

State of Washington

1997  
**F**atal Traffic  
Collisions in  
Washington  
State

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Report Published  
July, 1999



WA. Traffic Safety Commission  
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# 1997

## *Fatal Traffic Collisions in Washington State*

July 1999

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***Acknowledgements:***

*The author wishes to thank Anna Yamada, Phil Salzberg, and Janet Smart in particular for their generous assistance with this project, as well as the entire WTSC staff for their patience and support.*

## Preface

This report summarizes 1997 fatal traffic collisions on Washington State roads. Most of the data used are from the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS), a traffic records system created and managed under the auspices of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

The FARS data presented in this summary are based on all 1997 fatal collisions reported as of the close of 1998. Revisions to FARS data are made as new reports become available, and the file for a particular year is not finalized until December 31 of the following year. Readers should be advised that the figures reported here might differ slightly from those in other published reports, such as Washington State Patrol documents, because of differences in reporting criteria.

In addition, some of the data definitions used in the FARS system differ from those used in the WSP's CRASH system, also resulting in discrepancies between the numbers reported by each system. For example, the WSP's yearly numbers for alcohol-involved fatal crashes are consistently lower than corresponding numbers from FARS. Another example of such a difference between FARS and CRASH involves the fields describing weather conditions under which crashes occur. In the WSP system only five code values are used, while in the FARS system nine distinct code values are used.

Many of the differences between these two data systems stem from their different origins and purposes. The FARS system is a *national* database providing detailed information about all fatal traffic crashes occurring in the U.S. every year. On the other hand, the WSP's CRASH system is a *statewide* database describing traffic collisions at all severity levels – fatal, injury, and property-damage-only – occurring in the state of Washington every year.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Washington law requires a citizen or law enforcement report if a collision results in death, injury, or at least \$500 in damage to the property of one person.

## **Executive Summary**

### **Crashes**

There were 587 fatal motor vehicle crashes in Washington during 1997.

About 60% of the fatal crashes were single-vehicle crashes; the remainder were multi-vehicle crashes.

Just under 40% of 1997 fatal crashes were drinking-driver involved – down from about 48% in 1996.

Nearly 80% of all fatal crashes occurred in the absence of adverse weather conditions.

Half of all fatal crashes occurred between 3:00 p.m. and 12:00 a.m. The peak hour for fatal crashes was between 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., when 39 of 587 crashes occurred (6.6%).

The largest number of fatal crashes in any one county occurred in King – 114, or 19.3% of all fatal crashes statewide.

About one-third of all fatal crashes (191) occurred during the summer months (July, August, September). More crashes happened in August than in any other month (77).

### **People**

674 people were killed, 38 fewer than in 1996. Nearly 32% (212) were younger than 25 years old.

The death rate in 1997 was 1.32 traffic deaths per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT), down from 1.45 in 1996.

418 males (62%) and 255 females (38%) were killed in 1997.

The number of alcohol-involved fatalities in 1997 was 266, or 39.5% of all traffic deaths – down more than 20% from the 49.6% of 1996 traffic deaths that were alcohol-involved.

The number of speed-involved fatalities in 1997 was 242, or 35.9% of all traffic deaths – up from 35.0% in 1996.

More people were killed in August (91) than in any other month.

Over 80% of the persons killed (555) were motor vehicle occupants. An additional 11% were pedestrians (73).

125 people were killed in King County traffic crashes, 18.5% of all 1997 Washington traffic fatalities.

## **Drivers**

Of the 871 motor vehicle drivers involved in 1997 fatal crashes, 240 (27.6%) had been drinking prior to crashing. Another 215 (24.7%) were driving at excessive speeds when they crashed.

Drivers between the ages of 25 and 29 showed the largest proportion of drinking drivers – 45% – out of all driver age groups.

Among counties with ten or more fatal crashes in 1997, Clallam, Spokane, and Kitsap had the highest rates of drinking-driver involvement in fatal crashes. More than 38% of all fatal-crash-involved drivers in these three counties (combined) were drinking prior to crashing (versus the statewide average of 27.6%).

About one-quarter of the motor vehicle drivers involved in 1997 fatal crashes – 218 out of 871 – were younger than 25 years of age.

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## **I. Overview**

In 1997 in Washington State, 674 persons were killed in 587 fatal traffic crashes, down from 712 fatalities and 643 fatal crashes in 1996. This change represents a 5.3% decrease in statewide traffic fatalities. The annual average in the four years prior to 1997 was 667 deaths. Thus, the 712 deaths in 1996 represented a sizeable (9.0%) increase over 1995, and the drop in 1997 deaths brought statewide traffic fatalities back into line with previous figures.

The statewide death rate also declined, from 1.45 in 1996 to 1.32 traffic deaths per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT) in 1997. Again, this rate generally falls in line with the three-year average death rate of 1.36 between 1993 and 1995.

Alcohol-related deaths were down to a historic low in 1997. 266 people died in drinking-driver-involved crashes, about 39.5% of all traffic deaths. In the previous four years, drinking-driver-related deaths accounted for 47.7% of all traffic deaths. Thus, the 1997 figure represented a 17.2% decline from the years 1993 –1996.

## Overview of Fatalities and Exposure

Five-year comparison

	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	prev 4-yr avg	97 vs prev 4-yr avg
Fatal Collisions	587	643	576	575	579	593	-1.1%
Drivers Involved	871	973	842	857	833	876	-0.6%
Vehicles Involved	877	978	847	863	838	882	-1.6%
Persons Killed	674	712	653	640	661	667	1.1%
Male	418	484	440	438	455	454	-8.0%
Female	255	227	213	202	206	212	20.3%
Unknown	1	1	0	0	0	na	na
Travel <sup>1</sup>	51,073	49,270	49,248	47,674	46,426	48,155	6.1%
Death Rate <sup>2</sup>	1.32	1.45	1.33	1.34	1.42	1.38	-4.3%
Drinking-driver crashes	231	307	268	257	279	278	-16.9%
Persons killed in drinking- driver collisions	266	353	305	296	319	318	-16.4%
Percent of persons killed	39.5%	49.6%	46.7%	46.3%	48.3%	47.7%	-17.2%

<sup>1</sup> In millions of vehicle-miles traveled

<sup>2</sup> Traffic deaths per 100 million vehicle miles of travel.

