

June 2011 Hot Topic

Subject: Lowest Months for Traffic Crash Deaths

Traffic deaths in 2010 were the lowest since 1974. So far this year there have been nine fewer deaths through the end of May compared to last year. There were 74 deaths in 2010 through May and this year there have been 65 deaths through May. This year's totals were helped by a record low for May with only 10 deaths. This edition of the Highway Safety Hot Topic will compare deaths by month since January 1972.

May

Over the last 40 years May averages 26 deaths a month. May 2011 had 10 deaths which was the lowest total of the last 40 years. The previous low for May was 14 deaths in 2006. The highest number of deaths in May occurred in 1985 and 1999 with 37 deaths. See page 2 for a list of deaths in May by month.

Lowest Months in the Last 40 Years

Only 12 months over the last 40 years had a lower total of deaths than May 2011. All of the months with lower totals were winter months (January, February, and March). February 1974 had the lowest amount of deaths in one month with 3 deaths. February 2011 had 7 deaths which was the fourth lowest total following only February 1974, January 1974, and January 2010. See page 3 for a list of the lowest months for deaths.

Highest Months in the Last 40 Years

The 65 deaths through May this year is incredible when you compare it to July 1978. This month had 58 deaths slightly lower than the first five months of this year combined. Five of the top ten highest months occurred in the 1970's, with one month in the 1980's, three months in the 1990's, and one month in the 2000's. See page 4 for a list of the highest months for deaths.

Conclusion

Traffic deaths continue to be on the decline. The last two years have seen four of the lowest 13 months for deaths in the last 40 years. While the 10 deaths in May 2011 is a record low for May there is still room for improvement towards the goal of zero fatalities.

Lowest Years For Traffic Crash Deaths in May Since 1972

Rank	Month	Year	Deaths
1	May	2011	10
2	May	2006	14
3	May	2005	18
4	May	1983	19
4	May	1991	19
6	May	1995	20
6	May	2003	20
8	May	1990	21
8	May	2009	21
10	May	2010	22
11	May	1976	23
11	May	1978	23
11	May	1989	23
11	May	1996	23
15	May	1975	24
15	May	1987	24
15	May	2007	24
18	May	1992	25
18	May	2004	25
20	May	1979	26
20	May	1981	26
20	May	1998	26
23	May	1980	27
23	May	1993	27
25	May	1982	28
25	May	2002	28
27	May	1977	29
27	May	2000	29
29	May	2001	30
30	May	1972	31
30	May	1974	31
30	May	1984	31
30	May	1997	31
30	May	2008	31
35	May	1986	33
36	May	1994	34
37	May	1988	35
38	May	1973	36
39	May	1985	37
39	May	1999	37

Lowest Months For Traffic Crash Deaths Since January 1972

Rank	Month	Year	Deaths
1	February	1974	3
2	January	1974	6
2	January	2010	6
4	February	2011	7
5	February	1988	8
5	February	1996	8
5	February	2010	8
8	March	1974	9
8	February	1989	9
8	February	1991	9
8	January	2004	9
8	February	2008	9
13	May	2011	10
14	March	1975	11
14	April	1976	11
14	January	1984	11
14	February	1984	11
14	January	1986	11
14	February	1986	11
20	April	1975	12
20	January	1988	12
20	February	1992	12
20	February	1993	12
20	March	1990	12
20	March	2001	12
20	March	2008	12
20	April	2008	12

Highest Months For Traffic Crash Deaths Since January 1972

Rank	Month	Year	Deaths
1	July	1978	58
2	July	1988	50
2	August	1995	50
2	July	2000	50
5	July	1973	49
6	August	1978	48
7	July	1977	47
7	August	1977	47
9	August	1991	46
9	July	1999	46