

South Carolina Crash Statistics Clock 2004



One
TRAFFIC CRASH
every 4.8 minutes

One
FATAL CRASH
every 9.3 hours

One
INJURY CRASH
every 16.2 minutes

One
PROPERTY DAMAGE CRASH
every 6.9 minutes

One
PERSON KILLED
every 8.4 hours

One
PERSON INJURED
every 10.3 minutes

One person injured or killed in
an **ALCOHOL RELATED**
crash every 2.2 hours

One fatal or injury crash with
a **DRIVER 19 OR UNDER**
every 2.0 hours

One **UNRESTRAINED**
PERSON* killed
every 15.0 hours

One **BICYCLIST**
killed
every 17.4 days

One **MOTORCYCLIST**
killed
every 4.3 days

One **PEDESTRIAN**
killed
every 4.2 days

One **CHILD UNDER 6**
seriously injured or killed
every 5.0 days

* Occupants of cars, trucks and vans only

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Part I -- General Information

In accordance with Section 56-5-1350 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, a tabulation and analysis of collision reports has been completed for the year 2004 as disclosed in this publication.

The number of traffic fatalities increased from 969 in 2003 to 1,046 in 2004, a 7.9% increase. The mileage death rate (MDR) increased as well. It rose to 2.1 deaths per hundred million vehicle miles of travel from the all time low of 2.0 set in 2003.

Traffic fatalities are the most severe consequence of motor vehicle collisions, but even in non-fatal collisions, the cost in human suffering can be severe. There were 51,226 reported traffic injuries in 2004, down 0.1% from 2003.

Traffic collisions are responsible for billions of dollars in economic loss to South Carolina each year. Economic loss as estimated in this publication includes property damage, medical costs and lost productivity, but does not include intangible costs such as grief and suffering. In 2004, \$2.62 billion dollars in estimated loss was incurred which is a 3.6% increase from 2003.

What is responsible for the tragedy of motor vehicle collisions and what strategies should concerned individuals employ in the reduction of collisions in the future? On the following pages, statistics are presented which describe the characteristics, causes and effects of traffic collisions in South Carolina. It is hoped that this information will be useful to all persons interested in fostering a safer operating environment for motorists in South Carolina.

All collision statistics included in this publication are based on the Uniform Traffic Collision Reports Form (TR-310) received from investigating officers. By law, any collision that results in at least \$1,000 in total property damage, or results in injury or death and occurs on a public highway must be reported to the South Carolina Department of Public Safety on the appropriate form. If these collisions occur on private property or are reported on any form other than the TR-310, they are excluded.

The statistics contained in the South Carolina Traffic Collision Fact Book are based on the latest available information at the time that they were compiled. Due to the complex nature of the data, occasionally new information is received after the publication cut-off date. It is therefore possible that some discrepancies may exist between the data published here and other sources.

