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State of Colorado
Governor Roy Romer

Colorado Department of Public Safety
Patrick Ahlstrom, Director

Colorado State Patrol
Colonel Lonnie J. Westphal, Chief



700 Kipling Street Denver, CO 80215-5865
(303) 239-4500 TDD (303) 239-4505

Colorado State Patrol
1997 Annual Report
Special Edition

Start Taking an Active Role

Report aggressive driving
by calling *CSP (Star 277)

Beginning July 1, 1998, the Colorado State Patrol (CSP) will accept calls from motorists dialing *CSP on their cell phones to report 'real time' acts of aggressive driving, 'road rage' incidents, and other highway emergencies or traffic problems. This is a result of the combined efforts of the Colorado State Patrol, Vision TEK Inc. and Colorado wireless phone companies. The CSP is the first law enforcement agency to utilize this innovative program using advanced technology to aid in this type of enforcement and public service.

The STAR CSP program compliments the CSP's Aggressive Drivers Are a Public Threat (ADAPT) enforcement and education campaign introduced in October of 1997, which urged Colorado motorists to be more civil on the highways and avoid unacceptable driver behaviors that often lead to road rage.

Unacceptable Aggressive Driving Behavior

Tailgating - Cutting People Off - Weaving In and Out of Traffic - Passing on the Right or Shoulder of the Highway - Failure to Allow others to Merge or Pass - Obscene Hand Gestures - Honking, Yelling or Flashing Lights - Exceeding the Posted Speed Limits - Bumping or Ramming Another Car - Brandishing Weapons.

Aggressive Driving

Aggressive driving is a factor in most traffic crashes in Colorado. The following crashes were caused by aggressive driving behaviors in 1997:

Violation	Crashes
Lane Violations	2,151
Following Too Close	1,981
Failed to Yield Right of Way	1,733
Improper Passing	508
Wrong Side of Road	386
Disregarding Stop Sign	317
Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol or Drugs	2,227
Total of Non-Speed	9,303
Exceeding Safe Speed	5,947
Exceeding Lawful Speed	1,042

Please Be Civil On Our Highways

Remember: "Two Seconds For Safety"

As part of being more civil on our highways, the Colorado State Patrol encourages drivers to use the two-finger "peace" or "victory" salute as a non-threatening way to remind all drivers to follow the "Two Second Rule" - always keep a two second interval between you and the vehicle in front of you.

Simply watch the vehicle ahead of you; when it passes a reference point such as a road marker, count "One-thousand-one, one-thousand-two." If you pass the same spot before you finish counting, you are following too close.

The Colorado State Patrol ADAPT (Aggressive Drivers Are a Public Threat) Safety Salute can be used to signal a "thank you" to another motorist who extends a courtesy to you, or to say "I'm sorry" if you make an unintentional driving error that could be viewed as aggressive.

When confronted by an aggressive driver:

- ▶ Ignore them.
- ▶ Get out of their way
- ▶ Avoid eye contact
- ▶ Ignore discourteous gestures and refuse to return them
- ▶ Maintain a positive attitude when you drive

Fatal Crashes

January through December 1997

In 1997, 612 people died in motor vehicle crashes in Colorado:

- 236 Single Car Fatalities
- 57 Pedestrians
- 39 Motorcyclists*
- 68 Semi-Truck Involved**
- 7 Children 4 and Younger

* 59% of motorcyclists who died were not wearing helmets.

