Transportation Safety
CDC’s Injury Center Uses Data and Research to Save Lives

Our Mission
To provide public health leadership to reduce motor vehicle crash deaths and injuries

→ CDC conducts critical surveillance, research, and evaluation to provide evidence-based recommendations. CDC supports a Safe System approach that works to keep everyone safe on the road through systems to reduce human error and protect people from injury and deaths when they make mistakes.

→ Motor vehicle crashes are a leading cause of death in the United States among people ages 1–75 and the leading cause of death for children, youth, and young adults ages 5–24.

CDC supports states, tribes, and communities to reduce motor vehicle crash deaths and injuries

- Providing the MyMobility Plan, which guides older adults on building a plan to stay independent as they age by staying safe at home and mobile in their community.

- Funding tribes to increase their capacity to adapt, implement, and evaluate programs to reduce crash injuries and share resources such as the Best Practices Guide.

- Creating actionable resources to assess, plan, and implement improved laws and practices that reduce crash deaths among children (such as the Booster Seat Planning Guide), and to reduce teen crashes (such as the Graduated Driver Licensing System Planning Guide and Parents Are the Key).

- Publishing state-specific information about the cost of crash deaths, alcohol-impaired driving, and the use of seat belts, car seats, and booster seats.

- Sharing promising strategies to prevent drug-impaired driving and distracted driving.

- Providing the Linking Information for Nonfatal Crash Surveillance (LINCS guide) to improve understanding of motor vehicle crash injuries and the resulting health outcomes and costs through data linkage.

In the United States in 2020

- Approximately 41,000 people died in crashes—that’s more than 110 people every day.

  - 7,500 adults ages 65 and older died in crashes.
  - 600 children ages 12 and younger died in motor vehicle crashes.
  - 1 in 3 of these children were not buckled up in a car seat, booster seat, or seat belt.
  - 1/3 of all crash deaths involved an alcohol-impaired driver.

- An additional 2.1 million people were treated in emergency departments for crash-related injuries.

Crash deaths cost over $430 billion annually.

- More than 7,000 pedestrians were killed in crashes involving a motor vehicle—that’s about one death every 75 minutes.