



Highway Safety

Oregon's highway fatality rate has dropped 60 percent since 1980

- Oregon had 488 deaths and 29,022 injuries in traffic crashes in 2005.
- Oregon's highway fatality rate in 2005 was 1.38 deaths per 100 million vehicle miles driven. The national highway fatality rate in 2004 was 1.44 deaths per 100 million vehicle miles driven.
- Highways and cars are designed and built to be safer than ever, helping reduce the death rate – despite more cars driving on Oregon's highways, streets and roads.

Causes of traffic fatalities

- Driver behaviors are the leading factors in Oregon traffic fatalities.
- Speed: about 52 percent of all fatal crashes in Oregon in 2005 involved speeding.
- Driving under the influence: about 40 percent of Oregon's 2005 fatal traffic crashes were alcohol- and/or drug-related.

Using safety belts and child safety seats

- Oregon consistently ranks among the top five states in the nation for safety belt use. Since the 1990 belt law, belt use has risen from approximately 48 percent to 96 percent in 2005.
- Still, 33 percent of Oregon's traffic fatalities in 2004 were unrestrained motor vehicle occupants.
- Oregon requires child safety seats and booster seats for children.

ODOT's Transportation Safety Division

- TSD promotes transportation safety statewide through education, enforcement, engineering and emergency response – the “Four E's.”
- The division also provides major statewide safety programs focusing on occupant protection, impaired driving, speed, young drivers, pedestrians, bicyclists, motorcyclists, driver education, safety corridors, school zones, safe routes to school and work zones.
- TSD coordinates transportation safety activities and programs with state and local agencies, local governments, police agencies, health organizations, emergency responders, nonprofit groups and the private sector.
- TSD delivers safety programs through more than 500 grants and contracts each year with safety partners statewide and through the volunteer efforts of citizens, organizations and agencies.
- The governor appoints three volunteer citizen committees to work with TSD and advise the Oregon Transportation Commission on transportation safety policy. The three committees are:
 - Oregon Transportation Safety Committee;
 - Governor's Advisory Committee on DUII; and
 - Governor's Advisory Committee on Motorcycle Safety.
- More than half of the TSD budget comes from federal transportation safety funds.

For more information about Oregon's transportation safety efforts, visit www.oregon.gov/ODOT/TS/index.shtml.