

# Motor Vehicle Traffic Injuries Columbia County Roadways 2007



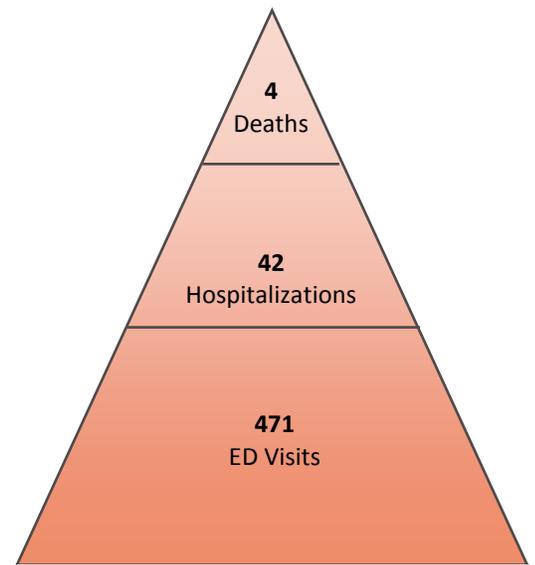
The Concern

**Motor Vehicle Traffic Injuries are a serious public health problem in Columbia County, NY.** They are the leading cause of injury related deaths. Crashes are not only a significant cause of death, pain and suffering, but also an economic burden to Columbia County. In 2007, the crashes on Columbia County's roadways resulted in almost \$3 million in hospitalization and emergency department (ED) charges.

These crashes are not accidents! They are not random, uncontrollable acts of fate, but occur in predictable patterns, with recognizable risk factors and among identifiable populations. A crash-related injury is a predictable and preventable event!

## Magnitude of the Crash Problem

- Every **year**, because of a traffic-related crash on a Columbia County road, an average of:
  - 4 people died
  - 42 people were hospitalized
  - 471 people were treated in an ED
- In 2007, crashes on Columbia County roadways resulted in:
  - \$2.0 million in hospitalization charges
  - \$1.6 million in ED charges



Motor Vehicle Traffic Crashes, 2007  
Number of Deaths and Hospital Visits



**Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBIs)** can result from traffic related crashes and may result in the loss of full independent function, requiring long-term care and increased life-long expenses.

Crashes on New York State Roadways in 2007:

- ⇒ Unrestrained vehicle occupants were **three times more likely to sustain a TBI than vehicle occupants that buckled-up!**
- ⇒ Alcohol and speed related crashes were associated with the highest risk of a TBI.

**Vehicle occupants that did NOT USE SEAT BELTS or CHILD SAFETY SEATS were:**

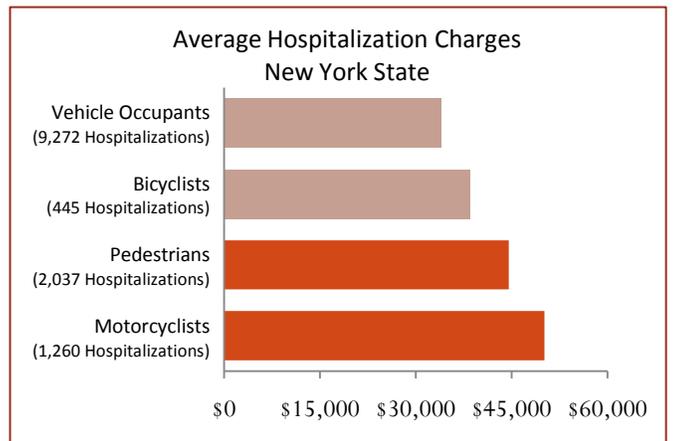
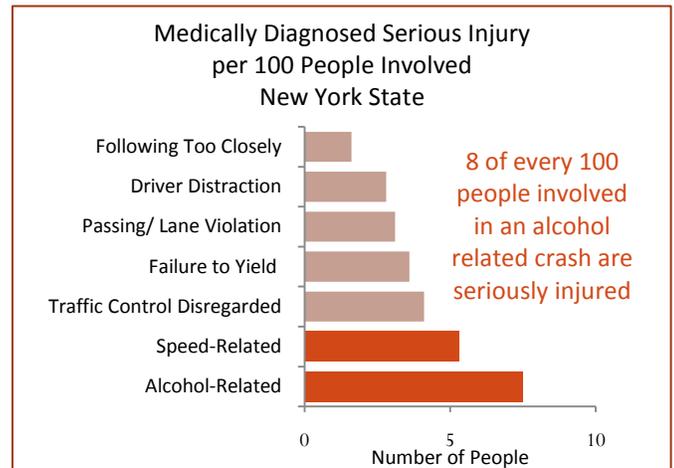
- ⇒ Four times more likely to require hospitalization. <sup>(NYS data)</sup>
  - Resulted in average hospital charges over \$8,000 higher than those buckled up. <sup>(NYS data)</sup>
  - Three times more likely to be diagnosed with a TBI. <sup>(NYS data)</sup>
  - Three times more likely to be diagnosed with a serious injury. <sup>(NYS data)</sup>

**People involved in alcohol and speed related crashes:**

- ⇒ Were more likely to have medically diagnosed serious injuries <sup>(NYS data)</sup>
  - Resulting in some of the highest hospitalization charges among those injured in a motor vehicle crash <sup>(NYS data)</sup>

In 2007, crashes on Columbia County roadways resulted in \$3 million in hospital and ED charges for treatment of injuries.

- ⇒ Average hospital charge = \$47,456
- ⇒ Average ED charge = \$1,300
- ⇒ Highest average charges were for:
  - Motorcyclists <sup>(NYS data)</sup>
  - Pedestrians <sup>(NYS data)</sup>
- ⇒ Highest total Hospital and ED charges in Columbia County were for:
  - Failure to Yield Right of Way
  - Passing Lane Violations
  - Speeding



**For more detailed information on motor vehicle traffic crashes in New York State:**  
 Please see the detailed county tables provided at [www.health.ny.gov/prevention/injury\\_prevention/traffic](http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/injury_prevention/traffic)  
 Or visit the Governors Traffic Safety Committee website at [www.safenyc.com](http://www.safenyc.com).  
 For additional questions or customized data requests you may also contact the NYS Department of Health, Bureau of Injury Prevention at (518) 473-1143, [injury@health.state.ny.us](mailto:injury@health.state.ny.us).

Reducing risky behaviors on the road can save lives and prevent injuries – making Columbia County a safer place to drive!

Source: NYSDOH, Bureau of Injury Prevention  
 Crash Outcome Data Evaluation System (CODES)

CODES is a database that matches individual records from the NYS Department of Motor Vehicles Accident Information System to the NYS Department of Health emergency medical services (Pre-Hospital Care Reports) and Hospital Discharge databases.