



# 2021

# NORTH DAKOTA

# CRASH SUMMARY

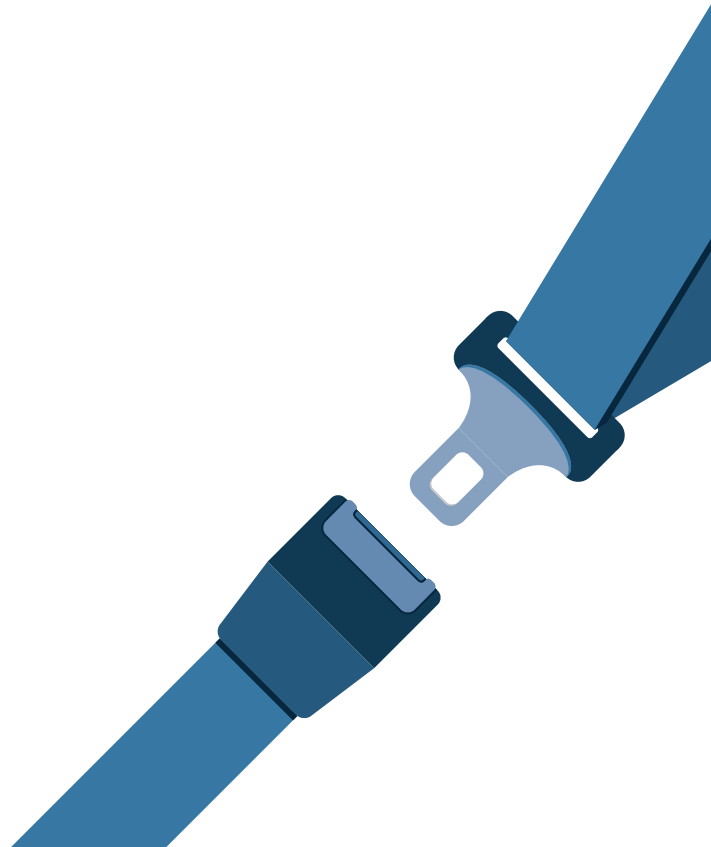


## Vision:

Establish a culture of personal responsibility where motor vehicle fatalities and serious injuries are recognized as preventable and not tolerated.

## Mission:

Eliminate fatalities and serious injuries caused by motor vehicle crashes in North Dakota.





# About This Document

This document is prepared annually by the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) Highway Safety Division to provide information about motor vehicle crashes, fatalities and injuries in North Dakota.

Data for this document is collected by North Dakota law enforcement officers who complete a crash report when a crash on a public road involved a fatality, injury or at least \$4,000 in property damage.

**The reportable property damage threshold increased to \$4,000 on August 1, 2019. For crashes occurring prior to August 1, 2019, the reportable property damage threshold was \$1,000.**

Crashes that occur off of a public road (for example, on private property or parking lots) are not included.

Crash reports are submitted by law enforcement to the NDDOT Highway Safety Division for central collection and data analysis. The data reported here reflects the point in time when the data was analyzed. Comparison to other data analysis may vary.

Gratitude is extended to all law enforcement personnel at the city, county, state and tribal levels who provide this valuable data for analysis.



**Crashes are not accidents. The word “accident” promotes the perception that crashes are outside of human control when, in fact, crashes are predictable results of specific actions.**

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# Executive Summary

Motor vehicle crash fatalities and injuries are sudden, violent and traumatic events. The impact is long-lasting, often permanent, and extends beyond the victims to impact the lives of the victim's family, friends and community.

## **The good news is, crashes are largely preventable.**

In North Dakota in 2021, preventable human behavior including not wearing a seat belt, alcohol and speed and/or aggressive driving contributed significantly to motor vehicle fatalities. Of the 101 fatalities in 2021, 46% were not wearing their seat belt (excludes those where seat belts do not apply including pedestrians, bicycles, motorcycles and off-highway vehicles), 35% were alcohol-related (includes both toxicology confirmed and officer suspected alcohol involvement), 35% involved speed and/or aggressive driving, and 56% were lane departure-related.

## **Motor vehicle crash fatalities in North Dakota can be reduced if every driver and vehicle occupant takes personal responsibility for their safety.**



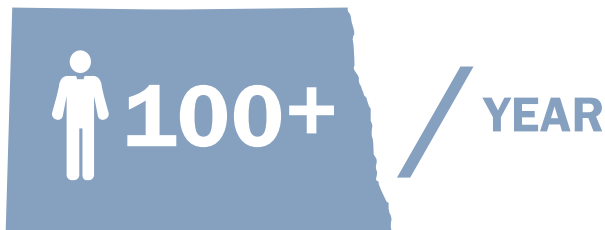
This includes wearing seat belts at all times; transporting children in child passenger safety (CPS) seats appropriate for the child's age, height and weight; not driving while distracted by cell phones or any other form of distraction; driving only when sober (i.e., not under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs); and obeying all posted speed limits.

# Vehicle Crashes, Fatalities & Injuries in North Dakota:

## A Decade in Review (2012-2021)

There were more than 9,500 vehicle crashes during 2021 resulting in fatalities, injuries and property damage.

The highest number of fatalities over a 10-year period occurred in 2012 (170), followed by a steady decrease in fatalities through 2016. In 2017, there was a 2.7% increase in fatalities; however, from 2017 to 2021 fatalities decreased by over 10%.

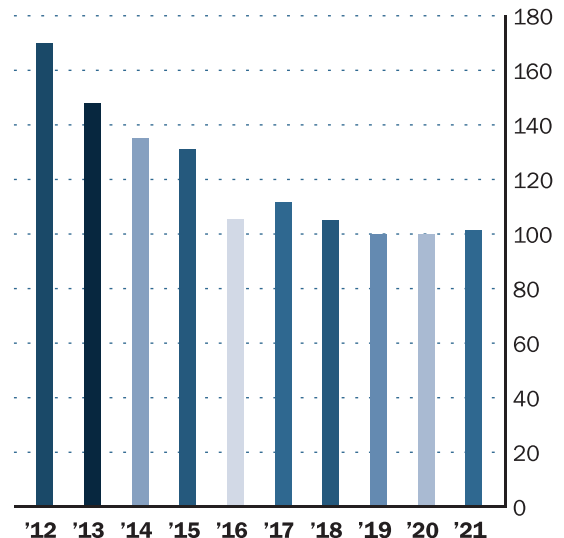


Since 2018, there have been more than 35,000 lives lost to vehicle crashes each year in the United States (US) compared to about 100 lives lost to crashes each year in North Dakota.

