

Motor Vehicle Traffic Injuries Niagara County Roadways 2007



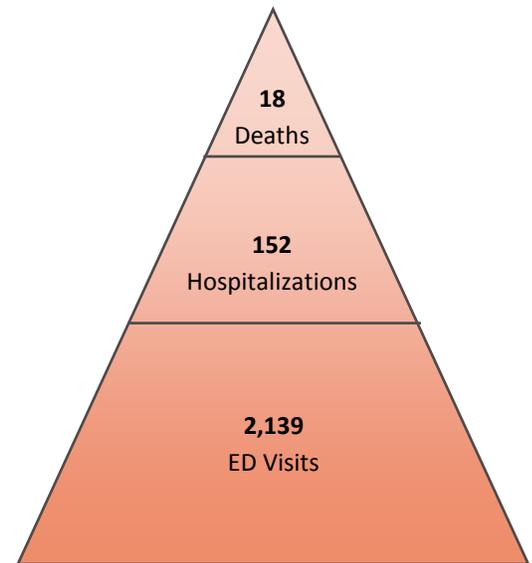
The Concern

Motor Vehicle Traffic Injuries are a serious public health problem in Niagara 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 Niagara County. In 2007, the crashes on Niagara County's roadways resulted in almost \$6 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 **two months**, because of a traffic-related crash on a Niagara County road, an average of:
 - 3 people died
 - 25 people were hospitalized
 - 357 people were treated in an ED
- In 2007, crashes on Niagara County roadways resulted in:
 - \$3.9 million in hospitalization charges
 - **Approximately \$288 thousand was charged to publicly funded programs, such as Medicaid, Medicare, VA health care, and corrections.**
 - \$1.8 million thousand 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 Niagara County Roadways in 2007:

- ⇒ Unrestrained vehicle occupants were **five 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:

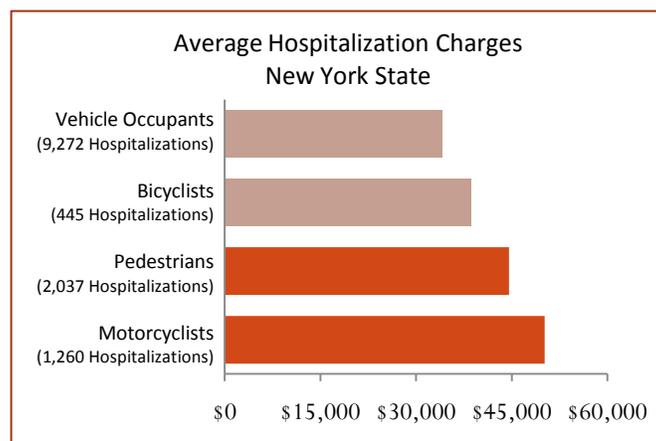
- ⇒ Six times more likely to require hospitalization.
 - Resulted in average hospital charges over \$34,000 higher than those buckled up
- ⇒ Five times more likely to be diagnosed with a TBI.
- ⇒ Four times more likely to be diagnosed with a serious injury.

People involved in alcohol and speed related crashes:

- ⇒ Were more likely to have medically diagnosed serious injuries
 - Resulting in some of the highest hospitalization charges among those injured in a motor vehicle crash

In 2007, crashes on Niagara County roadways resulted in almost **\$6 million** in hospital and ED charges for treatment of injuries.

- ⇒ Average hospital charge = \$25,299
- ⇒ Average ED charge = \$852
- ⇒ Highest average charges in NYS were for:
 - Motorcyclists
 - Pedestrians
- ⇒ Highest total Hospital and ED charges in Niagara County were for:
 - Distracted Driving
 - Failure to Yield Right of Way
 - Speeding



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

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

Or visit the Governors Traffic Safety Committee website at www.safenyny.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.

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.