Source: FARS



## Population, Vehicle Travel, and Collisions, 1972 - 1997

Washington State

Year	Population	Licensed Drivers	Registered Vehicles	Travel <sup>1</sup>	Collisions <sup>2</sup>	Injuries	Deaths <sup>3</sup>	Death Rate <sup>4</sup>
1972	3,418,800	2,011,893	2,315,310	22,363	101,002	55,454	855	3.82
1973	3,424,300	2,113,460	2,453,880	23,457	105,515	58,039	776	3.31
1974	3,448,100	2,122,131	2,545,975	22,585	106,242	57,716	761	3.37
1975	3,493,990	2,176,505	2,640,944	24,023	120,635	64,145	771	3.21
1976	3,571,591	2,324,697	2,785,500	25,932	120,864	66,309	825	3.18
1977	3,661,975	2,339,215	2,952,383	27,449	119,058	71,356	927	3.38
1978	3,774,300	2,485,248	3,042,265	29,378	116,923	64,669	1,006	3.42
1979	3,911,200	2,579,368	3,186,898	29,122	118,686	65,399	1,034	3.55
1980	4,132,353	2,662,659	3,293,065	28,696	113,751	61,532	985	3.43
1981	4,250,200	2,732,722	3,408,871	30,346	111,993	61,083	872	2.87
1982	4,264,000	2,774,212	3,313,348	30,353	100,644	54,789	757	2.49
1983	4,285,100	2,867,032	3,372,966	32,275	106,597	58,317	705	2.18
1984	4,328,100	2,973,468	3,459,772	33,344	111,655	61,366	761	2.28
1985	4,384,100	2,980,717	3,546,152	33,978	120,056	63,806	756	2.22
1986	4,419,700	3,029,375	3,651,102	36,416	122,918	66,707	714	1.96
1987	4,481,100	3,156,600	3,833,058	38,520	126,807	67,665	790	2.05
1988	4,565,000	3,264,065	3,896,828	41,698	125,920	72,449	785	1.88
1989	4,660,700	3,350,324	4,084,367	42,696	128,800	73,993	781	1.83
1990	4,866,692	3,366,146	4,233,853	44,157	132,056	76,064	825	1.87
1991	5,000,400	3,572,038	4,381,757	45,663	121,686	72,004	683	1.50
1992	5,116,685	3,689,741	4,435,259	48,664	125,565	75,803	651	1.34
1993	5,240,900	3,784,430	4,428,944	46,426	123,965	71,886	661	1.42
1994	5,334,400	3,862,305	4,535,415	47,674	129,899	81,419	639	1.34
1995	5,429,900	3,774,980	4,570,615	49,248	135,198	84,236	654	1.33
1996	5,516,800	4,037,543	4,651,632	49,270	140,215	83,781	712	1.45
1997	5,606,800	4,184,393	4,761,804	51,073	NA	NA	674	1.32

Source: WSP, OFM, DOL, WSDOT

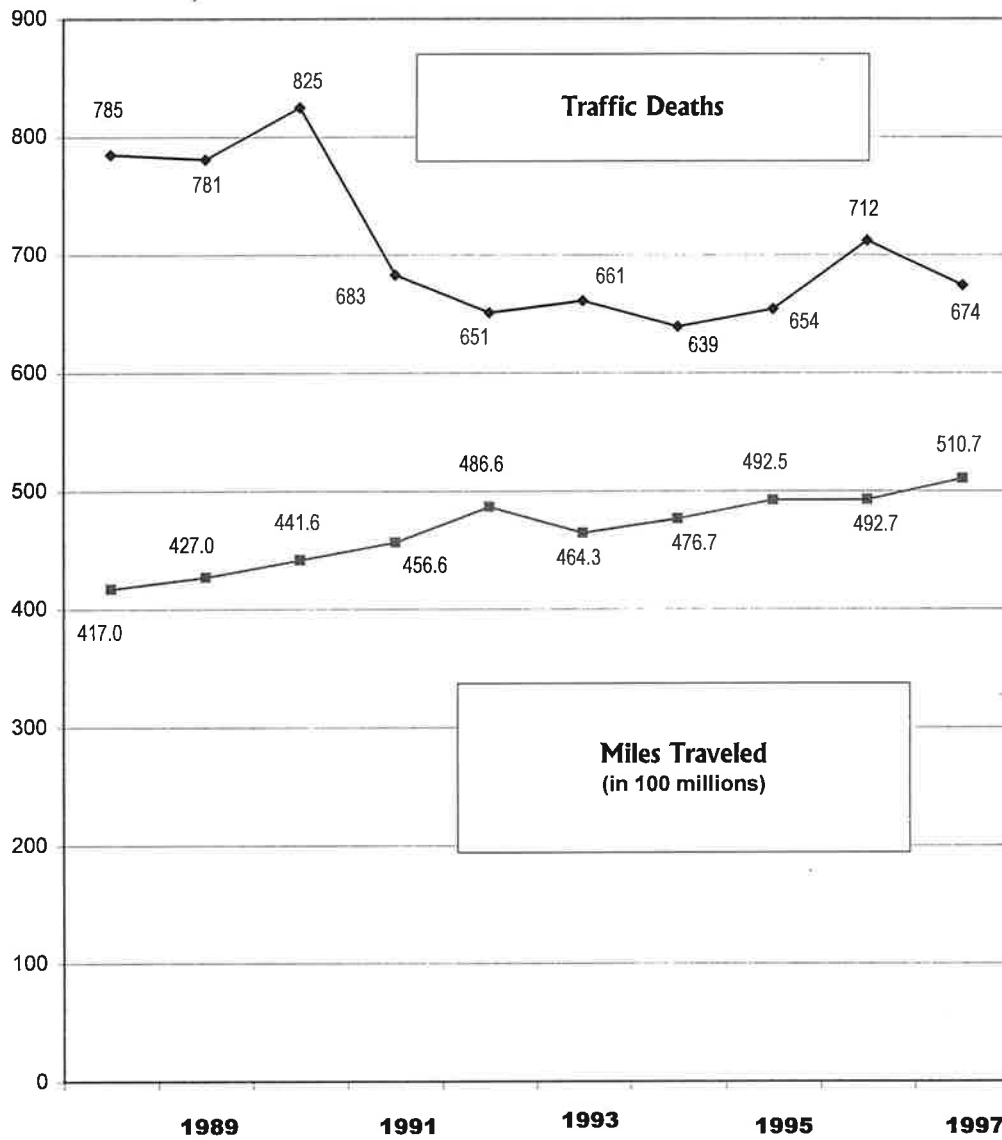
<sup>1</sup> In millions of vehicle miles traveled. Method used by WSDOT for estimating miles traveled changed in 1993, resulting in lower mileage.

<sup>2</sup> Minimum damage for a reportable collision was increased from \$100 to \$300 to the property of one person on 7/1/77 and to \$500 on 10/1/87.

<sup>3</sup> State adopted a 90-day fatal-reporting policy in 1980 and a 30-day fatal-reporting policy in 1989.