North Dakota Motor Vehicle Crashes, Fatalities and Injuries, 2012-2021

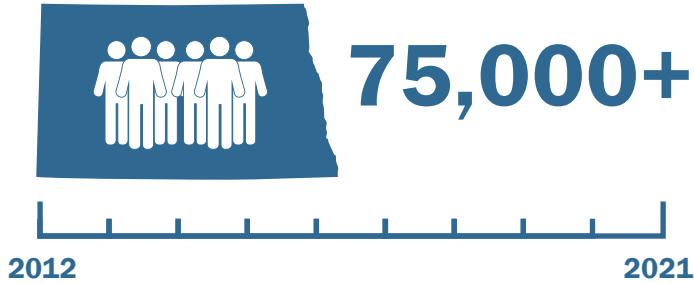
Year	Crashes	Fatalities	Injuries
2012	18,356	170	5,311
2013	18,977	148	5,365
2014	16,134	135	5,278
2015	15,077	131	4,917
2016	15,017	113	4,614
2017	15,280	116	4,432
2018	15,242	105	4,230
2019	14,221	100	4,258
2020	8,820	100	3,426
2021	9,585	101	3,947

North Dakota Motor Vehicle Fatalities 2012-2021



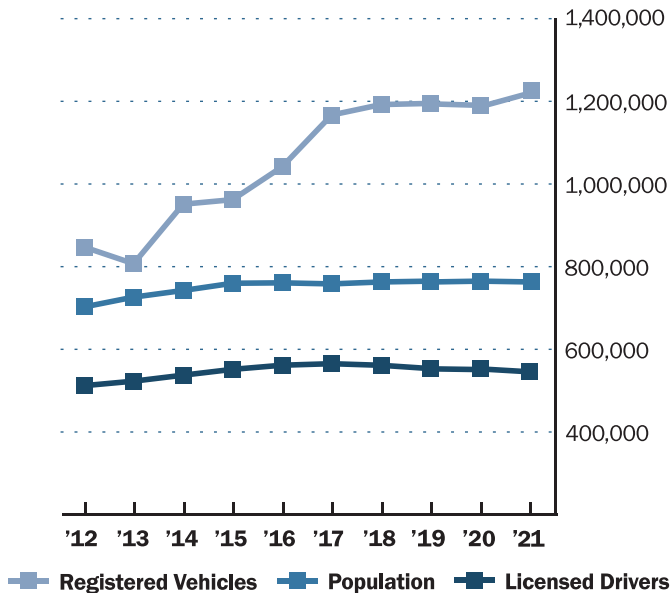


With the exception of 2017, North Dakota's fatality rate per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT) is consistently **lower** than the national rate over the past 6 years. VMT is a measure of crash exposure — the more vehicle miles driven, the greater the exposure to the risk of a crash.



According to the U.S. Census Bureau, North Dakota's population increased by slightly more than 75,000 people over the past 10 years.

**North Dakota People, Drivers and Vehicles, 2012-2021**



**North Dakota vs. United States Motor Vehicle Fatalities and Vehicle Fatality Rate, 2012-2021**

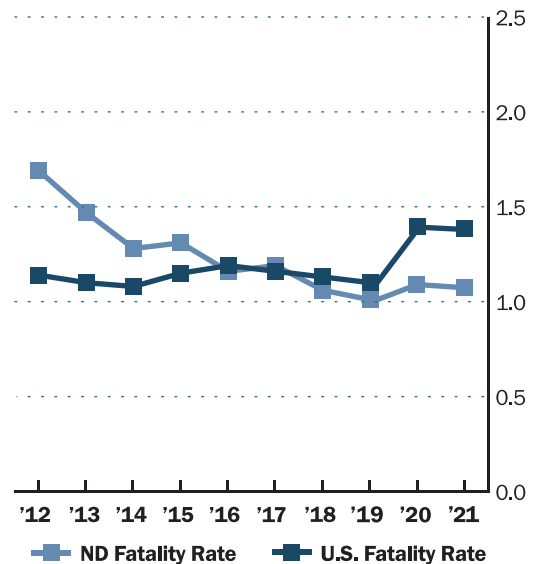
Year	ND Fatalities	ND Fatality Rate*	U.S. Fatalities	U.S. Fatality Rate*
2012	170	1.69	33,782	1.14
2013	148	1.47	32,893	1.10
2014	135	1.28	32,744	1.08
2015	131	1.31	35,484	1.15
2016	113	1.16	37,806	1.19
2017	116	1.19	37,473	1.17
2018	105	1.07	36,835	1.14
2019	100	1.02	36,096	1.11
2020	100	1.14	38,824	1.34
2021	101	1.09	42,915	1.33

\*Number of fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled.

\*\*2021 figures are preliminary (NHTSA, May 2022).

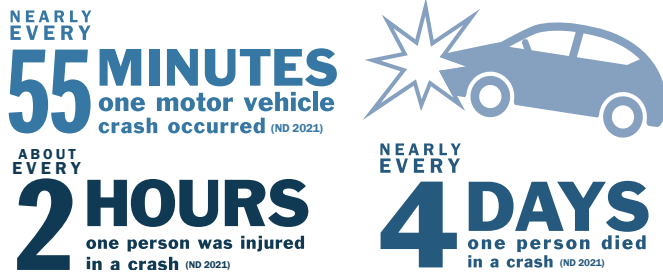
**Note: ND fatality rates were updated in 2018 to reflect NHTSA data which uses a slightly different VMT count. Historical US data was updated in 2021 to reflect current NHTSA published data.**

**North Dakota vs. United States Motor Vehicle Fatality Rate, 2012-2021**



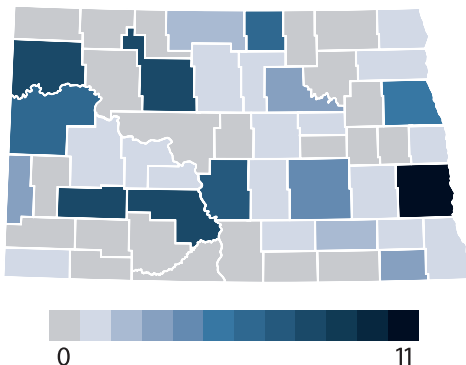
# 2021 Vehicle Crashes, Fatalities & Injuries in North Dakota

In 2021, there were 101 individuals who lost their lives in motor vehicle crashes in North Dakota. Those who died ranged in age from 0 to 85. The majority (84%) were North Dakota residents.



