



Quick Notes

from the Idaho Office of Highway Safety

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Fatalities for 2013 = 107

Hi Highway Safety Partners:

I ran across an article from the Allstate Insurance Company whereby they released their eighth annual "Allstate America's Best Drivers Report™." The report, based on Allstate claims data, ranks America's 200* largest cities in terms of car collision frequency to identify which cities have the safest drivers. This year's top honor of "America's Safest Driving City" is Sioux Falls, South Dakota, the fifth time in the history of the report that the city has held the top spot. [Boise, Idaho ranked second](#). According to the report, the average driver in Sioux Falls will experience an auto collision every 13.8 years, which is 27.6 percent less likely than the national average of 10 years.

Here are the top ten cities:

City & Overall Ranking	Collision Likelihood Compared to National Average	Average Years Between Collisions
1. Sioux Falls, S.D.	27.6% less likely	13.8
2. Boise, Idaho	27.3% less likely	13.8
3. Fort Collins, Colo.	26.7% less likely	13.6
4. Madison, Wisc.	23.0% less likely	13.0
5. Lincoln, Neb.	19.3% less likely	12.4
6. Huntsville, Ala.	19.1% less likely	12.4
7. Chandler, Ariz.	18.9% less likely	12.3
8. Reno, Nev.	18.4% less likely	12.3
9. Knoxville, Tenn.	18.1% less likely	12.2
10. Springfield, Mo.	17.4% less likely	12.1

Allstate created this report to boost the country's discussion on safe driving and to increase awareness about the importance of being tolerant and attentive behind the wheel. While car crash fatalities are at the lowest level they've been nationally since 1949, they still average more than 32,000 every year, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Reviewing this information continues to reinforce that it is vital for us to have a continued awareness about safe driving behaviors. Minimizing distractions, obeying traffic laws, and using your car's safety features are all ways to be safer, no matter where you drive.

Here are some common sense tips for safe driving:

- **Allow plenty of time to reach your destination.** Stop-and-go traffic, gridlock, traffic signal stops, pedestrian walkways and events that create traffic detours can add time to your travel.
- **Know what's happening in the city during the time you're driving.** Find out if there are events that may impact traffic, and listen to traffic reports on your car radio. Avoid traffic jams or explore alternative routes, if possible.
- **Stay alert.** Be prepared to frequently stop or slow down for pedestrians, emergency vehicles, delivery trucks, parking cars, taxi cabs, and public transportation vehicles such as city buses.
- **Get directions to where you're going.** Review directions carefully in advance. If you get lost mid-trip, safely pull over and wait until you feel calm enough to get back on the road, using that time to get directions, check traffic or call for help.
- **Watch the speed limit.** Speed limits may be greater than in city traffic, which can lead some drivers to speed up and make roads dangerous.
- **Look out for pedestrians, especially children.** While there are typically fewer pedestrians or obstacles than in large metropolitan areas, there are also typically fewer crosswalks, so pedestrians may be less aware of traffic rules such as where and when to cross the street.
- **Know the rules of the road.** Suburban streets typically have fewer streetlights and signs, or greater distance between lights and signs. This means darker conditions when driving at night and less opportunity to be reminded of speed limits and other road rules throughout the day.

- **Keep a safe distance - especially around large vehicles.** Large vehicles like semi-trucks are more likely found on suburban roads than in large metro areas. Keep a safe distance between your vehicle and others, and know that truck drivers might have limited visibility. If you attempt to pass a truck, make sure you have plenty of time and space to maneuver safely.

Taking the time to review your own driving decisions will help us all reach our destinations safely as we continue to enjoy the rest of summer.

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2011 Traffic Fatalities by State and Percentage Change from 2010

In 2011, there were 32,367 motor vehicle traffic fatalities in the United States, a 2-percent decrease from 2010.

State-by-State Tables

Eight tables provided in these sections show various fatality data by State.

