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, Mississippi has an approved Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP), which identifies the following critical emphasis areas: reduce impaired driving, increase set belt usage, prevent or reduce the severity of lane departure crashes, reduce the over involvement of young drivers, and curb aggressive driving. To obtain a copy of the SHSP, contact the State DOT or FHWA Division Office Safety Specialist.

Fatality Trends

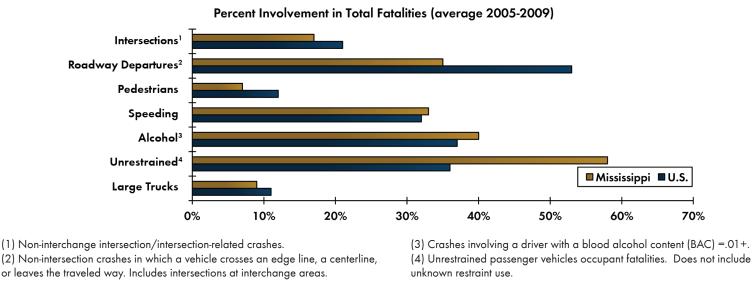
planning

MS	U.S.	
		800 + 2
700	33,808	
860	41,157	
MT)	<u> </u>	
1.73	1.14	
2.20	1.41	0 +
	700 860 MT) 1.73	700 33,808 860 41,157 MT) 1.73

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

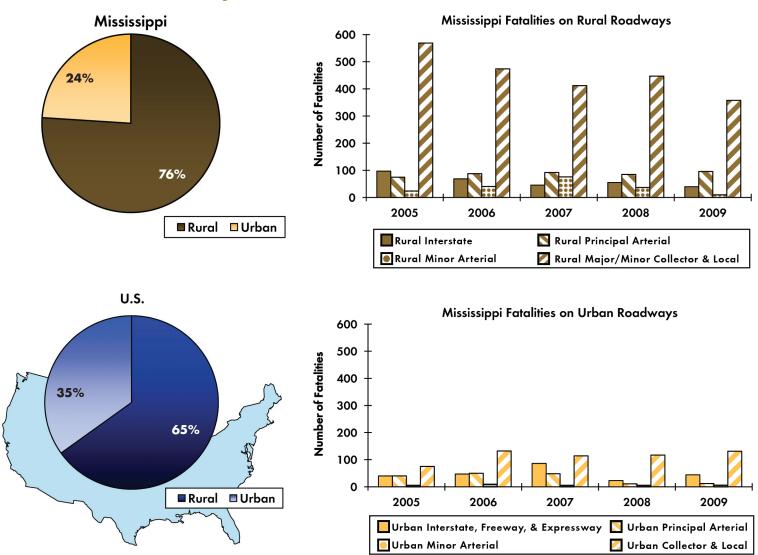
Safety Focus Areas

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.



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

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