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State of Colorado
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Department of Public Safety
Aristedes W. Zavaras
Executive Director
Colorado State Patrol
Colonel Lonnie J. Westphal

Colorado State Patrol 1998 Annual Report

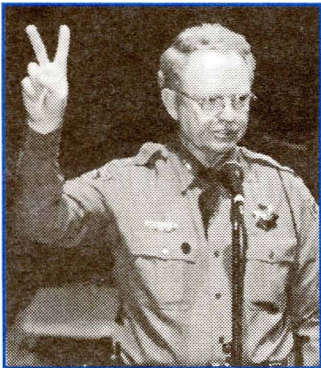
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Aggressive Drivers Are a Public Threat

Thank you for calling "Star CSP" (*277) to report aggressive drivers on our highways to the Colorado State Patrol's Communications Centers. Your *CSP calls continue to help us respond to motorists exhibiting serious aggressive driving behavior, as well as to identify habitual aggressive drivers for follow up with our highly sophisticated computer tracking system.

The free speed-dial *CSP number, provided as a public service by the cellular phone companies in support of the CSP's ongoing Aggressive Drivers Are a Public Threat (ADAPT) campaign, continues to generate more than 3,000 calls a month. The calls from motorists reporting aggressive drivers are received directly by our Communications Officers. Additionally, the *CSP number can be used to report emergencies or to seek roadside assistance.



Chief encourages students at "Street Smart" to "Take Two Seconds for Safety!"

Aggressive Driving Behavior Statewide

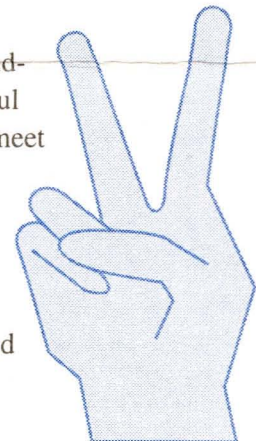
Aggressive driving behavior continues to be a major factor in nearly 50% of the 34,000 crashes investigated by the CSP during 1998. You may be surprised to learn that aggressive driving behavior is not just an urban problem. Aggressive driving has become a serious problem throughout Colorado and a major contributor in crashes in rural areas. Also, you may be surprised to know that the majority of teen crashes do not involve drugs or alcohol, but are the result of aggressive driving, lack of seat belt use and not being mindful that they are driving a very powerful vehicle.

During 1998, nearly two persons were killed in vehicle crashes every week. Of the 628 persons who died in vehicle crashes last year, 78 were teens and 479 were not wearing seat belts and were killed.

Take "Two Seconds for Safety"

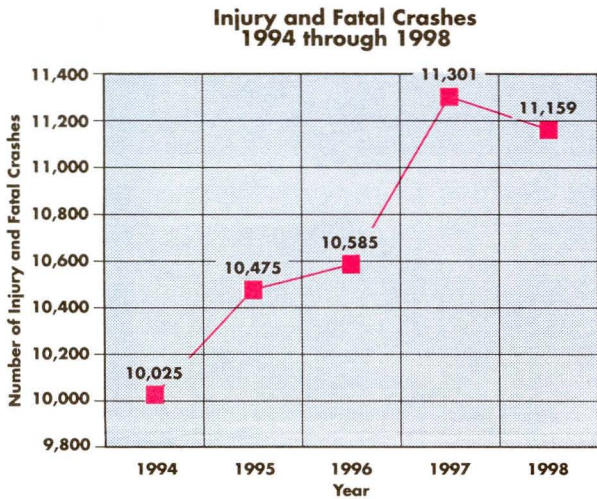
When you get behind the wheel of your vehicle, take two seconds to become centered and mindful of your responsibilities as a driver to yourself, your passengers and other drivers. Be mindful of the responsibilities we have to ourselves, to our family and friends, as well as to others we meet on our highways, when we drive. Take two seconds to fasten your seat belt and remind your passengers to buckle up. Once you're on the highway, always leave a two-second space between you and the vehicle ahead of you.

Remember, when you follow CSP's "Two Seconds for Safety" checklist, you become a positive role model for other drivers and can make a difference in reducing injuries, crashes and deaths on our highways.