Of the motor vehicle fatalities, 76 (75%) were in a passenger vehicle, 8 (8%) were motorcyclists, 10 (10%) were pedestrians, 6 (6%) were individuals on all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and other miscellaneous vehicle types (such as snowmobiles, farm equipment and horse drawn wagons), 1 (1%) was a bicyclist.

Fatalities occurred in 30 (57%) of North Dakota's 53 counties.



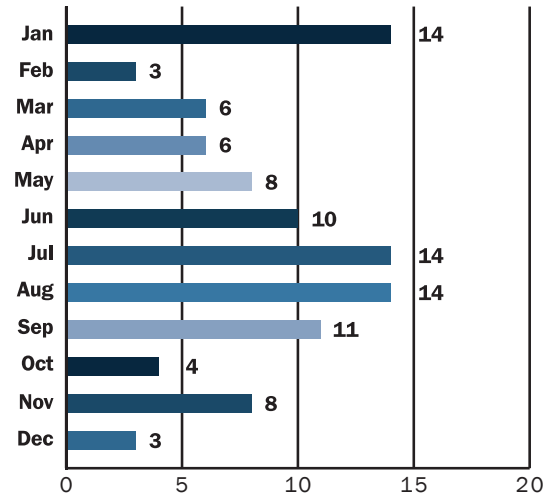
North Dakota Motor Vehicle Crashes, Fatalities and Injuries by County, 2021

County	Crashes	Fatalities	Injuries	Crash Rate per MVMT
Adams	16	1	4	.52
Barnes	143	1	65	.62
Benson	17	4	23	.21
Billings	15	1	11	.20
Bottineau	54	1	27	.60
Bowman	9	0	7	.18
Burke	18	0	8	.31
Burleigh	2,082	8	729	2.92
Cass	2,448	11	1,143	1.47
Cavalier	22	0	10	.42
Dickey	36	1	20	.65
Divide	20	0	8	.36
Dunn	71	2	42	.48
Eddy	15	0	4	.53
Emmons	34	0	22	.64
Foster	26	0	14	.55
Golden Valley	8	0	3	.19
Grand Forks	928	8	356	1.5
Grant	12	0	7	.35
Griggs	8	0	5	.28
Hettinger	14	0	7	.39
Kidder	56	1	21	.51
Lamoure	27	0	12	.50
Logan	12	0	5	.53
McHenry	45	4	29	.36
McIntosh	22	1	12	.83
McKenzie	175	4	75	.46
McLean	85	2	37	.40
Mercer	62	1	36	.74
Morton	418	7	154	.94

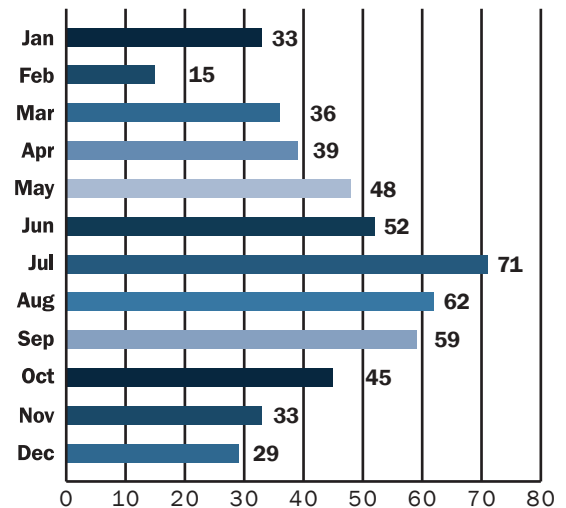
County	Crashes	Fatalities	Injuries	Crash Rate per MVMT
<b>Mountrail</b>	66	8	39	.29
<b>Nelson</b>	25	0	20	.39
<b>Oliver</b>	4	0	2	.12
<b>Pembina</b>	54	0	30	.53
<b>Pierce</b>	23	0	12	.46
<b>Ramsey</b>	114	0	31	.87
<b>Ransom</b>	26	0	12	.49
<b>Renville</b>	13	0	12	.34
<b>Richland</b>	161	3	85	.54
<b>Rolette</b>	22	12	24	.23
<b>Sargent</b>	8	1	6	.14
<b>Sheridan</b>	15	1	10	.63
<b>Sioux</b>	3	2	3	.10
<b>Slope</b>	8	0	2	.27
<b>Stark</b>	422	3	79	1.10
<b>Steele</b>	7	1	2	.19
<b>Stutsman</b>	343	1	118	1.07
<b>Towner</b>	9	0	2	.28
<b>Traill</b>	82	1	33	.41
<b>Walsh</b>	85	2	29	.58
<b>Ward</b>	725	3	339	1.07
<b>Wells</b>	25	0	15	.35
<b>Williams</b>	447	5	146	.85
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,585</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>3,947</b>	<b>1.03</b>

Motor vehicle fatalities in North Dakota occur each month of the calendar year. However, over the past 5 years more people have died in motor vehicle crashes in the warm weather months (May through October) than the cold weather months. Warm weather months are also peak travel months in North Dakota where more vehicle miles are driven. During the 5-year period (2017-2021), July had the most motor vehicle fatalities in North Dakota.

North Dakota Motor Vehicle Fatalities by Month, 2021



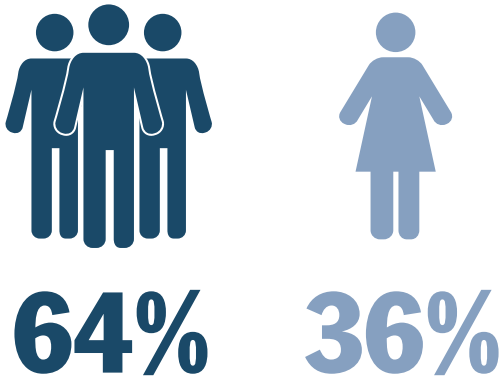
North Dakota Motor Vehicle Fatalities by Month, 2017-2021



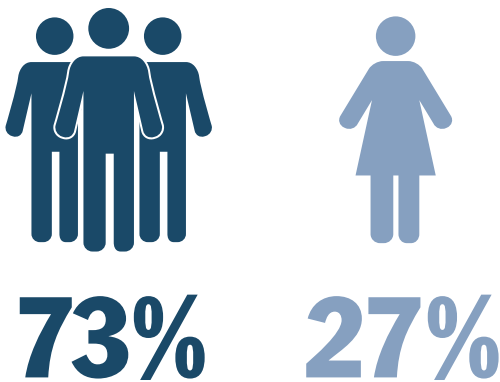
## 2021 Vehicle Crashes, Fatalities & Injuries in North Dakota (continued)

In 2021, males died in motor vehicle crashes 1.8 times more than females.

