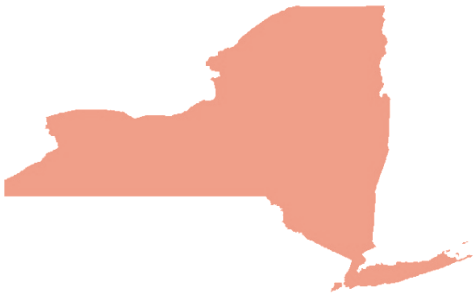
Motor Vehicle Traffic Injuries Rockland County Roadways 2007



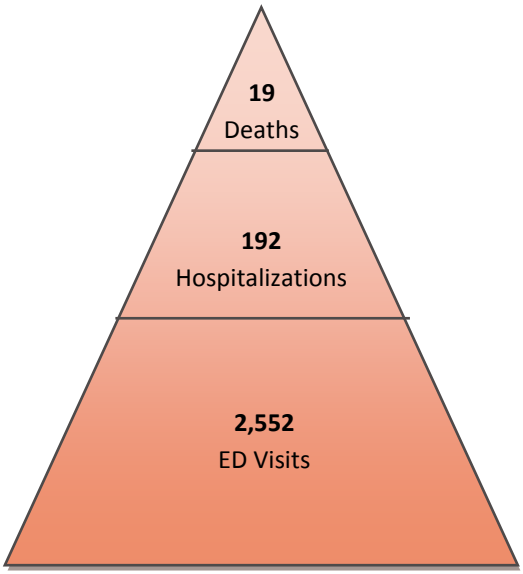
The Concern

Motor Vehicle Traffic Injuries are a serious public health problem in Rockland 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 Rockland County. In 2007, the crashes on Rockland County's roadways resulted in almost $17 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 **month**, because of a traffic-related crash on a Rockland County road, an average of:
  - → 2 people died
  - → 16 people were hospitalized
  - → 213 people were treated in an ED
- In 2007, crashes on Rockland County roadways resulted in:
  - → $11.1 million in hospitalization charges
    - **More than $1 million was charged to publicly funded programs, such as Medicaid, Medicare, VA health care, and corrections.**
  - → $5.4 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 Rockland Roadways in 2007:

⇒ Unrestrained vehicle occupants were **five and a half 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.

Risky Driving Behaviors Help to Identify the Crash Patterns and Associated Risks

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

⇒ Seven times more likely to require hospitalization.

→ Resulted in average hospital charges over $12,000 higher than those buckled up

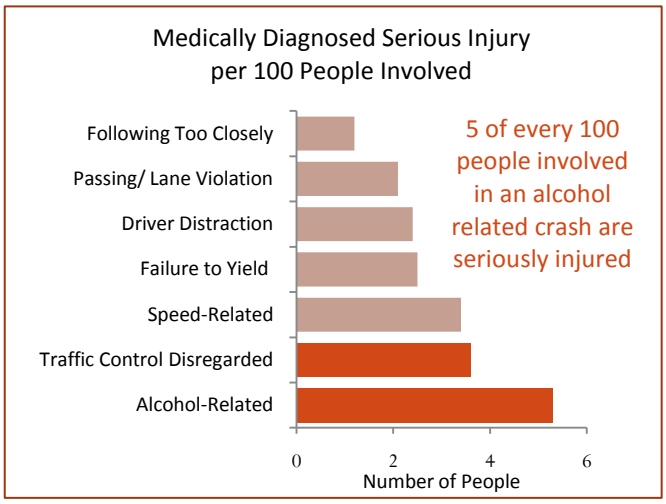
⇒ Six times more likely to be diagnosed with a TBI.

⇒ Five times more likely to be diagnosed with a serious injury.

People involved in alcohol and traffic control disregarded 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 Rockland County roadways resulted in almost **$17 million** in hospital and ED charges for treatment of injuries.

⇒ Average hospital charge = $57,824

⇒ Average ED charge = $2,107

⇒ Highest average charges were for:

→ Motorcyclists

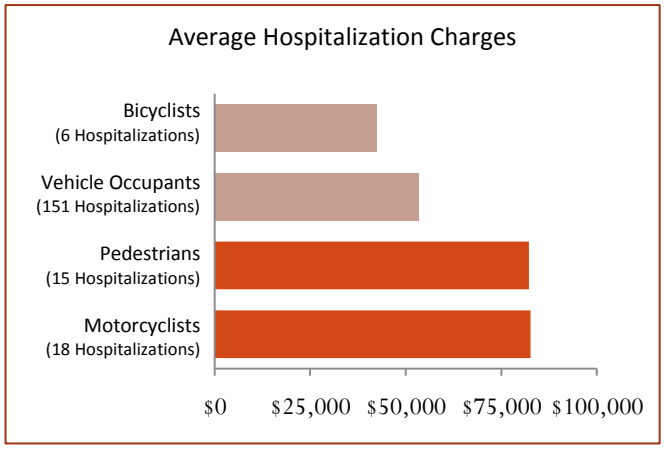
→ Pedestrians

⇒ Highest total Hospital and ED charges were for:

→ Speeding

→ Failure to Yield Right of Way

→ Distracted Driving



Reducing risky behaviors on the road can save lives and prevent injuries – making Rockland 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.safeny.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.