

2020

NORTH DAKOTA CRASH SUMMARY

VISION ZERO

Zero fatalities. Zero excuses.

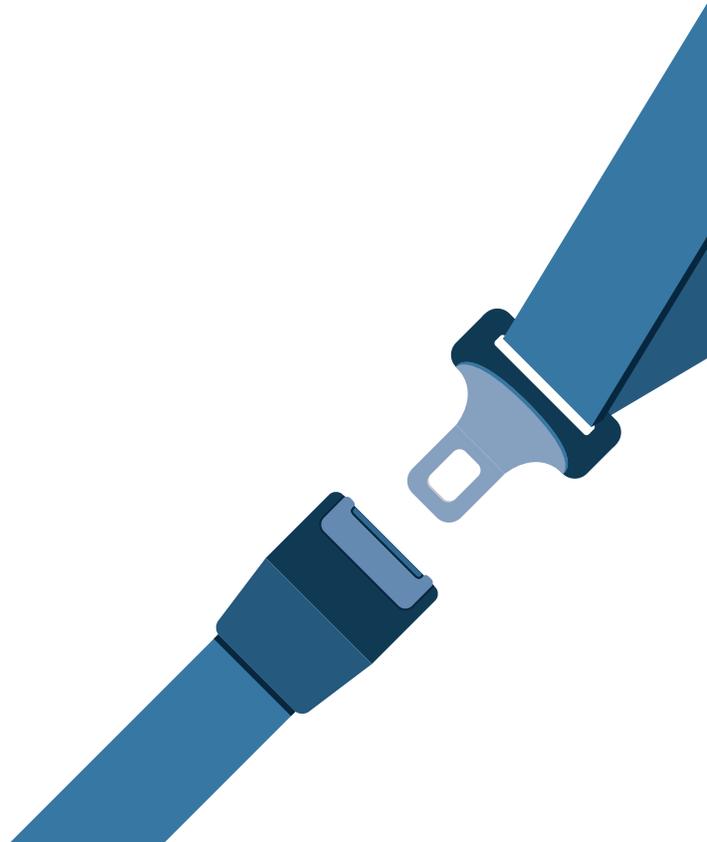
Vision:

Establish a culture of personal responsibility where motor vehicle fatalities and serious injuries are recognized as preventable and not tolerated.

Mission:

Eliminate fatalities and serious injuries caused by motor vehicle crashes in North Dakota.

VISION ZERO 
Zero fatalities. Zero excuses.





A Message from the NDDOT Director

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of injury-related death in North Dakota. While the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) is continually making highway improvements, there is still work to be done. In January 2018, the NDDOT, the Governor's Office and several other partner agencies came together to launch **Vision Zero: Zero fatalities. Zero excuses.** The Vision Zero strategy aims to establish a culture of personal responsibility where motor vehicle fatalities and serious injuries are recognized as preventable and not tolerated.

Vision Zero is implemented through various safety strategies including: (1) widespread public education/outreach, (2) working with the legislature to ensure state laws represent best practices in traffic safety, (3) implementing work place policies that support driver and passenger safety, (4) conducting high visibility enforcement of existing laws, (5) applying technology advancements that make vehicles, roads and drivers safer, and (6) infrastructure/road safety improvements.

We are asking every driver and vehicle occupant in North Dakota to help us meet the Vision Zero goal of zero motor vehicle fatalities and serious injuries on North Dakota roads by taking personal responsibility when traveling. This means always wearing a seat belt; transporting children in child passenger safety seats appropriate for the child's age, height and weight; driving distraction-free; driving sober; and obeying all posted speed limits and all other traffic laws.

The Vision Zero goal of zero fatalities and serious injuries is attainable and vital. When it comes to your life and the lives of your family and friends, is any other number acceptable? Let us all arrive at our destination safely by each taking a role in Vision Zero.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bill Panos', written in a cursive style.

Bill Panos
NDDOT Director

About This Document

This document is prepared annually by the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) Safety Division to provide information about motor vehicle crashes, fatalities and injuries in North Dakota.

Data for this document is collected by North Dakota law enforcement officers who complete a crash report when a crash on a public road involved a fatality, injury or at least \$4,000 in property damage.

The reportable property damage threshold increased to \$4,000 on August 1, 2019. For crashes occurring prior to August 1, 2019, the reportable property damage threshold was \$1,000.

Crashes that occur off of a public road (for example, on private property or parking lots) are not included.

Crash reports are submitted by law enforcement to the NDDOT Safety Division for central collection and data analysis. The data reported here reflects the point in time when the data was analyzed. Comparison to other data analysis may vary.

Gratitude is extended to all law enforcement personnel at the city, county, state and tribal levels who provide this valuable data for analysis.



Crashes are not accidents. The word “accident” promotes the perception that crashes are outside of human control when, in fact, crashes are predictable results of specific actions.

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Executive Summary

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of injury-related death in North Dakota.¹

Motor vehicle crash fatalities and injuries are sudden, violent and traumatic events. The impact is long-lasting, often permanent, and extends beyond the victims to impact the lives of the victim's family, friends and community.

The good news is, crashes are preventable.

Research shows that 94% of motor vehicle crashes can be attributed to a preventable human behavior.²

CAUTION HUMAN!
94% 

In North Dakota in 2020, preventable human behavior including not wearing a seat belt, alcohol and speed and/or aggressive driving contributed significantly to motor vehicle fatalities. Of the 100 fatalities in 2020, 60% were not wearing their seat belt (excludes those where seat belts do not apply including pedestrians, bicycles, motorcycles and off-highway vehicles), 39% were alcohol-related (includes both toxicology confirmed and officer suspected alcohol involvement), 34% involved speed and/or aggressive driving, and 56% were lane departure-related.

Motor vehicle crash fatalities in North Dakota can be reduced if every driver and vehicle occupant takes personal responsibility for their safety.



This includes wearing seat belts at all times; transporting children in child passenger safety (CPS) seats appropriate for the child's age, height and weight; not driving while distracted by cell phones or any other form of distraction; driving only when sober (i.e., not under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs); and obeying all posted speed limits.

