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. These traffic crashes cost the Nation over $230 billion each year. 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, Colorado has an approved Strategic Plan for Improving Roadway Safety (SPIRS), which identifies the following focus areas: locations with potential for crash reduction, rockfall, railroad crossings, access management, roadway engineering safety, traffic crash data systems, work zones, wildlife, occupant protection, impaired drivers, young drivers, aggressive drivers (distracted drivers), aging drivers, motorcycles, bicycles and pedestrians, safety routes to school, large trucks, and EMS vehicles. To obtain a copy of the SPIRS, contact the State DOT or FHWA Division Office Safety Specialist.

**Fatality Trends**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>CO</th>
<th>U.S.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Fatalities</td>
<td>465</td>
<td>33,808</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average: 2000-2009</td>
<td>618</td>
<td>41,157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatality Rate (per 100M VMT)</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>1.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average: 2000-2009</td>
<td>1.37</td>
<td>1.41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
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
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

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