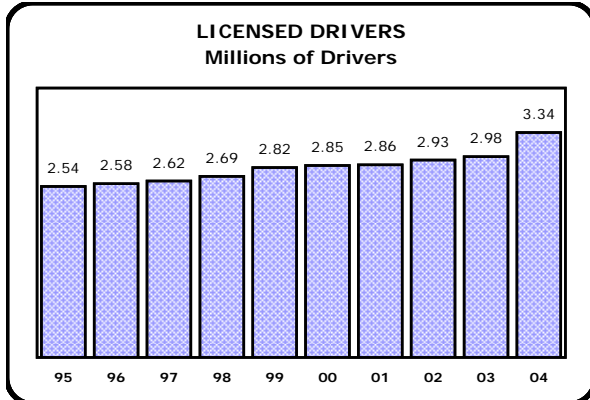
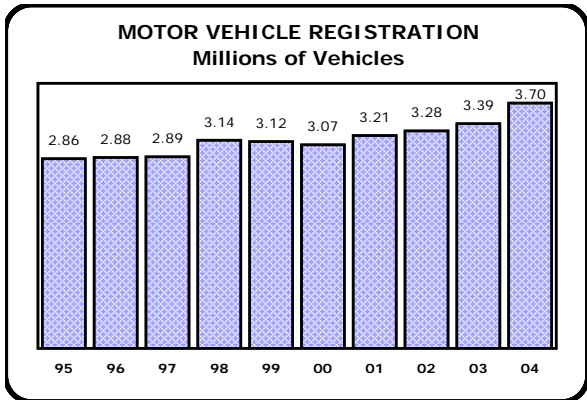
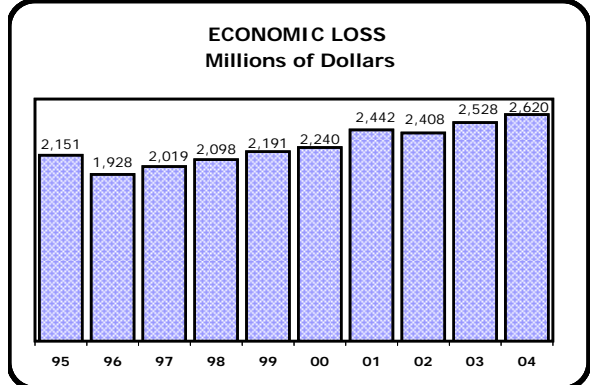
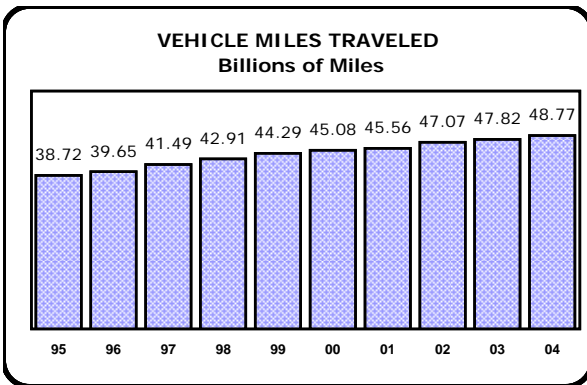
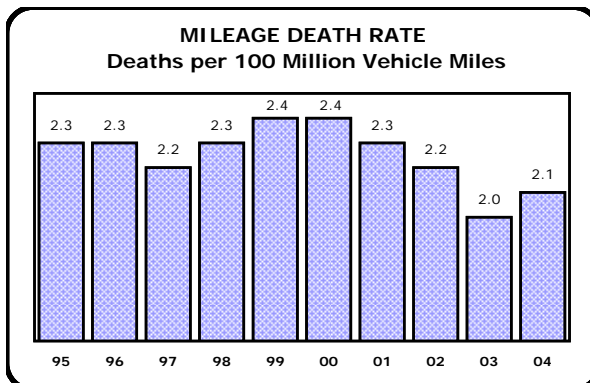
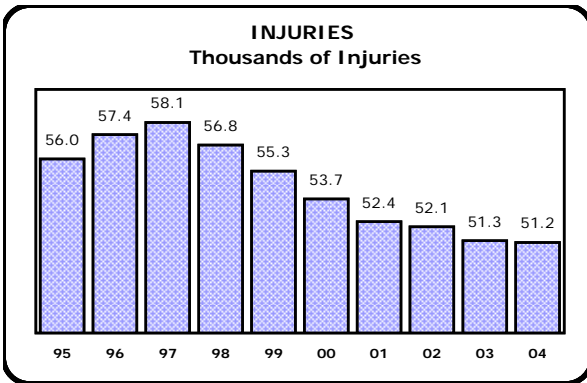
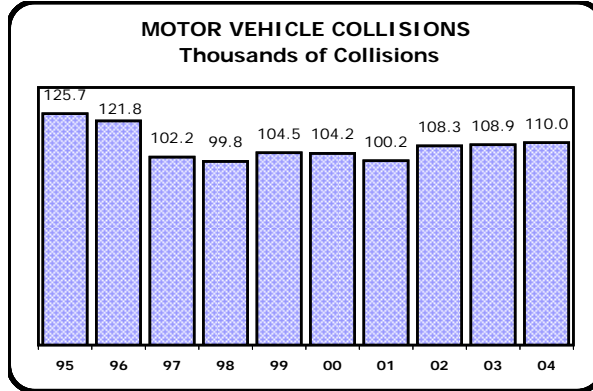
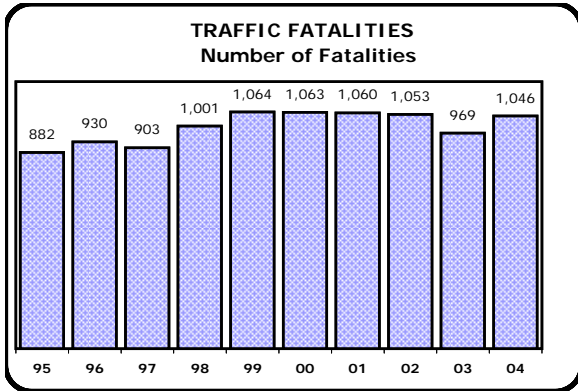
TRAFFIC COLLISION QUICK FACTS