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

² Human Factors of Highway Safety, Elizabeth Alicandri

Vehicle Crashes, Fatalities & Injuries in North Dakota:

A Decade in Review (2011-2020)

Over the past 10 years, more than 1,200 people have lost their lives to motor vehicle crashes in North Dakota.

The highest number of fatalities over this 10-year period occurred in 2012 (170), followed by a steady decrease in fatalities through 2016. In 2017, there was a 2.7% increase in fatalities; however, from 2017 to 2020 fatalities decreased by 13.8%.

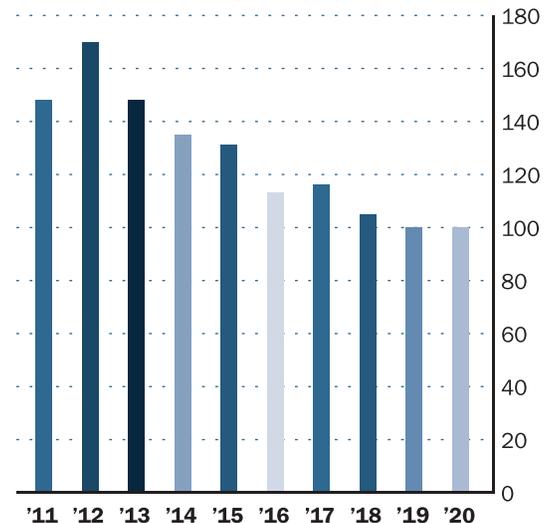


In the United States (U.S.), more than 37,000 lives are lost to vehicle crashes each year compared to about 100 lives lost to crashes each year in North Dakota.

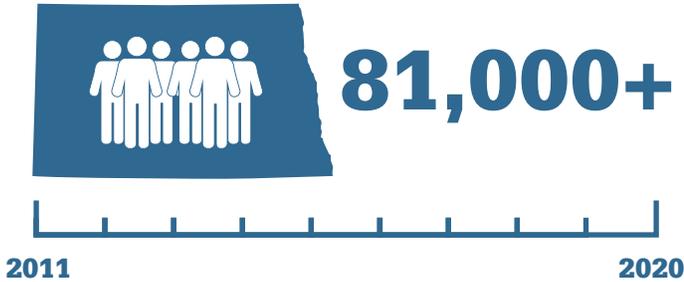
North Dakota Motor Vehicle Crashes, Fatalities and Injuries, 2011-2020

Year	Crashes	Fatalities	Injuries
2011	18,823	148	5,018
2012	18,356	170	5,311
2013	18,977	148	5,365
2014	16,134	135	5,278
2015	15,077	131	4,917
2016	15,017	113	4,614
2017	15,280	116	4,432
2018	15,242	105	4,230
2019	14,221	100	4,258
2020	8,820	100	3,426

North Dakota Motor Vehicle Fatalities 2011-2020

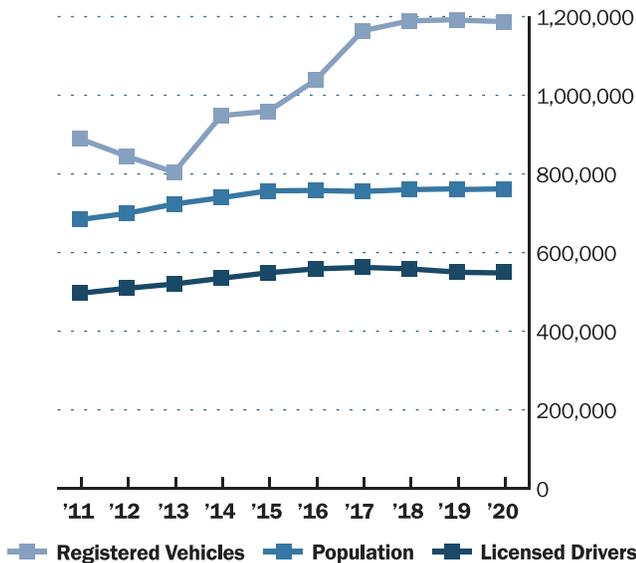


However, with the exception of 2016 and 2018 - 2020, North Dakota's fatality rate per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT) is consistently **higher** than the national rate. VMT is a measure of crash exposure – the more vehicle miles driven, the greater the exposure to the risk of a crash.



According to the U.S. Census Bureau, North Dakota's population increased by slightly more than 81,000 people over the past 10 years.

North Dakota People, Drivers and Vehicles, 2011-2020



North Dakota vs. United States Motor Vehicle Fatalities and Vehicle Fatality Rate, 2011-2020

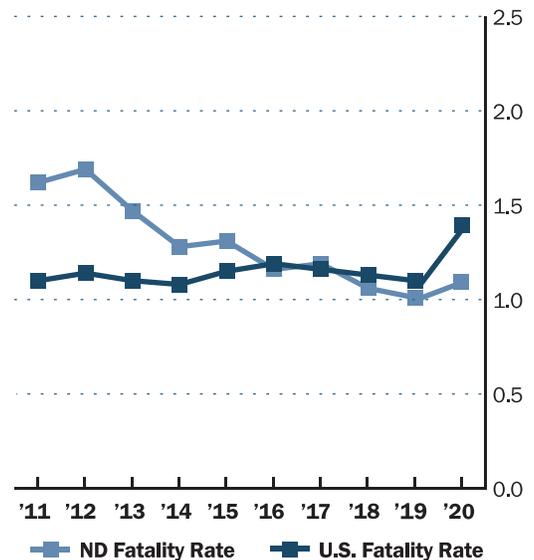
Year	ND Fatalities	ND Fatality Rate*	U.S. Fatalities	U.S. Fatality Rate*
2011	148	1.62	32,479	1.10
2012	170	1.69	33,782	1.14
2013	148	1.47	32,893	1.10
2014	135	1.28	32,744	1.08
2015	131	1.31	35,484	1.15
2016	113	1.16	37,806	1.19
2017	116	1.19	37,473	1.17
2018	105	1.07	36,835	1.14
2019	100	1.02	36,096	1.11
2020	100	1.14	38,680**	1.37**

*Number of fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled.

**2020 figures are preliminary (NHTSA, May 2021).

Note: ND fatality rates were updated in 2018 to reflect NHTSA data which uses a slightly different VMT count. Historical US data was updated in 2021 to reflect current NHTSA published data.