Colonel Lonnie J. Westphal
Chief, Colorado State Patrol

Crash Trends



In 1998 33,744 crashes were investigated by the Colorado State Patrol. Of these, 11,159 involved injuries or death. 12% of these were caused by drinking and driving. There was a 1.3% decrease in injury and fatal crashes over 1997.

Colorado State Patrol Activities, 1998

Assisting the Public and Providing Safety Programs:

- Assisted 100,539 motorists
- Made 3,427 safety presentations to Colorado schools, businesses, and community groups
- Taught Alive At 25 to 1,285 Colorado teens. This is a defensive driving course for youth.

Criminal Activity:

- Seized \$5.7 million in contraband illegal drugs and made 1,361 drug-related arrests
- Recovered 590 stolen automobiles and arrested 79 auto thieves
- Made 1,778 felony arrests

Citations and Warnings:

- Issued a total of 143,702 traffic citations; 74% were for violations that could have resulted in crashes
- Issued 38,560 citations for not wearing seat belts
- Issued 30,020 warning tickets

Commercial Vehicles:

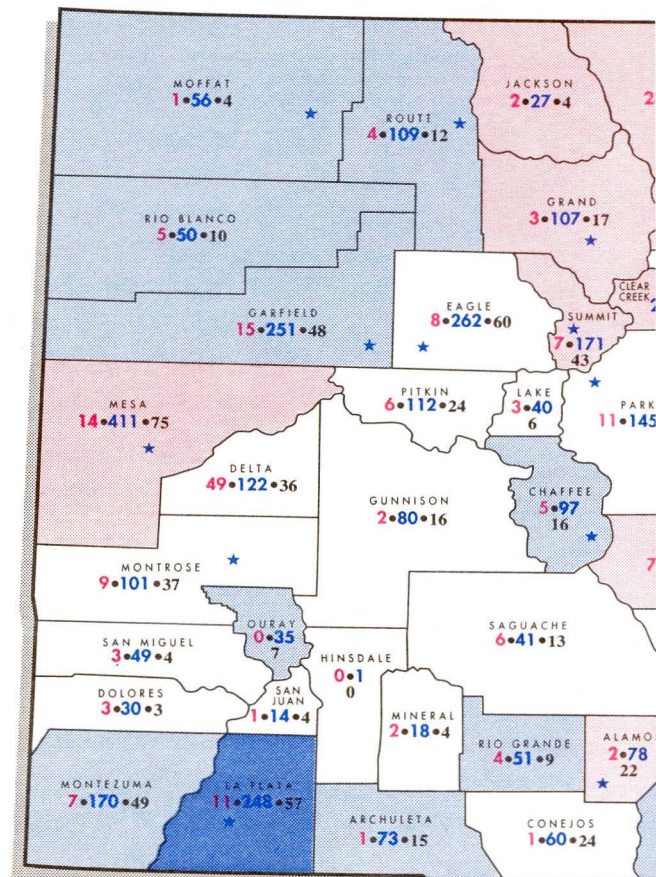
22,862 commercial vehicles were inspected by the Colorado State Patrol—almost half of all inspections done statewide by all agencies.

Aggressive Driving

Aggressive driving behaviors contributed to almost half of all crashes investigated by the Colorado State Patrol in 1998. As seen in the map below, this is both an urban and rural problem.

Violation	Crashes
Following too Closely	2,308
Lane Violations	2,302
Failing to Yield Right of Way	1,826
Passing Improperly	527
Driving on Wrong Side of the Road	455
Running Stop Signs	294
Driving Under Influence of Alcohol or Drugs	2,425
Total of Non-Speeding Violations	10,137
Exceeding Safe Speed	4,432
Exceeding Legal Speed	983
Grand Total	15,552

Crashes by County



LEGEND: Fatalities—all agencies • Injury & Fatal Crashes—CSP
 Indicates counties with over 20% of Colorado State Patrol-investigated crashes caused by aggressive driving behaviors (excluding those caused by DUI and Sp)

Seat Belt Use

In 1998, there were 481 fatalities in Colorado where seat belts should have been available (this excludes motorcycles, bicyclists, pedestrians, etc.)