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	% Change 2002 - 2004	% Change 2003 - 2004
Fatal Collisions	948	962	949	905	946	-0.3%	4.5%
Injury Collisions	32,319	32,381	32,427	32,383	32,497	0.2%	0.4%
Property Damage Only Collisions	70,936	66,822	74,904	75,598	76,586	2.2%	1.3%
Total Collisions	104,203	100,165	108,280	108,886	110,029	1.6%	1.0%
Fatalities	1,063	1,060	1,053	969	1,046	-0.7%	7.9%
Non-fatal Injuries	53,721	52,350	52,095	51,267	51,226	-1.7%	-0.1%
Fatalities From Collisions Involving:							
Truck Tractor	105	89	86	74	85	-1.2%	14.9%
Motorcycle	86	75	88	88	85	-3.4%	-3.4%
Pedalcycle	25	25	16	15	21	31.3%	40.0%
Pedestrian	83	110	97	79	86	-11.3%	8.9%
Train	7	4	6	4	10	66.7%	150.0%
Motorized Bike	1	12	4	3	5	25.0%	66.7%
School bus	3	5	4	0	4	0.0%	NA
SUV	NA	133	161	184	230	42.9%	25.0%
Economic Loss (billions)	2.24	2.44	2.41	2.53	2.62	8.8%	3.6%
Vehicle Miles Traveled (billions)	45.08	45.56	47.07	47.82	48.77	3.6%	2.0%
Roadway Miles	64,921	66,168	66,195	66,231	66,252	0.09%	0.03%
Motor Vehicle Registrations	3,071,743	3,210,578	3,276,722	3,394,066	3,703,168	13.0%	9.1%
Licensed Drivers	2,850,194	2,855,690	2,931,697	2,982,926	3,341,153	14.0%	12.0%
Mileage Injury Rate*	119	115	111	107	105	-5.1%	-2.0%
Mileage Death Rate**	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.0	2.1	-4.1%	5.8%

*Traffic Injuries per 100 million vehicle miles of travel

**Traffic Fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles of travel

TEN YEAR TRAFFIC TRENDS 1995-2004



TRAFFIC COLLISIONS, FATALITIES, NON-FATAL INJURIES, MILEAGE DEATH RATE & VEHICLE MILES OF TRAVEL (1969 - 2004)

YEAR	COLLISIONS	FATALITIES	NON-FATAL INJURIES	MILEAGE DEATH RATE*	VEHICLE MILES OF TRAVEL**
1969	59,033	996	20,203	6.4	15,512
1970	67,808	1,033	19,864	6.2	16,558
1971	74,607	1,023	19,347	5.8	17,763
1972	81,525	1,099	20,283	5.6	19,472
1973	85,071	967	20,440	4.7	20,428
1974	76,986	873	18,863	4.4	20,012
1975	80,740	821	18,407	4.0	20,603
1976	86,944	820	21,201	3.7	21,961
1977	91,485	949	21,382	4.2	22,689
1978	97,880	898	23,223	3.7	24,254
1979	97,394	900	23,815	3.7	24,074
1980	91,016	859	22,599	3.8	22,658
1981	88,425	846	22,355	3.7	23,056
1982	88,798	730	23,019	3.0	24,222
1983	92,277	845	23,458	3.4	24,978
1984	102,617	915	28,135	3.5	25,900
1985	111,077	949	32,388	3.6	26,679
1986	116,573	1,059	34,689	3.7	28,247
1987	119,344	1,087	37,287	3.6	30,227
***1988	117,723	1,033	50,713	3.3	31,672
1989	123,252	996	49,905	3.0	32,781
1990	118,989	983	48,337	2.9	34,377
1991	110,780	890	47,472	2.6	34,452
1992	110,058	807	47,820	2.3	34,953
1993	112,983	845	50,348	2.3	36,126
1994	120,947	847	56,868	2.3	37,238
1995	125,694	882	56,008	2.3	38,723
****1996	121,791	930	57,387	2.3	39,646
1997	102,226	903	58,057	2.2	40,590
1998	99,817	1,001	56,801	2.3	42,912
1999	104,484	1,064	55,322	2.4	44,287
2000	104,203	1,063	53,721	2.4	45,083
2001	100,165	1,060	52,350	2.3	45,558
2002	108,280	1,053	52,095	2.2	47,074
2003	108,886	969	51,267	2.0	47,816
2004	110,029	1,046	51,226	2.1	48,766
TOTALS	3,609,907	34,041	1,346,655	NA	1,111,347

