

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Reader:

This year's Fact Book publication marks the sixth year the Highway Safety Office has published this document. Again, we hope you find it very helpful. As many of you know, Kathy Evans is our Data Analyst, and exceptional at what she does. Our thanks to her for outstanding dedication to the "mission."

This year we are making a major push to get Kathy the data as soon as possible, so she can produce this fine publication earlier and get it into your hands.

We know 2003 has been a great year for highway safety in Oklahoma, with approximately 100 fewer deaths than in 2002.

The year 2002 saw Oklahoma's fatality count take another upward swing after several years of steady decline. However, again when we consider vehicle miles traveled we continue to do well. Our safety restraint usage trend remained on an upward trend.

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

This 2002 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
FATALITIES	846	769	747	662	682	739	640
*Indicates preliminary data.							

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