

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE 2026

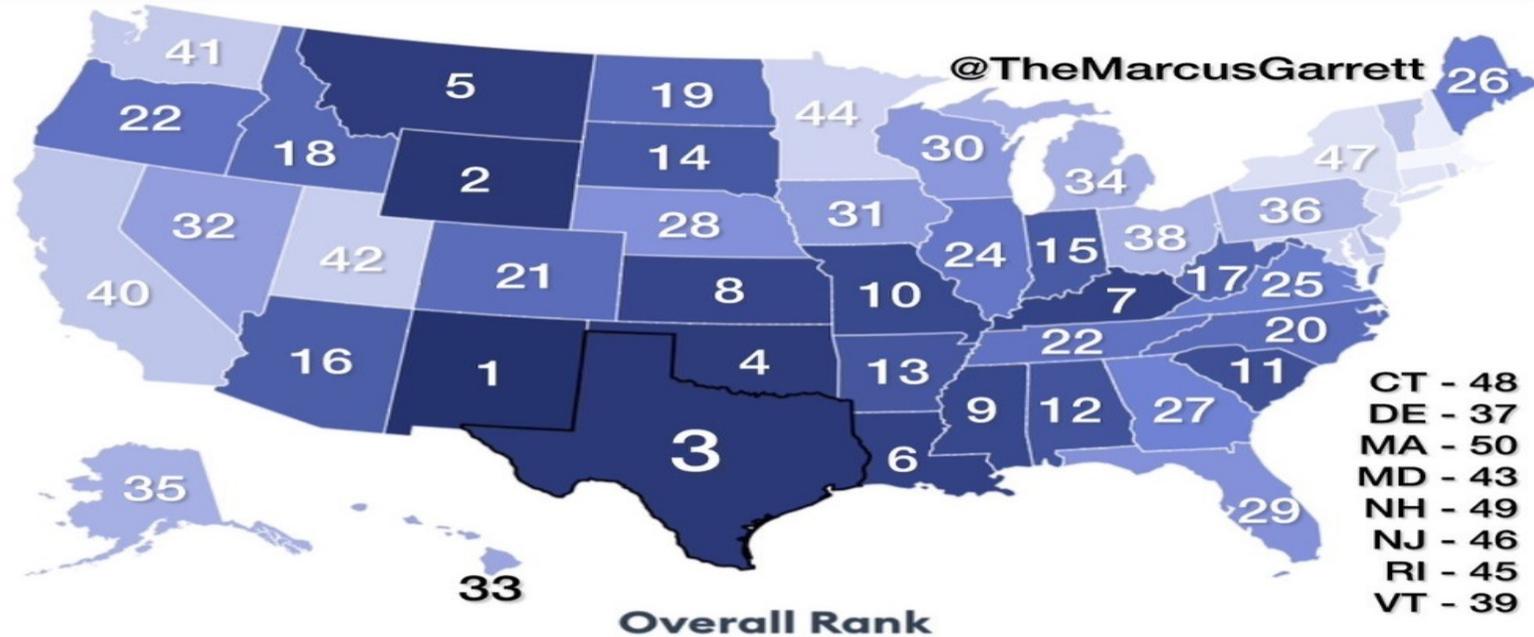
#ENDTHESTREAK



**Sgt. Steven Blanco
Safety Education / Media – Midland**

Worst Drivers

Forbes: States With The Worst Drivers



Best Drivers:
Massachusetts

Worst Drivers:
New Mexico

Data sources: The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, The Federal Bureau of Investigation, Arity and The Department of Transportation.

KEY FACTORS

The Forbes study analyzed data from all 50 states using an eight-key scoring metric that included:

1. Total number of fatal car accidents per 100,000 licensed drivers (20% of score);
2. Number of drunk drivers (BAC of 0.08+) involved in fatal car accidents per 100,000 licensed drivers (14% of score);
3. Number of fatal car accidents involving a distracted driver per 100,000 licensed drivers (14% of score);
4. Number of fatal car accidents involving a drowsy driver per 100,000 licensed drivers (14% of score);
5. Number of fatal car accidents involving a driver who was driving too fast for conditions, speeding or racing per 100,000 licensed drivers (14% of score);
6. Number of fatal car accidents involving a driver who disobeyed traffic signs, traffic signals or a traffic officer per 100,000 licensed drivers (14% of score);
7. Number of DUI arrests per 100,000 licensed drivers (7% of score); and
8. Number of drivers who looked at a phone per mile (3% of score).

