Crashes by Roadway Classification

Table 9 compares the number of fatal, injury, and total crashes by urban and rural classification. Urban roadways are defined as those within the city limits of cities with 5,000 people or more. Urban roadways tend to carry higher volumes of traffic at lower speeds, while rural roads carry lower traffic volumes at higher speeds.

Table 9 Comparison of Crashes by Roadway Classification: 2007-2011										
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Change 2010-2011	Avg. Change 2007-2010			
Fatal Crashes	218	212	199	185	152	-17.8%	-5.3%			
Urban	47	49	44	42	30	-28.6%	-3.5%			
Rural	171	163	155	143	122	-14.7%	-5.8%			
Injury Crashes:	9,234	8,227	7,861	7,939	7,492	-5.6%	-4.8%			
Urban	5,764	5,053	4,838	4,919	4,762	-3.2%	-5.0%			
Rural	3,470	3,174	3,023	3,020	2,730	-9.6%	-4.5%			
Total Crashes:	26,452	25,002	22,992	22,555	20,833	-7.6%	-5.1%			
Urban	16,693	15,362	14,215	13,780	12,993	-5.7%	-6.2%			
Rural	9,759	9,640	8,777	8,775	7,840	-10.7%	-3.4%			

In 2011, 80% of fatal crashes occurred on rural roads, whereas 38% of all crashes occurred on rural roads. In Idaho in 2011, 89% of the total road mileage was classified as rural roadway. Rural roads tend to have higher speed limits. Crashes at higher impact speeds have a greater probability of resulting in a fatality.³

Table 10 Comparison of Crash Rates per 100 Million AVMT by Roadway Classification: 2007-2011										
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Change 2010-2011	Avg. Change 2007-2010			
Fatal Crash Rate	1.38	1.39	1.29	1.19	0.99	-17.1%	-4.7%			
Urban Fatal Crash Rate	0.73	0.77	0.68	0.64	0.46	-27.8%	-3.7%			
Rural Fatal Crash Rate	1.82	1.83	1.72	1.58	1.36	-14.0%	-4.5%			
Injury Crash Rate	58.31	53.84	50.95	51.04	48.60	-4.8%	-4.3%			
Urban Injury Crash Rate	89.14	79.46	75.23	75.36	73.69	-2.2%	-5.3%			
Rural Injury Crash Rate	37.03	35.57	33.59	33.45	30.49	-8.9%	-3.3%			
Total Crash Rate	167.03	163.61	149.01	145.00	135.14	-6.8%	-4.6%			
Urban Total Crash Rate	258.14	241.58	221.05	211.10	201.07	-4.8%	-6.5%			
Rural Total Crash Rate	104.15	108.04	97.53	97.20	87.56	-9.9%	-2.1%			

Table 11 shows the number of crashes and crash rates on local and state system roadways (both interstate and non-interstate) for 2007-2011, and the number of crashes and crash rates statewide. Crash rates are lower than the statewide fatality and injury rates shown in Table 2 because multiple fatalities or injuries may result from a single crash.

Table 11 Crash Rates for Local and State System Roadways: 2007-2011								
Roadway Information	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Change 2010-2011	Avg. Chang 2007-2010	
Local Roads:								
VMT (100 millions)	72.7	71.4	71.2	72.1	71.1	-1.3%	-0.3%	
Fatal Crashes	88	84	76	79	72	-8.9%	-3.4%	
Injury Crashes	5,824	5,240	4,539	4,978	4,272	-14.2%	-4.6%	
Total Crashes	16,950	16,079	13,502	14,238	12,011	-15.6%	-5.2%	
Fatal Crash Rate	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.0	-7.6%	-3.1%	
Injury Crash Rate	80.1	73.4	63.8	69.1	60.1	-13.0%	-4.4%	
Total Crash Rate	233.1	225.2	189.7	197.6	169.0	-14.5%	-5.0%	
U.S. and State Highways:								
VMT (100 millions)	49.9	48.0	48.3	48.7	48.2	-1.0%	-0.7%	
Fatal Crashes	88	90	97	79	63	-20.3%	-2.8%	
Injury Crashes	2,635	2,283	2,566	2,288	2,593	13.3%	-3.9%	
Total Crashes	7,090	6,537	7,205	6,189	6,897	11.4%	-3.9%	
Fatal Crash Rate	1.8	1.9	2.0	1.6	1.3	-19.4%	-2.0%	
Injury Crash Rate	52.8	47.5	53.2	46.9	53.7	14.5%	-3.3%	
Total Crash Rate	142.2	136.1	149.2	127.0	143.0	12.6%	-3.2%	
Interstate Highways:								
VMT (100 millions)	35.8	33.4	34.8	34.8	34.8	0.2%	-0.9%	
Fatal Crashes	42	38	26	27	17	-37.0%	-12.4%	
Injury Crashes	775	704	756	673	627	-6.8%	-4.3%	
Total Crashes	2,412	2,386	2,285	2,128	1,925	-9.5%	-4.1%	
Fatal Crash Rate	1.2	1.1	0.7	8.0	0.5	-37.2%	-11.1%	
Injury Crash Rate	21.7	21.1	21.7	19.4	18.0	-7.0%	-3.5%	
Total Crash Rate	67.4	71.5	65.6	61.2	55.3	-9.7%	-3.0%	
Statewide Totals:								
VMT (100 millions)	158.4	152.8	154.3	155.6	154.2	-0.9%	-0.6%	
Fatal Crashes	218	212	199	185	152	-17.8%	-5.3%	
Injury Crashes	9,234	8,227	7,861	7,939	7,492	-5.6%	-4.8%	
Total Crashes	26,452	25,002	22,992	22,555	20,833	-7.6%	-5.1%	
Fatal Crash Rate	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.0	-17.1%	-4.7%	
Injury Crash Rate	58.3	53.8	50.9	51.0	48.6	-4.8%	-4.3%	
Total Crash Rate	167.0	163.6	149.0	145.0	135.1	-6.8%	-4.6%	