



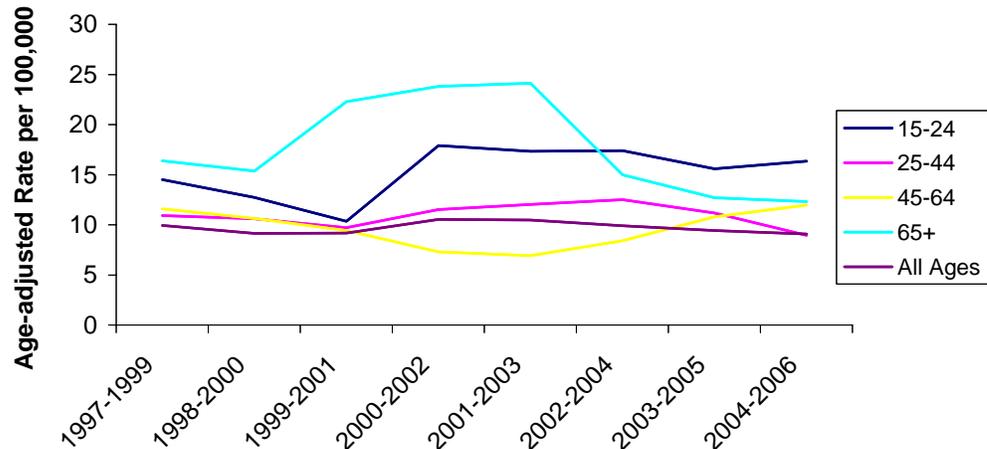
Motor Vehicle Crash Death Rates, by Age Group Clark County, 1997-1999 through 2004-2006

Why it Matters Since 1996, on average, each year 35 Clark County residents of all ages 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.² The highest death rates have been among younger males ages 15-24 and older men ages 75 and older.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

- The Healthy People 2010 goal is to have no more than 9.2 age-adjusted MVC deaths per 100,000 population.³ Clark County's overall rate met the goal for the period 2004-2006.

- Due to small numbers of cases, rates are not calculated for the under 15 category. Since 1996, there have been 17 MVC deaths in Clark County among this group.¹



Clark County Rates per 100,000*

| | All Ages | 15-24 yrs | 25-44 yrs | 45-64 yrs | 65+ | Total Deaths |
|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------|--------------|
| 1997-1999 | 10.4 | 14.5 | 10.9 | 11.6 | 16.4 | 64 |
| 1998-2000 | 9.6 | 12.7 | 10.6 | 10.6 | 15.4 | 59 |
| 1999-2001 | 9.8 | 10.4 | 9.7 | 9.4 | 22.3 | 62 |
| 2000-2002 | 11.2 | 17.9 | 11.5 | 7.3 | 23.8 | 72 |
| 2001-2003 | 11.1 | 17.3 | 12.0 | 6.9 | 24.1 | 72 |
| 2002-2004 | 10.3 | 17.4 | 12.5 | 8.4 | 15.0 | 64 |
| 2003-2005 | 9.7 | 15.6 | 11.2 | 10.8 | 12.7 | 60 |
| 2004-2006 | 9.2 | 16.4 | 8.9 | 12.0 | 12.3 | 59 |

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.

Please see the reverse side for technical notes and sources.

For more information, call Health Assessment and Evaluation,
Clark County Public Health at (360) 397-8000
Updated 5/2008



For other formats
Clark County ADA Office, Voice (360) 397-2000
Relay (800) 833-6384, E-mail ADA@clark.wa.gov



Technical Notes

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.

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.

Healthy People 2010 goals are national health promotion and disease prevention objectives set by the US 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) Data analysis for 2003-2005, The Health of Washington State, Chapter 6.2.1 Motor Vehicle Crashes, Washington State Department of Health, December 2007. (3) 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. (4) Intervention Strategies from The Health of Washington State, Chapter 6.2.1 Motor Vehicle Crashes, Washington State Department of Health, December 2007.





11

For more information, call Health Assessment and Evaluation,
Clark County Public Health at (360) 397-8000
Updated 5/2008



For other formats
Clark County ADA Office, Voice (360) 397-2000
Relay (800) 833-6384, E-mail ADA@clark.wa.gov