

Part I -- General Information

In accordance with Section 56-5-1350 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, a tabulation and analysis of collision reports has been completed for the year 2005 as disclosed in this publication.

The number of traffic fatalities increased from 1,046 in 2004 to 1,093 in 2005, a 4.5% increase. The mileage death rate (MDR) increased as well. It rose to 2.2 deaths per hundred million vehicle miles of travel from 2.1 set in 2004.

Traffic fatalities are the most severe consequence of motor vehicle collisions, but even in non-fatal collisions, the cost in human suffering can be severe. There were 49,841 reported traffic injuries in 2005, down 2.7% from 2004.

Traffic collisions are responsible for billions of dollars in economic loss to South Carolina each year. Economic loss as estimated in this publication includes property damage, medical costs and lost productivity, but does not include intangible costs such as grief and suffering. In 2005, \$2.73 billion dollars in estimated loss was incurred which is a 5.0% increase from 2004.

What is responsible for the tragedy of motor vehicle collisions and what strategies should concerned individuals employ in the reduction of collisions in the future? On the following pages, statistics are presented which describe the characteristics, causes and effects of traffic collisions in South Carolina. It is hoped that this information will be useful to all persons interested in fostering a safer operating environment for motorists in South Carolina.

All collision statistics included in this publication are based on the Uniform Traffic Collision Report Forms (TR-310) received from investigating officers. By law, any collision that results in at least \$1,000 in total property damage, or results in injury or death and occurs on a public highway must be reported to the South Carolina Department of Public Safety on the appropriate form. If these collisions occur on private property or are reported on any form other than the TR-310, they are excluded.

The statistics contained in the South Carolina Traffic Collision Fact Book are based on the latest available information at the time that they were compiled. Due to the complex nature of the data, occasionally new information is received after the publication cut-off date. It is therefore possible that some discrepancies may exist between the data published here and other sources.