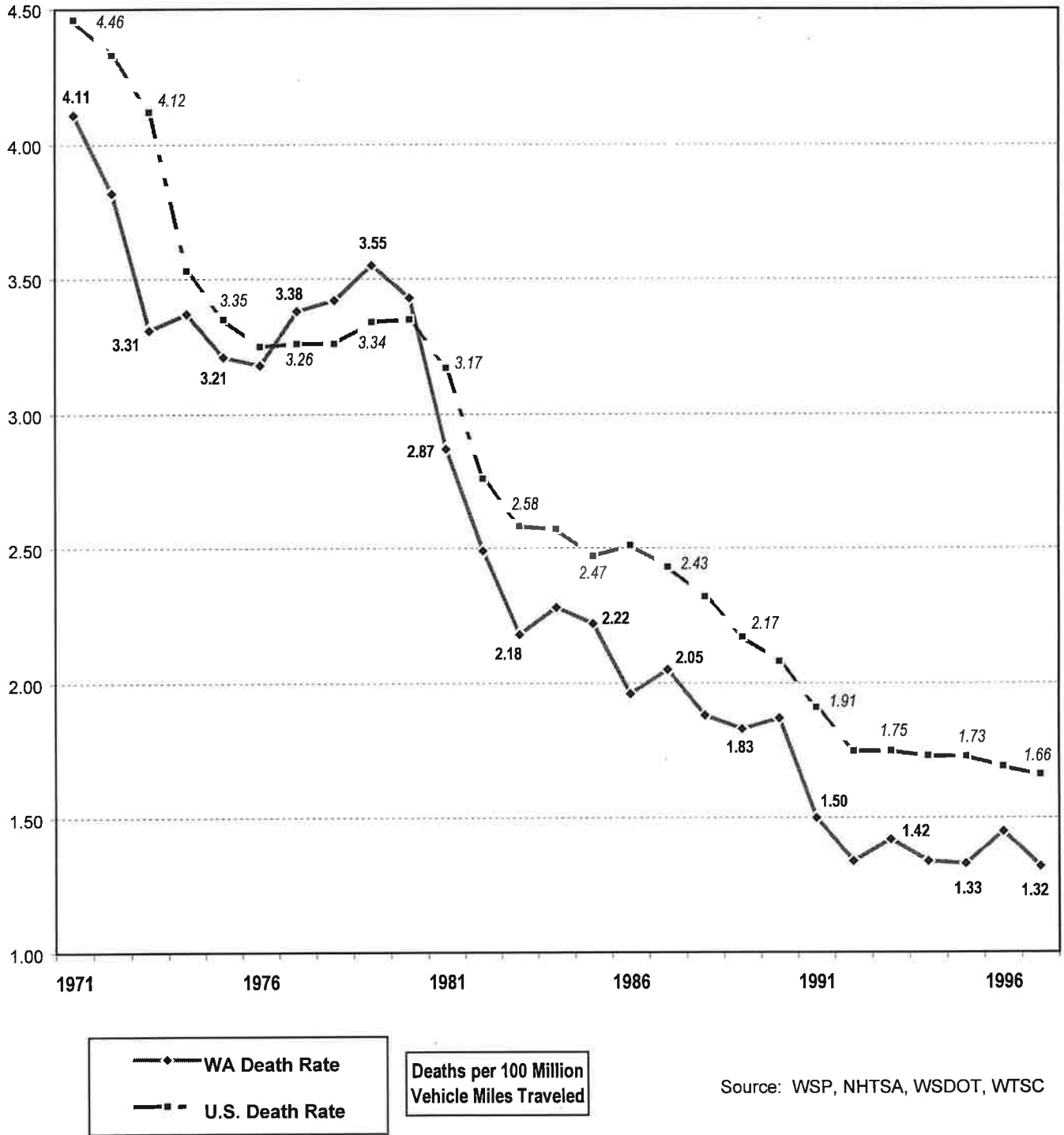
<sup>4</sup> Traffic deaths per 100 million vehicle miles of travel.

### Traffic Deaths and Miles Traveled Ten-year Comparison



Source: FARS, WSDOT

## Traffic Death Rates U.S. & Washington, 1971-1997



**Fatal Crashes, Deaths, Drivers, Vehicles, Population, and Travel**

By county - 1997

County	Fatal Crashes	Deaths	Licensed Drivers	Registered Vehicles	Population	Miles Traveled <sup>1</sup>	Fatality Rate <sup>2</sup>
Adams	6	7	11,780	16,616	15,800	484,585	1.44
Asotin	3	4	14,902	17,280	19,700	99,868	4.01
Benton	10	12	99,743	119,340	134,100	1,239,955	0.97
Chelan	9	9	48,050	63,054	62,200	623,417	1.44
Clallam	11	11	49,518	57,448	66,400	441,524	2.49
Clark	24	26	234,182	259,523	316,800	2,386,508	1.09
Columbia	2	2	3,198	4,703	4,200	74,317	2.69
Cowlitz	14	18	67,523	86,127	92,000	1,122,774	1.60
Douglas	9	10	21,299	22,567	30,800	359,854	2.78
Ferry	5	5	5,165	4,773	7,300	117,659	4.25
Franklin	10	11	30,132	41,840	43,900	521,234	2.11
Garfield	3	3	2,038	2,764	2,400	65,859	4.56
Grant	25	30	47,924	59,862	68,300	872,334	3.44
Grays Harbor	9	10	50,399	57,369	68,300	622,739	1.61
Island	7	9	51,539	54,308	71,600	380,676	2.36
Jefferson	8	9	20,709	22,907	26,300	294,264	3.06
King	114	125	1,293,066	1,425,999	1,646,200	15,403,979	0.81
Kitsap	19	20	163,892	177,755	229,400	1,510,658	1.32
Kittitas	8	8	23,196	28,530	31,500	938,807	0.85
Klickitat	4	5	14,403	17,800	19,000	237,134	2.11
Lewis	13	16	52,730	63,526	68,300	972,368	1.65
Lincoln	4	4	7,115	11,768	9,800	323,501	1.24
Mason	7	7	35,570	43,677	47,900	411,973	1.70
Okanogan	14	18	29,816	34,228	38,400	459,789	3.91
Pacific	4	5	16,282	18,746	21,300	220,913	2.26
Pend Oreille	4	5	8,800	9,935	11,200	151,003	3.31
Pierce	62	67	468,965	487,208	674,300	5,414,786	1.24
San Juan	2	2	10,275	13,092	12,500	33,050	6.05
Skagit	16	21	73,913	99,321	96,900	1,102,430	1.90
Skamania	1	1	6,140	7,154	9,900	94,063	1.06
Snohomish	49	56	406,049	468,023	551,200	4,877,649	1.15
Spokane	23	27	295,575	337,784	409,900	3,110,589	0.87
Stevens	4	4	27,218	30,241	37,400	381,259	1.05
Thurston	23	28	153,551	180,211	197,600	1,923,317	1.46
Wahkiakum	1	1	2,539	3,081	3,900	47,221	2.12
Walla Walla	6	6	34,295	38,245	54,000	420,206	1.43
Whatcom	12	15	115,739	133,001	156,200	1,300,560	1.15
Whitman	8	9	26,865	28,934	41,200	409,260	2.20
Yakima	34	48	141,261	182,261	208,700	1,620,907	2.96
Other <sup>3</sup>	NA	NA	19,037	30,803	NA	NA	NA
<b>State Totals</b>	<b>587</b>	<b>674</b>	<b>4,184,393</b>	<b>4,761,804</b>	<b>5,606,800</b>	<b>51,072,989</b>	<b>1.32</b>

<sup>1</sup> In thousands<sup>3</sup> Includes drivers & vehicles licensed in other states or countries<sup>2</sup> Per 100 million vehicle-miles traveled

Source: FARS, DOL, WSDOT, OFM

## **II. Fatal Traffic Crashes**

In 1997 the number of fatal crashes in Washington dropped slightly below the previous four-year average – from 593 to 587. August continued to be the worst month for fatal crashes with 77, a 22% increase over the previous four-year average. About 60% of all fatal crashes were single-vehicle crashes, and more than 30% happened on county roads. Finally, the percentage of fatal crashes that were drinking-driver-involved dropped to 39.4%, a 15.8% decrease below the previous four-year average of 46.8%.

### Fatal Collisions by Month

Five-year comparison

Month	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	Prev	97 vs
						4-yr avg	Prev 4-yr avg
January	48	43	39	54	41	44	8.5%
February	40	41	30	28	38	34	16.8%
March	41	52	40	40	33	41	-0.6%
April	36	52	52	38	48	48	-24.2%
May	36	40	44	35	48	42	-13.8%
June	44	67	46	46	42	50	-12.4%
July	61	66	61	59	51	59	3.0%
August	77	68	59	57	68	63	22.2%
September	53	57	53	53	58	55	-4.1%
October	53	57	44	66	66	58	-9.0%
November	40	50	51	47	44	48	-16.7%
December	58	50	57	52	42	50	15.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>587</b>	<b>643</b>	<b>576</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>579</b>	<b>593</b>	<b>-1.1%</b>

### Fatal Collisions by Day of Week and Hour of Day

1997

	Mon - Thurs	Fri - Sun	Full Week	% of Collisions
12 midnight - 3 am	26	39	65	11.1%
3 am - 6 am	17	28	45	7.7%
6 am - 9 am	33	30	63	10.7%
9 am - 12 noon	31	20	51	8.7%
12 noon - 3 pm	32	33	65	11.1%
3 pm - 6 pm	53	47	100	17.0%
6 pm - 9 pm	47	52	99	16.9%
9 pm - 12 midnight	39	55	94	16.0%
Unknown	3	2	5	0.9%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>587</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Percent of Collisions</b>	<b>47.9%</b>	<b>52.1%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	

