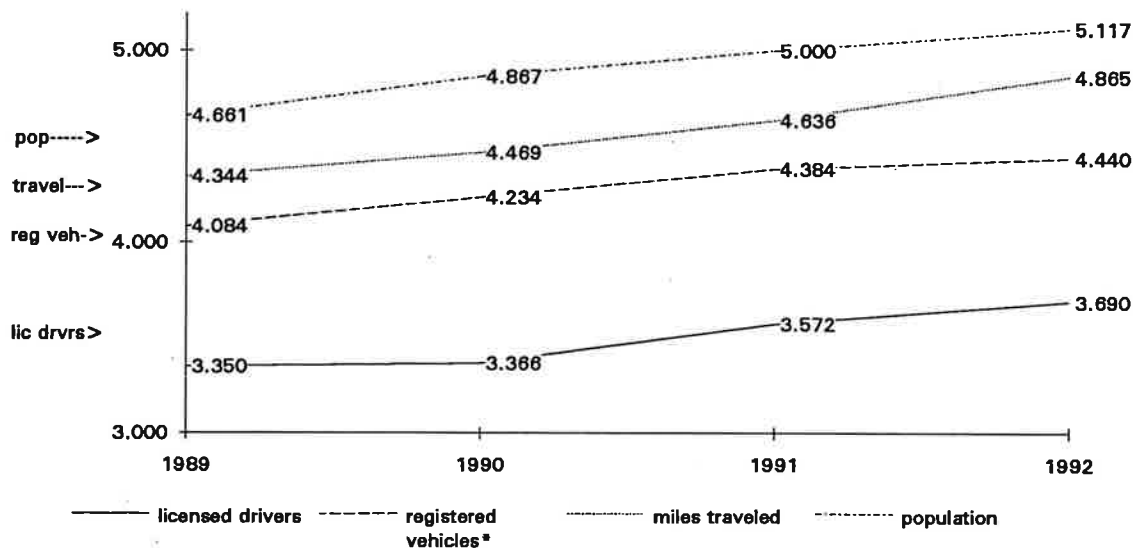
Overview of fatalities and exposure
Four-year comparison

category	1992	1991	1990	1989	prev 3-yr avg	'92 vs prev 3-yr avg
Fatal collisions	592	601	726	694	674	-12.1%
Drivers involved in fatal clsns	856	876	1,066	1,043	995	-14.0%
Vehicles involved in fatal clsns	876	896	1,070	1,048	1,005	-12.8%
Persons killed	651	681	825	781	762	-14.6%
Males killed	443	476	588	531	532	-16.7%
Females killed	208	205	237	250	231	-9.8%
Miles traveled (in millions)*	48,650	46,365	44,694	43,449	44,836	8.5%
Deaths per 100 million miles*	1.34	1.47	1.83	1.80	1.70	-21.2%
Licensed drivers	3,689,741	3,572,038	3,366,146	3,350,324	3,429,503	7.6%
Registered vehicles*	4,435,259	4,384,000	4,233,853	4,084,367	4,234,073	4.8%
Population	5,116,700	5,000,400	4,866,692	4,660,700	4,842,597	5.7%