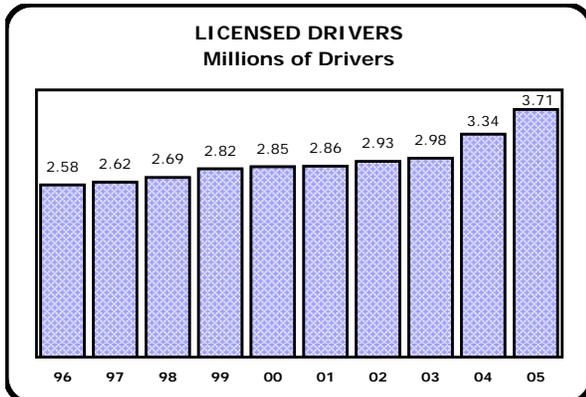
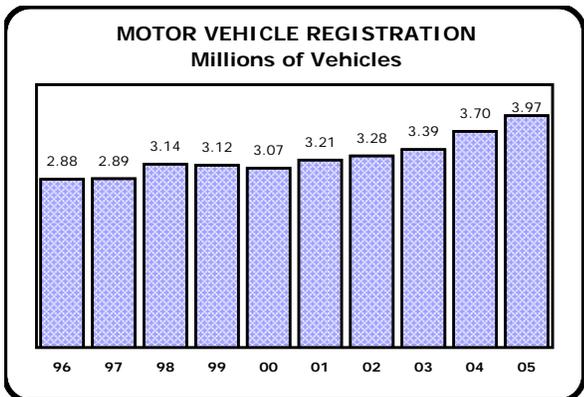
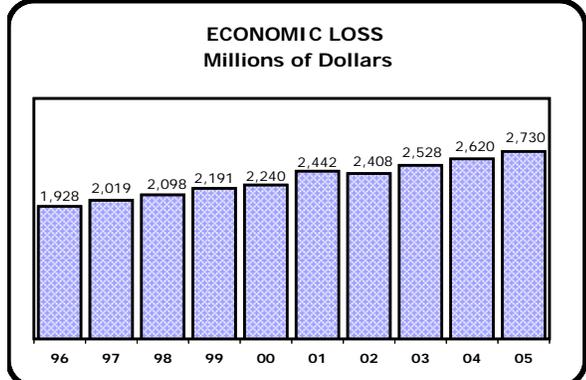
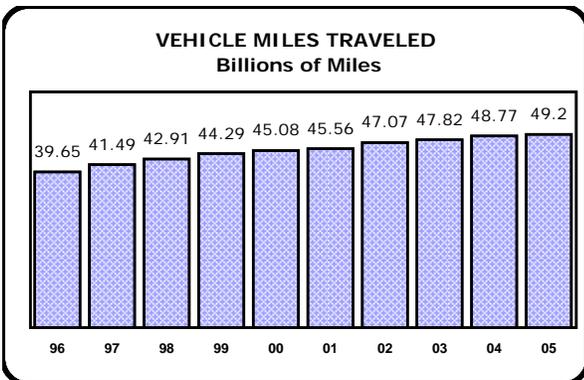
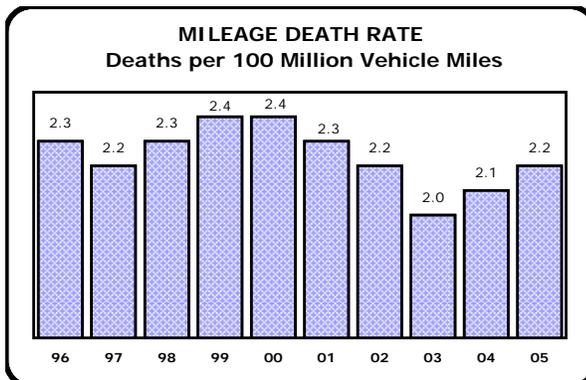
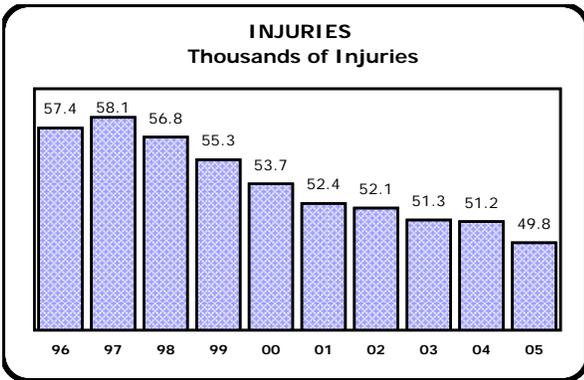
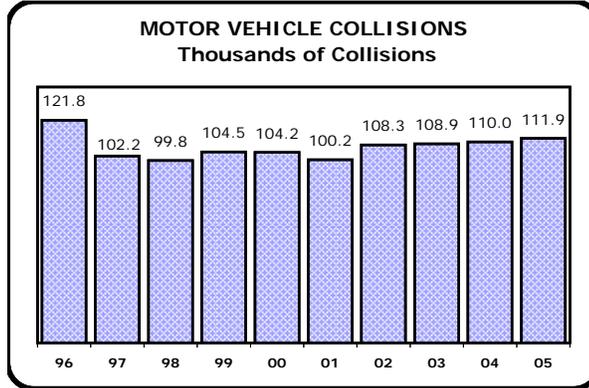
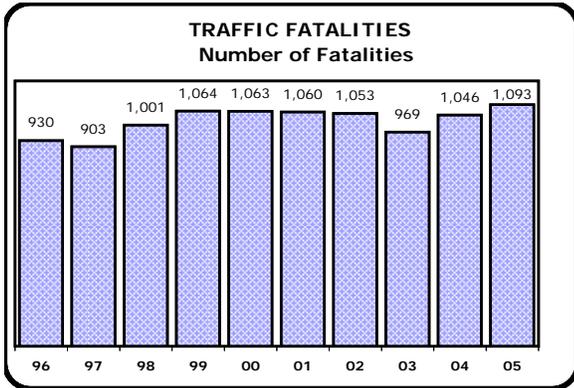
TRAFFIC COLLISION QUICK FACTS

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	% Change 2001 - 2005	% Change 2004 - 2005
Fatal Collisions	962	949	905	946	980	1.9%	3.6%
Injury Collisions	32,381	32,427	32,383	32,497	31,560	-2.5%	-2.9%
Property Damage Only Collisions	66,822	74,904	75,598	76,586	79,443	18.9%	3.7%
Total Collisions	100,165	108,280	108,886	110,029	111,983	11.8%	1.8%
Fatalities	1,060	1,053	969	1,046	1,093	3.1%	4.5%
Non-fatal Injuries	52,350	52,095	51,267	51,226	49,841	-4.8%	-2.7%
Fatalities From Collisions Involving:							
Truck Tractor	89	86	74	85	95	6.7%	11.8%
Motorcycle	75	88	88	85	94	25.3%	10.6%
Pedalcycle	25	16	15	21	17	-32.0%	-19.0%
Pedestrian	110	97	79	86	98	-10.9%	14.0%
Train	4	6	4	10	5	25.0%	-50.0%
Motorized Bike	12	4	3	5	11	-8.3%	120.0%
School bus	5	4	0	4	4	-20.0%	0.0%
SUV	133	161	184	230	219	64.7%	-4.8%
VAN	75	82	86	73	86	14.7%	17.8%
Pick Up Trucks	284	273	266	280	277	-2.5%	-1.1%
Economic Loss (billions)	2.44	2.41	2.53	2.60	2.73	11.9%	5.0%
Vehicle Miles Traveled (billions)	45.56	47.07	47.82	48.77	49.20	8.0%	0.9%
Roadway Miles	66,168	66,195	66,231	66,252	66,240	0.1%	-0.02%
Motor Vehicle Registrations	3,210,578	3,275,722	3,394,066	3,703,168	3,967,059	23.6%	7.1%
Licensed Drivers	2,855,690	2,931,697	2,982,926	3,341,153	3,705,438	29.8%	10.9%
Mileage Injury Rate*	115	111	107	105	101	-11.9%	-3.6%
Mileage Death Rate**	2.3	2.2	2.0	2.1	2.2	-3.4%	3.6%