1. Traffic Fatalities and Fatality Rates, 2011 – The fatality rate per 100 million vehicle miles traveled was 1.10 for the Nation in 2011. Montana and Puerto Rico had the highest rates (1.79 and 1.93, respectively), and Maine had the lowest rate (0.62).
2. Traffic Fatalities and Percent Change, 1975-2011 – Thirty-six States showed decreases in fatalities from 2010 to 2011, ranging from less than 1 percent to as much as 31 percent.
3. Traffic Fatality Rates and Percent Change, 1975-2011 – The fatality rate per 100 million vehicle miles traveled has decreased by 67 percent since 1975, with the decreases by State ranging from 56 percent to 82 percent.
4. Alcohol Involvement in Fatal Traffic Crashes, 2002 and 2011 – Nationwide in 2011, alcohol-impaired driving (blood alcohol concentration [BAC] of .08 grams per deciliter [g/dL] or higher) was involved in 31 percent of traffic fatalities, which was the same in 2002. Table 4 provides these comparisons for each State. This table also presents the percentage of drivers involved in fatal crashes where BAC tests were given and the results were known in 2011. Nationwide 72 percent of drivers killed were tested and their results were known, while 30 percent of drivers who survived fatal crashes were tested with known results.
5. Speeding-Related Traffic Fatalities, by Roadway Function Class, 2011 – There were 9,944 speeding-related fatalities in the United States in 2011. This table provides a break-down by State.
6. Passenger Vehicle Occupants and Motorcyclists Killed, 2011 – In 26 States and Puerto Rico, 50 percent or more of the passenger vehicle occupants killed were unrestrained. Nationwide in 2011, 40 percent of motorcyclists killed were not helmeted. However, in 16 States over 70 percent of motorcyclists killed were not helmeted.
7. Traffic Fatalities and Vehicles Involved in Fatal Crashes by Type, 2011 – The majority of people killed in traffic crashes were drivers (51%), followed by passengers (18%), motorcyclists (14%), pedestrians (14%), and pedalcyclists (2%). Delaware, Idaho, Maine, Rhode Island, Vermont, and West Virginia reported no pedalcyclists killed.
8. Fatalities in the Beds of Pickup Trucks, by Age, 2011 – In 2011, 47 fatalities occurred in the beds of pickup trucks.

Three tables provided in these sections contain information on State Laws.

9. Key Provisions of Occupant Restraint Laws and 2011 Belt Use Rates – In 2011, all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico had seat belt use laws. All 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico also had laws requiring children of certain ages to be restrained in child safety seats.
10. History of State Motorcycle Helmet Laws – Motorcycle helmets were required for all riders in 19 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico in 2011. Twenty-eight States had helmet requirements with exceptions (age, rider type, roadway type), and three States (Illinois, Iowa, and New Hampshire) did not require helmets at all.
11. State Traffic Safety Laws as of June 2011 – In 2011, it was a criminal offense to operate a motor vehicle at a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 g/dL or above in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

Seat Belt Use in 2012 – Use Rates in the States and Territories

In 2012, seat belt use in the United States ranged from 66.5 percent in South Dakota to 96.9 percent in Washington. These results are from probability-based observational surveys conducted by 50 States, the District of Columbia, and U.S. Territories. These surveys are conducted in accordance with criteria established by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to ensure reliable results. Compliance with the criteria is verified annually by NHTSA's National Center for Statistics and Analysis.

In 2011 NHTSA established new uniform criteria (23 CFR Part 1340) for observational surveys. In the transitional period, NHTSA allows the States and Territories the option to use either the old or new criteria for 2012 surveys. In 2012, twenty-seven States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands used surveys that conformed to the new uniform criteria. From 2013 and beyond all State and Territory observational surveys will be based on the new criteria. Seat belt use rates in the States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, other U. S. Territories, and nationwide from 2005 to 2012 are listed in the following table. Rates in jurisdictions with primary seat belt enforcement during the calendar year of the survey are shaded in the table. However, the law might not have taken effect when the survey was being conducted.

The 2012 State and Territory survey results include the following:

- Sixteen States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico achieved seat belt use rates of 90 percent or higher. These States are Washington, Oregon, California, Texas, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Hawaii, Iowa, Georgia, New Mexico, Maryland, Nevada, South Carolina and New York, in descending order.
- Jurisdictions with stronger seat belt enforcement laws continue to exhibit generally higher use rates than those with weaker laws.

Here is a link to the NHTSA report: <http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Pubs/811809.pdf>

Youthful Driver Grants Available for High Schools



Celebrate My Drive®, powered by State Farm®, encourages teens to make positive choices as they start driving. We're proud to help them stay safe as they explore the road ahead. Getting a driver's license is one of the greatest joys in a person's life, but the first year behind the wheel can be one of the most dangerous.