Source: FARS

### Fatal Collisions by First Harmful Event

Five-year comparison

	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	Prev 4-yr Avg	97 vs Prev 4-yr Avg
Collision w/ other vehicle	232	263	218	226	210	229	1.3%
Vehicle overturned	89	101	82	84	99	92	-3.3%
Collision w/ nonmotorist (e.g., ped)	81	97	82	97	83	90	-10.0%
Collision w/ tree	41	27	35	35	46	36	13.9%
Collision w/ guardrail, curb, barrier	43	35	37	27	34	33	30.3%
Collision w/ utility pole	15	19	21	18	27	21	-28.6%
Collision w/ railroad train	3	3	1	3	2	2	50.0%
Collision w/ other fixed object	66	81	86	69	63	75	-12.0%
Collision w/ other nonfixed object	4	4	7	6	1	5	-20.0%
Other noncollision	13	13	7	10	14	11	18.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>587</b>	<b>643</b>	<b>576</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>579</b>	<b>593</b>	<b>-1.0%</b>

Source: FARS

### Fatal Collisions by Location in Trafficway

Five-year comparison

Location	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	Prev 4-yr Avg	97 vs Prev 4-yr Avg	% of 97 fatal Crashes
On Roadway	318	380	320	336	312	337	-5.6%	54.2%
Roadside	167	134	138	129	153	139	20.6%	28.4%
Off Roadway	49	80	83	66	57	72	-31.5%	8.3%
Shoulder	27	21	17	20	18	19	42.1%	4.6%
Median	14	12	10	13	10	11	24.4%	2.4%
Outside right-of-way	8	6	5	7	25	11	-25.6%	1.4%
Parking Lane	3	3	2	3	1	2	33.3%	0.5%
Gore	1	5	1	1	2	2	-55.6%	0.2%
Unknown	0	2	0	0	1	1	-100.0%	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>587</b>	<b>643</b>	<b>576</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>579</b>	<b>593</b>	<b>-1.1%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: FARS

## Fatal Crashes by Road Type and Number of Vehicles

Washington - 1997

Road Class	<i>Single Vehicle</i>		<i>Multiple Vehicles</i>		Road Type Totals	% of All Crashes
	Crashes	% of all Crashes	Crashes	% of all Crashes		
State Highway	80	13.6%	83	14.1%	<b>163</b>	<b>27.8%</b>
US Highway	30	5.1%	35	6.0%	<b>65</b>	<b>11.1%</b>
Interstate	37	6.3%	26	4.4%	<b>63</b>	<b>10.7%</b>
City Street	69	11.8%	35	6.0%	<b>104</b>	<b>17.7%</b>
County Road	125	21.3%	60	10.2%	<b>185</b>	<b>31.5%</b>
Other	7	1.2%	0	0.0%	<b>7</b>	<b>1.2%</b>
<b>Total Crashes</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>59.3%</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>40.7%</b>	<b>587</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: FARS

## Fatal Drinking-Driver Crashes by Road Type and Number of Vehicles

Washington - 1997

Road Class	<i>Single Vehicle</i>		<i>Multiple Vehicles</i>		Road Type Totals	% of All Crashes
	Crashes	% of all Crashes	Crashes	% of all Crashes		
State Highway	38	16.5%	28	12.1%	<b>66</b>	<b>28.6%</b>
US Highway	11	4.8%	10	4.3%	<b>21</b>	<b>9.1%</b>
Interstate	14	6.1%	8	3.5%	<b>22</b>	<b>9.5%</b>
City Street	19	8.2%	9	3.9%	<b>28</b>	<b>12.1%</b>
County Road	64	27.7%	25	10.8%	<b>89</b>	<b>38.5%</b>
Other	5	2.2%	0	0.0%	<b>5</b>	<b>2.2%</b>
<b>Total Crashes</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>65.4%</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>34.6%</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: FARS



### **III. Persons in Fatal Crashes**

The 674 persons killed in 1997 represented a 5.3% decline from 1996 but a 1.0% rise over the previous four-year average. Nearly 40% of these deaths occurred in King, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties. The 266 alcohol-involved deaths amounted to the lowest annual total in more than twenty-five years.

However, more than 40% of all traffic deaths and 47.4% of all drinking-driver-involved deaths in 1997 were to persons younger than 30 years of age. Of the 1,604 persons involved in 1997 fatal traffic crashes, 278 sustained no injury and another 163 suffered only minor injuries. Thus, more than one-quarter of the people involved in fatal crashes emerged relatively unharmed. Most of the persons killed – 82.3% -- were motor vehicle occupants, whose numbers rose by 5% over the previous four-year average. Deaths to pedestrians fell by 12.0% and those to motorcyclists by nearly 24% compared to their previous four-year averages.

## Injury Severity to All Persons Involved in Fatal Crashes

Five-year comparison

Injury Severity	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	'97 vs	
						Four-yr Avg	Four-yr Avg
Fatal Injury	674	712	653	640	661	667	1.0%
Serious Injury	210	231	244	217	227	230	-8.7%
Evident Injury	268	310	233	240	265	262	2.3%
Possible Injury	163	146	121	112	114	123	32.5%
No Injury	278	324	278	344	299	311	-10.6%
Injury of Unknown Severity	1	0	0	0	0	-	-
Died Prior to Crash	1	0	0	0	0	-	-
Unknown	9	17	13	8	8	11	
<b>Total Persons</b>	<b>1,604</b>	<b>1,740</b>	<b>1,542</b>	<b>1,561</b>	<b>1,574</b>	<b>1,604</b>	<b>0.0%</b>

Source: FARS

**Status of Persons Killed**

Five-year comparison

	<b>97</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>Prev 4-yr Avg</b>	<b>'97 vs Prev 4-yr Avg</b>
Vehicle Occupant	555	558	526	500	532	529	4.9%
Pedestrian	73	92	74	86	80	83	-12.0%
Motorcyclist	29	42	37	35	38	38	-23.7%
Cyclist	16	14	13	15	8	13	28.0%
Other / Unknown	1	6	3	4	3	4	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>674</b>	<b>712</b>	<b>653</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>661</b>	<b>667</b>	<b>1.1%</b>

Source: FARS

**Status of Persons Killed**

By Month - 1997

	<b>Vehicle Occupant</b>	<b>Motorcyclist</b>	<b>Cyclist</b>	<b>Pedestrian</b>	<b>Other / Unknown</b>	<b>Total</b>
Jan	42	0	0	12	0	54
Feb	37	1	1	6	0	45
Mar	43	0	1	3	0	47
Apr	35	2	1	3	0	41
May	30	2	3	4	0	39
Jun	41	5	1	5	0	52
Jul	57	9	0	4	0	70
Aug	74	6	4	7	0	91
Sep	50	2	3	6	0	61
Oct	51	2	2	5	1	61
Nov	41	0	0	6	0	47
Dec	54	0	0	12	0	66
<b>Total</b>	<b>555</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>674</b>