North Dakota Motor Vehicle Fatalities by Gender, 2021

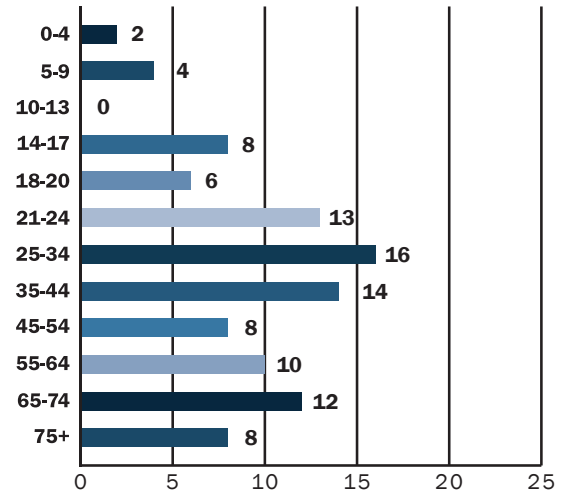


North Dakota Motor Vehicle Fatalities by Gender, 2017-2021

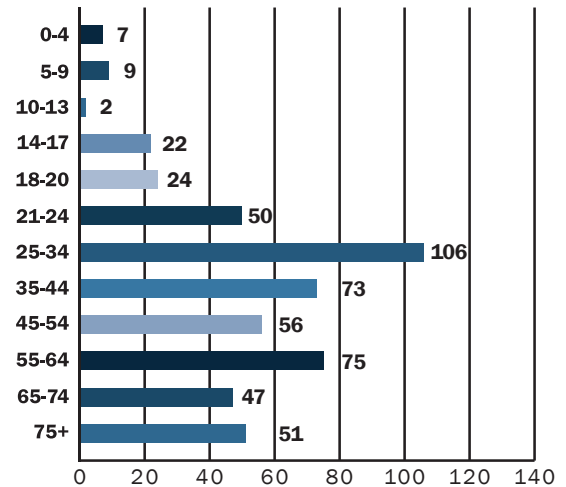


Nearly 2/3 (60%) of those who died in motor vehicle crashes in North Dakota over the past 6 years were between the ages of 25 and 64.

North Dakota Motor Vehicle Fatalities by Age, 2021

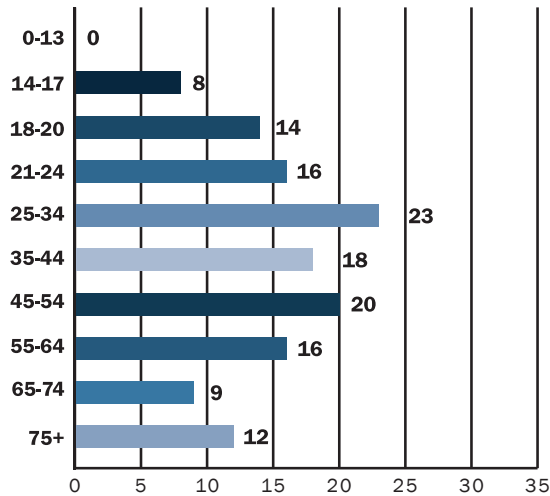


North Dakota Motor Vehicle Fatalities by Age, 2017-2021

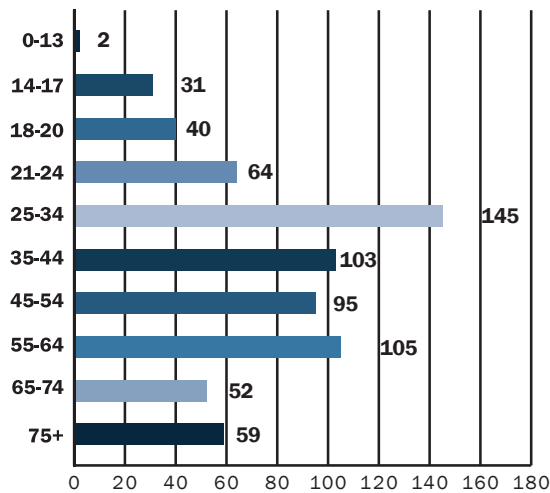


Over the past 5 years, drivers in fatal crashes in North Dakota were primarily between the ages of 25 and 64.

**North Dakota Age of Drivers Involved in Fatal Motor Vehicle Crashes, 2021**



**North Dakota Age of Drivers Involved in Fatal Motor Vehicle Crashes, 2017-2021**



Historically, more fatalities occur during New Year's, Independence Day and Memorial Day than other holidays.

**Note:** Data reflects a multiple day period that varies per holiday and the day of the week on which the holiday falls. The New Year's Eve holiday period includes both December and January fatalities with the fatalities counted in the year in which they occurred.

**North Dakota Holiday Motor Vehicle Fatalities, 2021**



New Year's  
(2)



Memorial Day  
(4)



Independence Day  
(4)



Labor Day  
(0)



Thanksgiving  
(1)



Christmas  
(1)

**North Dakota Holiday Motor Vehicle Fatalities, 2017-2021**



# Occupant Protection



**Seat belts save lives.** They are the single most effective safety device to prevent death and injury in a motor vehicle crash.<sup>1</sup>

NEARLY EVERY  
**10 DAYS**  
one unbelted vehicle occupant died (ND 2021)

NEARLY EVERY  
**15 DAYS**  
one unbelted vehicle occupant was ejected (ND 2021)

Seat belts protect you by:

- Keeping you in the vehicle.
- Spreading the force of impact over a large area and the strongest part of the body.
- Allowing your body to slow down gradually, lessening the impact on internal organs.
- Preventing impact with the interior of the vehicle.
- Preventing collision with other occupants of the vehicle.
- Preventing trauma to the brain and spinal cord caused by sudden change in motion.

Fortunately, most people who drive and ride in motor vehicles in North Dakota understand how important it is to wear a seat belt. An annual survey of observed seat belt use in North Dakota shows that slightly more than 8 out of every 10 people wear a seat belt (81.9%). But, it is those who do not wear seat belts who are much more likely to lose their life in a crash.