TEXAS DRIVERS RANK THIRD WORST

No. 3: Texas (score 95.12/100)

Texas has the second highest number of drunk drivers involved in fatal car accidents (8.32 per 100,000 licensed drivers) and ranks as the fourth highest in the number of fatal car accidents involving a drowsy driver (1.29 per 100,000 licensed drivers). It's also the sixth highest for the number of fatal car accidents involving a driver who was driving too fast for conditions, speeding or racing (6.67 per 100,000 licensed drivers).

The Lone Star state is 10th highest for both the number of fatal car accidents involving a distracted driver (1.91 per 100,000 licensed drivers) and the number of fatal car accidents involving a driver who disobeyed traffic signs, traffic signals or a traffic officer (1.23 per 100,000 licensed drivers).

TEXAS A&M TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTE
STUDY

COMMISSIONED BY THE PERMIAN ROAD
SAFETY COALITION

DONATE

Evictions

Lubbock Barbecue

Texas Pri

Driving in West Texas is deadly dangerous. A new report measures how much.

A nonprofit commissioned the report that found severe and fatal vehicle crashes in the Permian Basin far outpaced the state.

BY CARLOS NOGUERAS RAMOS

FEB. 14, 2024 7 PM CENTRAL

SHARE



Morning oilfield traffic on West Broadway Street in Andrews. Deadly traffic accidents in West Texas out pace the rest of the state, according to a new report. 📷 Jerod Foster for The Texas Tribune

TEXAS A&M TRANSPORTATION
INSTITUTE STUDY

*15 CRASHES PER 1,000 RESULTED IN AT
LEAST ONE DEATH*

*STATEWIDE AVERAGE IS 7 CRASHES PER
1,000*

*PERMIAN BASIN CRASHES ARE TWICE AS
LIKELY TO BE FATAL COMPARED TO THE
REST OF THE STATE*

The difference between the rate of severe and fatal crashes in West Texas compared to the rest of the state is striking. Nearly 15 crashes per 1,000 resulted in at least one death in the Permian Basin. During the same time period, the statewide average for the same type of crashes was seven per 1,000.

Put another way, crashes were twice as likely to be fatal in the Permian Basin than in the rest of Texas. More than half of the incidents involved multiple vehicles, with the rate of fatalities of multi-vehicle collisions being three times higher.

The report tracked 962 crashes in the Permian that resulted in at least one death during the five-year period. That's about one fatal crash every other day. Nearly half of those accidents happened within Midland and Ector counties, the two most populated in the region. A combined 329,000 people live in those counties, which include the cities of Midland and Odessa.

2025 FATAL TRAFFIC STATS PERMIAN BASIN

DPS INVESTIGATED CRASHES ONLY

- FATAL CRASH STATS ARE FOR THE FOLLOWING 17 COUNTIES: ANDREWS, BORDEN, CRANE, DAWSON, ECTOR, GAINES, GLASSCOCK, HOWARD, LOVING, MARTIN, MIDLAND, PECOS, REEVES, TERRELL, UPTON, WARD AND WINKLER
- TOTAL FATAL TRAFFIC CRASHES: 113
 - AVERAGE - FATAL CRASH EVERY 3.2 DAYS
- TOTAL DEATHS: 122
 - AVERAGE AGE OF THE DECEASED 41 YEARS
 - DECEASED GENDER: 99 MALES
- TOP THREE DEADLIEST MONTHS
 - MARCH: 16 FATAL CRASHES - FATAL CRASH EVERY 1.9 DAYS
 - AUGUST: 14 FATAL CRASHES - FATAL CRASH EVERY 2.2 DAYS
 - FEBRUARY: 13 FATAL CRASHES - FATAL CRASH EVERY 2.1 DAYS