North Dakota vs. United States Motor Vehicle Fatality Rate, 2011-2020



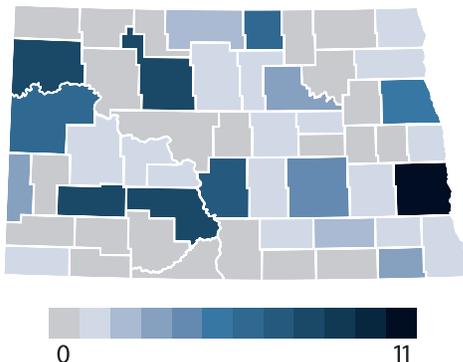
2020 Vehicle Crashes, Fatalities & Injuries in North Dakota

In 2020, there were 100 individuals who lost their lives in motor vehicle crashes in North Dakota. Those who died ranged in age from 1 to 91. The majority (86%) were North Dakota residents.



Of the motor vehicle fatalities, 64 (64%) were in a passenger vehicle, 17 (17%) were motorcyclists, 8 (8%) were pedestrians, 10 (10%) were individuals on all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and other miscellaneous vehicle types (such as snowmobiles, farm equipment and horse drawn wagons), 1 (1%) was a bicyclist, and 1 (1%) involved a motor vehicle and a train.

Fatalities occurred in 31 (58%) of North Dakota's 53 counties.



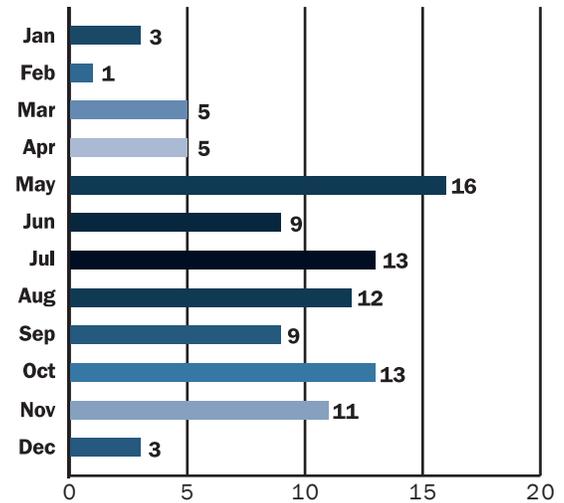
North Dakota Motor Vehicle Crashes, Fatalities and Injuries by County, 2020

County	Crashes	Fatalities	Injuries	Crash Rate per MVMT
Adams	6	0	4	.20
Barnes	157	1	60	.72
Benson	30	3	21	.39
Billings	25	0	10	.32
Bottineau	38	2	19	.43
Bowman	13	1	1	.29
Burke	13	0	6	.23
Burleigh	1,784	7	616	2.75
Cass	2,062	11	809	1.25
Cavalier	24	0	7	.47
Dickey	15	0	6	.29
Divide	14	0	2	.26
Dunn	79	1	26	.56
Eddy	18	1	3	.69
Emmons	21	0	10	.43
Foster	21	0	11	.49
Golden Valley	17	3	6	.41
Grand Forks	908	5	350	1.64
Grant	10	0	10	.31
Griggs	11	0	4	.46
Hettinger	15	0	6	.44
Kidder	36	1	14	.35
Lamoure	24	2	15	.47
Logan	14	1	7	.64
McHenry	43	1	16	.38
McIntosh	21	0	8	.82
McKenzie	234	6	110	.64
McLean	85	0	52	.42
Mercer	53	1	31	.67
Morton	356	8	148	.92

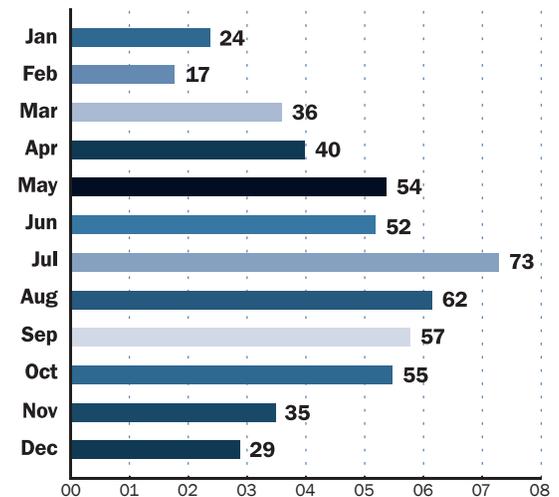
County	Crashes	Fatalities	Injuries	Crash Rate per MVMT
Mountrail	67	0	31	.31
Nelson	28	0	14	.47
Oliver	5	1	2	.16
Pembina	51	1	21	.53
Pierce	25	1	10	.52
Ramsey	99	0	47	.84
Ransom	33	1	22	.68
Renville	11	0	8	.30
Richland	144	1	45	.57
Rolette	7	6	7	.08
Sargent	15	3	8	.30
Sheridan	14	0	7	.63
Sioux	0	0	0	0.00
Slope	2	0	1	.07
Stark	435	8	155	1.21
Steele	5	0	3	.14
Stutsman	346	4	100	1.19
Towner	17	0	9	.57
Traill	94	1	40	.54
Walsh	118	1	43	.89
Ward	620	8	279	.94
Wells	27	1	13	.42
Williams	510	8	173	.97
TOTAL	8,820	100	3,426	1.01

Motor vehicle fatalities in North Dakota occur each month of the calendar year. However, over the past 5 years more people have died in motor vehicle crashes in the warm weather months in North Dakota (May through October) than the cold weather months. Warm weather months are also peak travel months in North Dakota where more vehicle miles are driven. During the 5-year period (2016-2020), July had the most motor vehicle fatalities in North Dakota.