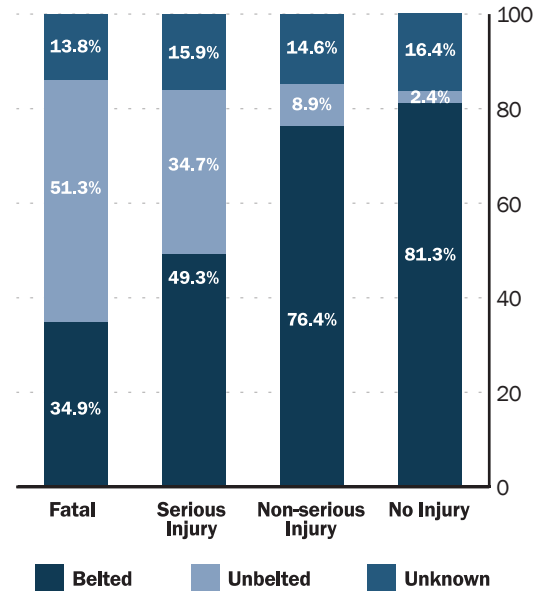
<sup>1</sup> National Safety Council

North Dakota Unbelted Motor Vehicle Fatalities, 2017-2021

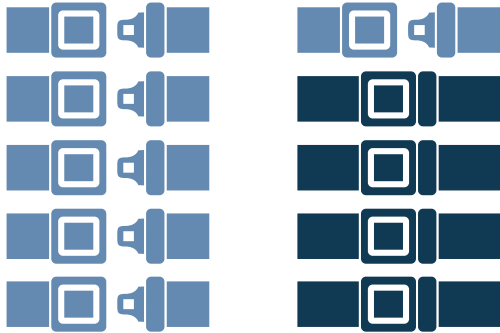
Year	Fatalities*	No Seat Belt Used	Percent Unbelted
2017	91	50	55%
2018	77	37	48%
2019	74	34	46%
2020	68	41	60%
2021	80	37	46%

\*Includes fatalities where seat belts were available within the vehicle. Excludes fatalities where seat belts do not apply (pedestrians, bicycles, motorcycles, off-highway vehicles, persons riding on the exterior of motor vehicles, bus passengers and farm/construction equipment).

North Dakota Percent of Restraint Use by Injury Classification, 2017-2021



Crash data shows a direct correlation between seat belt use and injury severity. Unbelted vehicle occupants in crashes in North Dakota account for the largest percent of fatalities, while belted occupants most commonly receive non-serious or no injuries.



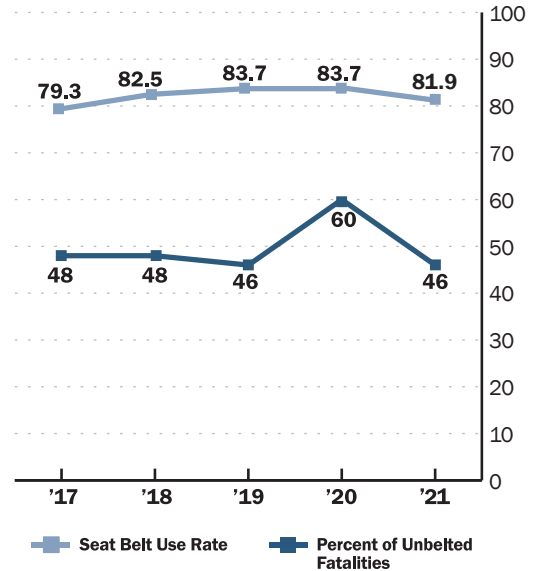
In North Dakota over the past 5 years (2017-2021), more than half (51%) of the people killed in a motor vehicle crash, where seat belts applied, were not wearing a seat belt at the time of the crash. And, 79% of the unbelted fatalities were males.

In 2021 alone, 46% of motor vehicle fatalities in North Dakota were not wearing their seat belt. Of those unbelted fatalities, 68% were partially or totally ejected. Further, 69% of single vehicle rollover fatalities were not wearing their seat belt and 89% of those unbelted fatalities were either partially or totally ejected.

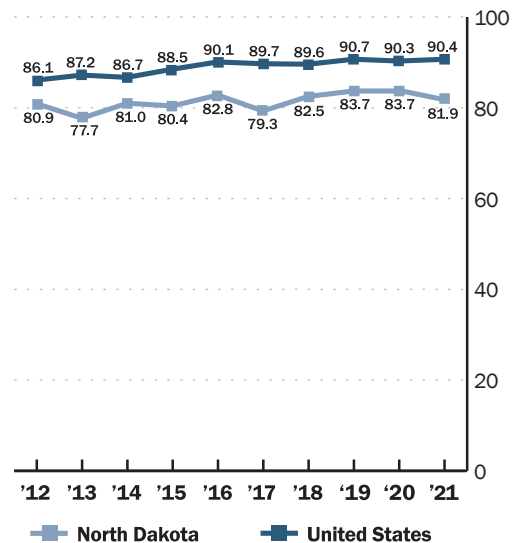
North Dakota’s observed seat belt use has been consistently lower than the national seat belt use rate over the past 10 years (2012-2021).

**Seat belts save lives. Wear your seat belt – everybody, every trip, every time!**

**North Dakota Seat Belt Use and Unbelted Motor Vehicle Fatalities, 2017-2021**



**North Dakota vs. United States Seat Belt Use Rate, 2012-2021**



# Impaired Driving



Alcohol and drug-related crashes are 100% preventable. Many lives would be saved in North Dakota each year if every driver consistently makes the choice to drive sober and not while under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

NEARLY EVERY  
**13 HOURS**  
one alcohol-related crash occurred (ND 2021)

NEARLY EVERY  
**10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> DAYS**  
one alcohol-related vehicle fatality occurred (ND 2021)

Yet, 203 people have died in alcohol-related crashes in North Dakota over the past 5 years. Alcohol is a factor in about 39% of fatal crashes in North Dakota annually. The percent of alcohol-related fatal crashes shows an overall decreasing trend during the most recent 5-year period (2017-2021).

Approximately 1 in 6 (16%) adult arrests in North Dakota in 2021 were for Driving Under the Influence (DUI).<sup>2</sup> The **average** blood alcohol content (BAC) among DUI offenders in North Dakota is .157 – well over the legal limit of .08.

