

SAFETY Network

June 2020

Michigan.gov/ohsp

Michigan traffic fatalities remain below 1,000 in 2019

Michigan traffic deaths stayed below 1,000 in 2019 for the second consecutive year, according to recently released data from the Michigan State Police Criminal Justice Information Center. The 985 fatalities in 2019 marked a 1 percent increase from 974 fatalities in 2018.

The number of injuries, crashes, and serious injuries all remained close to levels from the year before:

- Injuries: 75,838 in 2018 to 74,963 in 2019, down 1 percent.
- Crashes: 312,798 in 2018 to 314,377 in 2019, up 1 percent.
- Suspected serious injuries: 5,586 in 2018 to 5,629 in 2019, up 1 percent.

“Public safety is more important than ever, and we are constantly searching for ways to save lives,” said Michael L. Prince, director of the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP). “The OHSP and its partners will continue to educate the public about ways to stay safe and prevent tragedies.”

The percentage of alcohol-involved fatalities dropped by 6 percent from 315 deaths in 2018 to 295 in 2019. Several areas saw a decrease; drug involved, off-road vehicles, and motorcyclists, while there was an increase in fatalities from traffic crashes involving a driver age 16-20.

| Category | 2019 | 2018 | Change |
|-----------------------|------|------|--------|
| Alcohol Involved | 295 | 315 | -6% |
| Drug Involved | 237 | 247 | -4% |
| Teens (13-19) | 60 | 63 | -5% |
| Young Drivers (16-20) | 124 | 106 | 17% |
| Bicyclist | 21 | 21 | 0% |
| Motorcyclist | 122 | 134 | -9% |
| Off-Road Vehicles | 7 | 15 | -53% |
| Pedestrian | 149 | 145 | 3% |
| Snowmobile | 8 | 0 | 100% |
| Construction Zone | 17 | 16 | 6% |
| Deer | 12 | 14 | -14% |
| School Bus | 6 | 5 | 20% |
| Train | 7 | 0 | 100% |
| Truck/Bus | 106 | 112 | -5% |
| Cell Phone | 15 | 20 | -25% |
| Distracted Driving | 70 | 77 | -9% |

NATIONWIDE

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) estimates 36,120 people were killed in traffic crashes in 2019, a small decline from 2018. The estimate is based on preliminary Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) data. In 2018, 36,560 people were killed in traffic crashes. Michigan saw a slight increase in traffic fatalities, going from 974 in 2018 to 985 in 2019.

Most major traffic safety categories

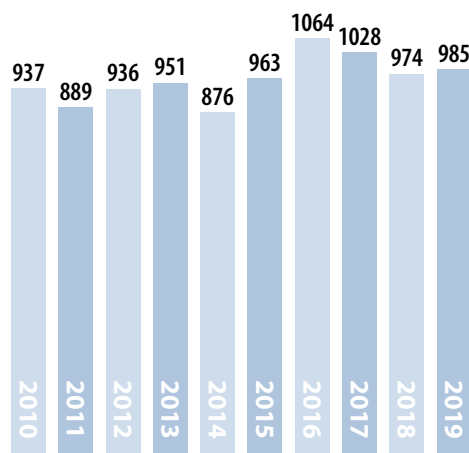
saw a decrease in fatalities; drivers were down 3 percent, passengers were down 4 percent, motorcyclists were down 1 percent, pedestrians were down 2 percent, and bicyclists were down 3 percent. Large truck-involved fatalities were up 1 percent.

Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) in the U.S. in 2019 surpassed 2018. As a result, the fatality rate per 100 million VMT dropped to 1.10 from 1.13. That would be the second lowest rate since NHTSA started recording fatal crash data.

2019 VS 2020

The release of the 2019 year-end statistics comes as Michigan navigates through the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. When comparing traffic crash data from January 1 - April 30, 2019, to preliminary data for the same four months in 2020, crashes have decreased 29 percent from 100,511 to 71,555. Total fatalities during this four-month period were 260 in 2019 and preliminary data indicates fatalities have dropped 25 percent to 194 in 2020.