During U.S. National Teen Driver Safety Week, October 18-26, high schools and students ages 14+ will unite their communities to generate support for their school by making online safe driving commitments. \$3.25 million in grants* will be awarded to 100 high schools who generate the most commitments.

2 schools get a Grand Prize Concert by a chart-topping music artist and a \$100,000 grant

8 schools get \$100,000

90 schools get \$25,000

*10% of each grant award must be dedicated to teen driver safety

Right now you can [learn more](#) and register your school. Also, check out our [Facebook page](#) for updates. In early September, check back to find a State Farm agent hosted Celebrate My Drive event near you. Agents will host community celebrations across North America October 18-26.

About Celebrate My Drive®

Celebrate My Drive is a different approach to a leading public health risk. Car crashes are the number one killer of teens, and a teen's first year on the road is the most dangerous. Using research as a guide, [State Farm®](#) is approaching teen driver safety, a winnable public health battle, by engaging teens while they learn to drive in a supportive and positive way. It's a community celebration of safe driving habits emphasizing the benefits of safe choices as teens celebrate the freedom that comes with getting a drivers' license. Learn more about the initiative at www.celebratemydrive.com.



Breath Taking News

The Idaho State Police Forensic Services released a new online Breath Testing Operator and Breath Testing Specialist training on July 1, 2013. This new online course further standardizes the state wide breath testing program and how Operators and Breath Testing Specialists (BTS) are certified. Only officers and individuals performing evidentiary tests will be approved and certified under this new training. All current certifications are valid through their original expiration date. It will not be necessary to take the new online training until your current certification expires as an Operator or BTS. ISPFS will NOT be teaching any more live classes.

Furthermore, agencies are NOT authorized to teach Operator courses. The new online course certifies successful students for 2 calendar years. This new training can be accessed on the POST Academy e-learning website at <https://post.idaho.gov/eLearning/>. Students will choose between the Operator track or the BTS track. Students are expected to read the breath testing instrument instruction manuals and the SOPs prior to taking the online training. This information is available view online at: www.isp.idaho.gov/forensics/index.html.

After successfully completing the online course, each student will contact the appropriate person for proficiency testing. For Breath Testing Specialists the proficiency testing will be conducted by ISPFS personnel. Operators will report to a BTS that has completed this online certification process for their proficiency testing. No certificates will be issued until this "in-person" proficiency testing is completed.

Aggressive driving mobilization continues through August 4, 2013

One aggressive driver may endanger many people, so the Idaho Transportation Department has combined forces with state and local law enforcement to increase awareness of and target aggressive-driving behavior to save lives.

ITD and its law enforcement partners are conducting a grant-funded, high-visibility education and enforcement campaign through Aug. 4. The campaign is meant to raise awareness and educate people about the dangers of aggressive driving, and help make Idaho highways safer.



The following is an all-too-common situation reported to the department's Office of Highway Safety, explained Jo O'Connor, with ITD.

"On Tuesday, of this week, I was ... harassed by an aggressive driver that followed me. At each stoplight he would pull up next to me and threaten me with violence."

"I had been driving the speed limit ... when he started to tailgate me. I didn't speed up to allow him to pass me since I was preparing to make a left turn down the street. When he finally passed me, he pulled in and slammed on his brakes, causing me to go into the center lane to avoid crashing into the side of his car."

"Then, the harassment progressed."

"Is there a proper way to report this aggressive driver? This person is dangerous and will certainly hurt or kill someone with his aggressive driving."

O'Connor explained that this person wrote to ITD looking for a way to prevent this driver from hurting someone.

"Like most people who experience acts of aggression or road rage, this motorist felt helpless," she said.

"Aggressive drivers use the anonymity of their cars to act out their aggression," O'Connor said. "It's not acceptable to put yourself or others at risk by driving recklessly and citizens have the right to report this type of behavior if witnessed in the absence of an officer."

Speeding, not obeying traffic control devices, following too close (tailgating), driving too fast for conditions, weaving in and out of traffic, making improper lane changes, passing on shoulders in an unsafe manner and unnecessary honking are considered aggressive driving behaviors and traffic violations by law enforcement.

