

A. The Driver

Numerous decisions are required of drivers in the operation of a motor vehicle. All too often, poor judgement, inattention, carelessness or even deliberate intent on the part of a driver results in a dangerous driving decision, which leads to a traffic collision. The probable cause in over 88% of all reported traffic crashes was driver-related in 1999. Often, the officer investigating the collision will issue a citation to one or more of the drivers involved. Driver violations charged to drivers involved in traffic collisions reported during 1999 are as follows:

<u>Violation</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>%</u>
1. Speeding< 10 MPH Over Speed Limit	22,032	31.3
2. Failure to Yield Right of Way	15,247	21.6
3. Crossing Median or Other Separator	4,683	6.8
4. Driving Under the Influence	3,872	5.5
5. Disregarded Sign or Signal	3,502	5.0
6. Following Too Closely	3,060	4.3
7. Changing Lanes Unlawfully	2,257	3.2
8. Driver's License Violation	2,135	3.0
9. Improper Turning	1,465	2.1
10. Driving Under Suspension	1,274	1.8
<u>11. All Other Violations</u>	<u>10,933</u>	<u>15.5</u>
Total	70,460	100.0

Another group of driver violations that contributed to traffic collisions in 1999 was non-compliance with driver's license restrictions. Restrictions not complied with by drivers involved in traffic collisions in 1999 are as follows (A citation was not necessarily issued for these, but the non-compliance did contribute to the collision occurrence):

<u>Restriction</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>%</u>
1. Corrective Lenses	342	28.4
2. Previous DUI	116	9.6
3. Special Restricted	108	9.0
4. Not to Exceed 50 MPH	78	6.5
<u>5. All Other Violations</u>	<u>559</u>	<u>46.5</u>
Total	1,203	100.0

Enumerated on the following pages are the numbers of licensed drivers by age and sex and the number of drivers involved in collisions by age and sex. Based on the figures indicated in these tables, more than 1 out of every 7 (15.0%) of all licensed male drivers between the ages of 15 and 24 years of age were involved in a traffic collision in 1999. About 1 in 9 (11.7%) of the female drivers the same age were involved in collisions. For the entire licensed population, approximately one out of every 14 drivers was involved in a collision during the year. One out of every 816 males age 15 to 24 was involved in a fatal collision. This compares to one out of every 1,958 in general.