Source: FARS

## Traffic Fatalities by County

Five-year comparison

	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	Prev 4-yr Avg	'97 vs Prev 4-yr Avg
Adams	7	9	6	9	9	8	-15.2%
Asotin	4	2	2	1	2	2	128.6%
Benton	12	15	16	12	12	14	-12.7%
Chelan	9	10	14	16	14	14	-33.3%
Clallam	11	10	9	4	6	7	51.7%
Clark	26	36	25	28	39	32	-18.8%
Columbia	2	1	0	0	0	0	700.0%
Cowlitz	18	21	11	11	7	13	44.0%
Douglas	10	9	8	5	13	9	14.3%
Ferry	5	5	4	2	8	5	5.3%
Franklin	11	12	7	14	16	12	-10.2%
Garfield	3	0	0	2	0	1	500.0%
Grant	30	30	11	17	17	19	60.0%
Grays Harbor	10	16	13	7	15	13	-21.6%
Island	9	7	4	6	6	6	56.5%
Jefferson	9	8	4	8	4	6	50.0%
King	125	131	116	113	115	119	5.3%
Kitsap	20	15	21	23	21	20	0.0%
Kittitas	8	20	12	12	12	14	-42.9%
Klickitat	5	7	8	3	2	5	0.0%
Lewis	16	11	16	18	17	16	3.2%
Lincoln	4	4	3	3	1	3	45.5%
Mason	7	15	9	10	9	11	-34.9%
Okanogan	18	11	20	10	8	12	46.9%
Pacific	5	3	7	5	4	5	5.3%
Pend Oreille	5	2	3	5	1	3	81.8%
Pierce	67	73	66	55	61	64	5.1%
San Juan	2	1	0	2	1	1	100.0%
Skagit	21	11	23	19	16	17	21.7%
Skamania	1	1	2	0	4	2	-42.9%
Snohomish	56	51	45	47	47	48	17.9%
Spokane	27	40	33	46	39	40	-31.6%
Stevens	4	8	23	8	8	12	-66.0%
Thurston	28	24	19	30	25	25	14.3%
Wahkiakum	1	0	1	2	2	1	-20.0%
Walla Walla	6	11	11	12	15	12	-51.0%
Whatcom	15	14	19	21	30	21	-28.6%
Whitman	9	9	7	13	4	8	9.1%
Yakima	48	59	55	41	51	52	-6.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>674</b>	<b>712</b>	<b>653</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>661</b>	<b>667</b>	<b>1.1%</b>

Source: FARS

**Washington Traffic Fatalities**

By County and Age Group - 1997

	<15	15-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70+	County Totals
Adams	0	1	1	2	0	2	1	0	7
Asotin	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	4
Benton	1	3	0	0	3	3	0	2	12
Chelan	0	0	1	2	2	1	1	2	9
Clallam	0	1	4	1	3	0	1	1	11
Clark	4	1	6	2	7	1	2	3	26
Columbia	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
Cowlitz	3	1	2	6	4	1	0	1	18
Douglas	0	1	2	2	1	0	3	1	10
Ferry	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	1	5
Franklin	1	1	1	3	1	0	1	3	11
Garfield	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	3
Grant	2	4	4	4	4	6	4	2	30
Grays Harbor	0	1	2	4	1	1	1	0	10
Island	1	3	1	2	1	0	0	1	9
Jefferson	0	2	1	2	2	1	0	1	9
King	8	12	24	23	21	11	10	16	125
Kitsap	1	6	5	1	2	1	2	2	20
Kittitas	0	0	1	2	1	2	2	0	8
Klickitat	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	0	5
Lewis	0	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	16
Lincoln	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	4
Mason	0	3	1	0	2	0	0	1	7
Okanogan	1	3	3	5	1	3	1	1	18
Pacific	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	5
Pend Oreille	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	3	5
Pierce	2	9	22	7	3	4	6	14	67
San Juan	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
Skagit	0	8	1	6	2	4	0	0	21
Skamania	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Snohomish	4	8	14	6	10	4	3	7	56
Spokane	4	5	3	5	1	1	3	5	27
Stevens	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	4
Thurston	3	3	5	5	3	4	3	2	28
Wahkiakum	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Walla Walla	1	0	2	1	1	0	1	0	6
Whatcom	2	2	5	0	1	0	3	2	15
Whitman	0	1	2	2	1	1	2	0	9
Yakima	5	5	13	11	6	2	0	6	48
<b>Age Totals</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>674</b>

Source: FARS

### Washington Drinking-Driver-Related Fatalities

By County and Age - 1997

	<15	15-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70+	County Totals	% Co. Deaths
Adams	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Asotin	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	25.0%
Benton	1	1	0	0	3	0	0	1	6	50.0%
Chelan	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	22.2%
Clallam	0	0	3	1	1	0	0	0	5	45.5%
Clark	1	0	4	1	3	1	0	0	10	38.5%
Columbia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Cowlitz	1	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	5	27.8%
Douglas	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	5	50.0%
Ferry	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	3	60.0%
Franklin	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	4	36.4%
Garfield	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	66.7%
Grant	1	3	2	2	1	4	1	0	14	46.7%
Grays Harbor	0	0	1	2	0	1	1	0	5	50.0%
Island	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	3	33.3%
Jefferson	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	3	33.3%
King	3	8	7	10	7	5	0	0	40	32.0%
Kitsap	0	4	3	1	0	1	1	0	10	50.0%
Kittitas	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	3	37.5%
Klickitat	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	4	80.0%
Lewis	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	2	6	37.5%
Lincoln	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	25.0%
Mason	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	3	42.9%
Okanogan	0	2	1	3	0	2	0	0	8	44.4%
Pacific	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Pend Oreille	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	20.0%
Pierce	0	2	16	4	0	1	0	2	25	37.3%
San Juan	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	100.0%
Skagit	0	2	0	3	2	3	0	0	10	47.6%
Skamania	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	100.0%
Snohomish	1	5	9	3	5	1	0	3	27	48.2%
Spokane	1	4	2	4	0	0	0	2	13	48.1%
Stevens	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	50.0%
Thurston	3	1	0	3	2	0	0	1	10	35.7%
Wahkiakum	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	100.0%
Walla Walla	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	16.7%
Whatcom	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	4	26.7%
Whitman	0	0	1	1	0	1	2	0	5	55.6%
Yakima	0	2	9	4	4	0	0	2	21	43.8%
<b>Age Totals</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>39.5%</b>

Source: FARS

**All Persons Involved in Fatal Collisions**

By County and Injury Severity - 1997

County	No Injury	Possible Injury	Evident Injury	Serious Injury	Fatal Injury	Other / Unknown	Total Persons Involved
Adams	1	1	1	8	7	0	18
Asotin	3	1	3	0	4	0	11
Benton	3	2	2	6	12	0	25
Chelan	4	1	6	0	9	0	20
Clallam	6	1	2	2	11	0	22
Clark	23	12	13	7	26	0	81
Columbia	0	0	1	0	2	0	3
Cowlitz	4	1	3	5	18	0	31
Douglas	7	1	9	3	10	0	30
Ferry	4	0	0	1	5	0	10
Franklin	3	2	6	6	11	0	28
Garfield	0	0	1	0	3	0	4
Grant	9	4	17	11	30	1	72
Grays Harbor	3	1	2	3	10	0	19
Island	2	2	7	2	9	0	22
Jefferson	2	3	5	4	9	0	23
King	66	41	35	41	125	5	313
Kitsap	6	3	4	11	20	0	44
Kittitas	1	5	3	1	8	0	18
Klickitat	2	0	1	0	5	0	8
Lewis	9	1	8	3	16	0	37
Lincoln	2	1	0	4	4	0	11
Mason	1	2	2	4	7	0	16
Okanogan	6	4	9	6	18	0	43
Pacific	1	2	2	3	5	0	13
Pend Oreille	2	3	0	1	5	0	11
Pierce	39	17	21	11	67	1	156
San Juan	1	0	0	0	2	0	3
Skagit	6	4	6	4	21	1	42
Skamania	0	0	2	0	1	0	3
Snohomish	19	18	39	13	56	2	147
Spokane	13	9	8	10	27	0	67
Stevens	0	2	1	6	4	0	13
Thurston	14	7	3	10	28	1	63
Wahkiakum	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Walla Walla	1	4	5	1	6	0	17
Whatcom	7	2	11	9	15	0	44
Whitman	1	0	1	0	9	0	11
Yakima	7	6	29	14	48	0	104
<b>Total</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>674</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1,604</b>

Source: FARS

## **IV. Safety Equipment Use**



Only 51% of motor vehicle occupants killed or injured in 1997 fatal crashes were wearing safety restraints when they crashed. On the other hand, 84% of involved occupants who were not injured in these crashes were wearing restraints at the time of the crash – a percentage that is very close to the 1997 statewide observed seatbelt use rate of 81%. More than 52% of children under five years of age who were injured or killed in these crashes were unrestrained at the time of the crash.