North Dakota Motor Vehicle Fatalities by Month, 2020



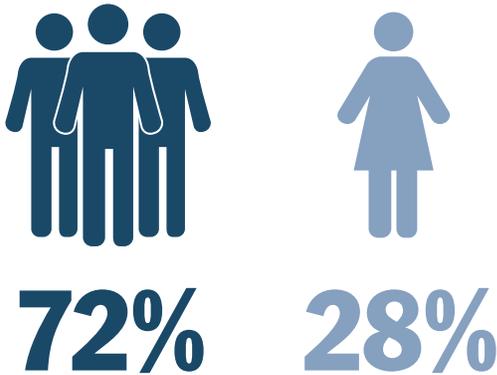
North Dakota Motor Vehicle Fatalities by Month, 2016-2020



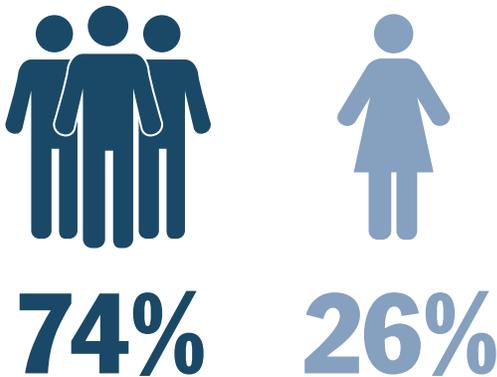
2020 Vehicle Crashes, Fatalities & Injuries in North Dakota (continued)

In 2020, males died in motor vehicle crashes 2.6 times more than females.

North Dakota Motor Vehicle Fatalities by Gender, 2020

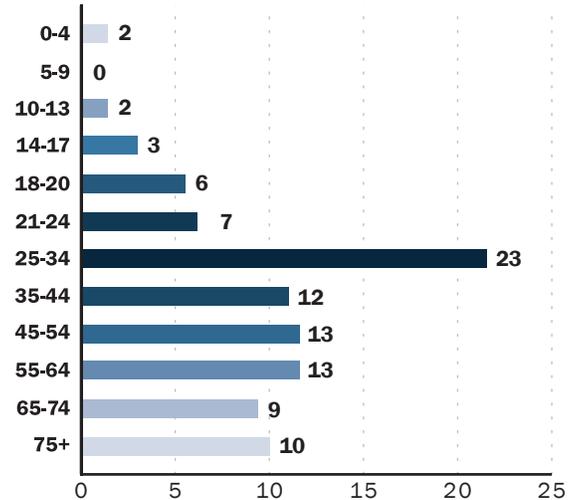


North Dakota Motor Vehicle Fatalities by Gender, 2016-2020

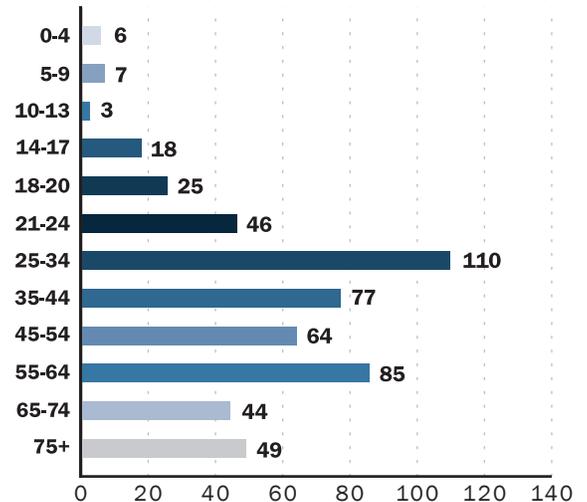


Nearly 2/3 (63%) of those who died in motor vehicle crashes in North Dakota over the past five years were between the ages of 25 and 64.

North Dakota Motor Vehicle Fatalities by Age, 2020

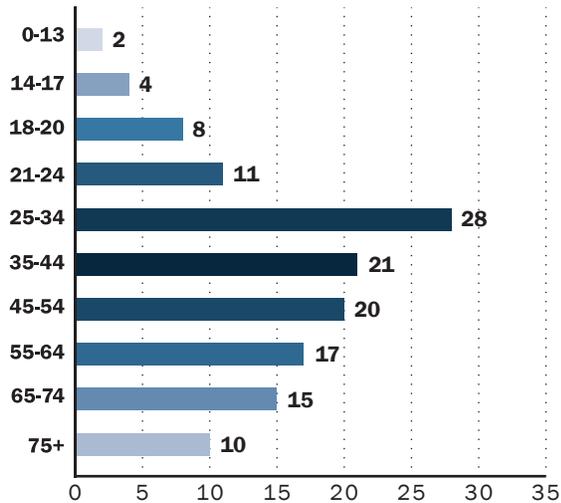


North Dakota Motor Vehicle Fatalities by Age, 2016-2020

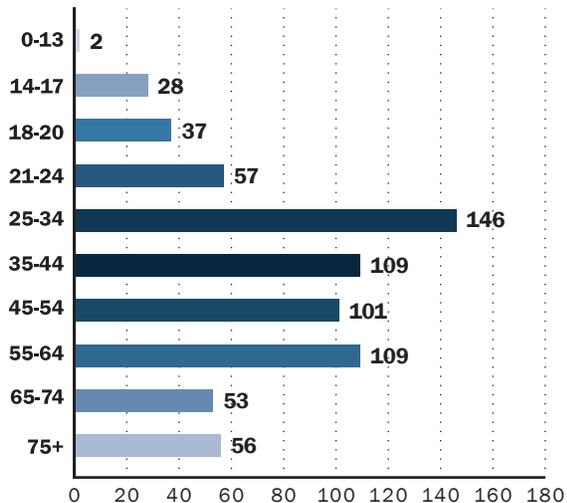


Over the past five years, drivers in fatal crashes in North Dakota were primarily between the ages of 25 and 64.

North Dakota Age of Drivers Involved in Fatal Motor Vehicle Crashes, 2020



North Dakota Age of Drivers Involved in Fatal Motor Vehicle Crashes, 2016-2020



Historically, more fatalities occur during Labor Day, Independence Day and Memorial Day than other holidays.

Note: Data reflects a multiple day period that varies per holiday and the day of the week on which the holiday falls. The New Year's Eve holiday period includes both December and January fatalities with the fatalities counted in the year in which they occurred.