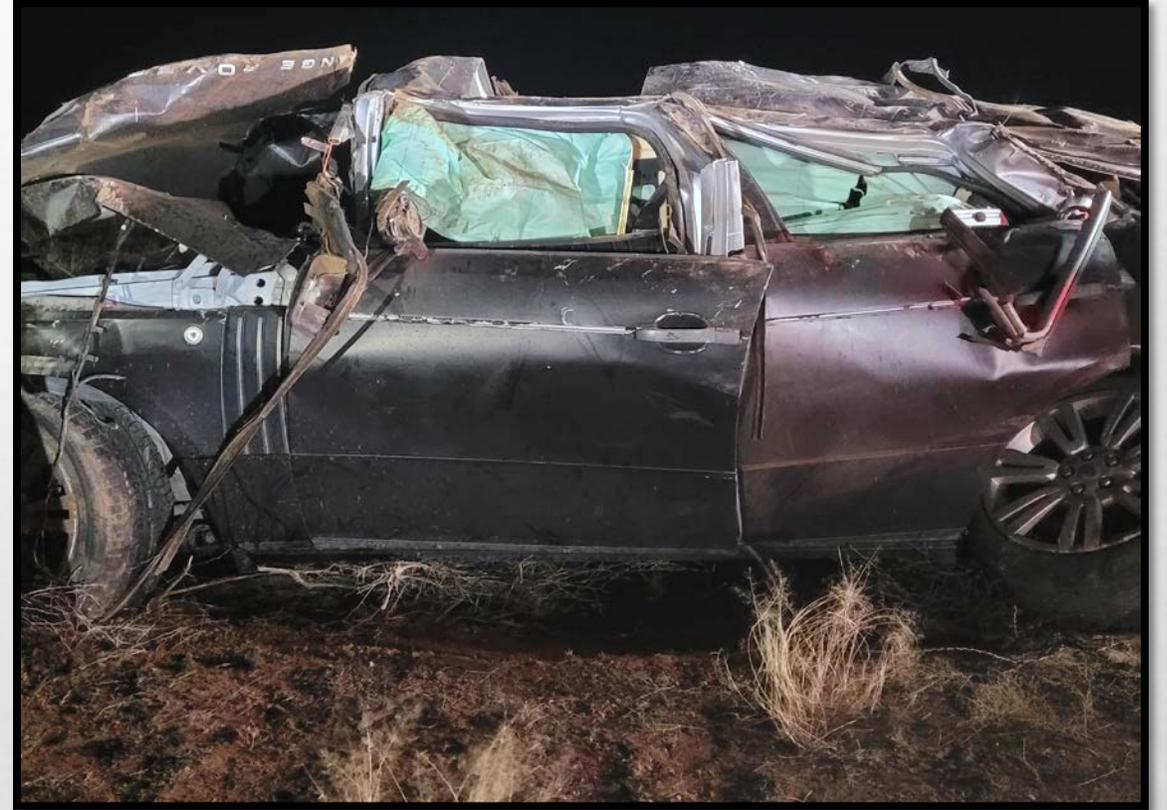
2025 FATAL TRAFFIC STATS

- TOP THREE COUNTIES:
 - ECTOR – 29 FATAL CRASHES
 - MIDLAND – 29 FATAL CRASHES
 - GAINES – 11 FATAL CRASHES
- PEEK FATAL CRASH TIME WINDOWS:
 - 5A TO 9A – 29 FATAL CRASHES
 - 4P TO 8P – 24 FATAL CRASHES
 - 53 OF THE 113 FATAL CRASHES OCCURRED IN AN 8-HOUR TIME BLOCK

LET'S BREAK DOWN THE
FATAL CRASHES
IN THE PERMIAN BASIN
FOR 2025

PERMIAN BASIN CRASH DATA

- NO SEATBELT DEATHS: 35
- GROUPS NOT USING SEATBELTS
 - 18 - 25
 - OVER 55
 - ENERGY SECTOR EMPLOYEES



PERMIAN BASIN CRASH DATA

- INTERSECTION FATAL CRASHES: 41
- CAUSES:
 - FAIL TO YIELD RIGHT OF WAY
 - DISREGARD STOP SIGN



PERMIAN BASIN CRASH DATA

- FAIL TO DRIVE IN SINGLE LANE - FATAL CRASHES: 20
- CAUSES
 - DISTRACTED DRIVING
 - OVER-CORRECTING
 - FATIGUE
 - INTOXICATION