89.3% of motorcyclists and 31.3% of bicyclists killed in 1997 were wearing safety helmets at the time they crashed. Both of these safety helmet use rates were well below the statewide use rates observed in 1997.

### Restraint Use by Persons Killed or Injured in Fatal Collisions

Five-year comparison

Restraint Use	97	96	95	94	93
Belt use Improper	3	0	3	0	n/a
Child Safety Seat	10	14	4	9	7
Lap Belt	62	72	62	69	70
Lap and Shoulder	479	472	400	374	345
None used or N/A	546	605	555	510	620
Shoulder Belt	16	19	22	21	13
Unknown	58	44	53	60	61
Used, Type Unk	0	1	1	5	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,174</b>	<b>1,227</b>	<b>1,100</b>	<b>1,048</b>	<b>1,122</b>
<b>Use Rate</b>	<b>51.1%</b>	<b>48.9%</b>	<b>47.0%</b>	<b>48.4%</b>	<b>41.6%</b>

### Restraint Use by Persons Not Killed or Injured in Fatal Collisions

Five-year comparison

Restraint Use	97	96	95	94	93
Belt use Improper	0	1	0	0	0
Child Safety Seat	9	7	7	8	6
Lap Belt	28	43	41	48	50
Lap and Shoulder	170	211	160	185	156
None used or N/A	40	33	42	58	62
Shoulder Belt	1	1	6	7	2
Unknown	27	25	19	36	20
Used, Type Unk	1	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>296</b>
<b>Use Rate</b>	<b>83.9%</b>	<b>88.9%</b>	<b>83.6%</b>	<b>81.0%</b>	<b>77.5%</b>

Source: FARS

**Safety Restraint Use by Vehicle Occupants Killed**

Five-year comparison

Restraint Type	97	96	95	94	93	'97 vs prev	
						prev 4-yr avg*	prev 4-yr avg*
Lap Belt	20	18	20	20	20	20	2.6%
Lap and Shoulder belts	178	177	146	133	143	150	18.9%
Shoulder Belt	11	14	11	14	7	12	-4.3%
Child Safety Seat	1	4	0	5	3	3	-66.7%
Restraint used, type unknown	0	0	1	4	3	2	-100.0%
Belt used improperly	2	0	2	0	N/A	1	200.0%
None used or N/A	320	320	319	297	323	315	1.7%
Unknown	23	25	27	27	33	28	-17.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>555</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>4.9%</b>

**Motorcycle Helmet Use by Motorcyclists Killed**

Five-year comparison

	97	96	95	94	93	'97 vs prev	
						prev 4-yr avg*	prev 4-yr avg*
Helmet Used Properly	25	35	33	29	27	31	-19.4%
Helmet Used Improperly	0	1	0	2	n/a	1	-
None used or N/A	3	6	4	4	11	6	-52.0%
Unknown	1	0	0	0	0	0	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>-23.7%</b>

**Bike Helmet Use by Cyclists Killed**

Five-year comparison

	97	96	95	94	93
Helmet Used Properly	5	3	2	5	N/A
Helmet Used Improperly	1	0	0	0	N/A
None used or N/A	10	11	10	9	8
Unknown	0	0	1	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>8</b>

**Airbag Deployment for Vehicle Occupants Killed**

Five-year comparison

	97	96	95	94	93
Deployed	44	15	17	8	3
Not Deployed	17	5	4	3	4
Unknown or N/A	494	538	505	489	525
<b>Total</b>	<b>555</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>532</b>

\*Previous four years where available. If 1993 information is not available, 1994-1996 average was used.

Source: FARS

### Safety Restraints Used by Vehicle Occupants Injured or Killed

By Age - 1997

Age	Lap Belt	Lap & Shoulder	Shoulder Belt	Child Safety Seat	Improper Belt Use	Total SRs Used	None Used or N/A	Not known	% Used
Under 1	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	100.0%
1	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	100.0%
2	0	0	0	3	0	3	4	0	42.9%
3	0	1	0	1	0	2	1	0	66.7%
4	6	2	0	1	0	9	2	0	81.8%
5	0	2	0	0	0	2	4	0	33.3%
6 - 10	11	9	0	1	1	22	15	0	59.5%
11 - 15	9	21	0		0	30	34	4	44.1%
16 - 19	6	59	6		0	71	92	11	40.8%
20 - 24	4	47	0		0	51	82	12	35.2%
25 - 29	6	47	2		0	55	66	6	43.3%
30 - 64	17	208	6		1	232	213	20	49.9%
65+	3	81	2		1	87	31	4	71.3%
Unknown	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	1	25.0%
Male	42	4	251	2	1	300	369	41	44.8%
Female	20	12	227	8	2	269	176	17	60.4%
Unknown	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	50.0%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>570</b>	<b>546</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>51.1%</b>

### Air Bags Deployed for Occupants Injured or Killed

By Age - 1997

Age	Deployed	Not Deployed	Unknown or N/A
Under 1	0	0	2
1 - 5	0	0	30
6 - 10	1	0	36
11 - 15	1	0	67
16 - 19	4	5	165
20 - 24	16	6	123
25 - 29	13	4	110
30 - 64	54	16	395
65+	16	3	103
Unknown	0	0	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>1,035</b>

Source: FARS

## **V. Drivers in Fatal Crashes**

There were 871 motor vehicle drivers involved in 1997 fatal crashes – 768 with valid licenses (88.2%) and 103 without valid licenses (11.8%). Only 1.3% of the drivers with valid licenses had received previous DUI convictions whereas 14.6% of the drivers without valid licenses had received prior DUI convictions. Among the drivers tested for alcohol, 48.3% of 1997 fatal-crash-involved drivers had a positive BAC reading, the lowest percentage in five years.

Only 37% of all drivers involved in fatal crashes were younger than 30 years old, but over 47% of all the drinking-drivers were in that same age group. The driver-related factors cited most frequently by investigators of these crashes were *lane-travel errors* (32.3%), *driver alcohol or drug impairment* (20.9%), *excessive speed* (16.8%), and *inattention* (11.8%). These four factors alone comprised roughly 82% of all driver behavior factors cited for these crashes.