North Dakota Holiday Motor Vehicle Fatalities, 2020



New Years
(1)



Memorial Day
(1)



Independence Day
(3)



Labor Day
(0)



Thanksgiving
(0)



Christmas
(0)

North Dakota Holiday Motor Vehicle Fatalities, 2016-2020



Occupant Protection



Seat belts save lives. They are the single most effective safety device to prevent death and injury in a motor vehicle crash.³

EVERY
9 DAYS
one unbelted vehicle occupant died (ND 2020)

ABOUT EVERY
6 DAYS
one unbelted vehicle occupant was ejected (ND 2020)

Seat belts protect you by:

- Keeping you in the vehicle.
- Spreading the force of impact over a large area and the strongest part of the body.
- Allowing your body to slow down gradually, lessening the impact on internal organs.
- Preventing impact with the interior of the vehicle.
- Preventing collision with other occupants of the vehicle.
- Preventing trauma to the brain and spinal cord caused by sudden change in motion.

Fortunately, most people who drive and ride in motor vehicles in North Dakota understand how important it is to wear a seat belt. An annual survey of observed seat belt use in North Dakota shows that 8 out of every 10 people wear a seat belt (83.7%). But, it is those who do not wear seat belts who are much more likely to lose their life in a crash.

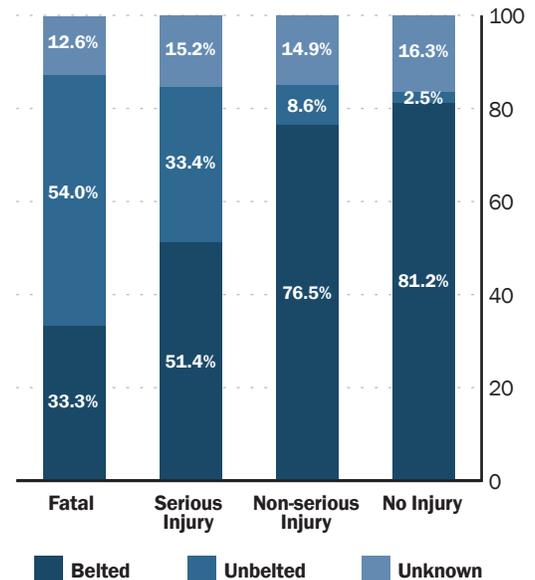
³ National Safety Council

North Dakota Unbelted Motor Vehicle Fatalities, 2016-2020

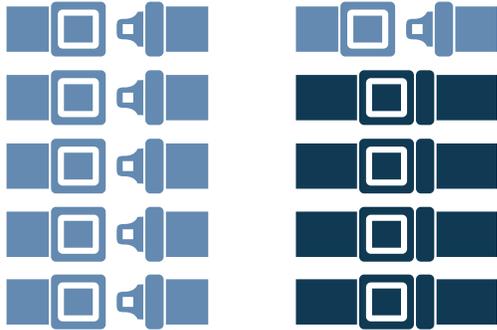
Year	Fatalities*	No Seat Belt Used	Percent Unbelted
2016	87	51	59%
2017	91	50	55%
2018	77	37	48%
2019	74	34	46%
2020	68	41	60%

*Includes fatalities where seat belts were available within the vehicle. Excludes fatalities where seat belts do not apply (pedestrians, bicycles, motorcycles, off-highway vehicles, persons riding on the exterior of motor vehicles, bus passengers and farm/construction equipment).

North Dakota Percent of Restraint Use by Injury Classification, 2016-2020



Crash data shows a direct correlation between seat belt use and injury severity. Unbelted vehicle occupants in North Dakota crashes account for the largest percent of fatalities and serious injuries, while belted occupants most commonly receive non-serious or no injuries.



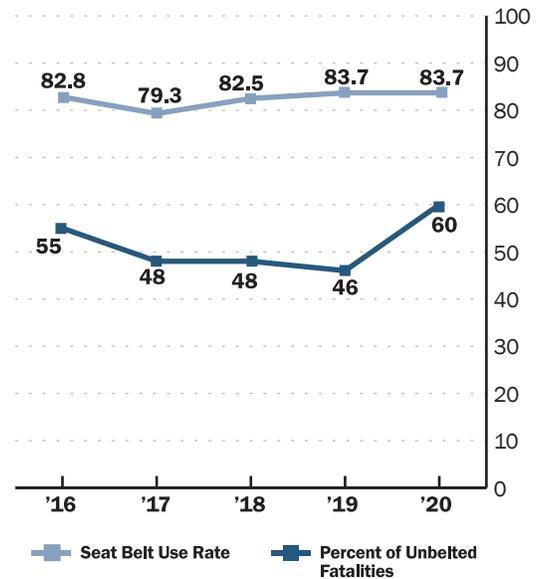
In North Dakota over the past 5 years (2016-2020), more than half (54%) of the people killed in a motor vehicle crash, where seat belts applied, were not wearing a seat belt at the time of the crash. And, 79% of the unbelted fatalities were males.

In 2020 alone, 60% of motor vehicle fatalities in North Dakota were not wearing their seat belt. Of those unbelted fatalities, 56% were partially or totally ejected. Further, 79% of single vehicle rollover fatalities were not wearing their seat belt and 87% of those unbelted fatalities were either partially or totally ejected.

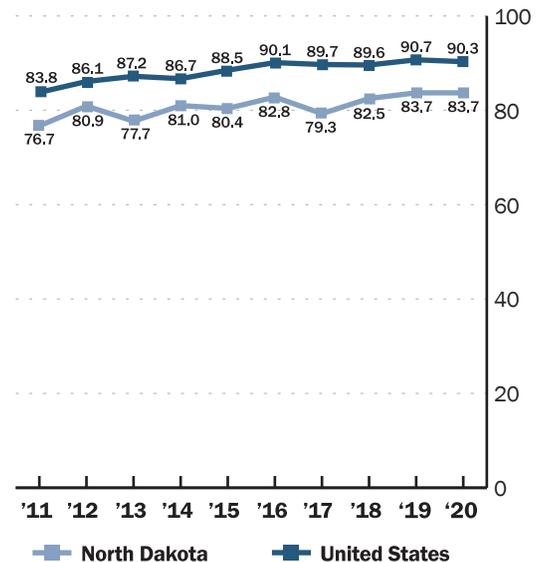
North Dakota’s observed seat belt use has been consistently lower than the national seat belt use rate over the past 10 years (2011-2020).

