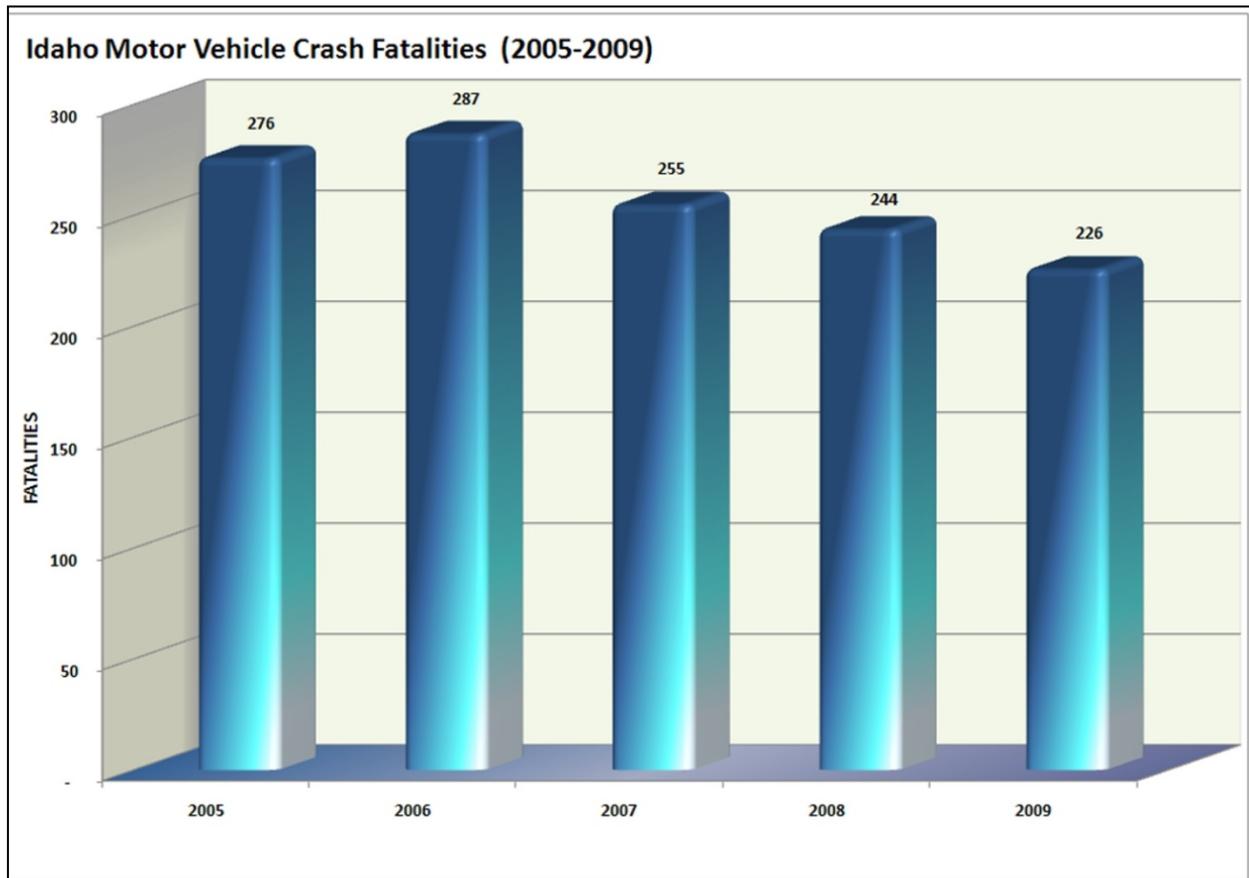


MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY

Motor Vehicle Accident Fatalities

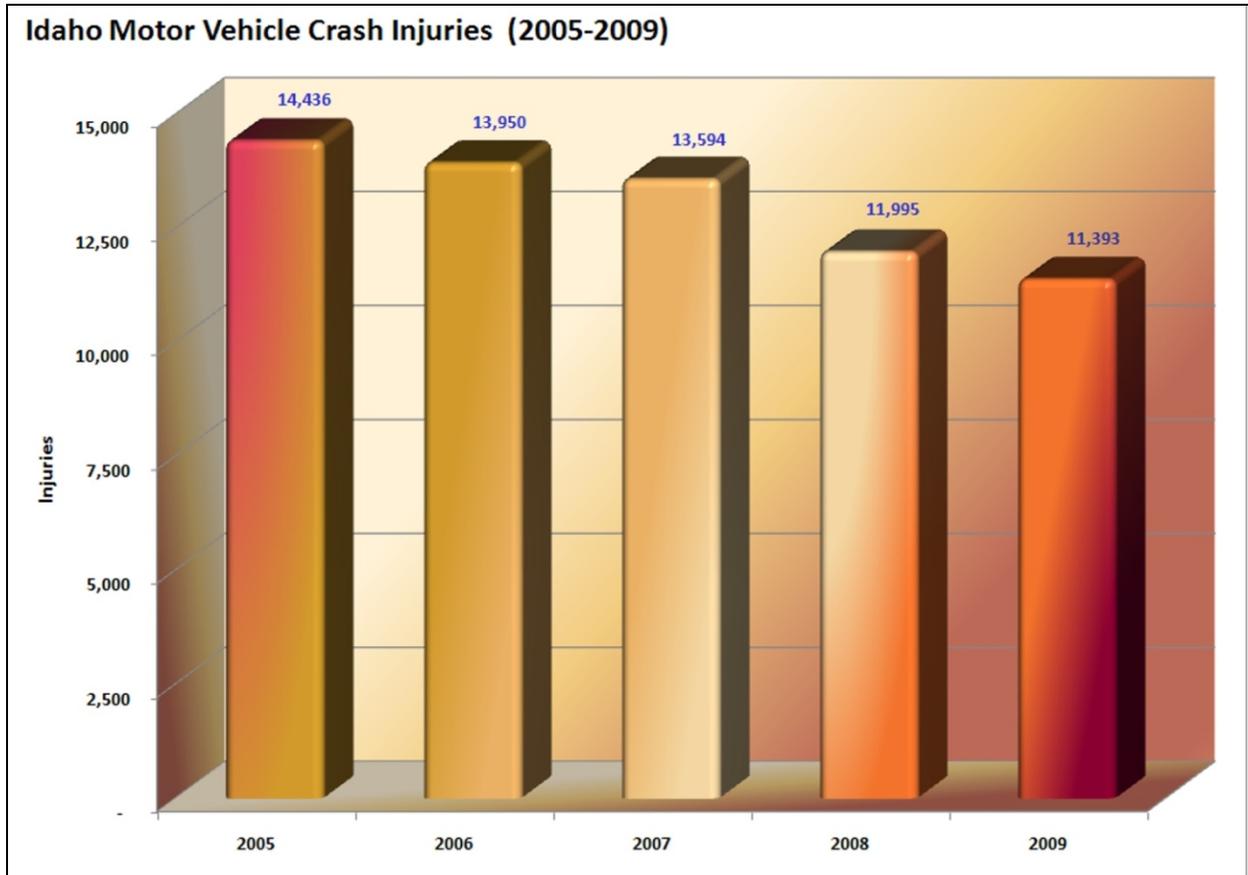
Traffic crashes are the single greatest cause of death and disability for Idahoans age 1 to 34 and are the leading cause of injury-related deaths among people of all ages. Although the annual number of motor vehicle accidents (MVAs) has declined steadily over the past four years, from 2005 to 2009, MVAs accounted for a total of 1,288 deaths among Idahoans.



