

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Reader:

This is the seventh year the Oklahoma Highway Safety Office has produced this document. Kathy Evans remains our Data Analyst, and dedicated to the "mission."

Kathy needs the data "soonest," so she can produce this fine publication and get it into your hands. There are some outstanding people working to make that happen in many offices and agencies.

The year 2003 was a good year for highway safety in Oklahoma, with some 68 fewer deaths than in 2002. However, 2004 saw fatalities rise again. As we begin 2005, the preliminary numbers are down again. However, when we consider vehicle miles traveled, we see a steady, positive picture.

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 2003 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."

Joe R. McDonald
Oklahoma Highway Safety Office

OKLAHOMA FATALITIES								
YEAR	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
FATALITIES	846	769	747	662	682	739	671	*773

*Indicates preliminary data.

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%