Seat belts save lives. Wear your seat belt – everybody, every trip, every time!

North Dakota Seat Belt Use and Unbelted Motor Vehicle Fatalities, 2016-2020



North Dakota vs. United States Seat Belt Use Rate, 2011-2020



Impaired Driving



Alcohol and drug-related crashes are 100% preventable. Many lives would be saved in North Dakota each year if every driver consistently makes the choice to drive sober and not while under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

EVERY
14 HOURS
one alcohol-related
crash occurred (ND 2020)

NEARLY
EVERY
9 1/2 DAYS
one alcohol-related
vehicle fatality occurred (ND 2020)

Yet, 222 people have died in alcohol-related crashes in North Dakota over the past 5 years. Alcohol is a factor in about 41% of fatal crashes in North Dakota annually. The percent of alcohol-related fatal crashes fluctuated over the most recent five-year period with increases in 2017 and 2019, and decreases in 2018 and 2020.

Approximately 1 in 7 (14%) adult arrests in North Dakota in 2020 were for Driving Under the Influence (DUI).⁴ The **average** blood alcohol content (BAC) among DUI offenders in North Dakota is .161 – well over the legal limit of .08.

Drive sober.

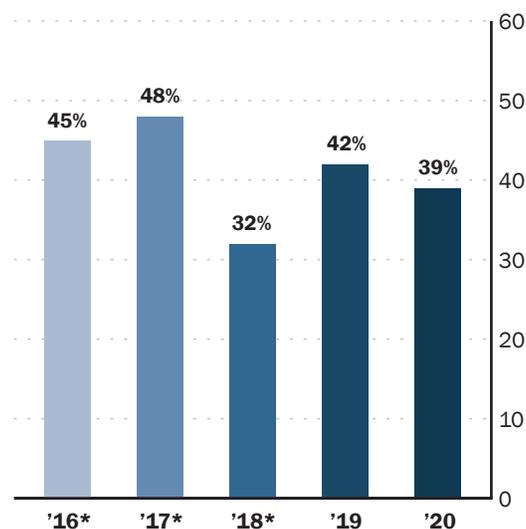
⁴ North Dakota Office of Attorney General, Bureau of Criminal Investigation, Crime in North Dakota, 2020

North Dakota Motor Vehicle Crashes, Fatalities and Injuries Involving Alcohol, 2016-2020

Year	Total Fatal Crashes	Fatalities	Injuries
2016	46	54	446
2017	51	55	472
2018	30	31	407
2019	38	43	402
2020	37	39	407

*Counts indicate at least one operator in the crash had a positive BAC and/or officer suspected alcohol involvement was indicated on the crash report; passenger BACs are excluded. Alcohol-related injuries are counted based on officer suspected alcohol involvement from the crash report; toxicology is not available.

North Dakota Percent Alcohol-Related Fatal Motor Vehicle Crashes, 2016-2020



Distracted Driving



Distraction — taking eyes, hands or mental attention away from driving — is a common contributing factor in most motor vehicle crashes and near crashes.

Texting while driving is a behavior so dangerous that drivers are:

23x MORE at risk of a crash or near-crash event
6x MORE likely to crash than a drunk driver

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 3,142 people nationwide were killed in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers in 2019.*

Distracted driving is vastly underreported as a factor in a crash due to driver hesitancy to report, lack of witness verification and other factors. As a result, North Dakota crash data related to distraction is limited. However, in 2020, 1,066 distracted driving violations were posted to the ND Driver's License system.



Sending one text at 55 mph is like *driving blindfolded* the entire length of a football field.

*Most current data available

VISION ZERO

Zero fatalities. Zero excuses.

Vision Zero is a statewide strategy to eliminate fatalities and serious injuries caused by motor vehicles on North Dakota roads.

VisionZero.ND.gov

PARENTS LEAD

Parents LEAD (Listen, Educate, Ask, Discuss) is an evidence-based underage drinking prevention program targeting parents and professionals through statewide, web-based communication.

ParentsLead.org

SPEAK VOLUMES

Speak Volumes is a campaign to educate North Dakota adults on standard drink sizes, binge drinking, and related consequences to help them make better decisions about alcohol consumption.

SpeakVolumes.ND.gov

Speed and/or Aggressive Driving



Speed and/or aggressive driving was a factor in 34% of fatal crashes in North Dakota in 2020.

NEARLY EVERY
3 HOURS
one speed/aggressive driving
involved crash occurred (ND 2020)

ABOUT EVERY
10 DAYS
one speed/aggressive driving
involved fatality occurred (ND 2020)

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 9,478 lives were lost in speed-related vehicle crashes in the U.S. in 2019.*

Speeding endangers everyone on the road. It greatly reduces the driver's ability to slow a vehicle when necessary or to steer safely around an unexpected curve, or another vehicle or hazardous object in the road. In school zones or neighborhoods, that could include a child or an animal crossing the road.

Of the 36 drivers involved in fatal crashes in North Dakota in 2020 with speed and/or aggressive driving identified as a contributing factor, 64% were ages 18-44 and 75% were male.

It's not just aggressive driving, it's deadly driving. Stop speeding before it stops you.

*Most current data available

North Dakota Fatal Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Speed/Aggressive Driving**, 2016-2020

Year	Total Fatal Crashes	Speed/Aggr. Driv.-Involved Fatal Crashes	Percent
2016	102	29	28%
2017	106	30	28%
2018	95	42	44%
2019	91	26	29%
2020	96	33	34%

**Speed/Aggressive Driving-Involved is defined as speeding, driving too fast for conditions, following too close, or operating a vehicle in an erratic, reckless, careless, negligent or aggressive manner.

175 PEOPLE
died in speed/aggressive driving-
involved crashes in North Dakota
over the past 5 years. (ND 2020)

North Dakota Motor Vehicle Crashes, Fatalities and Injuries Involving Speed/Aggressive Driving**, 2016-2020

Year	Crashes	Fatalities	Injuries
2016	4,922	32	1,737
2017	5,296	33	1,755
2018	5,525	47	1,723
2019	5,187	27	1,629
2020	3,153	36	1,225

Lane Departure

Lane departure is the most common type of crash resulting in injuries in rural areas. A lane departure crash is defined as a crash which occurs after a vehicle crosses an edge line or a center line, or otherwise leaves the traveled way.

