



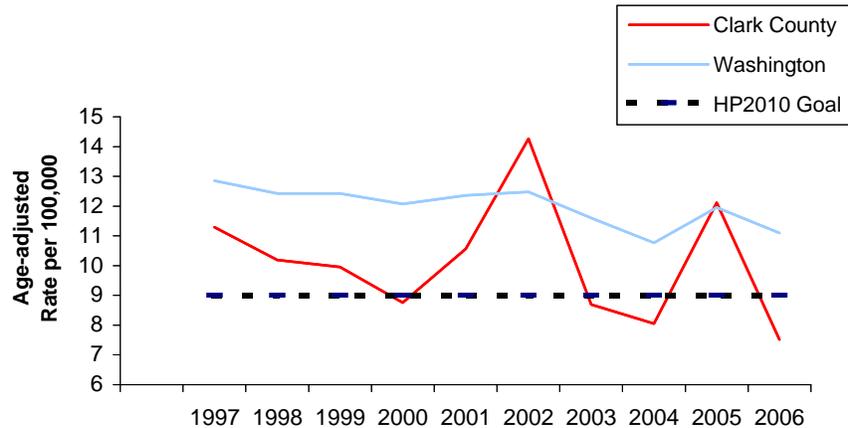
Motor Vehicle Crash Death Rates, Age-Adjusted Clark County and Washington State, 1997 through 2006

Why it Matters Since 1996, on average, each year 35 Clark County residents have died of injuries sustained in Motor Vehicle Crashes (MVCs).¹ Injuries kill more Washingtonians ages 1-44 than all diseases combined, and motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of injury death.¹ It costs an average of \$1,140,873 in medical bills and lost productivity for each injury death in Washington State.² In general, injuries do not occur at random but in highly predictable patterns, with recognizable risk factors such as speeding and driving under influence of alcohol. This means that injuries and deaths from motor vehicle crashes are preventable.

Status:

- Since 1997, the Clark County MVC death rate has been below the Washington State rate in most years. The differences in rates between Clark County and Washington are not statistically significant, however.

- Clark County met or performed better than the Healthy People 2010 (HP 2010) goal of 9.2 MVC deaths per 100,000 population in four of ten years examined.³ The most recent data show that Clark County is more consistently meeting the HP2010 goal, as it did in 2006, with a rate of 7.5 per 100,000.



Year	Clark County			Washington State		
	Rate*	95% CI**	Number	Rate*	95% CI**	Number
1997	11.3	(7.8, 16.0)	34	12.9	(11.9, 13.8)	719
1998	10.2	(6.9, 14.6)	32	12.4	(11.5, 13.4)	708
1999	10.0	(6.8, 14.3)	32	12.4	(11.5, 13.4)	718
2000	8.8	(5.9, 12.8)	29	12.1	(11.2, 13.0)	708
2001	10.6	(7.3, 14.9)	34	12.4	(11.5, 13.3)	735
2002	14.3	(10.5, 19.0)	49	12.5	(11.6, 13.4)	754
2003	8.7	(5.9, 12.5)	31	11.6	(10.8, 12.5)	706
2004	8.1	(5.5, 11.6)	31	10.8	(10.8, 12.5)	670
2005	12.1	(8.8, 16.3)	46	12.0	(11.1, 12.8)	752
2006	7.5	(5.1, 10.9)	30	11.1	(10.3, 12.0)	724

What we can do⁴

- **Reduce impaired driving** by lowering the legal blood alcohol concentration for adult drivers to .08%, maintaining the legal drinking age at 21 years, and using sobriety checkpoints.
- **Reduce speeding** by use of speeding detection devices and photo radar, and implementing traffic calming projects.
- **Seatbelt use** has increased to 96% as of 2006, helped greatly by the Washington primary seatbelt enforcement law enacted in 2002.
- **Increase the use of child passenger restraints.** As of June, 2007, the law requires all children to ride in a child restraint system correct for their age and height until age eight.
- **Young drivers:** Graduated licensing programs are effective in reducing fatal crash rates in this group.
- **Older drivers:** Evidence-based interventions are needed to reduce the risk of MVC deaths among drivers older than age 65.

* Rate per 100,000 population adjusted using the 2000 U.S. Standard Population; deaths coded using ICD-10.

** If confidence intervals for state and county overlap in a given year, there is no significant difference between these rates.

Please see the reverse side for technical notes and sources.

For more information, contact Health Assessment and Evaluation,
Clark County Public Health at (360) 397-8000

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Technical Notes:

Definition of Motor Vehicle Crash death: All unintentional motor vehicle-related deaths on and off public roads, including those involving drivers, passengers, pedestrians, motorcyclists, and bicyclists. Washington State Department of Health (DOH).

The age-adjusted death rate is defined as the number of deaths per 100,000 standard population after removing the effects of age on mortality.

Injury death costs in medical care and lost productivity are in 2004 dollars; based on 1999-2002 incidence.

Healthy People 2010 goals are national health promotion and disease prevention objectives set by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Sources: (1) Death Certificate Data, DOH Center for Health Statistics, retrieved May, 2008 from VistaPHW 7.3, 5-14-2008, Public Health Seattle & King County Epidemiology, Planning and Evaluation. (1991-2008). [Computer software for public health assessment]. Seattle, WA. (2) The Health of Washington State, Chapter 6.2.1 Motor Vehicle Crashes, Washington State Department of Health, December 2007. (3) Information from the Children's Safety Network Economics and Data Analysis Resource Center; Fact Sheet: Health System Quality Assurance, Office of Emergency Services and Trauma System, Injury and Violence Prevention Program, Washington State Department of Health, January 2008. (4) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Healthy People 2010. 2nd ed. With Understanding and Improving Health and Objectives for Improving Health. 2 vols. Washington D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, November 2000. (5) Intervention Strategies from The Health of Washington State, Chapter 6.2.1 Motor Vehicle Crashes, Washington State Department of Health, December 2007.

People interested in obtaining injury information, technical assistance or finding out about local/regional programs are encouraged to visit the DOH Injury and Violence Prevention Program website at www.doh.wa.gov/hsqa/emstrauma/injury.

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