*Traffic Injuries per 100 million vehicle miles of travel

**Traffic Fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles of travel

TEN YEAR TRAFFIC TRENDS 1996-2005



TRAFFIC COLLISIONS, FATALITIES, NON-FATAL INJURIES, MILEAGE DEATH RATE & VEHICLE MILES OF TRAVEL (1970 - 2005)

YEAR	COLLISIONS	FATALITIES	NON-FATAL INJURIES	MILEAGE DEATH RATE*	VEHICLE MILES OF TRAVEL**
1970	67,808	1,033	19,864	6.2	16,558
1971	74,607	1,023	19,347	5.8	17,763
1972	81,525	1,099	20,283	5.6	19,472
1973	85,071	967	20,440	4.7	20,428
1974	76,986	873	18,863	4.4	20,012
1975	80,740	821	18,407	4.0	20,603
1976	86,944	820	21,201	3.7	21,961
1977	91,485	949	21,382	4.2	22,689
1978	97,880	898	23,223	3.7	24,254
1979	97,394	900	23,815	3.7	24,074
1980	91,016	859	22,599	3.8	22,658
1981	88,425	846	22,355	3.7	23,056
1982	88,798	730	23,019	3.0	24,222
1983	92,277	845	23,458	3.4	24,978
1984	102,617	915	28,135	3.5	25,900
1985	111,077	949	32,388	3.6	26,679
1986	116,573	1,059	34,689	3.7	28,247
1987	119,344	1,087	37,287	3.6	30,227
***1988	117,723	1,033	50,713	3.3	31,672
1989	123,252	996	49,905	3.0	32,781
1990	118,989	983	48,337	2.9	34,377
1991	110,780	890	47,472	2.6	34,452
1992	110,058	807	47,820	2.3	34,953
1993	112,983	845	50,348	2.3	36,126
1994	120,947	847	56,868	2.3	37,238
1995	125,694	882	56,008	2.3	38,723
****1996	121,791	930	57,387	2.3	39,646
1997	102,226	903	58,057	2.2	40,590
1998	99,817	1,001	56,801	2.3	42,912
1999	104,484	1,064	55,322	2.4	44,287
2000	104,203	1,063	53,721	2.4	45,083
2001	100,165	1,060	52,350	2.3	45,558
2002	108,280	1,053	52,095	2.2	47,074
2003	108,886	969	51,267	2.0	47,816
2004	110,029	1,046	51,226	2.1	48,766
2005	111,983	1,093	49,841	2.2	49,200
TOTALS	3,662,857	34,138	1,376,293	NA	1,145,035