Screaming or flashing lights and making rude hand or facial gestures are additional aggressive driving behaviors that may also escalate to road rage, a criminal act.

Road rage is a deliberate act of assault with a motor vehicle or other dangerous weapon by the occupant of one vehicle against the occupant of another vehicle, O'Connor explained. Often, the person who incites the road rage may not have done so intentionally. Road rage can lead to criminal offenses or charges.

O'Connor advises motorists to stay calm and safely get out of the way if confronted with an aggressive driver. Do not challenge him or her, avoid eye contact and ignore gestures. Always be sure that seat belts are fastened in case abrupt movements cause a loss of vehicle control.

"Find a safe place to call 911, or call dispatch when you get home. If possible, provide time, location, license plate, vehicle and driver description," O'Connor said. "Describe the incident in detail and be prepared to appear in court, if needed."

[Aggressive Driving TV Spot](#)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

If you would like to add an event to the calendar, please send an e-mail with the event details to lisa.losness@itd.idaho.gov

Date	Event Description, Location
2013	
July 19 – Aug 4	Aggressive Driving – Statewide Traffic Enforcement Mobilization
July 30	Alive at 25 , Orofino High School, www.idsafedriver.org
Aug 3	Alive at 25 , Nampa Police Dept., www.idsafedriver.org
Aug 5	Alive at 25 , Meridian Police Dept., www.idsafedriver.org
Aug 7-12	Bicycle/Pedestrian – Statewide Traffic Enforcement Mobilization
Aug 10	Alive at 25 , Meridian Police Dept., www.idsafedriver.org
Aug 12	Alive at 25 , Boise Police Dept., www.idsafedriver.org
Aug 14	Alive at 25 , Kootenai County Fire Station #2, www.idsafedriver.org
Aug 17	Alive at 25 , Kootenai County Fire Station #2, www.idsafedriver.org
Aug 19	Alive at 25 , Boise Police Dept., www.idsafedriver.org
Aug 20	Alive at 25 , Meridian Police Dept., www.idsafedriver.org
Aug 24	Alive at 25 , Gem County Emergency Services, www.idsafedriver.org
Aug 25 – Sept 8	Impaired Driving - Statewide Traffic Enforcement Mobilization
Aug 31	Alive at 25 , Meridian Police Dept., www.idsafedriver.org
Sept 14	Alive at 25 , Boise Police Dept., www.idsafedriver.org
Sept 23	Alive at 25 , Blackfoot City Hall, www.idsafedriver.org
Sept 24	Alive at 25 , Orofino High School, www.idsafedriver.org
Sept 28	Alive at 25 , Gem County Emergency Services, www.idsafedriver.org
Dec 3	Alive at 25 , Orofino High School, www.idsafedriver.org

Quick Reference Guide – click on the topic to go directly to website.

[**OHS**](#), Office of Highway Safety

[**ITD**](#), Idaho Transportation Department

[**NHTSA**](#), National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[**FHWA**](#), Federal Highway Administration

[**2011 Idaho Crash Report**](#)

Program Area	Idaho State Links	Federal Links
Impaired Driving		http://www.nhtsa.gov/Impaired
Distracted Driving	http://www.itd.idaho.gov/ohs/DistractedDriving.htm	http://distraction.gov/
Teen Drivers	http://www.idahoteendriving.org/	http://www.nhtsa.gov/Teen-Drivers
Bike & Pedestrian Safety	http://www.itd.idaho.gov/bike_ped/index_new2.htm	http://www.nhtsa.gov/Pedestrians http://www.nhtsa.gov/Bicycles
Seat Belt Safety	http://www.itd.idaho.gov/ohs/ClickIt/ClickIt2.htm	http://www.nhtsa.gov/Driving+Safety/Occupant+Protection
Child Passenger Safety	http://www.itd.idaho.gov/ohs/ChildSafety/index.html	http://www.nhtsa.gov/Safety/CPS
Aggressive Driving	http://itd.idaho.gov/ohs/Aggressive.htm	http://www.nhtsa.gov/Aggressive
Motorcycles	www.idahostar.org	http://www.nhtsa.gov/Safety/Motorcycles
Senior/Mature Drivers		http://www.nhtsa.gov/Senior-Drivers
Lane Departure	http://itd.idaho.gov/info/home_articles/safety_plan.htm	http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/roadway_dept