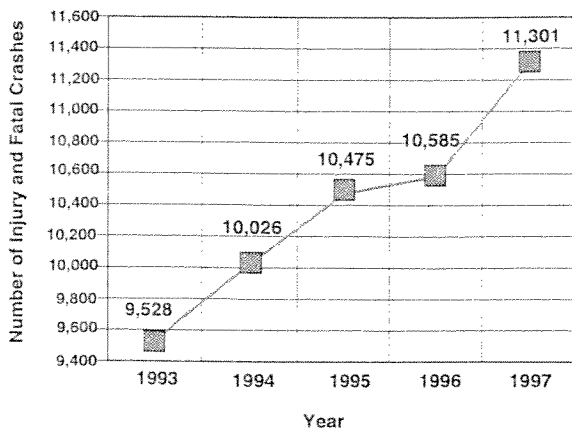


** 79% of semi-truck involved crashes were not caused by the semi driver.

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Injury and Fatal Crashes

Injury and Fatal Crashes



In 1997, 34,622 crashes were investigated by the Colorado State Patrol. Of these, 11,201 involved injuries or death. 11% of these were caused by drinking and driving. There was a 6.7% increase in crashes that resulted in injury or death over the 1996 level.

Teen Drivers

One out of every eight people who died was between the ages of 14 and 19; 92% of these crashes were caused by teenage drivers. Out of these, 40 were males and 34 were females.

The most vulnerable time for teens is between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. 45% of all teen traffic related deaths occurred during these hours.

Seat Belt and Child Restraint Use

There were 503 people killed in Colorado in 1997 that were in vehicles where seat belts should have been worn (this excludes motorcycles, bicyclists, and pedestrians).

67% (338) were not wearing seat belts

60% (203) of those killed were ejected

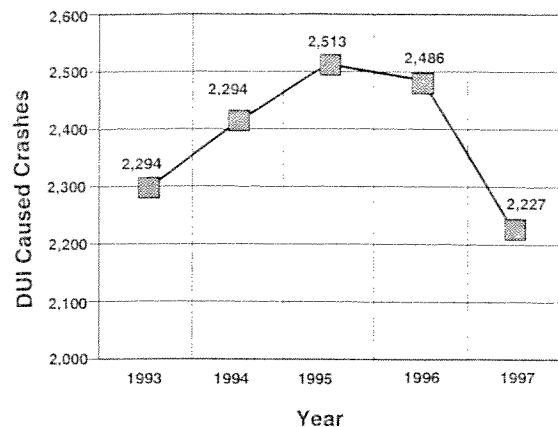
Colorado law requires that children 4 years old and younger or those weighing 40 pounds or less be restrained in child seats.

From 1993 to 1997, 60 children 4 years old and younger were killed in automobile crashes in Colorado; 45 of these were in vehicles and should have had proper child restraints available.

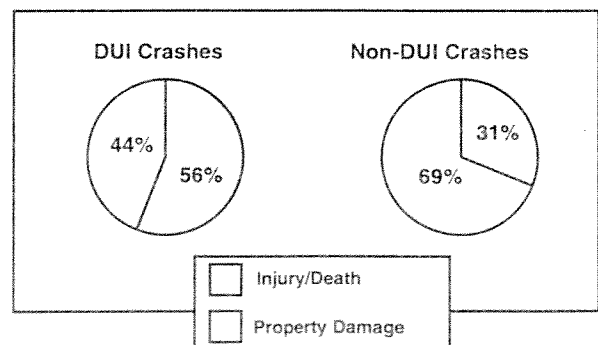
71.1% (36) of these were not using child restraints

Drinking and Driving

Crashes Caused by DUI



In 1997, the Colorado State Patrol covered 2,227 DUI caused crashes. This represented an 11.4% decrease from 1995. 8,497 citations were written in 1997 for drinking and driving. This is a 21.8% increase from the 1995 level of 6,974. The increased enforcement has had a definite impact on reducing DUI caused crashes.



DUI crashes are usually much more severe than other types of crashes. 56% of the DUI crashes resulted in fatalities or injuries. Usually the vehicles involved in DUI caused crashes are being driven at higher speeds, and the driver and passengers are not wearing their seat belts.

In cases where DUI was not considered the primary cause of the crash, 31% of these resulted in fatalities or injuries.

**Arrive Safely
Don't Drink and Drive**