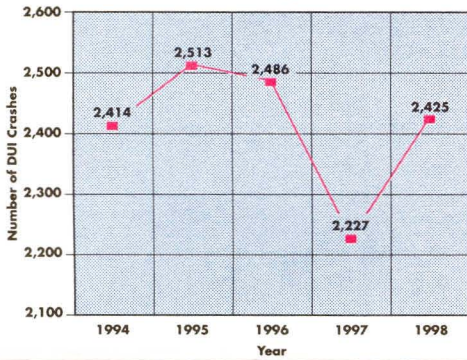
Arrive Safely—Always Buckle Up

TATE PATROL

al Overview

DUI-Caused Crashes

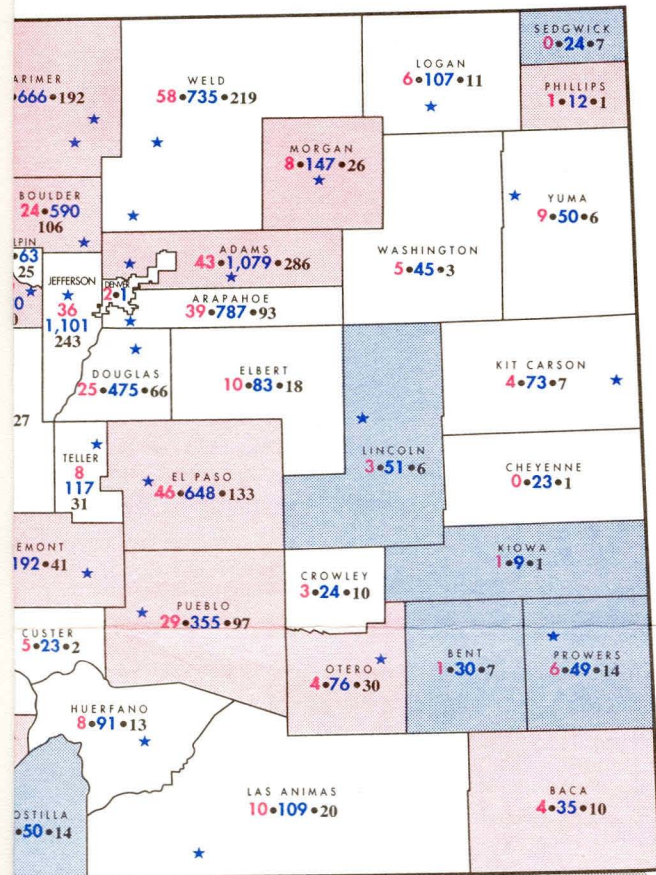
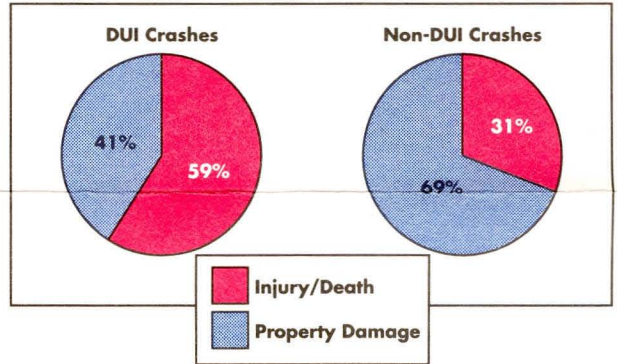
DUI-Caused Crashes Investigated by CSP
1994 through 1998



In 1998, the Colorado State Patrol covered 2,425 DUI-caused crashes, an 8.9% increase over 1997. 8,925 citations were written in 1998 for drinking and driving.

DUI-involved crashes are usually much more severe than other types of crashes. These usually involve higher speeds, and often both the driver and passengers are not wearing seat belts. In 1998, 59% of DUI-caused crashes resulted in fatalities or injuries. In cases where DUI was not the cause of the crash, 31% resulted in fatalities or injuries.

1998 CSP Investigated Crashes



Only • DUI/DAUID Crashes—CSP Only; ★=CSP Offices & Posts
 (shading) □ Indicates counties with over 20% of Colorado State Patrol-investigated crashes being caused by animals □ Both categories



Of these 481 fatalities:
 61% (293) were not wearing seat belts.
 62% (180) were ejected and killed.

Up Everyone in Your Vehicle

Animal-Caused Crashes

In 1998, there were 3,442 animal-caused crashes that were investigated by the Colorado State Patrol; this was 10% of all the crashes. Often, much of the damage caused is the result of the driver trying to avoid hitting the animal, and losing control of the vehicle. The safest alternative may be to hit the animal.