NEARLY
EVERY
2 $\frac{1}{2}$ HOURS
one lane departure-related
crash occurred (ND 2020)

NEARLY
EVERY
6 $\frac{1}{2}$ DAYS
one lane departure-related
fatality occurred (ND 2020)

Over the past 5 years in North Dakota, 74% of single-vehicle fatal lane departure crashes involved overturning/rolling over and 14.5% involved collisions with fixed objects such as trees, utility/light poles, traffic signs and mailboxes.

Lane departure can be caused by many things including distraction, drowsiness and impaired driving. From 2016-2020, officer suspected alcohol involvement was a contributing factor in 43.2% of fatal lane departure crashes in North Dakota.

Stay in your lane.

North Dakota Motor Vehicle Crashes, Fatalities and Injuries Involving Lane Departure, 2016-2020

Year	Crashes	Fatalities	Injuries
2016	5,604	62	1,497
2017	5,725	69	1,555
2018	5,656	60	1,386
2019	5,198	63	1,460
2020	3,510	56	1,278

Safety Corridors: A New Approach to Vision Zero

Safety Corridors are part of the Vision Zero strategy to reduce motor vehicle fatalities and serious injuries to zero. A Safety Corridor is a designated section of highway that includes enhanced safety features and an increase in law enforcement to remind drivers that they are responsible for obeying all traffic laws and posted speed limits. The purpose is to utilize engineering and technological solutions to change dangerous driving behavior and reduce the number of crashes on state highways.

Visit [VisionZero.ND.gov](https://www.VisionZero.ND.gov)
for more information.

Safety Corridor
VISION ZERO
Zero Fatalities. Zero Excuses.

Heavy Trucks

Understanding safe driving habits around heavy vehicles is the responsibility of all drivers. Heavy trucks include single unit trucks (2-axle or 3-axle), truck tractors (bobtail, semi-trailer, doubles and triples), and trucks with greater than 10,000 lbs. Gross Vehicle Weight Rating without a classified body type.

NEARLY EVERY
11 HOURS
one heavy vehicle-related crash occurred (ND 2020)

NEARLY EVERY
24 DAYS
one heavy vehicle-related fatality occurred (ND 2020)

Over the past 5 years in North Dakota, 46% of heavy vehicle-related crashes were single vehicle crashes and 17% were rear-end crashes. Additionally, 29% happened at an intersection or were intersection-related, 15% were a rollover crash, and 10% were speed-related.

In North Dakota, motor vehicle crashes involving heavy vehicles are more common in winter months (October-January) than warm weather months and a majority are in rural areas (69%).

Share the road with trucks.



69%
of motor vehicle crashes involving heavy vehicles were in rural areas



31%
of motor vehicle crashes involving heavy vehicles were in urban areas

North Dakota Motor Vehicle Crashes, Fatalities and Injuries Involving Heavy Trucks**, 2016-2020

Year	Crashes	Fatalities	Injuries
2016	1,060	13	288
2017	1,110	21	326
2018	1,176	26	318
2019	1,139	15	341
2020	772	15	205

**Heavy Trucks include Single Unit Trucks (2-axle or 3-axle), Truck Tractors (Bobtail, Semi-trailer, Doubles and Triples), and Trucks with > 10,000 lbs. GVWR without a classified body type.

Young Drivers

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of injury-related death for North Dakota teens.⁵ Young driver inexperience, coupled with immaturity, often results in risk-taking behaviors such as speeding, alcohol use and not wearing a seat belt — all of which contribute to an increased death rate.⁶

NEARLY EVERY 5 HOURS
one teen driver crash occurred (ND 2020)

EVERY 52 DAYS
one teen died in a crash (ND 2020)

In North Dakota, teen drivers age 14-19 account for 5% of all licensed drivers but are behind the wheel in nearly 20% of all crashes.

Teen drivers were involved in 9.4% of fatal crashes in North Dakota in 2020. And, over the past 5 years in North Dakota, 34 teens have died in vehicle crashes.

⁵ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

⁶ Governors Highway Safety Administration

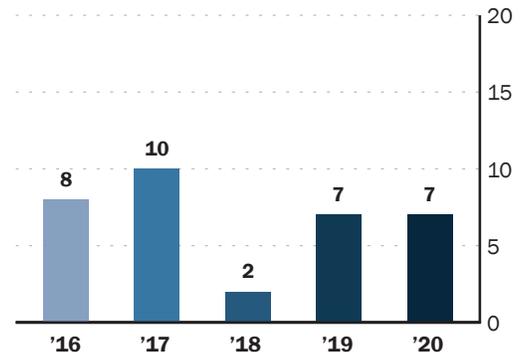
North Dakota Teen Driver Involvement in All Crashes, 2016-2020

Year	Total Crashes	Teen Driver Crashes	Percent
2016	15,017	2,878	19%
2017	15,280	2,841	19%
2018	15,242	2,952	19%
2019	14,221	2,579	18%
2020	8,820	1,760	20%

North Dakota Teen Driver Involvement in Fatal Crashes, 2016-2020

Year	Total Fatal Crashes	Teen Driver Fatal Crashes	Percent
2016	102	11	11%
2017	106	13	12%
2018	95	9	9%
2019	91	11	12%
2020	96	9	9%

North Dakota Teen Fatalities from Motor Vehicle Crashes, 2016-2020



Bicycles and Pedestrians

Everyone has different preferences when it comes to transportation. Regardless of mode of transport, being safe on the road is a responsibility shared by all. Bicyclists and pedestrians have the same rights, privileges and responsibilities as every motorist; however, they are more vulnerable since they do not have the protection provided by a vehicle.

NEARLY
EVERY
7 DAYS
one bicyclist was
involved in a crash (ND 2020)

EVERY
4 $\frac{1}{2}$ DAYS
one pedestrian was
involved in a crash (ND 2020)

Pedestrians are at a disadvantage when crossing streets, intersections and standing on corners, as they are not always visible to drivers. Tips to keep safe when walking from one destination to another: watch walkways — make sure the driver sees you by making eye contact with them, don't be a distracted walker, make yourself visible, watch for wide loads, and be aware of blind spots.