MICHIGAN TRAFFIC FATALITIES



| MICHIGAN TRAFFIC CRASHES | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Crashes | 314,377 | 312,798 | 314,921 | 312,172 | 297,023 |
| Injuries | 74,963 | 75,838 | 78,394 | 79,724 | 74,157 |
| Fatalities | 985 | 974 | 1,028 | 1,064 | 963 |

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www.Michigan.gov/StayInYourCar

Motorists urged to stay in their vehicle after crash

Crash data from 2014-2018 shows that approximately 10 percent of all pedestrian-related traffic crash fatalities involved a roadside emergency. A motorist involved in a crash who gets out of their car and is then hit and killed is classified as a pedestrian. As is someone who runs out of gas and is walking along the highway shoulder to get gas, or someone changing a tire on the side of the road. Generally, the safest thing to do if you are involved in a crash, run out of gas, breakdown or have any other type of roadside emergency is to stay in your car, with your seat belt buckled, and call for help.

More tips on how to react after a roadside emergency can be found at www.michigan.gov/StayInYourCar.

If you are involved in a crash:

STAY IN YOUR CAR.

- Keep your seat belt buckled.
- Drive your car to the shoulder or next exit safely, if possible. Michigan is a "Clear It or Steer It" state.
- Activate your vehicle's emergency flashers.
- Call 911 or the local police department for help.
- Remember you must report a crash that involves a motor vehicle, causes injury, or causes more than \$1,000 in damages.
- Moving your vehicle to a safe place on the shoulder, nearby exit or parking lot is not leaving the scene of a crash.

IF YOUR VEHICLE IS DISABLED OR OUT OF GAS:

- Put your vehicle in park.
- Activate your vehicle's emergency flashers.
- Call for roadside assistance, or a friend to bring you some gas.
- Stay in your car with your seat belt buckled while you wait.
- If you get out of the vehicle (to change a tire for example), make sure you and the part of the car you are working on does not face traffic.

IF YOU GET OUT OF YOUR VEHICLE:

- Stand with your vehicle between you and traffic.
- If walking, wear a reflective vest if possible, and walk against traffic, as far to the side as possible.

MICHIGAN'S MOVE OVER LAW:

- Motorists are required to slow down and move over for stationary emergency vehicles with their lights activated.
- Slow down to at least 10 mph below the posted speed limit (for example, slow to at least 60 mph in a posted 70 mph area).
- Fully move over into an open lane. If that is not possible due to traffic, weather, or road conditions, slow down at least 10 mph below the posted speed limit and pass with caution.

- The law applies to the following vehicles:
 - Police
 - Fire
 - Rescue
 - Ambulance
 - Road Service (tow trucks and Michigan Department of Transportation courtesy vehicles)
 - Road Maintenance
 - Utility Service
 - Solid Waste Hauler
- Violating the Move Over Law is a civil infraction subject to two points on your driver's license and a fine of \$400.
- If the violation causes the death of a police officer, firefighter, or other emergency responder, the motorist faces up to 15 years in prison and/or a \$7,500 fine.
- If the violation causes an injury to a police officer, firefighter, or other emergency responder, the motorist faces up to 2 years in prison and/or a \$1,000 fine.

IF YOU ARE DRIVING PAST THE SCENE OF A CRASH:

- Use caution when passing a vehicle parked on the shoulder. If possible, slow down and move over to pass, even if the vehicle looks abandoned.
- Use hands-free calling to call 911 or the local police. Or safely exit the highway or pull into a safe area and park and then call for help.

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What Michigan's Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor Program can do for you

By Kinga Canike and Ken Stecker

The Michigan Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor Program provides valuable resources to line prosecutors who are handling impaired driving and other traffic-safety related cases. It is imperative that prosecutors are familiar with these resources so they can effectively prosecute these cases in court.

Michigan's Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor Program consists of two training prosecutors and a conference coordinator. Together the three of us make up the Traffic Safety Training Program (TSTP) of the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan (PAAM). We put together documents and trainings that are specifically aimed at helping prosecutors with all levels of experience in handling anything from your typical Operating While Intoxicated (OWI) case to advanced OWI Causing Death and other vehicular homicide trials.