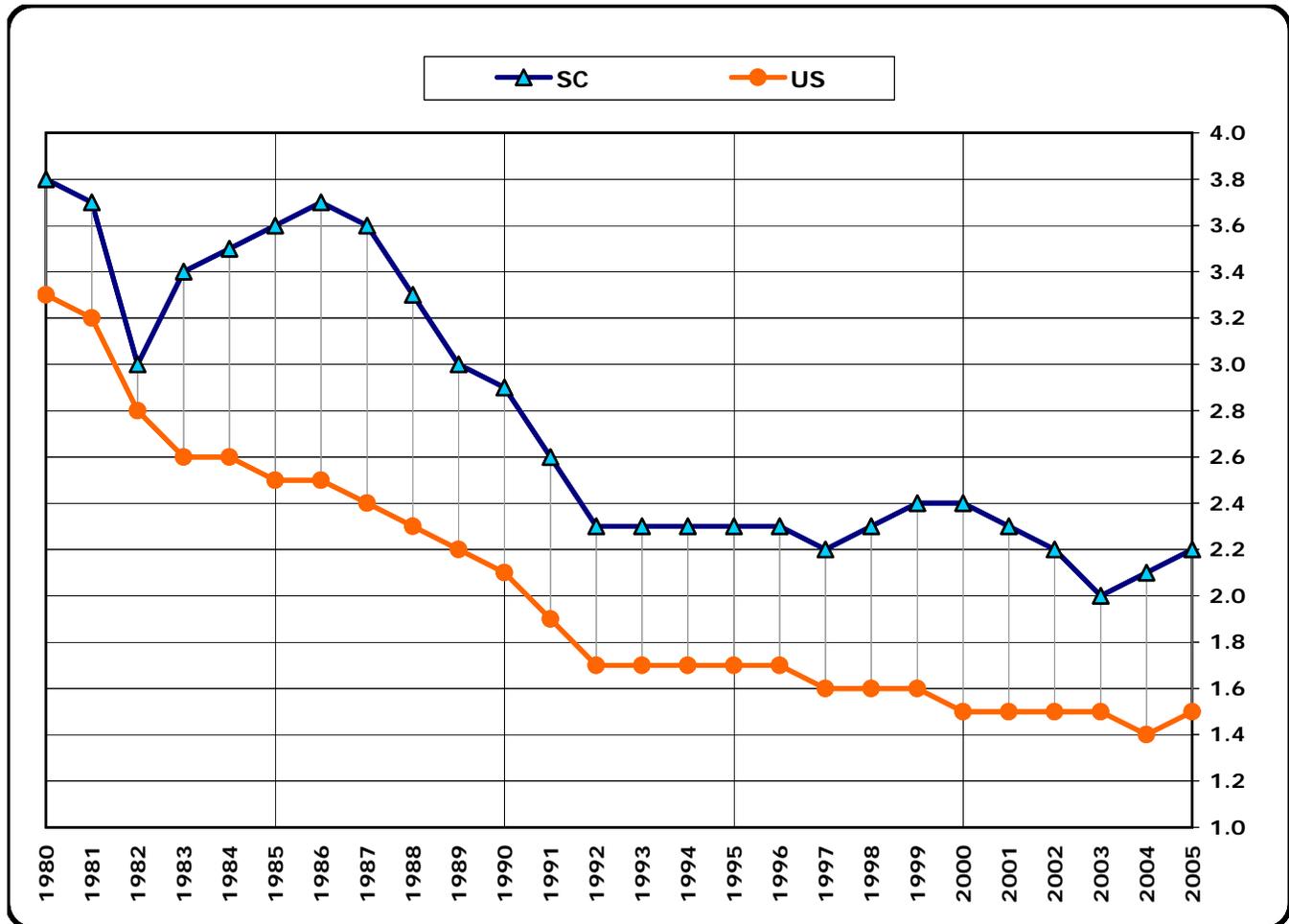
*Mileage Death Rate per 100 million vehicle miles of travel.

