



## Louisiana Injury and Fatality crash facts

### General Facts from 2008 data

- There were 913 persons killed in motor vehicle crashes (75% male and 25% female)
- There were 818 fatal crashes
- There were 75,900 persons injured
- 49% of Louisiana fatal crashes involved alcohol
- 110 pedestrians killed (8 were children aged 14 or under) , 35% alcohol related
- 10 bicyclists killed, 40% alcohol related
- 80 motorcyclists killed, 33% alcohol related
- Helmet use in motorcycle crashes was 88%
- 13 persons killed in crashes involving a train
- Teen drivers are 2 times as likely to be in a crash if 1 other passenger is in the car
- Teen drivers are 5 times as likely to be in a crash if 2 or more passengers are in the car

### Impaired Driving

- About 3 in every 10 Americans will be involved in an alcohol-related crash as some time in their lives.
- In 2008, there were 449 alcohol related fatalities in Louisiana.
- The American Medical Association includes alcohol on the known carcinogenic list

1<sup>st</sup> DWI conviction – mandatory ignition interlock for conviction and to receive hardship license  
maximum penalties (Note: 3<sup>rd</sup> plus DWI convictions are felonies)

- criminal record
- 6 months in jail
- \$1,000 fine plus court costs
- loss of driver's license for 90 days

### Occupant Protection

- In 2008, 75.5% of Louisiana motorists wore their seat belt.
- 64% of drivers killed were not wearing a safety belt
- 14% of all high school students report they rarely or never wear safety belts when riding with someone else
- Helmets reduce the risk of death by 29% and the risk of fatal head injury by 40%

### Economic Cost

- Average inpatient costs for traffic crash victims who did not use safety belts were 55% higher than for victims who were belted.
- 1<sup>st</sup> DWI conviction could cost \$5,500 in court costs, fines, ignition interlock installation, vehicle impoundment, etc.
- If Louisiana citizens buckled up just 85% of the time we would save an estimate of \$140,000,000 annually

SOURCES: 2008 La. Traffic Records Data Book (<http://lhsc.lsu.edu/Reports/TrafficReports/report.asp?year=2008&reportLet=A>)  
FARS (www-fars.nhtsa.dot.gov/fars/fars.cfm)  
\*\* BAC = Blood Alcohol Content  
National Public Service Research Institute

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