As a bicyclist, you need to take extra precautions to protect yourself. Tips to help keep you riding safely: wear a helmet, be aware of traffic, check your brakes, ride with traffic, and be aware of blind spots.

North Dakota Crashes, Fatalities and Injuries Involving Bicycles, 2016-2020

Year	Crashes	Fatalities	Injuries
2016	94	3	88
2017	93	2	79
2018	74	2	68
2019	80	2	76
2020	53	1	51

In 2020, the bicycle-related fatality involving a motor vehicle was male.

North Dakota Crashes, Fatalities and Injuries Involving Pedestrians, 2016-2020

Year	Crashes	Fatalities	Injuries
2016	132	7	100
2017	138	5	106
2018	131	6	91
2019	115	5	87
2020	82	8	66

In 2020, 75% of pedestrian-related fatalities involving a motor vehicle were male.

Motorcycles and Off-Highway Vehicles

Since 2011 in North Dakota, the number of motorcycle licensed drivers has increased by 16.8%, and motorcycle registrations have also increased by 20.4%.

ABOUT EVERY
2 DAYS
one motorcyclist was involved in a crash (ND 2020)

EVERY
21¹/₂ DAYS
one motorcyclist died in a crash (ND 2020)

Motorcyclists can increase their safety on the roads by wearing All The Gear, All The Time (ATGATT), taking a rider safety course and obeying all traffic laws.

Motorcycle Fatality Facts, ND 2020

 **82% MALE**
(14)

 **35% Motorcyclists Were Alcohol Positive (6)***

*Fatalities with known alcohol test results.

 **82% Were Not Wearing a Helmet (14)**

Motorists can prevent a crash with motorcyclists by checking all mirrors and blind spots, staying back, and looking for motorcyclists, especially at intersections.

North Dakota Crashes, Fatalities and Injuries Involving Motorcycles, 2016-2020

Year	Crashes	Fatalities	Injuries
2016	248	12	198
2017	248	13	204
2018	210	16	167
2019	176	11	152
2020	174	17	160

In North Dakota in 2020, 93.1% (162) of all reported motorcycle crashes resulted in injury or death. In the past 5 years, speed has been a contributing factor in 27.9% of motorcycle fatalities in North Dakota.

North Dakota Crashes, Fatalities and Injuries Involving Off-Highway Vehicles**, 2016-2020

Year	Crashes	Fatalities	Injuries
2016	60	3	59
2017	61	2	59
2018	71	2	73
2019	52	4	49
2020	74	7	77

**Off-highway vehicles include all-terrain vehicles (ATV) and snowmobiles.

Preventing Vehicle Crashes, Fatalities & Injuries

The North Dakota Vision Zero Plan identifies partners and “E” strategies to reduce motor vehicle fatalities and injuries in the state. The “E” strategies are described below.

Education. All North Dakotans should know that they can save their lives, and the lives of others, from motor vehicle crashes by taking personal responsibility. This includes wearing seat belts at all times, transporting children in child passenger safety seats appropriate for the child’s age, height and weight, not driving while distracted by cell phones or any other form of distraction, driving only when sober (i.e., not under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs), and obeying all posted speed limits.

Environment. Behavior change can occur through changing the environment in which the behavior occurs. This is done through strengthening traffic safety policies and laws such as mandating seat belt use for all vehicle occupants at all times, increasing the fines associated with speed violations, eliminating cell phone use in vehicles, and mandating alcohol beverage server training to prevent overconsumption of alcohol by consumers.

Enforcement. Regular enforcement of traffic safety laws deters unsafe driver and occupant behavior.

Engineering. State and local North Dakota roads are designed, constructed and maintained with safety as a priority.

Emergency Medical Services. In the event that a motor vehicle crash does occur, assure that crash victims are transported to an appropriate level of health care for their injuries, in the shortest amount of time possible.

Do you want to get involved in motor vehicle crash prevention?

The NDDOT and our traffic safety partners invite you to **join the Vision Zero Partner Network (VZPN)** for resources and ideas to help reduce risky driver and occupant behaviors to save lives.

Risky behaviors cause hundreds of preventable crashes in North Dakota every year. By joining the Vision Zero Partner Network, you can help prevent motor vehicle crash fatalities and serious injuries on North Dakota roads. Marketing and resource materials are free and all contributions are voluntary.

Benefits of VZPN:

- Protect your organization's human and financial resources
- Guard against potential liabilities associated with work-related crashes
- Demonstrate your company, school or organization's commitment to the community
- Show your students or employees you care about them and their families
- Address the problems of distracted driving, impaired driving, speed, aggressive driving and lack of seat belt use

What partners will receive from NDDOT:

- Education tools and materials bundled for each campaign
- Help getting a driver and occupant safety program started
- Opportunities to collaborate with other network organizations and agencies
- Technical support for local opportunities such as media interviews

To sign up, go to **[VisionZero.ND.gov](https://www.visionzero.nd.gov)** and click on "Partners."

Working together, we can save lives.

North Dakota Crash Memorial Wall

The North Dakota Crash Memorial Wall is an online space to safely honor someone you love who lost their life in a motor vehicle crash on a North Dakota road. Memorials are public in the hope that sharing their stories will offer comfort to families and friends and remind visitors about the devastating impact of motor vehicle fatalities.

The Crash Memorial Wall was developed by the North Dakota Department of Transportation and launched in August 2015. In 2016, the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) recognized the North Dakota Crash Memorial Wall with a Public Affairs and Consumer Education Award (PACE) for outstanding website.

Immediate family members are invited to create a memorial at VisionZero.ND.gov. Extended family and friends can comment on the memorials. All submissions are reviewed by the North Dakota Department of Transportation within 10 business days.



“ Even one life lost in a motor vehicle crash is too many; every life is precious. ”



Questions and requests for additional data or copies of this document can be directed to:

NDDOT Safety Division

701-328-2598

dottrafficgrp@nd.gov

The report can be found online at
[VisionZero.ND.gov/statistics](https://www.visionzero.nd.gov/statistics)