

## *Motor Vehicle Traffic Crashes*

*In Kansas, motor vehicle traffic crashes are the leading cause of injury death. In FY 2006, motor vehicle crashes were the third leading cause of hospitalizations.*

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In 2006, 471 people were killed, approximately 2,000 were hospitalized and nearly 16,000 were injured due to motor vehicle crashes (including occupants, motorcyclists, pedestrians, and bicyclist).

Men in Kansas are 2 times more likely to die from motor vehicle injuries than are women.

In 2006, older and younger adults were at highest risk for fatal motor vehicle crashes.

Drivers 75 years and above had the highest rates of motor vehicle traffic deaths.

Drivers 15- 24 years old had the second highest rates of motor vehicle crashes.

Motor vehicle crashes killed more young adults ages 15 – 24 than any other cause of injury.

In 2006, approximately 60% of the people killed in motor vehicle crashes in Kansas were unrestrained.

### *Prevention Notes*

Many of the injuries and deaths could be prevented by regular use of seat belts and child safety seats. Research shows that lap/shoulder belts, when used properly, reduce the risk of fatal injury to front seat occupants by 45% and the risk of moderate to critical injury by 50%. While increasing seat belt use in Kansas has come a long way over the past decade; Kansas' 77.3% is still below the National usage rate of 83%.

Reference: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5007a1.htm>

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*Kansas Injury Prevention Program Mission: Build Solid Infrastructure to Improve the Health of Kansans by Increasing Awareness & Action to Reduce Unintentional and Intentional Injuries.*