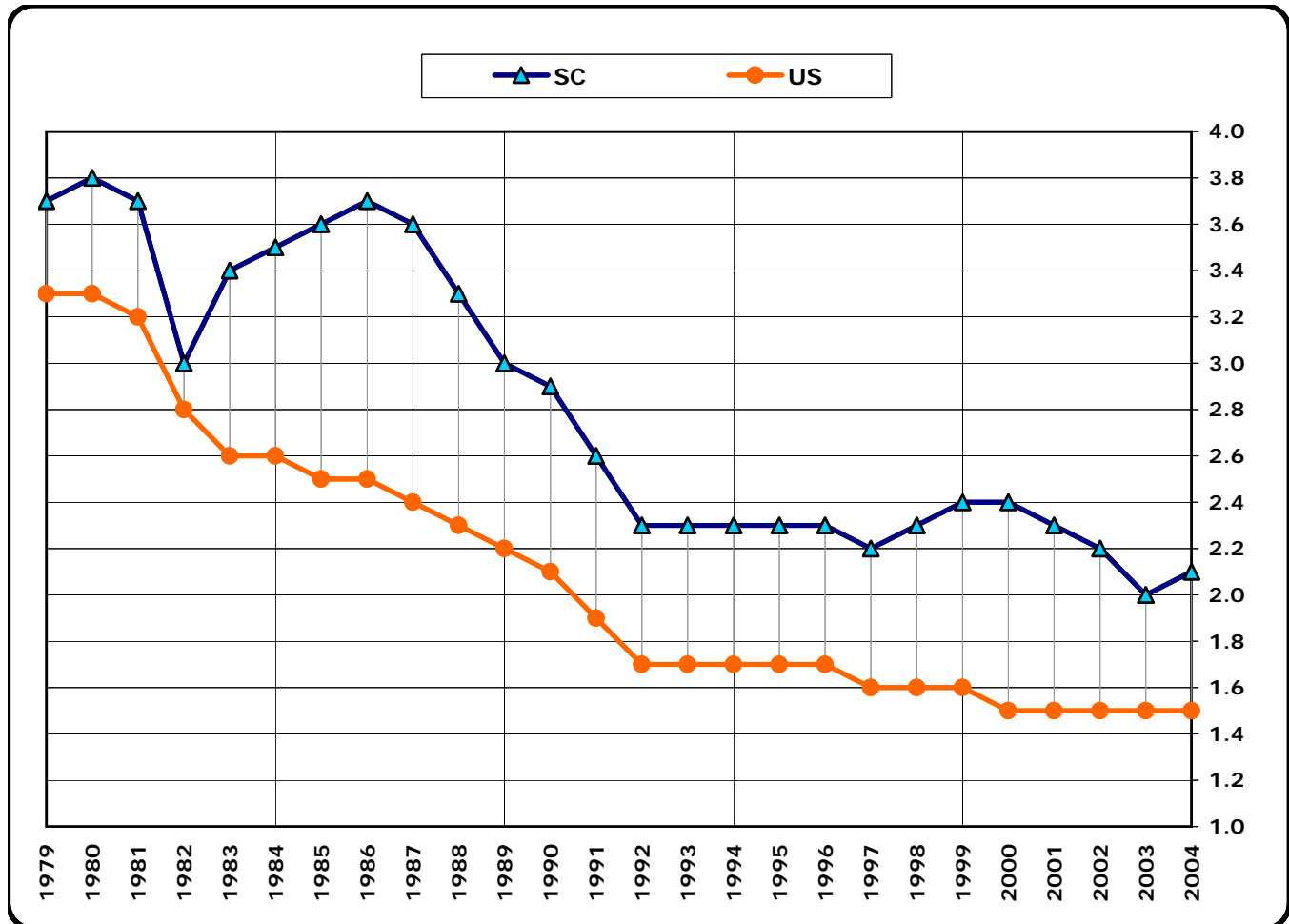
*Mileage Death Rate per 100 million vehicle miles of travel.