The documents we create for prosecutors are available in both written and digital format. When we create a document, we will put it out on the TSTP listserv. The listserv is a great way to stay connected with us and other prosecutors around the state who are handling impaired driving cases as well. Our documents are also available on the private side of the Michigan Prosecutor website under the TSTP page. Please refer to this website regularly to check the latest material that has been added for your convenience and easy access. For more information on how to be added to the listserv and to the private side of the Michigan Prosecutor website, please see information at the end of this article.

There are many documents currently available to assist you with handling OWI cases. One of the most requested manuals from the TSTP is the OWI Trial Manual. This manual was written with the rookie OWI prosecutor in mind and is updated

annually. It covers every aspect of an OWI case starting with issues the defense may raise regarding the initial traffic stop to introducing standardized field sobriety evidence to making sure you lay the proper foundation for breath and blood test results. Other topics covered include discovery, prior convictions, and sample voir dire and direct examination questions.

In addition to the OWI Manual, other documents the TSTP offers include the OWI Case Law Summary, the Medical Marijuana Case Law Summary, and the Second Degree Vehicular Homicide Manual. All these resources are available on the Michigan Prosecutor website. In addition, the TSTP publishes on a quarterly basis the Green Light News/Yellow Light Legal Update newsletter. Our goal with this newsletter is to keep you up to date on the most relevant issues affecting traffic safety in our state, as well as case law that affects our OWI prosecutions. We put out the newest edition on our listserv and prior editions can be found on the Michigan Prosecutor website.

Besides these written resources, the TSTP is also available to provide technical assistance to line prosecutors. We can do this in a number of ways including the following: providing you with case law that will assist with handling your specific pre-trial issue, reviewing a police report and giving you our opinion on charging decisions, or strategizing with you about your case, potential issues, and how best to handle them. We can also forward sample motions so you don't have to recreate the wheel and connect you with individuals who may help with your case, such as toxicologists, Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) officers, and Secretary of State court liaisons. As traffic safety resource prosecutors, we have built relationships with these individuals for the purpose of connecting our line prosecutors with the

experts in the field.

We also put on trainings and webinars year-round geared toward prosecutors and law enforcement officers handling OWI investigations. Some of our most popular trainings for prosecutors are Nuts and Bolts of OWI Investigations and Prosecutions, Advanced OWI Prosecution, and Prosecuting the Drugged Driver. Each of these is a one-day training and will help prepare you for your first OWI trial. We also have trainings that deal with crash reconstruction, OWI forfeiture, and using courtroom technology in the courtroom to present your OWI cases. You can always go to the Michigan Prosecutor website and look up the training calendar for more information on upcoming trainings.

The defense expert database is a valuable resource for OWI prosecutors. Over the years we have accumulated many transcripts and other material on defense experts who have testified in our state in OWI cases. We understand that many times new prosecutors are assigned to handle misdemeanor OWI dockets, and that defense attorneys will notify you in the last minute about an expert testifying in one of these cases. The best tool we can provide to help in this situation are prior transcripts for that expert that you can review to help prepare you to

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cross examine him or her. If we do not have a transcript for a particular expert, we can also reach out to traffic safety resource prosecutors in other states to see if they've dealt with that person in their state. In return, we ask that you notify us when an expert has testified in your OWI case so we can order their transcript and add it to our database.

There are a lot of things we can't control in the courtroom. However, one thing we can control is how prepared we prosecutors are when we step into the courtroom to try a case. The Michigan Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor Program is a resource to help all line prosecutors prepare for their next OWI case. We hope that by utilizing what we have to offer, you will walk into your next OWI trial not only prepared but confident in your ability to handle the matter. Impaired driving is a serious matter and it requires we all work together to combat the problem and hold these drivers responsible for their actions.

For more information on this article and PAAM training programs, contact Kenneth Stecker or Kinga Canike, Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutors, at 517-334-6060 or email at steckerk@michigan.gov or canikek@michigan.gov.

Please consult your prosecutor before adopting practices suggested by this article. Discuss your practices that relate to this article with your commanding officers, police legal advisors, and the prosecuting attorney before changing your practice.

STAFF PROFILE

Mike Harris DUI ENFORCEMENT TRAINING

Mike has been with the OHSP for 15 years and with the State of Michigan for 41. He was an enlisted member of the Michigan State Police before spending time with the Michigan Attorney General's Office. Mike is the DUI Enforcement Training program coordinator for OHSP. He and his wife Brenda have two children, David and Elizabeth. David is a captain in the U.S. Army. Elizabeth is a midshipman beginning her third year at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in New York. Mike and Brenda also have a black cat, Winkster.