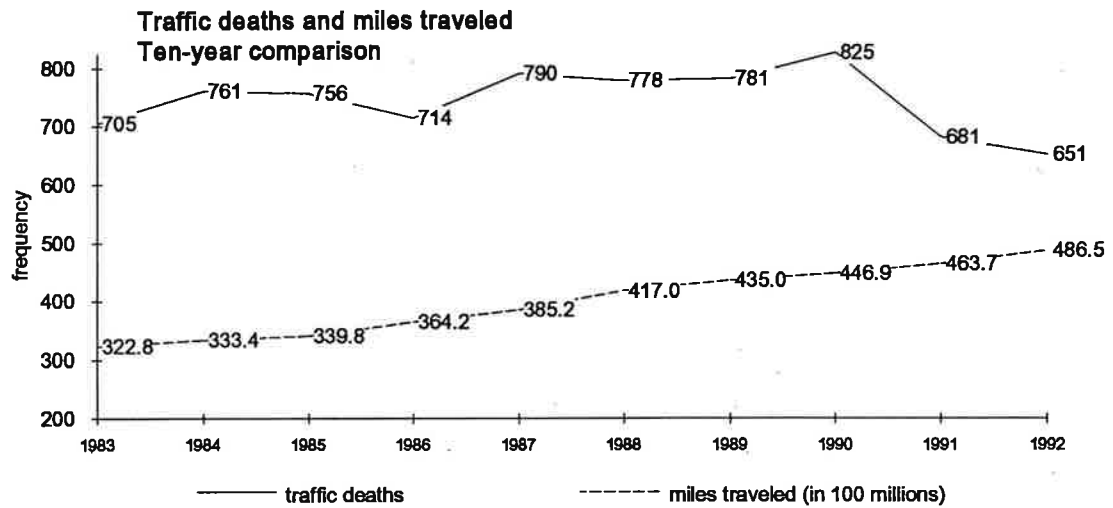
*Preliminary for 1992

Other source: DOL, WSDOT, OFM

Licensed drivers, travel, registered vehicles & population *



* In millions, rounded to the nearest 1,000 - except "miles traveled" in 10 billions.



**Fatalities by status of person killed
Five-year comparison**

status	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	prev 4-yr avg	'92 vs prev 4-yr avg
Vehicle driver	344	378	438	420	394	408	-15.6%
Vehicle passenger	170	176	232	174	200	196	-13.0%
Pedestrian	80	79	80	110	97	92	-12.6%
Motorcycle driver	42	35	57	59	66	54	-22.6%
Motorcycle passenger	6	8	4	10	9	8	-22.6%
Pedalcyclist	9	5	14	8	12	10	-7.7%
Total	651	681	825	781	778	766	-15.0%

Population, vehicle, travel and fatality summary
1972 - 1992

year	population	lic. drivers	reg vehicles	miles drvn*	death	
					deaths +	rate ++
1972	3,418,800	2,011,893	2,315,310	22,363.0	855	3.82
1973	3,424,300	2,113,460	2,453,880	23,457.0	776	3.31
1974	3,448,100	2,122,131	2,545,975	22,585.0	761	3.37
1975	3,493,990	2,176,505	2,640,944	24,023.0	771	3.21
1976	3,571,591	2,324,697	2,785,500	25,932.0	825	3.18
1977	3,661,975	2,339,215	2,952,383	27,449.0	927	3.38
1978	3,774,300	2,485,248	3,042,265	29,378.0	1,006	3.42
1979	3,911,200	2,579,368	3,186,898	29,122.0	1,034	3.55
1980	4,132,353	2,662,659	3,293,065	28,696.0	985	3.43
1981	4,250,200	2,732,722	3,408,871	30,346.0	872	2.87
1982	4,264,000	2,774,212	3,313,348	30,353.0	757	2.49
1983	4,285,100	2,867,032	3,372,966	32,275.0	705	2.18
1984	4,328,100	2,973,468	3,459,772	33,344.0	761	2.28
1985	4,384,100	2,980,717	3,546,152	33,978.0	756	2.22
1986	4,419,700	3,029,375	3,651,102	36,416.0	714	1.96
1987	4,481,100	3,156,600	3,833,058	38,520.0	790	2.05
1988	4,565,000	3,264,065	3,896,828	41,698.0	778	1.87
1989	4,660,700	3,350,324	4,084,367	43,449.3	781	1.80
1990	4,866,692	3,366,146	4,233,853	44,694.0	825	1.85
1991	5,000,400	3,572,038	4,384,000	46,365.0	681	1.47
1992	5,116,700	3,689,741	4,435,259	48,650.0	651	1.34

Other source: WSP, OFM, DOL, WSDOT

* In millions; preliminary estimate for 1992

+ State adopted a 90-day fatal-reporting policy in 1980
and a 30-day fatal-reporting policy in 1989.

++Traffic deaths per 100 million vehicle miles of travel.

1967 Creation of Washington Traffic Safety Commission.

Mandatory motorcycle helmet law. Driver education required for licensing at age 16.

1968 Implied consent law.

1971 Habitual traffic offender law.

1973 Speed limit reduced to 55 mph.

1975 Negligent homicide statute. Deferred prosecution statute.

1977 Property damage reporting threshold raised to \$300 from \$100.

Motorcycle helmet law repealed.

1979 DWI law modified to make .10% BAC illegal per se.

Mandatory day in jail for first DWI offense.

1980 Fatality reporting threshold changed from one year to 90 days from date of collision.

1982 "Day in Jail" changed to mean 24 consecutive hours.