**Vehicle Miles of Travel in millions of miles.

*** Due to a new reporting format, more 'possible injuries' were reported than in previous years.

****Reporting threshold changed midyear to \$1,000 from \$400.

MILEAGE DEATH RATE SOUTH CAROLINA vs. NATIONAL AVERAGE 1979-2004

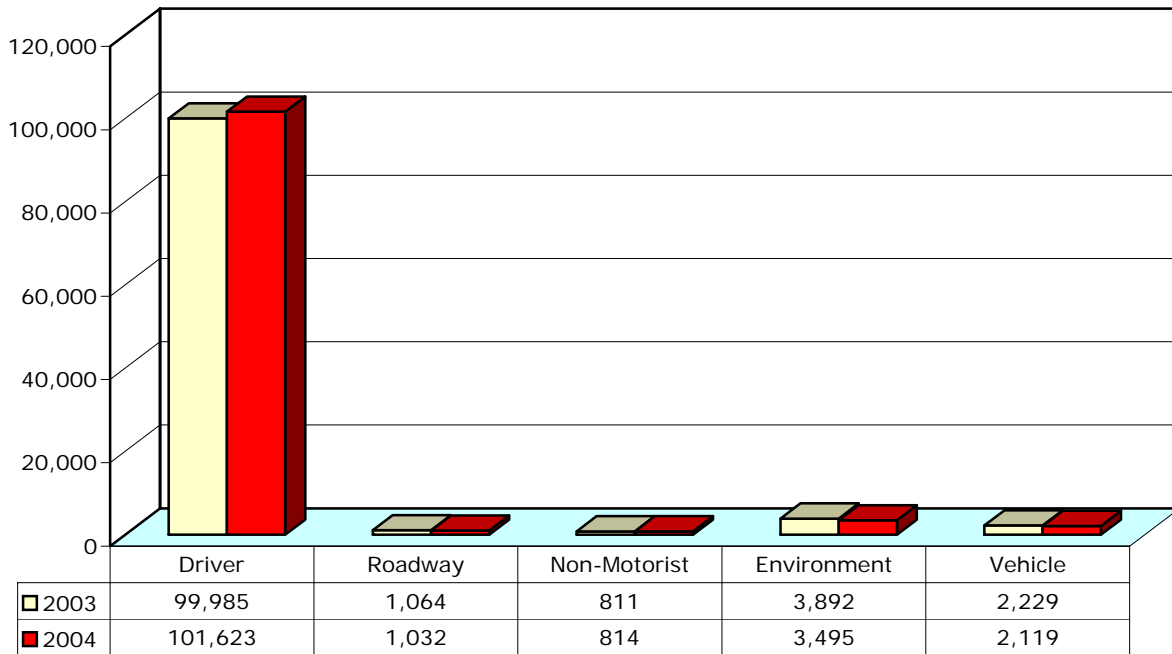


Source for U.S. data: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. (NHTSA)

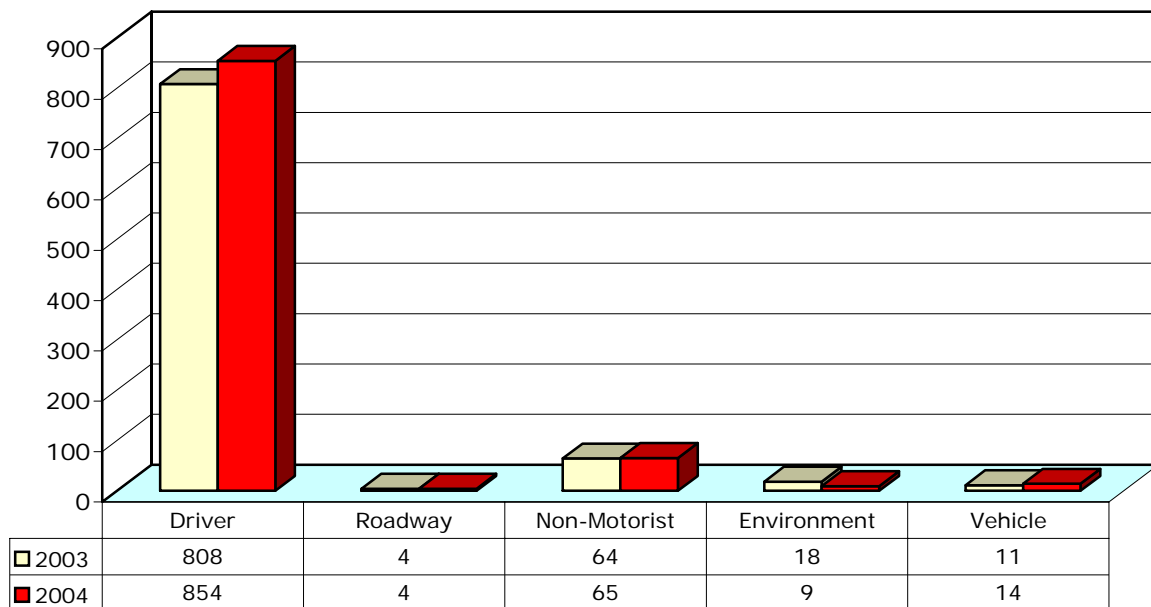
South Carolina's mileage death rate, MDR, (defined as the number of traffic fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles of travel) shows an overall declining trend over the past 25 years. Unlike the national trend however, the chart above shows that South Carolina has seen its MDR increase in 8 of the 25 years represented. The national MDR has been either maintained or shown a decrease from the previous year's MDR for the same 25 year period.

In 2003, South Carolina achieved an all time low MDR of 2.0, however it rose to 2.1 in 2004. This marked the end of a 3 year stretch of declining MDR's for the State and marks the 8th time an increase in the MDR was seen in 25 years. The MDR had not increased in South Carolina since 1998.