**Vehicle Miles of Travel in millions of miles.

*** Due to a new reporting format, more 'possible injuries' were reported than in previous years.

****Reporting threshold changed midyear to \$1,000 from \$400.

MILEAGE DEATH RATE SOUTH CAROLINA vs. NATIONAL AVERAGE 1980-2005

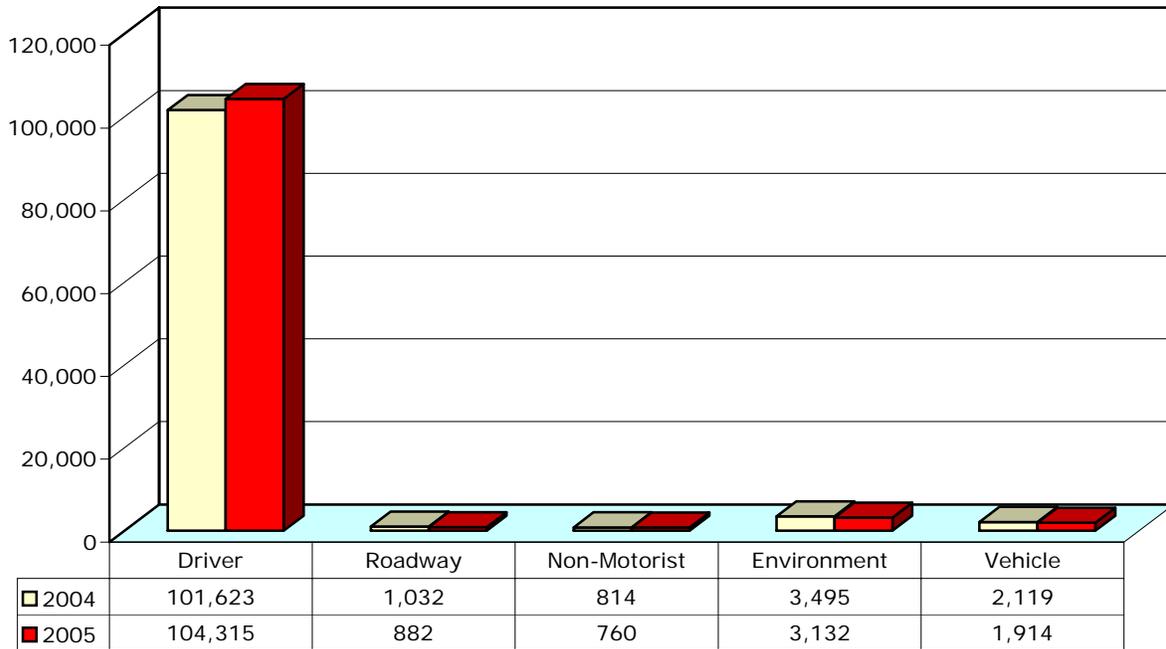


Source for U.S. data: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. (NHTSA)

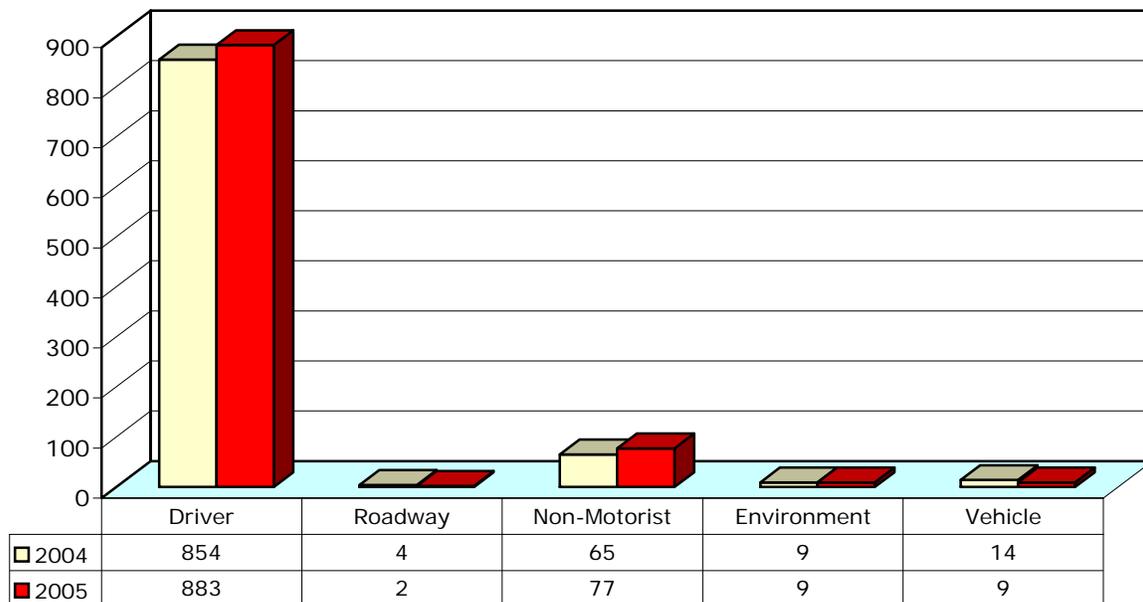
South Carolina's mileage death rate, MDR, (defined as the number of traffic fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles of travel) shows an overall declining trend over the past 25 years. Unlike the national trend however, the chart above shows that South Carolina has seen its MDR increase in 8 of the 26 years represented. The national MDR has been either maintained or shown a decrease from the previous year's MDR for the same 25 year period, except for 2005 when it rose again to 1.5.

In 2003, South Carolina achieved an all time low MDR of 2.0, however it rose to 2.1 in 2004 and then to 2.2 in 2005.