Alcohol assessment and education/treatment required for DWI.

1983 Vehicular homicide and assault statute. Open container law for alcoholic beverages.

Mandatory child restraint law.

1984 Mandatory child restraint law became chargeable traffic violation.

License confiscated, temporary license issued at time of DWI arrest.

1986 Mandatory seat belt law.

1987 Mandatory seat belt law became a chargeable traffic violation.

Speed limit increased to 65 mph (60 mph for trucks) on rural interstate highways.

Motorcycle Helmets required for persons under 18 years of age.

Children under 5 years of age prohibited from riding on motorcycles. Property damage reporting threshold raised to \$500 from \$300.

1988 Vehicle registration cancelation for driving with a suspended drivers license.

1989 Fatality reporting threshold changed from 90 days to 30 days from date of collision. Youth under 19 years lose license for DWI for 90 days or until age 19(whichever is longer).

1990 Mandatory insurance required.

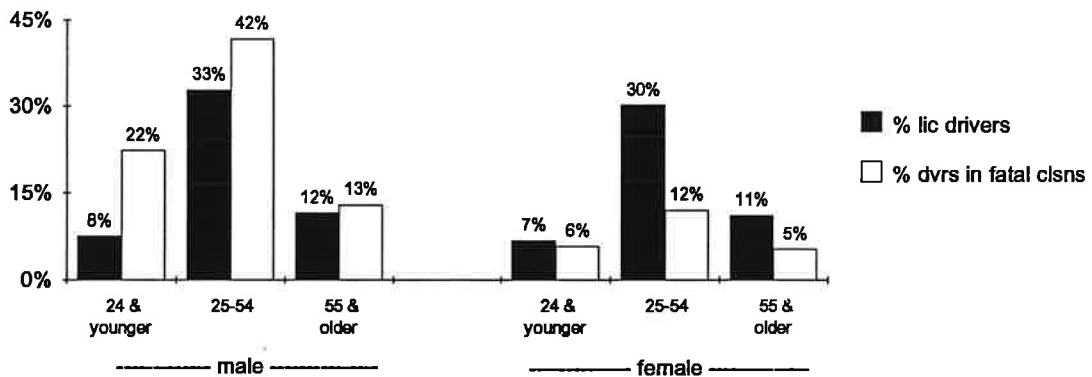
Mandatory motorcycle helmet law.

Licensed drivers and drivers in fatal collisions
By age group and sex - 1992

	males				females			
	licensed drivers	% of all lic drivers	fatal clsns	% of all killed	licensed drivers	% of all lic drivers	fatal clsns	% of all killed
17 & younger	37,595	1.0%	32	3.7%	34,380	0.9%	14	1.6%
18-20	88,518	2.4%	58	6.8%	78,630	2.1%	17	2.0%
21-24	151,741	4.1%	101	11.8%	136,515	3.7%	19	2.2%
25-34	442,293	12.0%	171	20.0%	405,833	11.0%	43	5.0%
35-44	457,112	12.4%	120	14.0%	427,556	11.6%	41	4.8%
45-54	312,516	8.5%	66	7.7%	282,226	7.6%	19	2.2%
55-64	192,359	5.2%	35	4.1%	175,958	4.8%	10	1.2%
65 & over	233,098	6.3%	75	8.8%	233,411	6.3%	35	4.1%
Total	1,915,232	51.9%	658	76.9%	1,774,509	48.1%	198	23.1%

Other source: DOL

Licensed drivers vs drivers in fatal collisions
Percentages by sex and age group - 1992



Drivers in fatal collisions by previous* DWI record
Five-year comparison

previous* DWIs	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	prev 4-yr avg	'92 vs prev 4-yr avg
With valid license							
0 prev DWI	710	736	865	878	899	881	-19.4%
1 prev DWI	10	9	13	13	22	16	-37.5%
2 or more DWIs	0	0	2	0	0		
Unknown	3	0	1	0	0		
Invalid license							
0 prev DWI	99	94	98	85	46	76	29.7%
1 prev DWI	17	19	22	22	9	18	-3.8%
2 or more DWIs	2	2	3	6	2	4	-45.5%
Unknown	3	1	4	0	1		

* During three years previous to fatal collision.