What do you like most about your job?

Watching a relatively small group of dedicated Michigan DRE instructors provide much needed training and information on drug impairment to law enforcement officers and prosecutors all over the state. Observing the interest and gratitude from the police officers receiving that training is an added bonus. I also see those police officers and prosecutors put that training immediately to use, every day.

What are you most proud of at work?

Being granted the opportunity to bring the Drug Evaluation and Classification Program to Michigan.

What are your interests or hobbies?

Camping and bicycling with my wife and kids whenever possible. I like fixing things and carving wood – which isn't easy, but I keep trying!

What personal achievement are you most proud of?

Accepting Jesus Christ as my personal Savior and putting my hope and trust



in Him in the good times and the bad. Though I fail many times, He keeps me looking vertical for my hope, not horizontal. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Ephesians 6:12.

What's your favorite vacation spot?

Virginia Beach, Washington D.C., and Gettysburg.

What's something people don't know about you?

I graduated from Wayne State University back when they were the Tartars – whatever that is!

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S4SD

STRIVE 4 A SAFER DRIVE ▲

S4SD will return in the fall

With the closing of schools due to Covid-19, Strive for a Safer Drive (S4SD) was unable to finish the 2019-2020 campaign but will return when school resumes in the fall. Schools participating this year are asked to submit any pictures or projects but do not have to return any unused funds. That money can be applied to projects started next academic year.

The Ride and Drive event scheduled to take place May 4, 2020, at the Ford Proving Grounds was also cancelled.

It's not too early to register for S4SD for the 2020-2021 school year. Applications can be accessed at www.michigan.gov/s4sd. The first 30 schools that apply before October 19 will qualify for an additional \$100 in program funds. S4SD is a teen driving initiative aimed at reducing serious traffic crashes, injuries, and fatalities among Michigan's most inexperienced drivers—teens. Participating schools receive \$1,000 to create a student-led traffic safety awareness campaign. Topics for the campaign can be distracted driving, seat belt safety, impaired driving, speeding, and winter driving.



Ford takes teens on “Daily Drive”

Stay-at-home orders mean more families with new or soon-to-be-driving teens could benefit from the Ford Driving Skills for Life (DSFL) program's “The Daily Drive.” The videos can be viewed at www.youtube.com/user/FordDSFL/videos.

The program features Ford DSFL instructors as well as safety and driver education professionals, including teen safe-

driving expert Pam Shadel Fischer, GHSA's Senior Director of External Engagement & Special Projects. In a recent episode, Pam offers advice for parents with a focus on Graduated Driver Licensing. Some of the other topics covered are avoiding hazards, roundabouts, vehicle handling, and more.



Project 111 releases new video

Project 111, the Midland-based non-profit that teaches safe driving to teens and their parents, released a new video in April highlighting the dangers of distracted driving. The video, titled *Put it Away or Be Put in the Grave: Distracted Driving Kills*, can be seen here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=n30Qr5_UO_k.

The distracted driving video is one in

a series produced by Project 111, Midland Dow's Studio 2020, and Bolger and Battle. The videos are shown in schools in the Midland area, in conjunction with the Project 111 program. The mission of Project 111 is to educate and incentivize students to make good choices while driving. For more on Project 111, go to www.project111.org.

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- First responders are trained to assist others, but if you must stop to help, take extreme caution:
 - Park your vehicle as far off the shoulder as safely as possible.
 - Activate your flashers.
 - Try and stand on the opposite side of your vehicle than traffic.
 - Weather conditions (snow, ice, rain, wind, fog) can increase the distance needed to stop. When driving in adverse weather conditions, slow down.

EMERGENCY KIT:

- Keep an emergency preparedness kit in your vehicle. If you have to get out of your vehicle to retrieve it, do so quickly and return to your vehicle and buckle your seat belt. Your kit should contain:
 - Batteries
 - Flashlight
 - Phone charger
 - Water and non-perishable food
 - Blankets
 - First aid kit
 - Jumper cables