NON-FATAL COLLISIONS BY PRIMARY CONTRIBUTING FACTOR



FATAL COLLISIONS BY PRIMARY CONTRIBUTING FACTOR

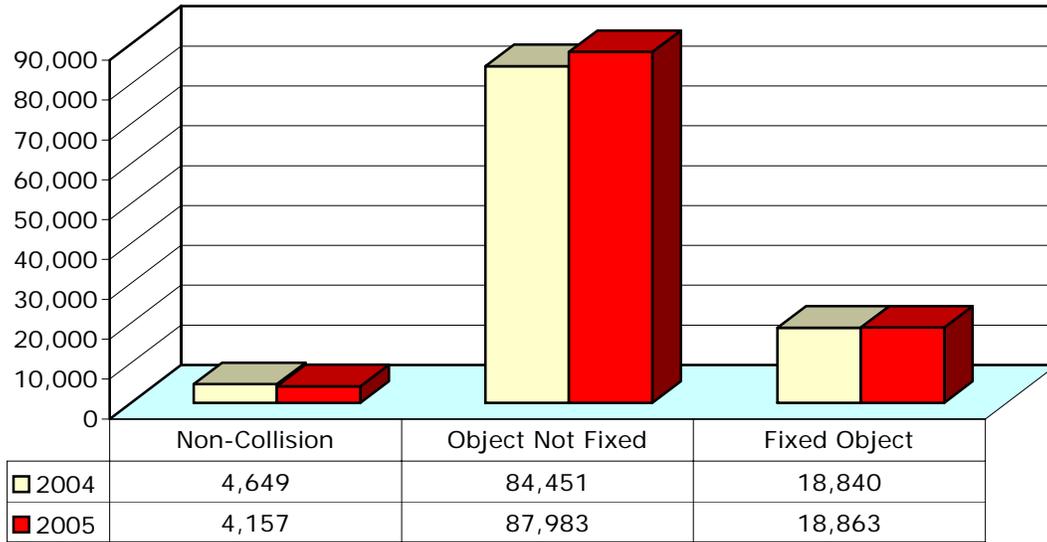


PRIMARY CONTRIBUTING FACTORS IN SC TRAFFIC COLLISIONS

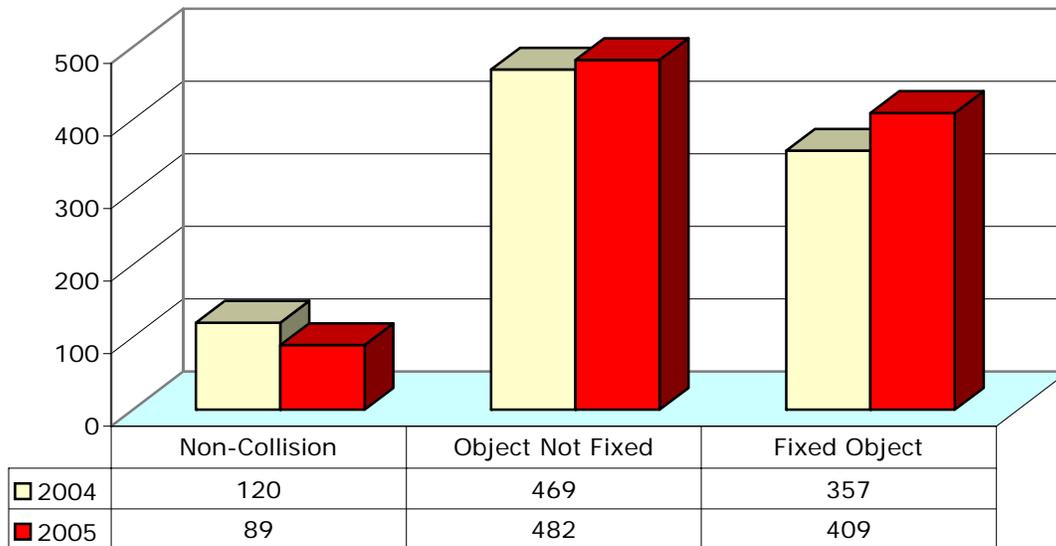
CONTRIBUTING FACTOR	COLLISION TYPE				PERSONS	
	Fatal	Injury	PDO*	Total	Killed	Injured
Disregarded Signs, Signals	47	2,329	3,577	5,953	58	4,181
Distracted / Inattention	36	2,754	7,932	10,722	37	4,234
Driving Too Fast for Conditions	226	7,720	20,587	28,533	248	11,458
Exceeded Authorized Speed Limit	75	338	445	858	83	552
Failed to Yield Right-of-Way	110	7,095	16,060	23,265	120	12,490
Ran Off Road	52	501	988	1,541	56	642
Fatigued/Asleep	18	399	597	1,014	21	566
Followed Too Closely	4	1,847	6,146	7,997	4	2,781
Made an Improper Turn	3	426	1,963	2,392	3	712
Medical Related	12	403	221	636	12	528
Aggressive Operation of Vehicle	26	443	839	1,308	32	691
Over-correcting/Over-steering	8	115	247	370	8	170
Swerving to Avoid Object	3	120	298	421	5	180
Wrong Side or Wrong Way	53	544	981	1,578	62	1,019
Under the Influence	155	2,125	2,014	4,294	183	3,250
Vision Obscured (within Unit)	0	37	139	176	0	55
Improper Lane Usage/Change	17	813	5,197	6,027	19	1,340
Cell Phone	0	31	94	125	0	46
Other Improper Action	10	742	3,693	4,445	10	1,062
Unknown	28	922	2,593	3,543	32	1,398
DRIVER SUBTOTAL	883	29,704	74,611	105,198	993	47,355
Debris	0	49	263	312	0	70
Obstruction In Road	1	39	155	195	1	55
Road Surface Condition (i.e., Wet)	0	41	153	194	0	53
Rut Holes, Bumps	0	10	15	25	0	32
Shoulders (None, Low, Soft, High)	0	3	11	14	0	5
Traffic Control Device (i.e., Missing)	0	8	38	46	0	14
Work Zone (Constr./Maint./Utility)	1	5	9	15	1	6
Worn Travel-Polished Surface	0	2	2	4	0	3
Other Roadway Factor	0	11	68	79	0	18
ROADWAY SUBTOTAL	2	168	714	884	2	256
Non-motorist Inattentive	3	32	55	90	3	38
Lying &/or Illegally in Roadway	29	92	21	142	30	105
Non-motorist Failed to Yield Right-of-Way	9	101	25	135	9	116
Not Visible (Dark Clothing)	9	22	7	38	9	23
Non-motorist Disregarded Sign/Signal	0	16	9	25	0	18
Improper Crossing	8	91	10	109	8	95
Darting	2	66	16	84	2	70
Non-motorist Wrong Side of Road	3	29	5	35	3	30
Non-Motorist Under the Influence	11	26	13	50	12	33
Other Non-motorist Factor	2	43	43	87	2	45
Unknown Non-motorist	1	18	21	38	1	25
NON-MOTORIST SUBTOTAL	77	535	225	837	79	598
Animal in Road	7	522	1,993	2,522	7	679
Glare	0	34	67	101	0	55
Obstruction	0	29	81	110	0	40
Weather Condition	2	69	245	315	2	87
Other Environmental Factor	0	22	59	81	0	33
Unknown Environmental Factor	0	3	9	12	0	3
ENVIRONMENTAL SUBTOTAL	9	678	2,454	3,141	9	897
Brakes	0	147	318	465	0	219
Steering	0	35	58	93	0	50
Power Plant	1	8	29	38	1	14
Tires/Wheels	4	155	555	714	5	273
Lights	1	24	30	55	1	39
Signals	0	3	4	7	0	3
Windows/Shield	0	1	4	5	0	1
Restraint Systems	0	3	14	17	0	3
Truck Coupling	0	7	57	64	0	8
Cargo	0	29	151	179	0	37
Fuel System	1	4	17	22	1	9
Other Vehicle Defect	1	43	141	183	1	55
Unknown Vehicle Defect	1	16	61	78	1	24
VEHICLE DEFECT SUBTOTAL	9	475	1,439	1,923	10	735
TOTALS	980	31,560	79,443	111,983	1,093	49,841