Traffic fatalities, vehicle registrations & rates*

By county - 1992

county	deaths	veh regstn	rate*
Adams	7	16,402	4.27
Asotin	0	15,360	0.00
Benton	17	101,093	1.68
Chelan	12	55,809	2.15
Clallam	6	56,201	1.07
Clark	39	223,153	1.75
Columbia	3	4,646	6.46
Cowlitz	8	79,440	1.01
Douglas	7	22,700	3.08
Ferry	3	4,582	6.55
Franklin	14	43,758	3.20
Garfield	2	2,816	7.10
Grant	15	53,900	2.78
Grays Harbor	13	58,847	2.21
Island	5	48,622	1.03
Jefferson	5	19,856	2.52
King	123	1,350,496	0.91
Kitsap	21	166,576	1.26
Kittitas	30	26,199	11.45
Klickitat	4	16,378	2.44
Lewis	19	63,050	3.01
Lincoln	7	11,338	6.17
Mason	17	37,316	4.56
Okanogan	13	31,111	4.18
Pacific	6	16,913	3.55
Pend Oreille	4	8,744	4.57
Pierce	60	480,844	1.25
San Juan	1	11,732	0.85
Skagit	11	88,425	1.24
Skamania	4	5,791	6.91
Snohomish	43	435,203	0.99
Spokane	31	315,081	0.98
Stevens	4	26,009	1.54
Thurston	29	181,055	1.60
Wahkiakum	0	2,858	0.00
Walla Walla	8	36,349	2.20
Whatcom	15	120,936	1.24
Whitman	3	27,865	1.08
Yakima	42	167,805	2.50
Total	651	4,435,259	1.47

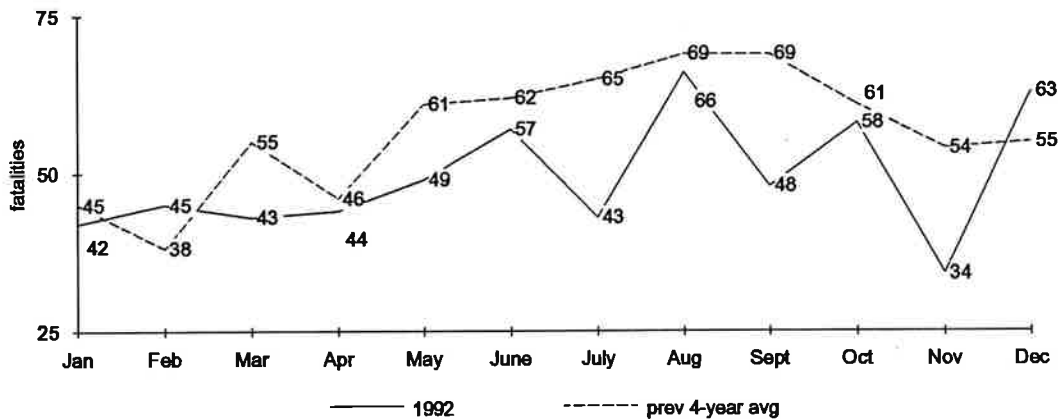
* Traffic deaths per 10,000 registered vehicles.

II. Fatal collisions

Fatal collisions by month
Five-year comparison

month	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	prev 4-yr avg	'92 vs prev 4-yr avg
January	42	44	60	37	38	45	-6.1%
February	45	39	48	30	37	39	16.9%
March	43	51	57	51	59	55	-21.1%
April	44	35	48	48	54	46	-4.9%
May	49	59	68	63	55	61	-20.0%
June	57	45	69	60	74	62	-8.1%
July	43	51	72	66	71	65	-33.8%
August	66	61	78	61	74	69	-3.6%
September	48	63	69	78	65	69	-30.2%
October	58	57	55	71	61	61	-4.9%
November	34	49	51	60	57	54	-37.3%
December	63	47	51	69	55	56	13.5%
Total	592	601	726	694	700	680	-13.0%

Fatal collisions by month
1992 vs previous 4-year average



Fatal collisions by first harmful event
Five-year comparison

	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	prev 4-yr avg	'92 vs prev 4-yr avg
Collision w/ other motor vehicle	232	225	275	284	269	263	-11.9%
Collision w/ fixed or other object	167	180	217	183	207	197	-15.1%
Vehicle overturned	95	103	120	104	102	107	-11.4%
Vehicle - pedestrian	76	70	78	100	92	85	-10.6%
Vehicle - pedalcycle	9	5	14	8	12	10	-7.7%
Vehicle - railway vehicle	4	7	6	6	6	6	-36.0%
Vehicle - animal	1	2	1	1	2	2	-33.3%
Other	5	7	14	5	9	9	-42.9%
Not stated	3	2	1	3	1		
Total	592	601	726	694	700	680	-13.0%