PERMIAN BASIN CRASH DATA

- FAIL TO CONTROL SPEED - FATAL
CRASHES: 15
 - STRIKING ANOTHER VEHICLE FROM
THE REAR
- CAUSES
 - DISTRACTED DRIVING
 - SPEEDING



PERMIAN BASIN CRASH DATA

- WRONG SIDE OF THE ROADWAY - FATAL CRASHES: 13
- CAUSES
 - AGGRESSIVE DRIVING
 - PASSING IN NO PASSING ZONE
 - FATIGUE
 - INTOXICATION



PERMIAN BASIN CRASH DATA

- PEDESTRIANS: 10
- CAUSES
 - JAYWALKING
 - DISTRACTED DRIVING



PERMIAN BASIN CRASH DATA

- EQUIPMENT FAILURE: 8
- CAUSES
 - TIRE FAILURE
 - LACK OF MAINTENANCE
 - FAILING TO SECURE LOAD



PERMIAN BASIN CRASH DATA

- SPEEDING FATAL CRASHES: 5
- CAUSES
 - "TIME IS MONEY" ATTITUDE
 - AGGRESSIVE DRIVING



IS THIS AN ACCIDENT?









WHAT CAN DRIVERS DO?



REDUCING YOUR SPEED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- ROADWAY CONDITIONS – WET ROAD, SNOW, ICE, POTHOLES, CONSTRUCTION
- WEATHER CONDITIONS – RAIN, SNOW, FOG, SLEET, DUST STORMS
- TRAFFIC CONDITIONS – LIGHT VS HEAVY TRAFFIC, TRAFFIC JAMS, DELAYS
- TWO FACTORS RARELY CONSIDERED
 - *CONDITION OF THE VEHICLE DRIVEN* – WORN OR OLD TIRES, DEFECTIVE OR WORN BRAKES, LOOSE STEERING, DAMAGED WINDSHIELD, GLAZED HEADLIGHTS
 - *CONDITION OF THE DRIVER* – FATIGUED, REDUCED VISION OR NIGHT VISION LOSS, SLOWED REACTION TIME DUE TO HEALTH CONDITIONS OR AGE
- THE SPEED LIMIT, IS THE MAXIMUM SPEED ALLOWED ON THAT ROADWAY UNDER **IDEAL CONDITIONS!**
 - **SUNNY AND CLEAR SUNDAY AFTERNOON DRIVE**

SPEED AND REACTION TIME

- MILES PER HOUR TO FEET PER SECOND.
 - ITS OFTEN HARD TO COMPREHEND THE DISTANCE TRAVELED PER SECOND IN A MOTOR VEHICLE
 - 35 MPH = 51 FPS
 - 55 MPH = 80 FPS
 - 70 MPH = 102 FPS
 - 80 MPH = 117 FPS
 - AT 70 MPH A VEHICLE IS TRAVELING A "FOOTBALL FIELD" IN DISTANCE EVERY *3 SECONDS*
 - *JUST THINK ABOUT THE DISTANCE TRAVELED WHILE WE CHECK OUR CELL PHONE OR CHANGE THE RADIO STATION*

DISTRACTED DRIVING



DRIVING DISTRACTIONS

Visual

Manual

Cognitive



OTHER DISTRACTIONS

- EATING OR DRINKING
- DAY DREAMING
- PERSONAL GROOMING – PUTTING ON MAKEUP OR SHAVING
- PETS
- READING
- ADJUSTING RADIO
- USE OF GPS
- CARING FOR / DISCIPLINING CHILDREN IN REAR SEATS



DANGERS OF DISTRACTED DRIVING

- DISTRACTED DRIVING IS DANGEROUS, CLAIMING 3,275 LIVES IN 2023 ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION.
- DRIVERS TALKING ON THE PHONE ARE 4X MORE LIKELY TO CRASH.
- DRIVER'S TEXTING ARE 23X MORE LIKELY TO CRASH.
- THE #1 CAUSE OF TEXAS TEEN DEATHS AGES 15-19 IS VEHICLE RELATED CRASHES. DISTRACTED DRIVING IS THE CAUSE IN 68% OF THOSE CRASHES.

I will NOT speed **Today!**

I will NOT drive tired **Today!**

I will NOT drive distracted **Today!**

I will NOT put my life or other lives in
danger **Today!**



"THAT'S ALL FOLKS"

SGT. STEVEN BLANCO

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