NON FATAL COLLISIONS BY PRIMARY CONTRIBUTING FACTOR



FATAL COLLISIONS BY PRIMARY CONTRIBUTING FACTOR

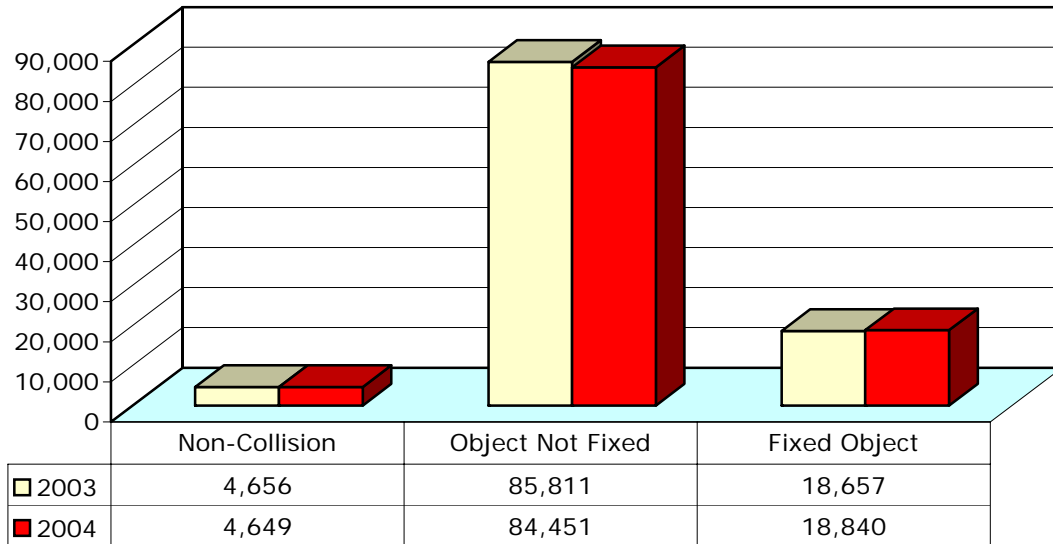


PRIMARY CONTRIBUTING FACTORS IN SC TRAFFIC COLLISIONS

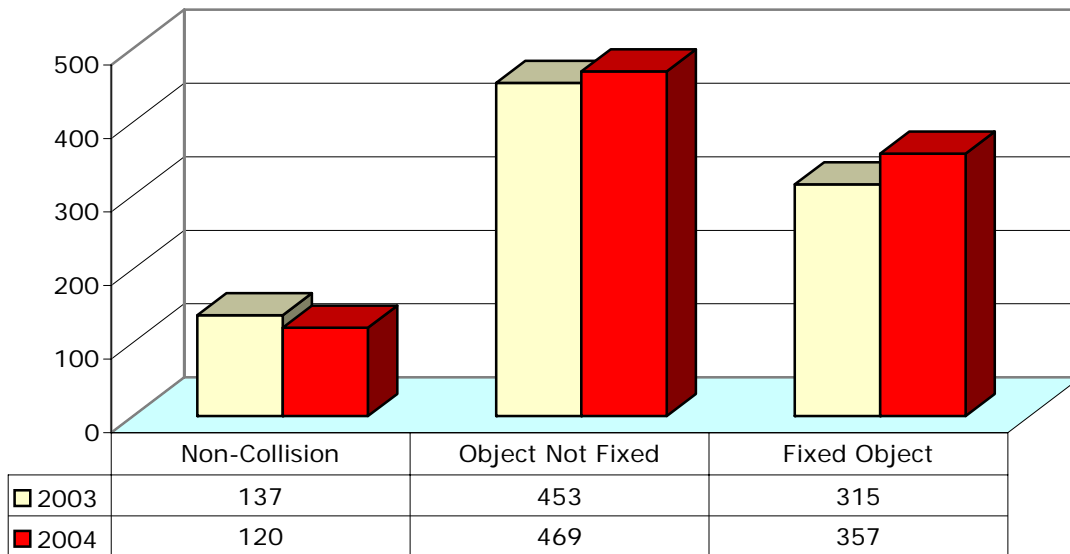
CONTRIBUTING FACTOR	COLLISION TYPE				PERSONS	
	Fatal	Injury	PDO*	Total	Killed	Injured
Disregarded Signs, Signals	41	2,452	3,463	5,956	51	4,425
Distracted / Inattention	32	2,837	7,664	10,533	37	4,277
Driving Too Fast for Conditions	227	8,126	19,867	28,220	244	12,175
Exceeded Authorized Speed Limit	67	366	494	927	70	583
Failed to Yield Right-of-Way	95	7,048	15,537	22,680	103	12,227
Ran Off Road	55	469	862	1,386	62	618
Fatigued/Asleep	20	385	535	940	21	545
Followed Too Closely	2	1,907	5,898	7,807	2	2,957
Made an Improper Turn	0	443	1,879	2,322	0	712
Medical Related	12	380	201	593	13	474
Aggressive Operation of Vehicle	16	451	678	1,145	18	699
Over-correcting/Over-steering	13	129	257	398	17	195
Swerving to Avoid Object	1	107	308	416	1	149
Wrong Side or Wrong Way	66	579	915	1,559	77	1,160
Under the Influence	162	2,090	1,887	4,139	184	3,167
Vision Obscured (within Unit)	0	35	145	180	0	51
Improper Lane Usage/Change	15	899	4,728	5,642	17	1,404
Cell Phone	0	42	66	108	0	64
Other Improper Action	5	707	3,517	4,223	5	1,002
Unknown	25	900	2,378	3,303	30	1,413
DRIVER SUBTOTAL	854	30,344	71,279	102,477	952	48,297
Debris	1	49	247	297	1	63
Obstruction In Road	0	49	155	204	0	68
Road Surface Condition (i.e., Wet)	1	80	267	348	1	106
Rut Holes, Bumps	0	9	19	28	0	14