## Drivers in Fatal Collisions

### License Status & Previous DUIs

Five-year comparison, Washington State

Previous DUI Conviction	Valid License				
	97	96	95	94	93
None	741	813	672	707	684
One	9	8	7	13	12
Two or more	1	1	2	0	0
Unknown	17	17	17	12	17
<b>Totals</b>	<b>768</b>	<b>839</b>	<b>698</b>	<b>732</b>	<b>713</b>
Percent w/ prev DUI	1.3%	1.1%	1.3%	1.8%	1.7%

Previous DUI Conviction	No Valid License				
	97	96	95	94	93
None	85	112	121	104	86
One	13	18	18	17	26
Two or more	2	4	4	3	6
Unknown	3		1	1	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>120</b>
Percent w/ prev DUI	14.6%	16.4%	15.3%	16.0%	26.7%

Source: FARS

## Drivers in Fatal Collisions

By License Status & Previous Driving Record  
Washington, 1997

	Valid License	No Valid License	Percent w/o Valid License
<b>Total Drivers in Fatal Collisions</b>	768	103	11.8%
<b>Prior Collisions</b>			
None	657	93	12.4%
One	86	7	7.5%
Two or more	8	0	0.0%
Unknown	17	3	15.0%
% w/ prior collisions	12.2%	6.8%	-
<b>Prior License Suspensions</b>			
None	680	33	4.6%
One	47	22	31.9%
Two	12	12	50.0%
Three or more	12	33	73.3%
Unknown	17	3	15.0%
% w/ previous license suspensions	9.2%	65.0%	-
<b>Prior Speeding Convictions</b>			
None	571	71	11.1%
One	123	17	12.1%
Two	34	6	15.0%
Three or more	23	6	20.7%
Unknown	17	3	15.0%
% with prior other convictions	23.4%	28.2%	-
<b>Other Conviction</b>			
None	580	59	9.2%
One	125	22	15.0%
Two	32	12	27.3%
Three or more	14	7	33.3%
Unknown	17	3	15.0%
% w/ prior speeding convictions	22.3%	39.8%	-

Source: FARS



### Known BAC Levels of Had-Been-Drinking Drivers in Fatal Collisions

By Age and Sex - 1997

Driver Age	.00	.01-<.07	.08-<.10	.10-<.15	.15-<.20	.20+	Total # Positive BACs	% with Positive BACs
15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
16	7	0	1	1	0	1	3	30.0%
17	4	0	1	3	1	0	5	55.6%
18	12	4	0	3	4	0	11	47.8%
19	8	0	0	4	1	1	6	42.9%
20	6	2	0	2	2	1	7	53.8%
21-24	16	7	4	5	9	5	30	65.2%
25-34	35	9	6	11	20	17	63	64.3%
35-44	44	6	0	9	11	18	44	50.0%
45-54	28	3	0	4	5	9	21	42.9%
55-64	27	0	1	2	3	1	7	20.6%
65+	35	4	0	1	4	1	10	22.2%
Male	154	27	8	39	50	42	166	51.9%
Female	68	8	5	6	10	12	41	37.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>48.3%</b>

Source: FARS

### BAC Levels of Drivers in Fatal Collisions

Five-year comparison

	97	96	95	94	93	Prev 4-yr Avg	'97 vs Prev 4-yr Avg
.00	222	242	228	223	217	228	-2.4%
.01-.079	35	35	29	33	26	31	13.8%
.08 - .099	13	14	17	12	12	14	-5.5%
.10 - .149	45	51	43	41	60	49	-7.7%
.15 - .199	60	64	52	48	64	57	5.3%
.20 and above	54	99	85	100	100	96	-43.8%
Test Not Given	426	461	378	392	349	395	7.8%
Results Unknown (Test Performed)	9	2	7	2	4	4	-
Test Refused	3	0	0	0	0	0	-
Unknown	4	5	3	6	1	4	6.7%
<b>Total Drivers</b>	<b>871</b>	<b>973</b>	<b>842</b>	<b>857</b>	<b>833</b>	<b>876</b>	<b>-</b>

Source: FARS

### All Drivers Involved in 1997 Fatal Crashes

By County and Driver Age

	Age												County Totals	% WA Fatal Drivers	
	Under 15	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65+			Age Not Known
Adams	0	1	1	0	0	4	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	8	0.9%
Asotin	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0.5%
Benton	0	2	0	0	2	1	1	3	3	0	0	2	0	14	1.6%
Chelan	0	0	2	0	3	1	2	0	0	2	0	2	0	12	1.4%
Clallam	0	2	4	0	0	2	1	2	0	1	0	1	0	13	1.5%
Clark	0	6	5	7	4	5	3	2	3	2	2	2	2	43	4.9%
Columbia	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0.2%
Cowlitz	0	2	4	0	2	3	5	0	1	1	0	1	0	19	2.2%
Douglas	0	1	1	2	2	4	1	1	1	1	1	2	0	17	2.0%
Ferry	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	6	0.7%
Franklin	0	1	2	2	0	2	2	2	0	0	0	3	0	14	1.6%
Garfield	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.3%
Grant	0	8	4	1	7	3	4	0	4	1	3	2	0	37	4.2%
Grays Harbor	0	0	1	1	2	4	2	1	1	0	1	1	0	14	1.6%
Island	0	2	0	3	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	10	1.1%
Jefferson	0	1	0	2	3	0	3	0	0	1	1	2	0	13	1.5%
King	0	20	22	19	22	20	20	14	8	7	8	17	3	180	20.7%
Kitsap	0	5	3	2	1	2	3	2	1	2	1	2	0	24	2.8%
Kittitas	0	1	1	0	2	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	8	0.9%
Klickitat	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	6	0.7%
Lewis	0	2	4	2	1	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	0	19	2.2%
Lincoln	0	3	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0.7%
Mason	0	1	2	1	0	2	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	12	1.4%
Okanogan	0	2	3	1	3	2	1	1	1	3	1	3	0	21	2.4%
Pacific	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	6	0.7%
Pend Oreille	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	2	0	9	1.0%
Pierce	0	11	17	14	11	9	4	1	4	3	1	10	2	87	10.0%
San Juan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	0.2%
Skagit	0	6	1	2	2	3		2	3	2	1	2	1	25	2.9%
Skamania	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.1%
Snohomish	1	8	9	12	4	7	6	9	4	3	3	6	2	74	8.5%
Spokane	0	3	6	1	6	1	5	0	1	0	3	8	0	34	3.9%
Stevens	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	5	0.6%
Thurston	0	2	4	5	2	7	3	3	4	2	1	1	0	34	3.9%
Wahkiakum	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.1%
Walla Walla	0	1	2	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	8	0.9%
Whatcom	0	2	1	6	3	2	0	1	0	0	1	4	0	20	2.3%
Whitman	0	2	0	2	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	8	0.9%
Yakima	0	6	5	10	7	9	5	1	2	2	0	5	0	52	6.0%
<b>Age Totals</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>871</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: FARS



## Drinking Drivers Involved in 1997 Fatal Crashes

By County and Driver Age

	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65+	County Totals	% Co. Fatal Drivers
Adams	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Asotin	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	25.0%
Benton	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	5	35.7%
Chelan	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	16.7%
Clallam	1	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	38.5%
Clark	0	2	3	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	9	20.9%
Columbia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Cowlitz	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	15.8%
Douglas	1	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	5	29.4%
Ferry	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	50.0%
Franklin	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	4	28.6%
Garfield	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	66.7%
Grant	3	2	0	4	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	12	32.4%
Grays Harbor	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	5	35.7%
Island	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	20.0%
Jefferson	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	23.1%
King	7	6	8	4	2	5	3	1	0	0	2	38	21.1%
Kitsap	3	1	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	9	37.5%
Kittitas	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	37.5%
Klickitat	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	3	50.0%
Lewis	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	5	26.3%
Lincoln	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	16.7%
Mason	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	25.0%
Okanogan	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	7	33.3%
Pacific	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Pend Oreille	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	11.1%
Pierce	1	8	9	1	4	0	0	1	0	0	1	25	28.7%
San Juan	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	100.0%
Skagit	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	7	28.0%
Skamania	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	100.0%
Snohomish	3	4	4	1	5	2	3	0	0	0	0	22	29.7%
Spokane	2	4	0	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	13	38.2%
Stevens	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	40.0%
Thurston	1	0	0	2	4	1	0	0	0	0	1	9	26.5%
Wahkiakum	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	100.0%
Walla Walla	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	12.5%
Whatcom	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	20.0%
Whitman	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	4	50.0%
Yakima	0	2	6	2	3	3	0	0	0	0	2	18	34.6%
<b>Age Totals</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>27.6%</b>

