

GOVERNOR'S HIGHWAY SAFETY REPRESENTATIVE MESSAGE

Dear Reader:

This is the eighth year the Oklahoma Highway Safety Office has produced this document. We hope you find this document very informative. We continue to make improvements in the traffic records system to provide timely, accurate, and available data to allow our partners and the public an opportunity to identify problems, seek resolutions, and evaluate success.

The year 2004 saw Oklahoma's fatality count take another upward swing, the highest count since 1997.

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

Safety restraint usage continues to rise each year, with an all-time high of 80.3% usage in 2004.

We continue to call on you to make suggestions regarding this document to ensure it remains a valuable resource.

This 2004 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). Fact Sheets pertaining to highway safety also are on-line at the same site.

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

Kaye Statton
Oklahoma Highway Safety Office

OKLAHOMA FATALITIES								
YEAR	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
FATALITIES	846	769	747	662	682	739	671	777

SAFETY BELT USAGE								
YEAR	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
RATES	47.4%	56.0%	60.7%	67.5%	67.9%	70.1%	76.7%	80.3%