# Motor vehicle crashes are a leading cause of death in the United States.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the number of people who died in crashes across the country decreased from 37,423 in 2008 to 33,808 in 2009. In addition, the number of people injured declined for the ninth year in a row to just over 2.2 million. Even in light of these reductions, motor vehicle crashes remain a significant problem. To improve safety, a coordinated response is needed from all levels and branches of government – Federal agencies, State legislatures, city and county councils, and local agencies. A coordinated response should result in increased safety funding, more effective safety laws, and enhanced education, enforcement, engineering, and emergency response efforts targeting critical safety issues. As part of the overall strategy to reduce fatalities and serious injuries, Kentucky has an approved Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP), which identifies the following emphasis areas: impaired driving, lane departure, driver smart safety corridors, aggressive driving, young drivers, occupant protection, incident management, commercial vehicle safety, traffic records, and legislative issues. To obtain a copy of the SHSP, contact the State DOT or FHWA Division Office Safety Specialist.

### **Fatality Trends**

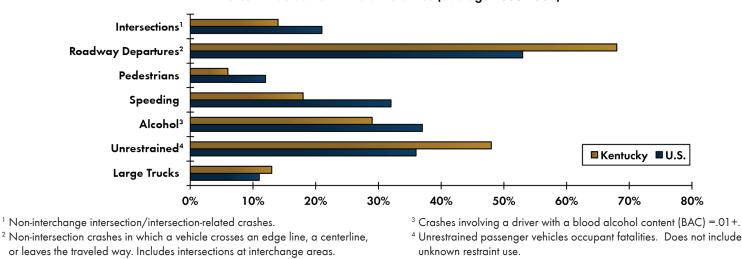
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Total Fatalities		
2009	791	33,808
Average: 2000-2009	885	41,157
Fatality Rate (per 100M V	'MT)	
2009	1.67	1.14
Average: 2000-2009	1.88	1.41
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Fatality rate is calculated based on State fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT). Total fatalities are taken from the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS): www.nhtsa.gov/FARS

# **Safety Focus Areas**

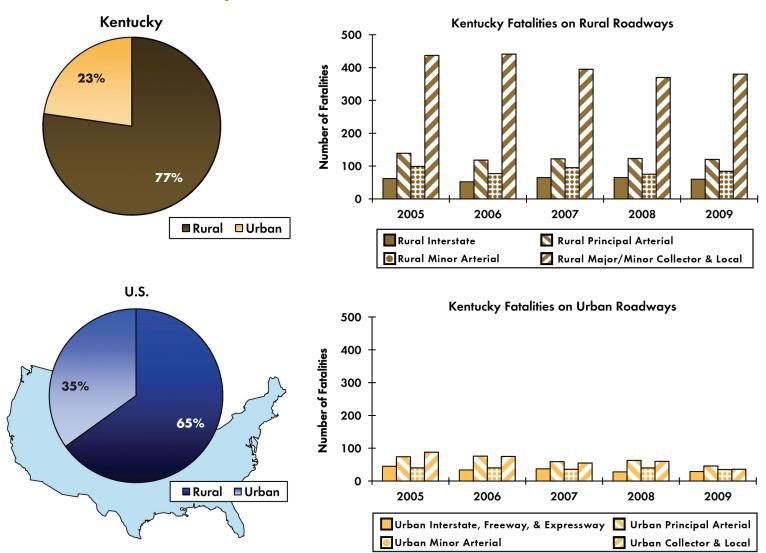
This chart represents national safety focus areas and their corresponding percentages of total crash fatalities in the State and in the Nation. More than one of these focus areas may be involved as contributing factors in a single crash.



Percent Involvement in Total Fatalities (average 2005-2009)

Source: Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) 2000-2008 Final & 2009 Annual Report File (ARF).

### **Rural and Urban Roadway Fatalities**



For the purposes of this document, the terms urban and rural are based on the definition published in the American National Standard (ANSI D16.1-1996).

#### **For More Information**

The Transportation Safety Planning Working Group: tsp.trb.org

Fatality Analysis Reporting System: www.nhtsa.gov/FARS

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration: www.nhtsa.dot.gov

Federal Highway Administration Division Office Contacts: www.fhwa.dot.gov/field.html

Federal Highway Administration, Office of Planning: www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/index.htm

Federal Highway Administration, Office of Safety: safety.fhwa.dot.gov

Federal Highway Administration Resource Center: www.fhwa.dot.gov/resourcecenter/misc/techassist.cfm

### **Contacts**

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