

Appendix E – Safety Key Findings

The New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) Traffic Safety Bureau contracts with the University of New Mexico-Division of Government Research (UNM-DGR) to review and geo-code crash data. MRMPO receives the geo-coded crash data from UNM-DGR and uses the data to calculate averages and trends for the area. The annual crash report produced by MRMPO for the AMPA, *General Crash Data and Trends 2000-2008*, provides data for all crashes, including crashes by severity and mode of transportation. The report includes maps and tables identifying intersections with the highest crash rates as well. The following data covers the years from 2004 to 2008 and focuses on the main areas of interest as they relate to the 2035 MTP.

Recent Trends

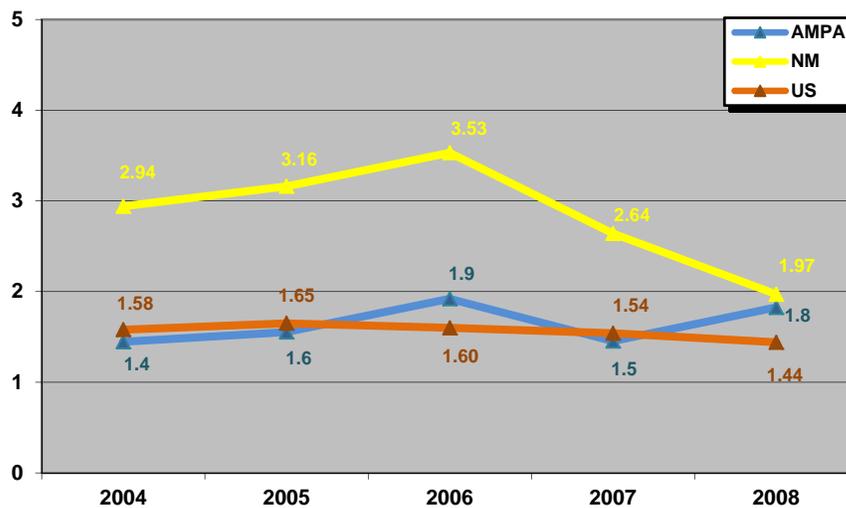
Key Findings for Motor Vehicle Involved Crashes:

- There were 84,908 police-reported vehicle crashes. Forty five percent of those crashes resulted in an injury and less than half a percent resulted in a death
- On average, a traffic accident occurred every 31 minutes, a person was injured every hour and killed every seven days
- The motor vehicle fatality rate per 100,000 population decreased by almost 18 percent from 2004 to 2008
- Crashes were the highest in the afternoon on weekdays but were more evenly distributed throughout the day on the weekends
- Fatal crashes were the highest in the early to mid-afternoon on the weekdays and late night to early morning on the weekends
- Alcohol was involved in only 4.3 percent of all crashes, but 42 percent of all fatal crashes involved alcohol-impaired driving
- The proportion of male drivers in fatal crashes was nearly 2.5 times as high as the proportion of female drivers
- Persons 20 to 24 years old were involved in more fatal crashes than any other age group
- Collision with another vehicle is the most common first harmful event for fatal, injury, and property-damage-only crashes
- More than 94 percent of all vehicles involved in non-fatal motor vehicle and pedestrian crashes were passenger cars or light trucks (pickups, vans, or four wheel drives), while passenger cars or light trucks were involved in 69 percent of all fatal motor vehicle crashes
- Heavy trucks (semis or buses) accounted for over two percent of all crashes and nearly five percent of all fatal crashes
- The proportion of vehicles that rolled over in fatal crashes was nearly seven times as high as the proportion in injury crashes and more than 24 times as high as the proportion in property-damage-only crashes.

Pedestrian Safety

Pedestrian crash information is an important factor in assessing pedestrian transportation safety. Nationally, pedestrian fatalities comprise on average about 11 percent of all motor vehicle crash deaths. Although New Mexico’s share of pedestrian fatalities of 12 percent has been slightly above the national average, the pedestrian fatality rate per 100,000 residents is still one of the highest in the nation (see Figure E-1).

Figure E-1: Pedestrian Fatality Rates Per 100,000 Population



In the AMPA, a total of 60 fatal and 692 injury crashes involving pedestrians occurred between 2004 and 2008 (see Table E-1). Collisions involving pedestrians accounted for one percent of all crashes, but they accounted for 24 percent of fatal crashes. Thus, pedestrians in the AMPA constituted a greater percentage of total motor vehicle crash deaths than they did statewide (12 percent).