Shoulders (None, Low, Soft, High)	0	1	8	9	0	1
Traffic Control Device (i.e., Missing)	0	8	18	26	0	14
Work Zone (Constr./Maint./Utility)	0	6	25	31	0	7
Worn Travel-Polished Surface	0	1	7	8	0	1
Other Roadway Factor	2	14	69	85	2	16
ROADWAY SUBTOTAL	4	217	815	1,036	4	290
Non-motorist Inattentive	4	72	32	108	4	83
Lying &/or Illegally in Roadway	31	116	13	160	31	137
Non-motorist Failed to Yield Right-of-Way	1	79	26	105	1	86
Not Visible (Dark Clothing)	7	39	1	47	7	40
Non-motorist Disregarded Sign/Signal	0	13	6	19	0	17
Improper Crossing	8	90	7	105	8	98
Darting	4	86	6	96	4	89
Non-motorist Wrong Side of Road	1	24	1	26	1	27
Non-Motorist Under the Influence	5	43	19	67	5	48
Other Non-motorist Factor	3	28	61	26	3	37
Unknown Non-motorist	1	17	36	67	1	27
NON-MOTORIST SUBTOTAL	65	606	208	879	65	689
Animal in Road	5	581	1,997	2,583	6	791
Glare	1	34	75	110	1	53
Obstruction	1	22	97	120	1	37
Weather Condition	2	132	471	605	3	212
Other Environmental Factor	0	18	56	74	0	22
Unknown Environmental Factor	0	3	9	26	0	5
ENVIRONMENTAL SUBTOTAL	9	790	2,705	3,504	11	1,120
Brakes	2	135	328	465	2	227
Steering	0	40	65	105	0	49
Power Plant	0	15	37	52	0	22
Tires/Wheels	10	139	487	636	10	210
Lights	1	24	28	53	1	38
Signals	0	2	2	4	0	2
Windows/Shield	0	1	5	6	0	1
Restraint Systems	0	0	10	10	0	0
Truck Coupling	0	8	36	44	0	12
Cargo	0	30	131	26	0	39
Fuel System	0	8	20	67	0	9
Other Vehicle Defect	1	34	161	26	1	56
Unknown Vehicle Defect	0	104	269	67	0	165
VEHICLE DEFECT SUBTOTAL	14	540	1,579	2,133	14	830
TOTALS	946	32,497	76,586	110,029	1,046	51,226