Source: FARS

## Driver-Related Factors Cited Most Frequently in Fatal Crashes

Five-year comparison

Nonbehavioral factors excluded<sup>1</sup>

Driver-Related Factors	93	94	95	96	97	Five-year Totals
Improper Lane Travel / Run Off Road	367	338	359	392	410	1,866
Alcohol / Drug Involvement <sup>2</sup>	305	277	298	339	265	1,484
Excessive Speed	220	201	216	223	213	1,073
Inattention	116	126	125	144	150	661
Failure to Yield Right-of-Way	53	57	45	73	62	290
Failure to Obey Signs, Signals, Laws	48	46	39	43	44	220
Drowsiness	33	33	37	35	37	175
Overcorrecting	27	33	39	41	29	169
Improper Passing	16	18	12	12	16	74
Reckless or Careless Driving	14	8	15	18	10	65
Traveling Wrong Direction	6	6	9	9	10	40
Improper Following	4	3	6	9	13	35
Stopping in Roadway	2	8	8	8	6	32
Failure to Dim or Use Lights	1	3	0	5	4	13
Improper Entry or Exit into Traffic	1	0	2	0	1	4
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,213</b>	<b>1,157</b>	<b>1,210</b>	<b>1,351</b>	<b>1,270</b>	<b>6,201</b>

Source: FARS

<sup>1</sup> Excludes pre-existing driver injury or disability; sudden driver illness, emotional upset, or vision impairment; sliding or swerving resulting from road surface conditions; citations of vehicular homicide, manslaughter, assault, or hit-and-run; or the presence of certain electronic devices in the vehicle (e.g., cell phones or fax machines). These instances account for < 4% of all driver factors cited in FARS data.

*This table shows 98.4% of all behavioral driver factors cited in Washington fatal crashes between 1993 and 1997.*

<sup>2</sup> 94.5% of drivers classified as "impaired" had been drinking, and 11.0% had ingested drugs. Out of 1,484 impaired drivers, 82 (5.5%) had consumed both drugs and alcohol.

## **VI. Vehicles in Fatal Crashes**

More than three-quarters of the vehicles involved in 1997 fatal crashes were passenger cars and light trucks. Sport utility vehicles accounted for another 10.2%, and heavy trucks made up an additional 9.3% of all vehicles involved in these crashes.

Motorcycles, MoPeds, ATVs, and ATCs accounted for a combined 3.2% of all vehicles involved in 1997 fatal crashes – a drop of 25.8% from the previous four-year average. Finally, 4 buses were involved in these crashes, less than one-half of one percent of all vehicles involved.

### Motor Vehicles in Fatal Collisions by Vehicle Class

Five-year comparison

Body Type	97	96	95	94	93	Prev 4-yr Avg	97 vs Prev 4-yr Avg
Passenger Car (includes derivatives)	440	473	444	445	439	450	-2.3%
Light Truck (<10,000 lbs)	231	272	219	235	226	238	-2.9%
Heavy / Med Truck (>10,000 lbs)	81	75	67	57	69	67	20.9%
Sport Utility Vehicle	89	93	61	78	47	70	27.6%
Motorcycle / MoPed / ATV / ATC	28	39	36	34	42	38	-25.8%
Bus	4	11	7	5	6	7	-44.8%
Other (Snowmobile, Farm Equip)	0	3	4	3	2	3	-100.0%
Unknown	4	12	9	6	7	9	-52.9%
<b>Total Vehicles</b>	<b>873</b>	<b>966</b>	<b>838</b>	<b>857</b>	<b>831</b>	<b>873</b>	<b>0.0%</b>

Source: FARS

**Registered Vehicles in Washington State, 1997**

By County and Vehicle Type

County	Passenger Vehicles	Motor Cycles	Mo Peds	Motor Homes	Antique / Restored	Trucks	Buses	County Totals
Adams	9,186	188	26	194	8	7,014	0	16,616
Asotin	10,702	341	12	306	13	5,905	1	17,280
Benton	82,240	2,310	160	2,134	58	32,421	17	119,340
Chelan	39,265	1,944	123	1,061	12	20,636	13	63,054
Clallam	35,677	1,306	79	1,398	27	18,945	16	57,448
Clark	182,070	4,425	417	3,312	114	69,129	56	259,523
Columbia	2,292	113	10	84	0	2,204	0	4,703
Cowlitz	54,240	1,469	204	1,678	46	28,472	18	86,127
Douglas	13,356	546	40	507	4	8,112	2	22,567
Ferry	2,505	99	1	84	2	2,082	0	4,773
Franklin	26,119	568	43	727	19	14,362	2	41,840
Garfield	1,401	15	2	44	1	1,301	0	2,764
Grant	35,707	1,036	101	1,178	16	21,809	15	59,862
Grays Harbor	34,481	1,035	490	1,059	35	20,250	19	57,369
Island	37,408	1,246	115	1,049	19	14,455	16	54,308
Jefferson	14,354	706	65	585	13	7,178	6	22,907
King	1,086,672	28,114	2,159	12,648	569	294,184	1,653	1,425,999
Kitsap	124,501	4,356	347	3,331	67	45,061	92	177,755
Kittitas	16,403	800	70	519	8	10,725	5	28,530
Klickitat	9,933	368	17	293	9	7,179	1	17,800
Lewis	37,052	1,089	137	1,186	46	24,003	13	63,526
Lincoln	5,963	128	20	260	1	5,391	5	11,768
Mason	26,251	887	142	1,176	33	15,177	11	43,677
Okanogan	18,880	778	44	675	44	13,803	4	34,228
Pacific	10,875	320	145	479	10	6,912	5	18,746
Pend Oreille	5,550	179	8	253	2	3,943	0	9,935
Pierce	346,649	9,212	1,004	7,113	356	122,663	211	487,208
San Juan	8,040	393	177	190	7	4,274	11	13,092
Skagit	63,665	2,256	226	1,970	60	31,111	33	99,321
Skamania	4,232	181	3	143	4	2,590	1	7,154
Snohomish	326,646	10,468	796	7,133	233	122,562	185	468,023
Spokane	233,531	6,647	330	4,898	222	91,989	167	337,784
Stevens	16,634	570	27	690	8	12,309	3	30,241
Thurston	123,434	3,814	358	2,788	71	49,693	53	180,211
Wahkiakum	1,671	31	13	60	1	1,305	0	3,081
Walla Walla	25,179	782	94	595	11	11,575	9	38,245
Whatcom	90,254	2,868	252	2,289	39	37,217	82	133,001
Whitman	17,765	500	71	324	12	10,259	3	28,934
Yakima	118,511	2,650	249	3,307	50	57,431	63	182,261
DOL / pro	18,725	474	31	309	24	11,230	10	30,803
<b>State Totals</b>	<b>3,318,019</b>	<b>95,212</b>	<b>8,608</b>	<b>68,029</b>	<b>2,274</b>	<b>1,266,861</b>	<b>2,801</b>	<b>4,761,804</b>

Source: DOL