The majority of crashes involving large game animals happen between dusk and dawn. If there are passengers a vehicle, they can assist the driver by looking for animals. If you see an animal in the road, slow down and proceed cautiously. They can stop or change directions suddenly. This can be a problem in the metropolitan and plains area, as well as in the mountains.

Fatal Crashes

In 1998, 624 people died in motor vehicle crashes in Colorado:

- 233 Single-Car Fatalities
- 78 Teens between the ages of 14 and 19
- 73 Pedestrians
- 56 Motorcyclists *
- 50 Semi-Truck Involved **
- 11 Children 4 and younger

*46% of motorcyclists who died were not wearing helmets

**72% of semi-involved crashes were not caused by the semi driver.



Focus on Teens

Graduated Licensing Law

In the hope of not losing teenagers as a result of a vehicle crash at the rate of one every five days as we did last year, the Colorado Legislature passed a "graduated licensing" law for teens. As of July 1, 1999, the law requires teens requesting a drivers license in Colorado to provide a log documenting 50 hours of driving time with a parent, guardian, or driver's education instructor, ten of which must be night-time driving. The CSP is currently creating a "Graduated License Log Book" for teens and their parents with safe-driving tips, log sheets and information to help them understand the new requirements needed to obtain their driving license.

Street Smart Program Reaches Colorado Students

For the past two years, the CSP has been a co-sponsor of the Children's Hospital Street Smart program designed to educate and inform middle- and high-school students as to safe, sane and sober driving behaviors. Nearly 6,000 teens from schools across Colorado have attended the one-day event where they witness a live reenactment of teen crashes involving DUI and aggressive driving causal factors. Students hear firsthand the long-lasting effects of recent traffic crash tragedies directly from the friends, survivors and family members. The students also participate in interactive/hands-on safe driving demonstrations, exhibits and activities.

Colorado Teens in Fatal Crashes

In 1998, 624 people died in motorcycle crashes. Seventy-eight of these were teens 14 to 19 years of age, one out of every eight. Fifty-five were male and 28 were female. Thirty-five percent of all teen traffic-related deaths occurred between 10 P.M. and 4 A.M. with 82% being caused by teens.

Age	Number Died
14	4
15	6
16	19
17	14
18	16
19	19
Total	78

During the past four years 288 people died in crashes caused by teens 14 to 19 years old; 69 of these involved teen drinking and driving—this is one out of every four.

Greeley Crash Car Memorial Exhibit

The CSP and Rocky Mountain Insurance Information Association have teamed up to create a memorial crash car exhibit. The exhibit is dedicated to all young drivers in memory of the victims and their families of the Greeley car crash that killed four teens on October 14, 1998. The 16-year-old driver, who had just received his license that day, ran a stop sign onto a highway where a semi-trailer truck struck the vehicle. The exhibit also features photos of the four teens and lists of their unfulfilled dreams and aspirations. The exhibit is touring the state and can be requested for community and school traffic safety activities.

Child Safety Seats

Despite the fact that more parents are using child safety seats and seat belts with their children, CSP safety-seat inspections recently conducted across the state reveal that more than 90% of the car safety seats are improperly installed or are the incorrect seat for the child's age/weight. In 1998, all CSP Troopers were trained to inspect and install child safety seats. For more information on child safety seat installation or inspection activities, contact your local CSP Troop Office.

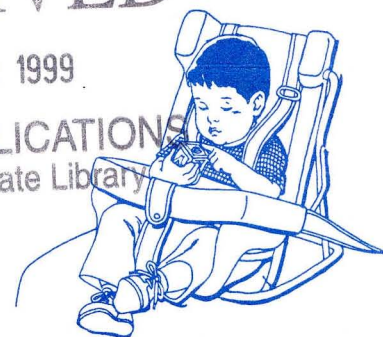
Note: this report was published in September, 1999. In 1998, Roy Romer was Governor and Patrick Ahlstrom was the Executive Director of the Department of Public Safety.

Visit the Colorado State Patrol website at:
www.state.co.us/gov_dir/cdps/csp.htm

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From 1994 to 1998, 53 children ages 4 years and under were killed in automobile crashes in Colorado; 44 of these were in vehicles that should have had proper restraints available (this excludes pedestrians). 68.2% (30) of these were not using child restraints.