The Facts About Rural Road Safety

Safety on rural roads is an important national concern because a majority of highway fatalities happen on rural roads. In 2014, 19 percent of the US population lived in rural areas but rural road fatalities accounted for 51 percent of all fatalities (NHTSA, 2016). Even with reductions in the number of fatalities on the roadways, fatality rate in rural areas is 2.4 times higher than the fatality rate in urban areas. (FHWA, 2016). The data in this factsheet was derived from national databases and may differ from state maintained databases. For more information, refer to the state's crash database and https://tntrafficsafety.org/.

### Miles by Ownership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jurisdiction</th>
<th>State Highway System</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Town, Township Municipal</th>
<th>Other Jurisdiction</th>
<th>Federal Agency</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>10,028</td>
<td>49,126</td>
<td>3,627</td>
<td>384</td>
<td>1,172</td>
<td>64,336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>3,851</td>
<td>8,670</td>
<td>18,746</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>31,301</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Highway Statistics, FHWA 2015

### Miles by Functional System (Urban/Rural)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jurisdiction</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Interstate/Freeway</th>
<th>Principal Arterial</th>
<th>Minor Arterial</th>
<th>Major Collector</th>
<th>Minor Collector</th>
<th>Local</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>64,336</td>
<td>573</td>
<td>1,737</td>
<td>2,969</td>
<td>4,933</td>
<td>9,843</td>
<td>44,279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>31,301</td>
<td>695</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>1,795</td>
<td>2,710</td>
<td>2,391</td>
<td>1,030</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Highway Statistics, FHWA 2015

### Tennessee Motor Vehicle Fatalities by Year (10 years) and Location (Urban and Rural, and National)

Source: NHTSA FARS
**Tennessee Motor Vehicle Fatalities by VMT, by Year and Location***

![Graph showing Tennessee and National Fatalities per VMT, by Year.](image)

Source: NHTSA FARS *Fatality per VMT data is unavailable for 2016 as of January 2018.

**Tennessee Motor Vehicle Fatalities by Contributing Factor (Speed, Alcohol, Restraint Use, Time of Day, Day of Week)*

![Graph showing Tennessee Fatalities per VMT by Contributing Factors.](image)

Source: NHTSA FARS, *Numbers may not add up since there can be multiple contributing factors in a crash.

**Tennessee Motor Vehicle Fatalities by Hour and Day of Week**

![Graph showing Tennessee Fatalities by Hour and Day of Week.](image)

Source: NHTSA FARS

*Empowering rural roadway owners with customized and innovative roadway safety practices to save lives.*
Resources

National Center for Rural Road Safety http://ruralsafetycenter.org/
FHWA Local and Rural Safety http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/local_rural/
Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) http://www.ltap.org/
National Association of Development Organizations (NADO)
National Association of County Engineers (NACE) http://www.countyengineers.org
American Public Works Association (APWA) http://apwa.net/

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