**Drive sober.**

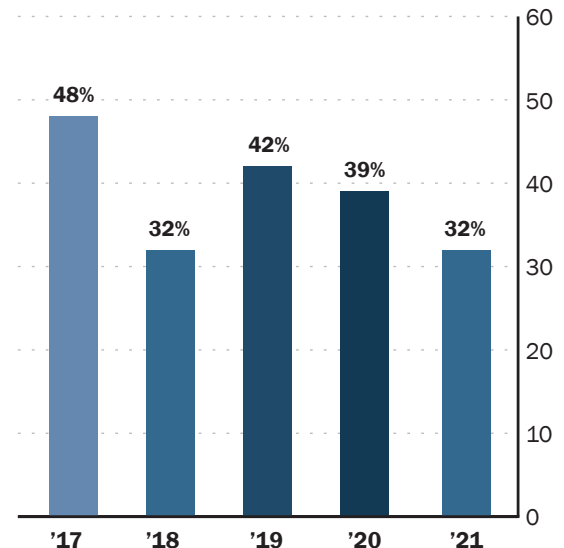
<sup>2</sup> North Dakota Office of Attorney General, Bureau of Criminal Investigation, Crime in North Dakota, 2021

## North Dakota Motor Vehicle Crashes, Fatalities and Injuries Involving Alcohol, 2017-2021

Year	Total Fatal Crashes	Fatalities	Injuries
2017	51	55	472
2018	30	31	407
2019	38	43	402
2020	37	39	407
2021	27	35	396

\*Counts indicate at least one operator in the crash had a positive BAC and/or officer suspected alcohol involvement was indicated on the crash report; passenger BACs are excluded. Alcohol-related injuries are counted based on officer suspected alcohol involvement from the crash report; toxicology is not available.

## North Dakota Percent Alcohol-Related Fatal Motor Vehicle Crashes, 2017-2021





# Distracted Driving



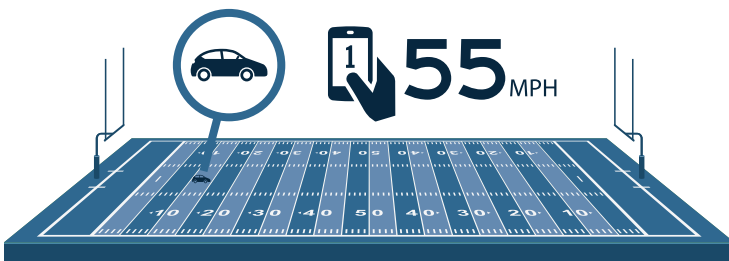
Distraction — taking eyes, hands or mental attention away from driving — is a common contributing factor in most motor vehicle crashes and near crashes.

**Texting while driving is a behavior so dangerous that drivers are:**

**23x MORE** at risk of a crash or near-crash event  
**6x MORE** likely to crash than a drunk driver

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 3,142 people nationwide were killed in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers in 2020.\*

Distracted driving is vastly underreported as a factor in a crash due to driver hesitancy to report, lack of witness verification and other factors. As a result, North Dakota crash data related to distraction is limited. However, in 2021, 1,027 distracted driving violations were posted to the ND Driver's License system.



Sending one text at 55 mph is like *driving blindfolded* the entire length of a football field.

\*Most current data available

# VISION ZERO

Zero fatalities. Zero excuses.

Vision Zero is a statewide strategy to eliminate fatalities and serious injuries caused by motor vehicles on North Dakota roads.

[VisionZero.ND.gov](https://www.visionzero.nd.gov)

# PARENTS LEAD

Parents LEAD (Listen, Educate, Ask, Discuss) is an evidence-based underage drinking prevention program targeting parents and professionals through statewide, web-based communication.

[ParentsLead.org](https://www.parentslead.org)

# SPEAK VOLUMES

Speak Volumes is a campaign to educate North Dakota adults on standard drink sizes, binge drinking, and related consequences to help them make better decisions about alcohol consumption.

[SpeakVolumes.ND.gov](https://www.speakvolumes.nd.gov)

# Speed and/or Aggressive Driving



Speed and/or aggressive driving was a factor in 34% of fatal crashes in North Dakota in 2021.

NEARLY EVERY  
**2 1/2 HOURS**  
one speed/aggressive driving involved crash occurred (ND 2021)

NEARLY EVERY  
**10 1/2 DAYS**  
one speed-related fatality occurred (ND 2021)

According to NHTSA, 11,258 lives were lost in speed-related vehicle crashes in the U.S. in 2020.\*

Speeding endangers everyone on the road. It greatly reduces the driver's ability to slow a vehicle when necessary or to steer safely around an unexpected curve, or another vehicle or hazardous object in the road. In school zones or neighborhoods, that could include a child or an animal crossing the road.

Of the 37 drivers involved in fatal crashes in 2021 with speed and/or aggressive driving identified as a contributing factor, 68% were ages 18-44 and 70% were male.

**It's not just aggressive driving, it's deadly driving. Stop speeding before it stops you.**

\*Most current data available

## North Dakota Fatal Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Speed/Aggressive Driving\*\*, 2017-2021

Year	Total Fatal Crashes	Speed/Aggr. Driv.-Involved Fatal Crashes	Percent
2017	106	30	28%
2018	95	42	44%
2019	91	26	29%
2020	96	33	34%
2021	85	29	34%

\*\*Speed/Aggressive Driving-Involved is defined as speeding, driving too fast for conditions, following too close, or operating a vehicle in an erratic, reckless, careless, negligent or aggressive manner.

**178 PEOPLE**  
died in speed/aggressive driving-involved crashes in North Dakota over the past 5 years. (ND 2021)

## North Dakota Motor Vehicle Crashes, Fatalities and Injuries Involving Speed/Aggressive Driving\*\*, 2017-2021

Year	Crashes	Fatalities	Injuries
2017	5,296	33	1,755
2018	5,525	47	1,723
2019	5,187	27	1,629
2020	3,153	36	1,225
2021	3,663	35	1,613

# Lane Departure

Lane departure is the most common type of crash resulting in injuries in rural areas. A lane departure crash is defined as a crash which occurs after a vehicle crosses an edge line or a center line, or otherwise leaves the traveled way.

NEARLY  
EVERY  
**2  $\frac{1}{2}$  HOURS**  
one lane departure-related  
crash occurred (ND 2021)

NEARLY  
EVERY  
**6  $\frac{1}{2}$  DAYS**  
one lane departure-related  
fatality occurred (ND 2021)

Over the past 5 years in North Dakota, 74.8% of single-vehicle fatal lane departure crashes involved overturning/rolling over and 14.8% involved collisions with fixed objects such as trees, utility/light poles, traffic signs and mailboxes.