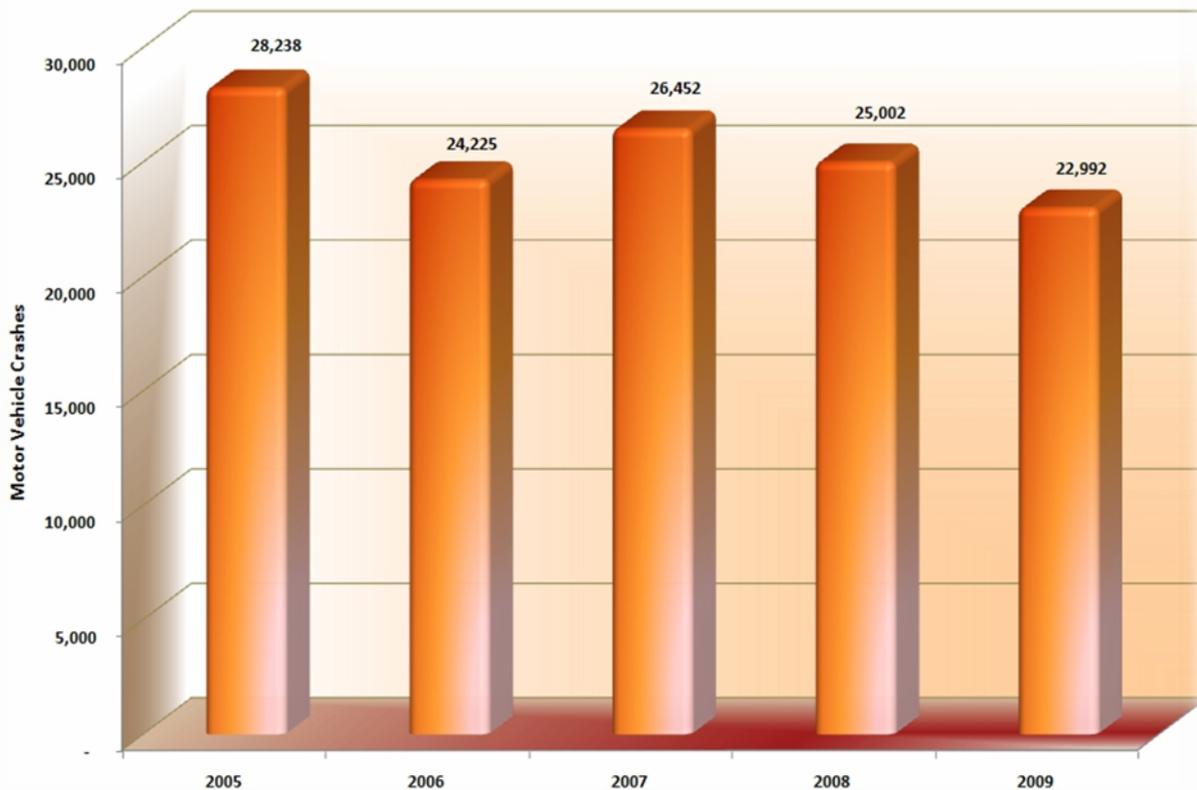
This is an average of nearly 22 deaths per month throughout Idaho due to MVAs. The Bureau of Vital Records and Health Statistics reports that during 2008, the age-adjusted death rate of Idaho residents due to MVAs was 16.4 per 100,000 population. [More . .](#)

Motor Vehicle Crash Injuries

The Idaho Transportation Department, Office of Highway Operations and Safety (OHOS), estimates that between 2005 and 2009 there were a total of 126,909 motor vehicle crashes on Idaho roads injuring a total of 44,668 persons. This means that one-in-three motor vehicle crashes on Idaho roads results in personal injury to one or more of the vehicle occupants. During 2009, of a total of 11,393 motor vehicle crash injuries, 1,399 were classified as “serious,” requiring immediate and extended medical care and often resulting in long-term or permanent disability.



Total Idaho Motor Vehicle Crashes (2005-2009)



Cost Burden of MVAs

The Idaho Transportation Department, Office of Highway Operations and Safety (OHOS), estimates the total economic cost associated with MVAs during 2009 alone were nearly \$2.5 billion. The cost associated with a motor vehicle fatality is estimated, on average, to cost almost \$6 million. The total estimated cost associated with the 1,399 serious injury accidents during 2009 was \$418 million, or about \$300,000 per incident.

Data analysis conducted by the Office of Highway Operations and Safety in 2006 showed that hospitalization costs for unrestrained vehicle occupants (those not wearing seatbelts at the time of the accident) were, on average, \$10,000 more than for those wearing their seatbelts. Also, when compared to restrained occupants, unrestrained occupants were:

- Almost *twice* as likely to die as to be sent home,
- 1.6 times as likely to require rehabilitation as to be sent home,
- 18 times more likely to be ejected from the vehicle and more than 2.5 times as likely to sustain more severe injuries.

For more information on the hidden costs associated with unrestrained occupants in MVAs, see [Idaho's Crash Tax](#).

Motor Vehicle Accident Contributing Circumstances

During 2009, there were a total of 7,898 MVAs involving a single vehicle, resulting in 119 fatalities and 589 serious injuries. The leading contributing factors in single vehicle crashes were speed (35%), inattentive or distracted driving (19%), and alcohol or drug impairment (11%). Overturning of the vehicle resulted in three of every four (75%) single vehicle crashes.

There were 107 fatalities and 810 serious injuries involving multiple vehicle crashes that same year. Inattentive or distracted driving was the leading contributing factor in multiple vehicle crashes (25%), followed by failure to yield (21%) and following too close (17%). Head-on collisions (22%) and side-swipe collisions by opposing traffic (15%) proved to be the most harmful events in multiple vehicle crashes.

In 2009, although 38% of all MVAs in Idaho occurred on rural roads, these accidents accounted for 78% of all fatal accidents. Rural roads tend to have higher speed limits and crashes at higher impact speeds tend to have higher rates of fatality.