Fatal collisions by location in trafficway
Five-year comparison

location	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	prev 4-yr avg	'92 vs prev 4-yr avg
On roadway	346	319	391	400	388	375	-7.6%
Shoulder	13	22	31	32	37	31	-57.4%
Median	22	21	30	19	18	22	0.0%
Roadside	111	137	168	127	166	150	-25.8%
Outside right of way	53	31	48	36	14	32	64.3%
Off roadway - location unknown	45	67	54	74	73	67	-32.8%
Other (in parking lane, etc.)	2	2	4	6	4	4	-50.0%
Unknown	0	2	0	0	0		
Total	592	601	726	694	700	680	-13.0%

Vehicles in fatal collisions by motor vehicle class

Five-year comparison

vehicle type	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	prev 4-yr avg	'92 vs prev 4-yr avg
Passenger vehicles	476	491	592	575	585	561	-15.1%
Light trucks (under 10,000 lb)	242	248	274	272	240	259	-6.4%
Medium & heavy trucks	47	55	73	75	70	68	-31.1%
Utility trucks	46	39	47	38	41	41	11.5%
Motorcycles	47	42	62	71	74	62	-24.5%
Buses	4	6	6	4	1	4	-5.9%
Other	5	4	9	4	7	6	-16.7%
Unknown	9	11	7	9	5		
Total vehicles	876	896	1,070	1,048	1,023	1,009	-13.2%

Vehicles in fatal collisions by severity of damage

Five-year comparison

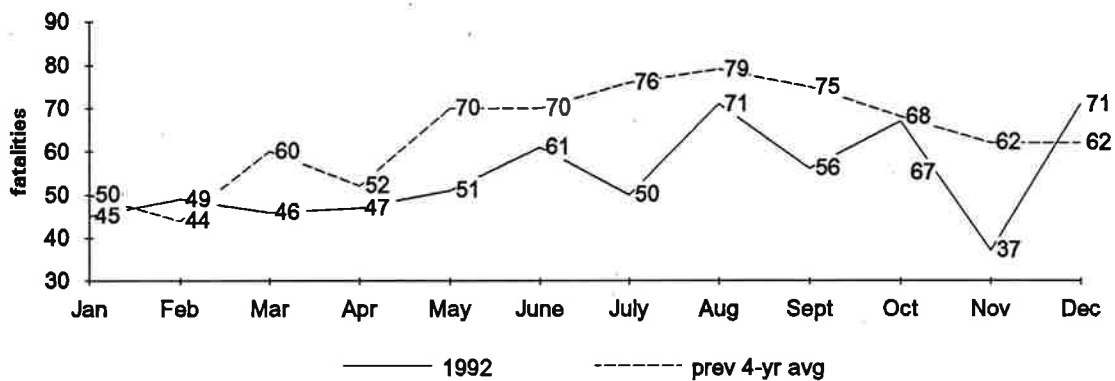
	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	prev 4-yr avg	'92 vs prev 4-yr avg
Towed away	769	813	949	919	898	895	-14.1%
Driven away	102	79	119	129	123	113	-9.3%
Abandoned	1	2	1	0	1	1	0.0%
Unknown/ not reported	4	2	1	0	1	1	300.0%
Total	876	896	1,070	1,048	1,023	1,009	-13.2%

III. Traffic fatalities

Traffic fatalities by month
Five-year comparison

	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	prev 4-yr avg	'92 vs prev 4-yr avg
January	45	53	63	42	40	50	-9.1%
February	49	49	53	33	41	44	11.4%
March	46	55	61	53	69	60	-22.7%
April	47	47	55	52	55	52	-10.0%
May	51	64	75	74	68	70	-27.4%
June	61	51	82	65	82	70	-12.9%
July	50	58	85	76	84	76	-34.0%
August	71	73	92	72	77	79	-9.6%
September	56	66	80	85	69	75	-25.3%
October	67	62	62	81	66	68	-1.1%
November	37	54	56	71	66	62	-40.1%
December	71	49	61	77	61	62	14.5%
Total	651	681	825	781	778	766	-15.0%