*Property Damage Only

NON-FATAL COLLISIONS BY FIRST HARMFUL EVENT



FATAL COLLISIONS BY FIRST HARMFUL EVENT



TRAFFIC COLLISIONS BY FIRST HARMFUL EVENT

FIRST HARMFUL EVENT (FHE)	COLLISION TYPE				PERSONS	
	Fatal	Injury	PDO*	Total	Killed	Injured
Cargo/Equip Loss or Shift	0	24	113	137	0	31
Cross Median/Center	6	78	91	175	8	121
Downhill Runaway	0	5	11	16	0	6
Equipment Failure	1	43	119	163	3	68
Fire/Explosion	0	8	15	23	0	13
Immersion	0	6	24	30	0	7
Jackknife	0	9	40	49	0	10
Overturn/Rollover	68	1,257	1,332	2,657	71	1,783
Separation of Units	0	7	27	34	0	13
Spill (Two-Wheeled Vehicle)	8	156	59	223	8	173
Overcorrecting/Over steering	0	0	1	1	0	0
Other Non-collision	5	260	415	680	7	353
Unknown Non-collision	1	20	37	58	1	31
NON-COLLISION SUBTOTAL	89	1,873	2,284	4,246	98	2,609
Animal (Deer Only)	1	181	1,250	1,432	1	239
Animal (All Other)	2	88	274	364	2	118
Motor Vehicle (In Transport)	354	20,114	55,079	75,547	420	34,103
Motor Vehicle (Stopped)	13	2,096	6,488	8,597	14	3,336
Motor Vehicle (Other Roadway)	1	135	228	364	1	258
Motor Vehicle (Parked)	8	128	708	844	8	186
Pedalcycle	17	265	26	308	17	282
Pedestrian	82	352	25	459	83	386
Railway Vehicle	3	14	12	29	3	34
Work Zone Maint. Equipment	1	5	19	25	1	7
Other Movable Object	0	59	386	445	0	79
Unknown Movable Object	0	5	46	51	0	6
OBJECT NOT FIXED SUBTOTAL	482	23,442	64,541	88,465	550	39,034
Bridge Overhead Structure	0	5	31	36	0	7
Bridge Parapet End	2	18	15	35	2	25
Bridge Pier or Abutment	3	12	19	34	4	18
Bridge Rail	2	64	158	224	3	82
Culvert	10	195	230	435	11	248
Curb	5	125	319	449	5	161
Ditch	80	1,467	2,625	4,172	84	1,921
Embankment	37	475	733	1,245	37	633
Equipment	1	15	37	53	1	20
Fence, Other Than Median	8	190	617	815	9	243
Guardrail End	6	59	164	229	7	83
Guardrail Face	11	215	682	908	11	277
Highway Traffic Sign Post	7	94	411	512	7	114
Impact Attenuator/Crash Cushion	0	11	25	36	0	18
Light/Luminaire Support	1	20	63	84	1	28
Mailbox	11	145	399	555	11	183
Median Barrier	9	211	1,334	1,554	10	267
Overhead Sign Support	0	4	9	13	0	4
Other (Post, Pole, Support, etc..)	11	162	385	558	14	209
Other (Wall, Building, Tunnel, etc..)	1	122	288	411	1	156
Tree	171	1,909	2,580	4,660	190	2,602
Utility Pole	19	497	835	1,351	21	604
Work Zone Maint. Equipment	1	2	12	15	1	2
Other	11	205	601	817	13	261
Unknown	2	23	46	71	2	32
FIXED OBJECT SUBTOTAL	409	6,245	12,618	19,272	445	8,198
YEAR TOTALS	980	31,560	79,443	111,983	1,093	49,841