Lane departure can be caused by many things including distraction, drowsiness and impaired driving. From 2017-2021, officer suspected alcohol involvement was a contributing factor in 39.7% of fatal lane departure crashes in North Dakota.

**Stay in your lane.**

## North Dakota Motor Vehicle Crashes, Fatalities and Injuries Involving Lane Departure, 2017-2021

Year	Crashes	Fatalities	Injuries
2017	5,725	69	1,555
2018	5,656	60	1,386
2019	5,198	63	1,460
2020	3,510	56	1,278
2021	3,642	57	1,393

## Safety Corridors: An Approach to Vision Zero

Safety Corridors are part of the Vision Zero strategy to reduce motor vehicle fatalities and serious injuries to zero. A Safety Corridor is a designated section of highway that includes enhanced safety features and an increase in law enforcement to remind drivers that they are responsible for obeying all traffic laws and posted speed limits. The purpose is to utilize engineering and technological solutions to change dangerous driving behavior and reduce the number of crashes on state highways.

Visit [VisionZero.ND.gov](https://www.visionzero.nd.gov)  
for more information.

**Safety Corridor**  
**VISION ZERO**  
Zero Fatalities. Zero Excuses.

# Heavy Trucks

Understanding safe driving habits around heavy vehicles is the responsibility of all drivers. Heavy trucks include single unit trucks (2-axle or 3-axle), truck tractors (bobtail, semi-trailer, doubles and triples) and trucks with greater than 10,000 lbs. Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) without a classified body type.

**NEARLY EVERY**  
**12 HOURS**  
one heavy vehicle-related crash occurred (ND 2021)

**ABOUT EVERY**  
**33 DAYS**  
one heavy vehicle-related fatality occurred (ND 2021)

Over the past 5 years in North Dakota, 46.4% of heavy vehicle-related crashes were single vehicle crashes and 16.8% were rear-end crashes. Additionally, 29% happened at an intersection or were intersection-related, 14.8% were a rollover crash, and 9.7% were speed-related.

In North Dakota, motor vehicle crashes involving heavy vehicles are more common in winter months (October-March) than warm weather months and a majority are in rural areas (69.2%).

## Share the road with trucks.



**69%**  
of motor vehicle crashes involving heavy vehicles were in rural areas



**31%**  
of motor vehicle crashes involving heavy vehicles were in urban areas

### North Dakota Motor Vehicle Crashes, Fatalities and Injuries Involving Heavy Trucks\*\*, 2017-2021

Year	Crashes	Fatalities	Injuries
2017	1,110	21	326
2018	1,176	26	318
2019	1,139	15	341
2020	772	15	205
2021	734	11	273

\*\*Heavy Trucks include Single Unit Trucks (2-axle or 3-axle), Truck Tractors (Bobtail, Semi-trailer, Doubles and Triples), and Trucks with > 10,000 lbs. GVWR without a classified body type.

# Young Drivers

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of injury-related death for North Dakota teens.<sup>3</sup> Young driver inexperience, coupled with immaturity, often results in risk-taking behaviors such as speeding, alcohol use and not wearing a seat belt — all of which contribute to an increased death rate.<sup>4</sup>

**ABOUT EVERY 4 HOURS**  
one teen driver crash occurred (ND 2021)

**ABOUT EVERY 33 DAYS**  
one teen died in a crash (ND 2021)

In North Dakota, teen drivers age 14-19 account for 5.5% of all licensed drivers but are behind the wheel in nearly 21% of all crashes.

Teen drivers were involved in 18.8% of fatal crashes in North Dakota in 2021. And, over the past 5 years in North Dakota, 37 teens have died in vehicle crashes.

<sup>3</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Source: CDC Wisqars

<sup>4</sup> Governors Highway Safety Administration

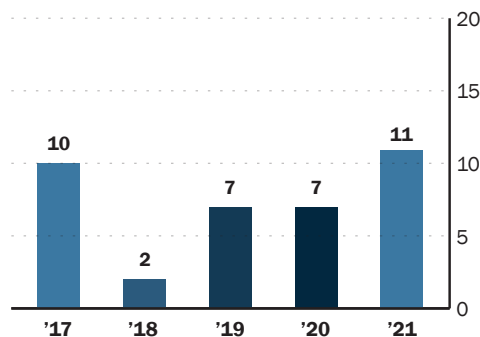
**North Dakota Teen Driver Involvement in All Crashes, 2017-2021**

Year	Total Crashes	Teen Driver Crashes	Percent
2017	15,280	2,841	19%
2018	15,242	2,952	19%
2019	14,221	2,579	18%
2020	8,820	1,760	20%
2021	9,585	2,052	21%

**North Dakota Teen Driver Involvement in Fatal Crashes, 2017-2021**

Year	Total Fatal Crashes	Teen Driver Fatal Crashes	Percent
2017	106	13	12%
2018	95	9	9%
2019	91	11	12%
2020	96	9	9%
2021	85	16	19%

**North Dakota Teen Fatalities from Motor Vehicle Crashes, 2017-2021**



# Bicycles and Pedestrians

Everyone has different preferences when it comes to transportation. Regardless of mode of transport, being safe on the road is a responsibility shared by all. Bicyclists and pedestrians have the same rights, privileges and responsibilities as every motorist; however, they are more vulnerable since they do not have the protection provided by a vehicle.

NEARLY  
EVERY

**6 DAYS**  
one bicyclist was  
involved in a crash (ND 2021)

ABOUT  
EVERY

**3 DAYS**  
one pedestrian was  
involved in a crash (ND 2021)

Pedestrians are at a disadvantage when crossing streets, intersections and standing on corners, as they are not always visible to drivers. Tips to keep safe when walking from one destination to another: watch walkways — make sure the driver sees you by making eye contact with them, don't be a distracted walker, make yourself visible, watch for wide loads and be aware of blind spots.

As a bicyclist, you need to take extra precautions to protect yourself. Tips to help keep you riding safely: wear a helmet, be aware of traffic, check your brakes, ride with traffic and be aware of blind spots.

## North Dakota Crashes, Fatalities and Injuries Involving Bicycles, 2017-2021

Year	Crashes	Fatalities	Injuries
2017	93	2	79
2018	74	2	68
2019	80	2	76
2020	53	1	51
2021	65	1	63

In 2021, the bicycle-related fatality involving a motor vehicle was a male.

## North Dakota Crashes, Fatalities and Injuries Involving Pedestrians, 2017-2021

Year	Crashes	Fatalities	Injuries
2017	138	5	106
2018	131	6	91
2019	115	5	87
2020	82	8	66
2021	113	10	84

In 2021, 50% of pedestrian-related fatalities involving a motor vehicle were male and 50% were female.

