

C. Location

No area of South Carolina was immune from traffic collisions in 1999. Every county experienced the tragedy of at least one fatal traffic collision during the year. Nine of the states 46 counties had at least 40 traffic fatalities during 1999. A variety of factors influence where traffic collisions, injuries and fatalities occur including the volume of traffic on a particular highway, weather variations and travel patterns. Statistics are presented on the following pages, which indicate observable differences in the occurrence of traffic collisions with relation to various location categories. Some important observations in the data are as follows.

- ◆ In 1999, Charleston County had the most total traffic collisions (11,010), injury collisions (4,125) and non-fatal injuries (6,574). Horry County had most fatal collisions (57); Greenville County the most Property Damage Only collisions (8,339). Greenville and Horry tied for the most fatalities (65).
- ◆ A total of 61,694 collisions were investigated by the South Carolina Highway Patrol. This represents 59.0% of the total. The Highway Patrol investigated an even greater proportion of the fatal crashes – 84.6%.
- ◆ In 1999, US Primary and Secondary routes had the most traffic collisions. Respectively, they had 31.8% and 31.2% of the reported total. SC Primary routes were next, accounting for 23.4% of the total collisions.
- ◆ The Secondary routes accounted for the largest percentage of fatal collisions with 36.5% of all fatal collisions. The 344 fatal collisions that occurred on Secondary routes make up about three times the 115 fatal collisions reported on South Carolina's Interstates. (The 115 fatal collisions on interstates are an all time high).
- ◆ A total of 8,032 collisions occurred on the interstates. This was about 1/13 of the total reported traffic collisions for the year.