



Department of Public Safety
Eugene T. Meyer, Commissioner
215 East 7th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
Telephone Number: (515) 725-6182
Facsimile Number: (515) 725-6195



Colonel Patrick J. Hoye, Chief

New Enforcement Initiative for ISP

Media Guide

Questions regarding this material:

Jessica Lown
Public Information Bureau

o) 515-725-6189

c) 515-208-7679

lown@dps.state.ia.us

Capt. Curt Henderson

Iowa State Patrol

o) 515-725-6099

c) 515-208-4763

chenders@dps.state.ia.us



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Statistics

Enforcement:

Greater central Iowa, which was the focus of sustained enforcement efforts by the Iowa State Patrol's Safe Saturdays campaign and special enforcement events by the Central Iowa Traffic Safety Task Force, experienced by far the largest fatality declines in 2009. Eight central Iowa counties, which were part of Iowa's Top 22 problem counties, saw traffic fatalities decline from 78 in 2008 to 60 in 2009, a 23% decline. Iowa's other 91 counties experienced a collective decline of 22 fatalities or 6.6%, falling from 334 to 312.

Outside central Iowa, declines were similar for Iowa's largest counties, down to 114 fatalities in '09 from 122 in '08. Iowa's 77 largely rural counties saw fatalities decline from 212 in '08 to 198 in '09. These numbers clearly illustrate the potential life saving benefits of data driven enforcement initiatives.

COUNTIES	2008 FATALITIES	2009 FATALITIES	% OF CHANGE
8 Largest Central Iowa Counties	78	60	-23.1%
14 Largest Counties Outside Central Iowa	122	114	-6.6%
77 Largely Rural Counties	212	198	-6.6%

Alcohol:

Preliminary totals indicate in 2009, 372 motorists died on Iowa roadways; the lowest since 1945. Seventy-two of those were in alcohol related crashes. *(Note the alcohol related total will likely rise as DOT has not received alcohol data for much of November and December 2009.)*



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Statistics cont.

In 2008, 412 motorists died on Iowa roadways; 81 of those were in alcohol related crashes.

1,505 people were injured in Iowa alcohol-related traffic crashes in 2007. In 2008, Iowa was able to reduce that number to 1,080 people who were injured in alcohol related crashes. (Injury data for 2009 is not yet available.)

Drivers age 16-25 comprise only 16% of registered drivers in Iowa, but they comprise over 30% of all drinking drivers who were involved in fatal crashes between 1997 and 2007.

Law enforcement average 18,500 OWI arrests a year in Iowa.

Seatbelts:

Iowa's seatbelt usage rate averages 93%. The 7% of Iowans who don't use their seatbelt are considered to be our highest risk population.

Seatbelt usage appears to decrease at night. During 2007, 61% of Iowa vehicle occupants killed in night time crashes were unbelted. Meanwhile 43% of Iowa vehicle occupants killed in day time crashes were unbelted.

Law enforcement issued more than 50,000 seatbelt citations in 2007.



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Top 22 Counties

These counties have been identified as regions with the most severe highway safety problems.