*Property Damage Only

PRIMARY CONTRIBUTING FACTOR

The 2005 South Carolina Traffic Collision Fact Book reports on the primary contributing factor in a traffic collision. This information comes directly from the collision report form filled out by the investigating officer. It is important to realize that while the report form has a field for primary contributing factor; it can also report up to four (4) other contributing factors for each collision (see appendix page 131). Thus we rely on the investigating officer's judgment as to the primary contributing factor for a collision.

Some action (or inaction) by one or more of the drivers was cited as the primary contributing factor in 105,198 of the 111,983 reported traffic collisions in 2005. This accounted for 93.9% of all primary contributing factors, a percentage slightly higher than the previous year of 93.1%. In fact, the top nine primary contributing factors were driver related. Environmental factors accounted for the next largest category of collision causes with 3,141 or 2.6% of the total. The vast majority of these (2,522) involved an "Animal in the Roadway," and accounted for 2.1% of all collisions. The "Non-Motorist", "Road" and "Vehicle" categories together accounted for only 3.3% of all reported traffic collisions in 2005.

For fatal collisions in 2005, some type of driver error was considered the primary contributing factor in 883 of the 980 collisions, accounting for 90.1% of all collisions in which someone was killed. This percentage is lower than that of all collisions, which is 93.9%. The specific causes of fatal collisions were quite different from all collisions. The leading primary contributing factor of fatal collisions was "Driving Too Fast for Conditions" with 226 collisions (23.1%) and "Driving Under the Influence" was a close second with 155 collisions (15.8%). The next leading factors were "Failed to Yield Right of Way", "Exceeded Speed Limit" and "Wrong Side of Road" with 110, 75, and 53 fatal collisions respectively. The proportion of "Non-Motorist" (mostly "Pedestrian in Roadway") causes was much higher in fatal (7.9%) compared to property damage only collisions (0.28%).

FIRST HARMFUL EVENT

The first harmful event (FHE) in a traffic collision is defined by the National Safety Council as the first occurrence of injury or damage in a collision. In 2005, the FHE in 88,465 of the 111,983 reported traffic collisions (79.0%) involved some type of collision between a motor vehicle in transport and an object not fixed. The top two FHE's, both involving a collision with an object not fixed, were "Collision with Motor Vehicle in Transport," 75,547 (67.5%) and "Collision with Stopped Vehicle," 8,597 (7.7%). The third FHE was "Tree" in the "Collision with Fixed Object" group, with 4,660 collisions (4.2%). Combined, these three accounted for more than 78% of all reported collisions.

"Collisions with an Object Not Fixed" accounted for a substantially smaller percentage of the fatal collisions (49.2%) than the property damage only collisions (81.2%). Collisions involving a "Collision with a Fixed Object" accounted for a substantially greater percentage of the fatal collisions (41.9%) than for property damage only (15.9%). The leading FHE in fatal collisions was "Collision with Motor Vehicle in Transport" with 354(37.4%); the second leading FHE in fatal collisions was "Collision with Tree" 171 (18.1%).