Arizona Motor Vehicle
CRASH FACTS
2020

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ADOT
Reducing the number of crashes, serious injuries and fatalities begins with drivers choosing to make safer decisions. Driver behavior is a leading factor in more than 90% of crashes. Speeding, impairment, aggressive driving and distracted driving are primary contributors to the rising number of traffic fatalities and those are all actions drivers can choose not to engage in.
Crashes occur on all kinds of roadways, from heavily-traveled freeways to back-country switchbacks. Of the 98,778 collisions in 2020, 31% happened on the state highway system, while 69% occurred on other roadways, such as city streets and county roads.
In 2020, 98,778 motor vehicle crashes killed 1,057 people and left 41,350 people injured. Poor decisions made by drivers – speeding, impairment, reckless driving and not wearing a seat belt – are leading factors in traffic fatalities. Drivers hold the key to reducing these figures – choose to make smart decisions behind the wheel, making roads safer for everyone.
During weekdays, crashes spiked during afternoon commutes. On weekends, most crashes occur between 6-7 p.m.

In 2020, more crashes happened in January than any other month of the year and Fridays saw more crashes than any other day of the week. February 14, 2020, had the most crashes on Arizona roads with 502 crashes and there was a five-way tie for days with the most number of fatal crashes with seven (Feb. 21, Sept. 19, Oct. 28, Nov. 3 and Dec. 13).
In 2020, 274 people were killed in impairment-related crashes. These crashes, which involve alcohol, illegal drugs, prescription medication or marijuana, account for about 6% of all crashes and 25% of fatal crashes.
At least 73 of the 160 motorcycles operators or passengers killed in 2020 were not wearing a helmet.
Ninety-one percent of bicycle crashes occurred in urban areas and 3 out of 4 occurred during daylight hours. Drivers should watch for bikes, especially those traveling against traffic and on sidewalks, and bicyclists should watch for turning vehicles.
Nearly half of pedestrian crashes occur during daylight, dawn or dusk conditions, but about 70% of the pedestrians killed on Arizona roads in 2020 were struck at night when vehicle speeds are typically faster and pedestrians are harder to see.
The information in this publication is compiled from Arizona Traffic Crash Reports submitted to the Arizona Department of Transportation by state, county, city, tribal and other law enforcement agencies. Specific inquiries regarding this data should be directed to: azcrashfacts@azdot.gov