Traffic fatalities by month
1992 vs previous 4-year average



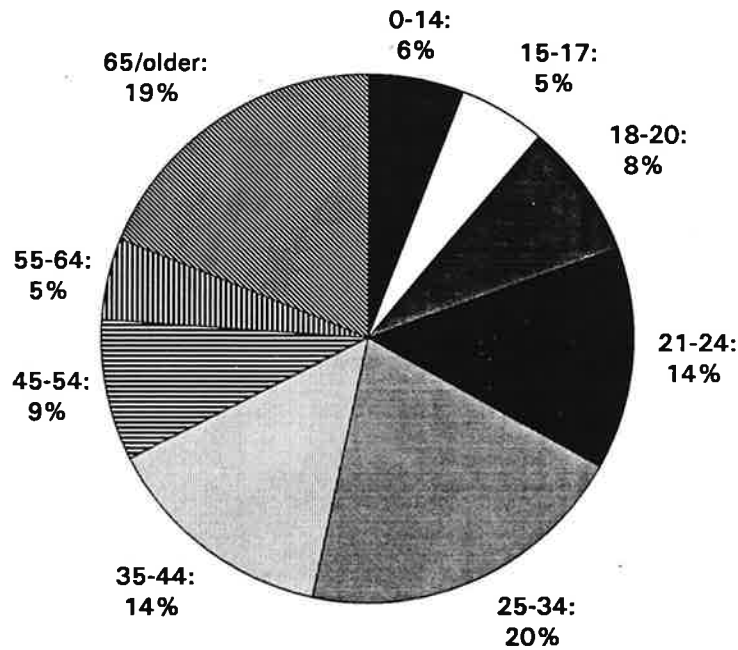
Traffic fatalities by county
Five-year comparison

county	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	'92 vs	
						prev 4-yr avg	prev 4-yr avg
Adams	7	9	8	13	11	10.3	-31.7%
Asotin	0	2	1	1	1	1.3	-100.0%
Benton	17	17	22	11	8	14.5	17.2%
Chelan	12	17	12	15	7	12.8	-5.9%
Ciallam	6	2	17	19	12	12.5	-52.0%
Clark	39	32	36	33	27	32.0	21.9%
Columbia	3	0	3	4	1	2.0	50.0%
Cowlitz	8	13	23	21	15	18.0	-55.6%
Douglas	7	7	9	6	6	7.0	0.0%
Ferry	3	3	9	5	8	6.3	-52.0%
Franklin	14	12	14	11	10	11.8	19.1%
Garfield	2	0	0	1	1	0.5	300.0%
Grant	15	12	24	23	16	18.8	-20.0%
Grays Harbor	13	20	15	14	20	17.3	-24.6%
Island	5	5	8	8	10	7.8	-35.5%
Jefferson	5	6	3	15	6	7.5	-33.3%
King	123	123	170	146	170	152.3	-19.2%
Kitsap	21	28	11	19	18	19.0	10.5%
Kittitas	30	27	39	29	19	28.5	5.3%
Klickitat	4	4	13	2	9	7.0	-42.9%
Lewis	19	17	26	23	16	20.5	-7.3%
Lincoln	7	7	2	3	3	3.8	86.7%
Mason	17	7	11	15	16	12.3	38.8%
Okanogan	13	8	11	13	16	12.0	8.3%
Pacific	6	6	2	5	2	3.8	60.0%
Pend Oreille	4	2	3	4	5	3.5	14.3%
Pierce	60	61	85	68	92	76.5	-21.6%
San Juan	1	6	1	1	2	2.5	-60.0%
Skagit	11	16	24	16	27	20.8	-47.0%
Skamania	4	2	2	5	3	3.0	33.3%
Snohomish	43	69	76	66	57	67.0	-35.8%
Spokane	31	26	39	43	46	38.5	-19.5%
Stevens	4	10	16	6	7	9.8	-59.0%
Thurston	29	22	17	17	23	19.8	46.8%
Wahkiakum	0	0	0	1	0	0.3	-100.0%
Walla Walla	8	14	7	8	14	10.8	-25.6%
Whatcom	15	16	21	32	18	21.8	-31.0%
Whitman	3	12	7	13	7	9.8	-69.2%
Yakima	42	41	38	46	49	43.5	-3.4%
Total	651	681	825	781	778	766.3	-15.0%

