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## GOVERNOR'S HIGHWAY SAFETY REPRESENTATIVE MESSAGE

Dear Reader:

The year 2001 saw Oklahoma's fatality count take a slight upward swing after several years of steady decline. However, when we consider vehicle miles traveled we continue to do well. Our safety restraint usage trend remained on an upward trend as it has for several years.

We must understand our problems well, and devise countermeasures that make a difference. Crash statistics are essential in our search for answers.

Your suggestions continue to make this document a valuable resource for those concerned with highway safety. Be sure and look closely at the document's definitions of terms. Some definitions have changed (Construction Zone and Highway Class, etc.) and may be found on page 10.

This 2001 edition of *Oklahoma Crash Facts* is available to you in hard copy, and electronically on the Oklahoma Highway Safety Office web page ([www.dps.state.ok.us/ohso](http://www.dps.state.ok.us/ohso)). Also, on-line at the same site are Fact Sheets pertaining to highway safety.

We are pleased to have you partner with us to "create and maintain an environment where Oklahoma roadways are safe for everyone."

Bob A. Ricks

OKLAHOMA FATALITIES					
YEAR	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
FATALITIES	849	769	747	662	682

SAFETY BELT USAGE					
YEAR	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
RATES	47.4%	56.0%	60.7%	67.5%	67.9%