Table E-1: AMPA Pedestrian Crash Data by Severity

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2004-2008
Fatal	10	11	14	11	14	60
Injury	149	129	119	146	149	692
Property Damage	13	13	21	29	28	104
Total	172	153	154	186	191	856

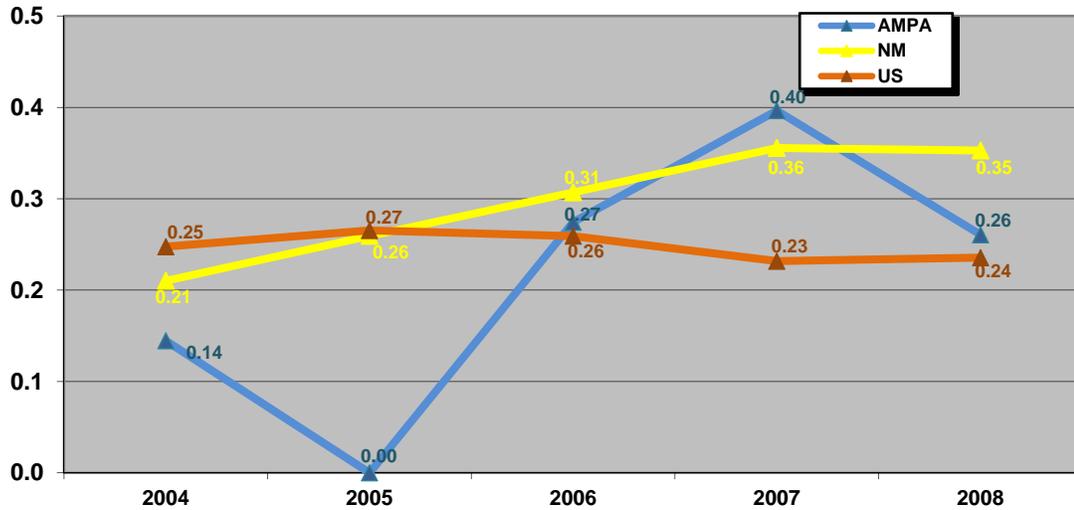
Key Findings for Pedestrian Involved Crashes:

- During this period 60 pedestrians were killed and 762 were injured in traffic crashes
- Pedestrians were involved in one percent of motor vehicle crashes but accounted for 24 percent of all fatal crashes and over two percent of all injury crashes
- On average, a pedestrian was involved in a traffic accident every two days, injured every 2.4 days, and killed every month
- 58 percent of pedestrian fatalities occurred on Friday, Saturday or Sunday
- 50 percent of pedestrian fatalities occurred between the hours of 9 to 12 p.m.
- Alcohol, either for the driver or pedestrian, was a major factor in approximately 65 percent of pedestrian fatalities
- 22 percent of pedestrian fatalities were attributed to pedestrian error
- 77 percent of pedestrians killed were male
- Pedestrians age 70 and over accounted for 10 percent of all pedestrian fatalities
- Male drivers were involved in 63 percent of pedestrian fatalities
- Drivers 20 to 24 had the highest percentage of pedestrian fatality involvement
- Nearly 67 (41 Principal Arterial, 26 Minor Arterial) percent of the crashes involving pedestrians occurred on urban arterials and 20 percent occurred on urban residential roads
- Passenger cars were involved in 63 percent of pedestrian fatalities
- Hit and runs accounted for eight percent of pedestrian fatalities
- 38 percent of pedestrian fatalities occurred at night but on lighted roadways
- Most crashes involving pedestrians occurred on clear days

Bicycle Safety

Nationally, bicycle fatalities comprise on average about 1.8 percent of all motor vehicle crash deaths in recent years. Although the proportion of bicycle fatalities in New Mexico was below the national average at 1.3 percent, the bicycle fatality rate per 100,000 residents has exceeded the national bicycle fatality rate in the past three years (see Figure E-2).

Figure E-2: Bicycle Fatality Rates Per 100,000 Population



In the AMPA from 2004 through 2008, there were 763 motor vehicle collisions involving bicycles. Those collisions resulted in 584 injury and eight fatal crashes (see Table E-2). Collisions involving bicycles accounted for 0.9 percent of all crashes but accounted for over three percent of fatal crashes. This figure constitutes a greater percentage of total motor vehicle crash deaths than at the state or national level.

Table E-2: AMPA Bicycle Crash Data by Severity

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2004-2008
Fatal	1	0	2	3	2	8
Injury	136	115	113	96	124	584
Property Damage	27	28	44	33	39	171
Total	164	143	159	132	165	763

Key Findings for Bicycle Involved Crashes:

- During this period eight bicyclists were killed and 599 were injured in motor vehicle accidents
- Bicyclists were involved in 0.9 percent of all motor vehicle crashes but accounted for nearly three percent of all fatal crashes and 2.2 percent of all injury crashes
- More than half of traffic fatalities and injuries involving bicycles occurred on Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday
- Over a quarter (28 percent) of all motor vehicle fatalities and injuries involving bicycles occurred between the hours of 3 through 5 p.m.
- Alcohol was a major contributing factor in nearly six percent of all motor vehicle fatalities and injuries involving bicycles
- Nearly 80 percent of cyclists killed or injured were male
- 16 percent of cyclists killed or injured in traffic accidents were under age of 16
- Drivers 20-24 had the highest percentage of involvement in cyclist fatalities and injuries
- Hit and runs accounted for 15 percent of cyclist fatalities and injuries
- 25 percent of all fatal crashes involving bicyclists occurred during dark

This page intentionally left blank.