Fatalities by age group
Five-year comparison

age group	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	prev 4-yr avg	'92 vs prev 4-yr avg
0 - 14	38	43	51	50	50	49	-21.6%
15 - 17	35	42	60	41	47	48	-26.3%
18 - 20	54	74	73	89	98	84	-35.3%
21 - 24	88	89	107	82	94	93	-5.4%
25 - 34	132	144	203	204	186	184	-28.4%
35 - 44	91	84	116	102	119	105	-13.5%
45 - 54	56	48	74	55	43	55	1.8%
55 - 64	33	45	41	49	45	45	-26.7%
65 & older	121	111	100	109	94	104	16.9%
Unknown	3	1	0	0	2		
Total	651	681	825	781	778	766	-15.0%

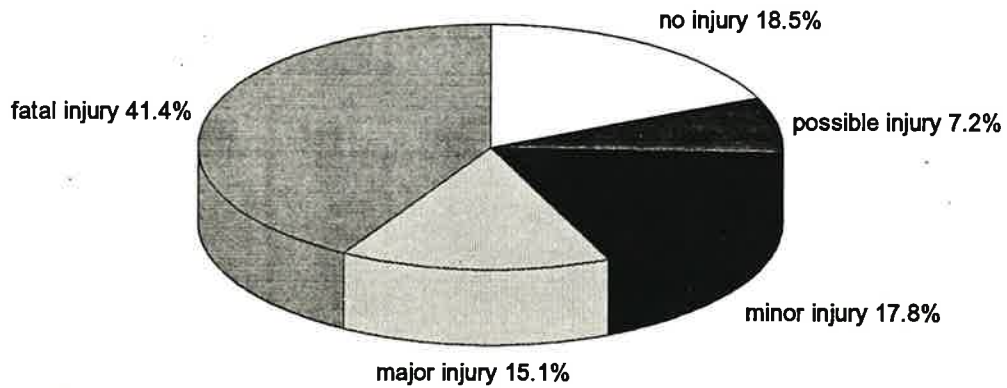
Fatalities by age group - 1992



Severity of injuries in fatal crashes
Five-year comparison

severity	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	prev 4-yr avg	'92 vs prev 4-yr avg
Fatal injury	651	681	825	781	778	766	-15.0%
Major injury	258	248	336	295	349	307	-16.0%
Minor injury	281	293	309	257	260	280	0.4%
Possible injury	118	113	109	105	108	109	8.5%
No injury	286	304	363	388	361	354	-19.2%
Total persons	1,594	1,639	1,942	1,826	1,856	1,816	-12.2%

Injury severity of persons involved in fatal collisions - 1992



Restraint/safety equipment use by vehicle occupants/motorcyclists who died*
Five-year comparison

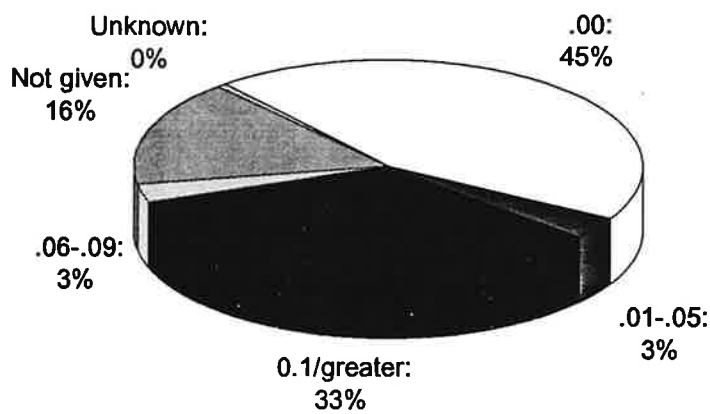
restraint use	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	prev 4-yr avg	'92 vs prev 4-yr avg
Lap belt	22	24	30	20	40	29	-22.8%
Lap & shoulder	125	151	137	122	116	132	-4.9%
Deployed air bag	5	na	na	na	na		
Child safety seat	2	4	3	1	3	3	-27.3%
Total restraints used	154	179	170	143	159	163	-5.4%
% used	30.0%	32.3%	24.9%	22.4%	24.7%	26.0%	15.0%
No restraint used	335	346	480	454	454	434	-22.7%
% not used	65.2%	62.3%	70.2%	71.0%	70.5%	68.5%	-4.9%
Unknown restraint use	25	30	34	42	31	34	-27.0%
% unknown use	4.9%	5.4%	5.0%	6.6%	4.8%	5.4%	-10.6%
Motorcycle helmet worn	42	36	44	21	24	31	34.4%
% worn	87.5%	83.7%	73.3%	30.9%	32.4%	55.1%	58.8%
Motorcycle helmet not worn	6	7	16	47	50	30	-80.0%
% not worn	12.5%	16.3%	26.7%	69.1%	67.6%	44.9%	-72.2%