*Property Damage Only

NON FATAL COLLISIONS BY FIRST HARMFUL EVENT



FATAL COLLISIONS BY FIRST HARMFUL EVENT



TRAFFIC COLLISIONS BY FIRST HARMFUL EVENT

FIRST HARMFUL EVENT (FHE)	COLLISION TYPE				PERSONS	
	Fatal	Injury	PDO*	Total	Killed	Injured
Cargo/Equip Loss or Shift	2	45	143	190	2	55
Cross Median/Center	3	93	130	226	4	161
Downhill Runaway	0	6	16	22	0	6
Equipment Failure	0	53	139	192	0	78
Fire/Explosion	1	7	16	24	1	10
Immersion	0	11	38	49	0	16
Jackknife	0	10	71	81	0	13
Overturn/Rollover	98	1,552	1,476	3,126	104	2,172
Ran off Road Left	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ran off Road Right	0	0	0	0	0	0
Separation of Units	1	5	36	42	1	5
Spill (Two-Wheeled Vehicle)	9	189	29	227	9	222
Overcorrecting/Over steering	0	0	5	5	0	0
Other Non-collision	3	184	323	510	3	238
Unknown Non-collision	3	31	65	99	3	44
NON-COLLISION SUBTOTAL	120	2,186	2,487	4,793	127	3,020
Animal (Deer Only)	1	193	1,205	1,399	1	255
Animal (All Other)	2	87	249	338	2	113
Motor Vehicle (In Transport)	351	20,596	53,204	74,151	401	34,724
Motor Vehicle (Stopped)	5	2,036	5,716	7,757	7	3,381
Motor Vehicle (Other Roadway)	2	185	275	462	3	338
Motor Vehicle (Parked)	5	123	672	800	6	175
Pedalcycle	20	219	22	261	20	231
Pedestrian	74	388	24	486	74	424
Railway Vehicle	4	9	12	25	8	12
Work Zone Maint. Equipment	0	10	31	41	0	13
Other Movable Object	5	83	401	489	5	103
Unknown Movable Object	0	7	48	55	0	9
OBJECT NOT FIXED SUBTOTAL	469	23,936	61,859	86,264	527	39,778
Bridge Overhead Structure	0	8	34	42	0	8
Bridge Parapet End	0	12	18	30	0	13
Bridge Pier or Abutment	4	16	26	46	4	23
Bridge Rail	2	64	193	259	2	76
Culvert	20	151	212	383	22	198
Curb	8	117	278	403	8	148
Ditch	65	1,516	2,656	4,237	73	2,019
Embankment	28	551	677	1,256	31	770
Equipment	3	24	35	62	3	29
Fence, Other Than Median	6	155	593	754	7	197
Guardrail End	3	72	176	251	3	87
Guardrail Face	11	243	685	939	13	324
Highway Traffic Sign Post	7	105	341	453	8	150
Impact Attenuator/Crash Cushion	0	15	51	66	0	33
Light/Luminaire Support	0	14	43	57	0	16
Mailbox	9	151	364	524	10	196
Median Barrier	8	210	1,366	1,584	10	272
Overhead Sign Support	0	3	18	21	0	4
Other (Post, Pole, Support, etc..)	6	125	328	459	6	161
Other (Wall, Building, Tunnel, etc..)	4	133	287	424	4	163
Tree	154	1,952	2,396	4,502	169	2,611
Utility Pole	14	466	733	1,213	14	585
Work Zone Maint. Equipment	0	4	12	16	0	5
Other	5	180	587	772	5	229
Unknown	0	88	131	219	0	111
FIXED OBJECT SUBTOTAL	357	6,375	12,240	18,972	392	8,428
YEAR TOTALS	946	32,497	76,586	110,029	1,046	51,226

*Property Damage Only

PRIMARY CONTRIBUTING FACTOR

The 2004 South Carolina Traffic Collision Fact Book reports on the primary contributing factor in a traffic collision. This information comes directly from the collision report form filled out by the investigating officer. It is important to realize that while the report form has a field for primary contributing factor; it can also report up to four (4) other contributing factors for each collision (see appendix page 131). Thus we rely on the investigating officer's judgment as to the primary contributing factor for a collision.

Some action (or inaction) by one or more of the drivers was cited as the primary contributing factor in 102,477 of the 110,029 reported traffic collisions in 2004. This accounted for 93.1% of all primary contributing factors, a percentage slightly higher than the previous year of 92.6%. In fact, the top nine primary contributing factors were driver related. Environmental factors accounted for the next largest category of collision causes with 3,504 or 3.2% of the total. The vast majority of these (2,583) involved an "Animal in the Roadway," and accounted for 2.3% of all collisions. The "Non-Motorist", "Road" and "Vehicle" categories together accounted for only 3.7% of all reported traffic collisions in 2004.

For fatal collisions in 2004, some type of driver error was considered the primary contributing factor in 854 of the 946 collisions, accounting for 90.3% of all collisions in which someone was killed. This percentage is lower than that of all collisions, which is 93.1%. The specific causes of fatal collisions were quite different from all collisions. The leading primary contributing factor of fatal collisions was "Driving Too Fast for Conditions" with 227 collisions (24.0%) and "Driving Under the Influence" was a close second with 162 collisions (17.1%). The next leading factors were "Failed to Yield Right of Way," "Exceeded Speed Limit," and "Wrong Side of Road" with 95, 67, and 66 fatal collisions respectively. The proportion of "Non-Motorist" (mostly "Pedestrian in Roadway") causes was much higher in fatal (6.9%) compared to property damage only collisions (2.7%).

FIRST HARMFUL EVENT

The first harmful event (FHE) in a traffic collision is defined by the National Safety Council as the first occurrence of injury or damage in a collision. In 2004, the FHE in 86,264 of the 110,029 reported traffic collisions (78.4%) involved some type of collision between a motor vehicle in transit and an object not fixed. The top two FHEs, both involving a collision with an object not fixed, were "Collision with Motor Vehicle in Transport," 74,151 (67.4%) and "Collision with Stopped Vehicle," 7,757 (7.0%). The third FHE was "Tree" in the "Collision with Fixed Object" group, with 4,502 collisions (4.1%). Combined, these three accounted for more than 78% of all reported collisions.

"Collisions with an Object not Fixed" accounted for a substantially smaller percentage of the fatal collisions (37.7%) than the property damage only collisions (80.8%). Collisions involving a "Collision with a Fixed Object" accounted for a substantially greater percentage of the fatal collisions (37.7%) than for property damage only (16.0%). The leading FHE in fatal collisions was "Collision with Motor Vehicle in Transport" with 351 (37.1%); the second leading FHE in fatal collisions was "Collision with Tree" 154 (16.3%).