# Motorcycles and Off-Highway Vehicles

Since 2012 in North Dakota, the number of motorcycle licensed drivers has increased by 12.1%, and motorcycle registrations have also increased by 15.7%.

NEARLY  
EVERY  
**2 DAYS**  
one motorcyclist was  
involved in a crash (ND 2021)

NEARLY  
EVERY  
**46 DAYS**  
one motorcyclist  
died in a crash (ND 2021)

Motorcyclists can increase their safety on the roads by wearing All The Gear, All The Time (ATGATT), taking a rider safety course and obeying all traffic laws.

## Motorcycle Fatality Facts, ND 2021



**50%**  
**MALE**  
(4)



**40%**  
Motorcyclists  
Were Alcohol  
Positive (2)\*

\*Fatalities with known alcohol test results.



**62.5%**  
Were Not Wearing  
a Helmet (5)

Motorists can prevent a crash with motorcyclists by checking all mirrors and blind spots, staying back, and looking for motorcyclists, especially at intersections.

## North Dakota Crashes, Fatalities and Injuries Involving Motorcycles, 2017-2021

Year	Crashes	Fatalities	Injuries
2017	248	13	204
2018	210	16	167
2019	176	11	152
2020	174	17	160
2021	189	8	181

In North Dakota in 2021, 89.4% (169) of all reported motorcycle crashes resulted in injury or death. In the past 5 years, speed has been a contributing factor in 32.3% of motorcycle fatalities in North Dakota.

## North Dakota Crashes, Fatalities and Injuries Involving Off-Highway Vehicles\*\*, 2017-2021

Year	Crashes	Fatalities	Injuries
2017	61	2	59
2018	71	2	73
2019	52	4	49
2020	74	7	77
2021	55	5	59

\*\*Off-highway vehicles include all-terrain vehicles (ATV) and snowmobiles.

# Preventing Vehicle Crashes, Fatalities & Injuries

The North Dakota Vision Zero Plan identifies partners and “E” strategies to reduce motor vehicle fatalities and injuries in the state. The “E” strategies are described below.

**Education.** All North Dakotans should know that they can save their lives, and the lives of others, from motor vehicle crashes by taking personal responsibility. This includes wearing seat belts at all times, transporting children in child passenger safety seats appropriate for the child’s age, height and weight, not driving while distracted by cell phones or any other form of distraction, driving only when sober (i.e., not under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs), and obeying all posted speed limits.

**Environment.** Behavior change can occur through changing the environment in which the behavior occurs. This is done through strengthening traffic safety policies and laws such as mandating seat belt use for all vehicle occupants at all times, increasing the fines associated with speed violations, eliminating cell phone use in vehicles, and mandating alcohol beverage server training to prevent overconsumption of alcohol by consumers.

**Enforcement.** Regular enforcement of traffic safety laws deters unsafe driver and occupant behavior.

**Engineering.** State and local North Dakota roads are designed, constructed and maintained with safety as a priority.

**Emergency Medical Services.** In the event that a motor vehicle crash does occur, assure that crash victims are transported to an appropriate level of health care for their injuries, in the shortest amount of time possible.



# Vision Zero Partner Network

The NDDOT and our traffic safety partners invite you to **join the Vision Zero Partner Network (VZPN)** for resources and ideas to help reduce risky driver and occupant behaviors to save lives.

Risky behaviors cause hundreds of preventable crashes in North Dakota every year. By joining the Vision Zero Partner Network, you can help prevent motor vehicle crash fatalities and serious injuries on North Dakota roads. Marketing and resource materials are free and all contributions are voluntary.

## **Benefits of VZPN:**

- Protect your organization's human and financial resources
- Guard against potential liabilities associated with work-related crashes
- Demonstrate your company, school or organization's commitment to the community
- Show your students or employees you care about them and their families
- Address the problems of distracted driving, impaired driving, speed, aggressive driving and lack of seat belt use

## **What partners will receive from NDDOT:**

- Education tools and materials bundled for each campaign
- Help getting a driver and occupant safety program started
- Opportunities to collaborate with other network organizations and agencies
- Technical support for local opportunities such as media interviews

To sign up, go to [VisionZero.ND.gov](https://www.visionzero.nd.gov) and click on "Partners."

**Working together, we can save lives.**

# North Dakota Crash Memorial Wall

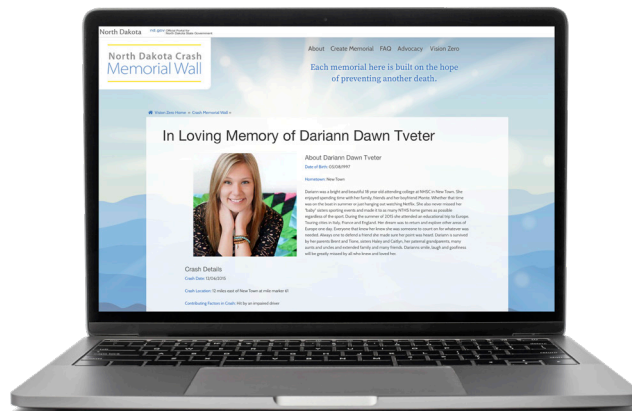
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The North Dakota Crash Memorial Wall is an online space to safely honor someone you love who lost their life in a motor vehicle crash on a North Dakota road. Memorials are public in the hope that sharing their stories will offer comfort to families and friends and remind visitors about the devastating impact of motor vehicle fatalities.

The Crash Memorial Wall was developed by the North Dakota Department of Transportation and launched in August 2015. In 2016, the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) recognized the North Dakota Crash Memorial Wall with a Public Affairs and Consumer Education Award (PACE) for outstanding website.

Immediate family members are invited to create a memorial at [VisionZero.ND.gov](http://VisionZero.ND.gov). Extended family and friends can comment on the memorials. All submissions are reviewed by the North Dakota Department of Transportation within 10 business days.

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“ Even one life lost in a motor vehicle crash is too many; every life is precious. ”



NORTH  
**Dakota** | Transportation  
Be Legendary.

Questions and requests for additional data or copies  
of this document can be directed to:

**NDDOT Highway Safety Division**

701-328-2598

[dottrafficgrp@nd.gov](mailto:dottrafficgrp@nd.gov)

The report can be found online at  
*[VisionZero.ND.gov/statistics](https://www.nd.gov/transportation/visionzero/statistics)*