* Pedestrians and pedalcyclists not included.

Fatalities by BAC level
Five-year comparison

BAC test	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	prev 4-yr avg	'92 vs prev 4-yr avg
.00	289	288	352	329	300	317	-8.9%
.01 - .05	20	29	41	32	31	33	-39.8%
.06 - .09	19	30	26	26	42	31	-38.7%
.1 & greater	216	221	299	257	279	264	-18.2%
Not given	105	67	106	137	126	109	-3.7%
Unknown	2	46	1	0	0	12	-83.0%
Total fatalities	651	681	825	781	778	766	-15.0%

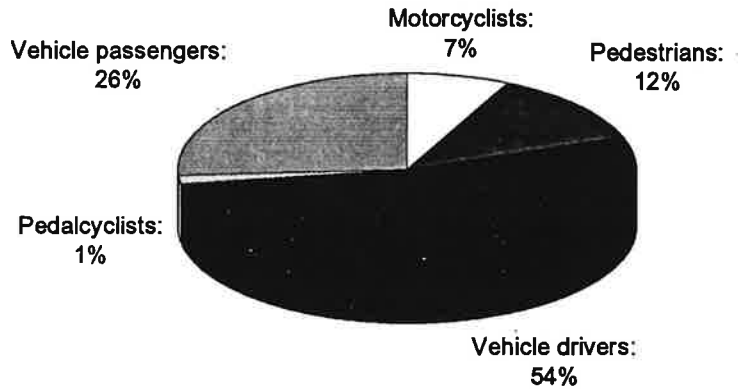
Fatalities by BAC level - 1992



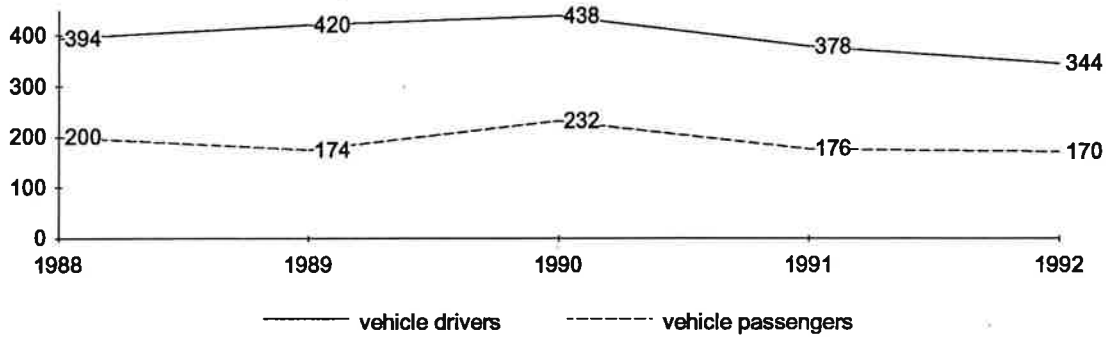
Status of persons killed
By month - 1992

month	total killed	vehicle occupants	pedestrians	motorcyclists	pedalcyclists
January	45	33	11	0	1
February	49	34	10	3	2
March	46	35	2	9	0
April	47	33	7	6	1
May	51	37	4	10	0
June	61	50	5	5	1
July	50	42	2	5	1
August	71	59	4	6	2
September	56	48	6	2	0
October	67	55	11	1	0
November	37	30	6	1	0
December	71	58	12	0	1
Total	651	514	80	48	9

Status of persons killed - 1992



Vehicle drivers and passengers killed Five-year trend



Pedestrians, motorcyclists and pedalcyclists killed Five-year trend

