



Oklahoma Highway Safety Fact Sheet

Work Zone Crashes 2002

March 10, 2004

Work Zones in 2002

Statewide Crashes

In 2002, there were 1,537 traffic crashes that occurred in Work Zones on Oklahoma's roads. This represents 2.0% of the total traffic crashes. Of these crashes, 15 were fatal with 23 people killed. In addition, 546 of these crashes were injury crashes with 858 people injured.

Causes

In 2002, the three principal causes of Work Zone crashes were:

1. Following Too Closely (22.3%)
2. Unsafe Speed (14.8%)
3. Inattention (10.0%) and Failed To Yield (10.0%)

Of the crashes caused by Following Too Closely, 46.5% were Following Too Closely - Human Element.

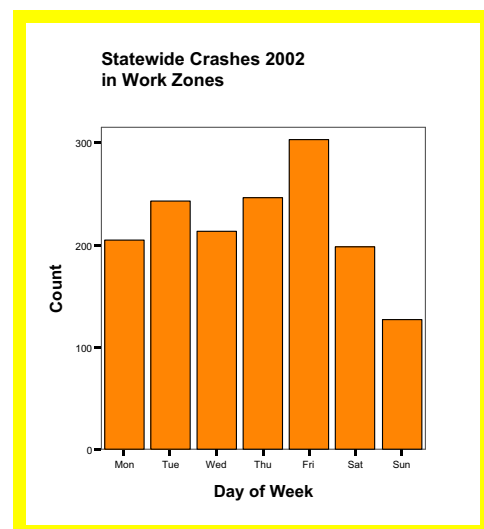
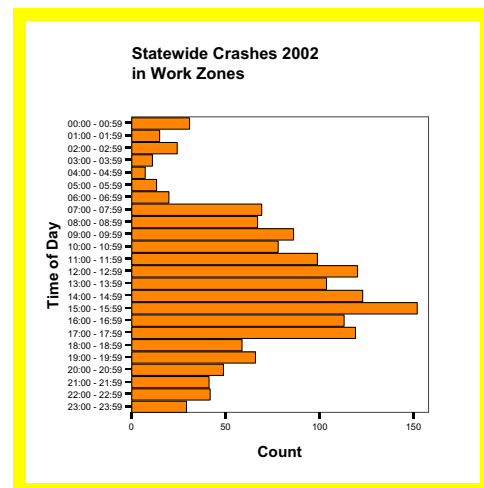
Of the crashes caused by Unsafe Speed, 48.5% were traveling at speeds unsafe for traffic conditions.

Of the crashes caused by Inattention, 74.4% were an unspecified distraction.

Of the crashes caused by Failed To Yield, 74.0% Failed To Yield from Stop Sign.

Time and Day

Work Zone crashes peaked between the hours of 1200 (Noon) to 1800 (6 p.m.) and were on Friday more than any other day of the week.



Other Crash Facts

- 75.9% were in daylight.
- 45.7% were in clear weather and 44.6% were with clouds present.
- 52.8% were in a business locality.
- 72.2% involved two vehicles.
- 38.1% were on city streets and 27.8% were on Interstate Highways.
- 34.9% were in Tulsa County.
- 22.1% were in Oklahoma County.
- 8.1% were in Cleveland County.

Seat Belts

Of the 23 fatalities in Work Zone crashes, 11 were drivers and nine were passengers in a passenger vehicle or pickup truck. Of these 20 fatalities, 45.0% were not using seat belts or child restraints.

Persons

There were three bicyclists, 3,045 drivers, 21 pedestrians, and 302 passengers¹ involved in Work Zone crashes in 2002.

Driver Age & Gender

In 2002, 8.6% of the licensed drivers were age 16-20, but 16.1% of the drivers in Work Zone crashes were in this same age group.

Some 12.7% of the drivers were age 21-25.

Some 48.7% of Oklahoma's licensed drivers were male, while 60.9% of the drivers in Work Zone crashes were male.

Vehicle Type

Some 66.4% of the drivers were in passenger vehicles, 21.0% were in pickup trucks, 6.1% were in a truck-tractor/semi-trailer combination, and 3.4% were in a single unit truck.

Road Character

Some 72.0% of the drivers were on a straight road that was level and 18.5% were on a straight road with an upgrade or downgrade.

Only 3.8% of the drivers were on a curved road that was level and 3.4% of the drivers were on curved road with an upgrade or downgrade.

Alcohol/Drug Related

Some 2.8% of the drivers in Work Zone crashes had an Alcohol/Drug-Related driver condition. Of the drivers with an Alcohol/Drug-Related driver condition, 81.7% were male.

¹ Only injured passengers are entered into the Department of Public Safety database.