

## At work

Preliminary information from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates that 30 people died from occupational injuries in South Dakota in 2008, up from 22 in 2007. Transportation incidents accounted for nearly half of those killed (14). Falls and “contact with objects and equipment” tied as the second leading cause, resulting in six deaths each.

### Sources:

*South Dakota Department of Health, Office of Data, Statistics and Vital Records*

*South Dakota Department of Public Safety*

*U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics*

The South Dakota Safety Council is a private, not for profit organization, founded in 1949 and dedicated to making South Dakota a safer place to live. It is a chapter of the National Safety Council.



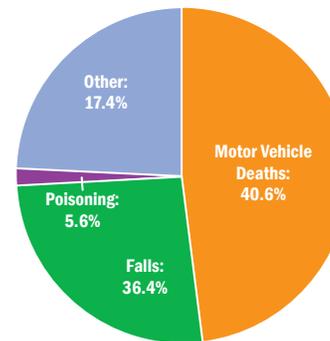
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# South Dakota Injury Facts

Each year, tens of thousands of South Dakota citizens suffer unintentional injuries (“accidents”). According to the National Safety Council, it’s the leading cause of death for those age 1 to 41 and the fifth leading cause overall.

Unintentional injury caused the death of 357 South Dakotans in 2007 (most current data available) or 5.3 percent of all deaths. This represents a 19.4% decrease from the 443 deaths in 2006. The two most common types of unintentional injury deaths were motor vehicle crashes, (40.6 percent) and falls (36.4 percent). Men were more likely to die from unintentional injury

than women. For men, it was the fourth leading cause of death, accounting for 6.6 percent of the deaths, compared to the sixth leading cause for women (3.9 percent). For the American Indian population in South Dakota, unintentional injury was the second leading cause of death, accounting for 14.1 percent of all deaths.



### Top three causes of unintentional-injury death, South Dakota residents, 2007

*Source: South Dakota Department of Health*

Top ten causes of unintentional-injury deaths, South Dakota residents, 2007

Cause	Number
Motor vehicle	145
Falls	130
Poisoning	20
Suffocation	9
Exposure to smoke, fire	8
Drowning	7
Exposure to excessive cold	6
Air transport accidents	3
Firearms	2
Agricultural Machinery	1
All other	26

*Source: South Dakota Department of Health*

**Total: 357**

### Injury rate compared to the national average, other states

Another important measure of our injury problem is the number of deaths per 100,000 residents. Unintentional injury deaths in South Dakota totaled 51.9 deaths per 100,000 residents in 2005 (the latest year the comparison figures are available). This is much higher than the national average of 39.7 and ranks twelfth highest in the nation. Louisiana holds the highest death rate at 68.2, New York the lowest at 24.0.

Unintentional death rates by state: best, worst and nearby states, 2005		
State	Rate	Rank out of 50 states
New York	24.0	1st (best)
Maryland	24.6	2nd
New Jersey	29.4	3rd
Minnesota	37.5	16th
Nebraska	40.0	20th
Iowa	40.5	23rd
North Dakota	45.2	32nd
South Dakota	51.9	39th
Montana	56.1	44th
Wyoming	59.4	47th
New Mexico	65.8	48th
Mississippi	66.6	49th
Louisiana	68.2	50th (worst)

Source: National Safety Council Injury Facts

### On the road

Nationally and in South Dakota, motor vehicle crashes account for the lion's share of deaths by unintentional injury. In 2008, 15,907 motor vehicle crashes were reported on South Dakota's roads, injuring 5,708 and killing 121 (at an estimated cost of \$320 million.) The South Dakota Department of Public Safety, Office of Accident Records, reports the following:

- Number of pedestrians killed ..... 10
- Number of motorcyclists killed ..... 15
- Number of vehicle occupants killed who were not buckled up ..... 60
- Number of vehicle occupants killed who were buckled up (on in lap belt only) ..... 25
- Percent of licensed drivers under age 25 ..... 16.5%
- Percent of crash-involved speeding drivers under age 25 ..... 55.9%
- Percent of crash-involved drinking drivers under age 25 ..... 38.9%

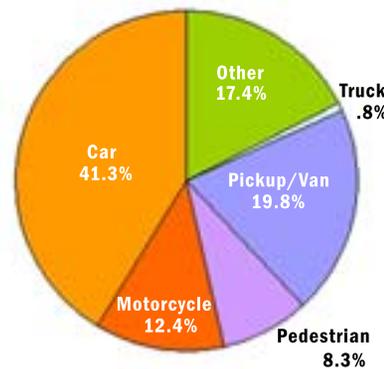
Alcohol involvement in fatal crashes has declined for six years — down to 48 motor vehicle deaths in 2008, compared to 62 in 2007, 72 in 2006, 74 in 2005, 78 in 2004 and 94 in 2003. This still represents alcohol involvement in 41.3 percent of all fatal crashes. Alcohol involvement for fatal crashes is based on a positive BAC result and/or indication of alcohol use by at least one driver, pedestrian or bicyclist.

### Seatbelt use

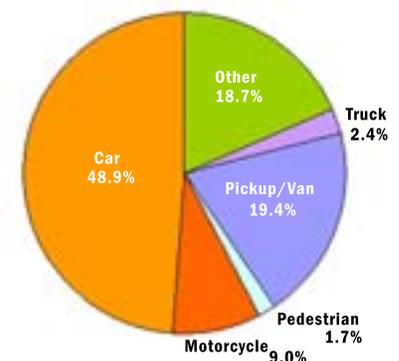
South Dakota's annual seatbelt survey estimates that 72.1 percent of drivers and right front passengers buckled up in 2009. This number compares to a statewide estimate of 71.8 percent in 2008 and 73 percent in 2007. The survey was conducted in June 2009 by the Human Factors Laboratory at the University of South Dakota and funded by the South Dakota Office of Highway Safety. Nationally, the seatbelt usage rate stands at 84 percent (2009).

The rate for teens judged to be between 14 and 17 years old was 61.9 percent, a decrease from the 2008 rate of 67.8 percent for this age group. The seatbelt use rate for occupants judged to be 18 years and older was 67.6 percent compared to a 2008 rate of 70.5 percent.

Deaths by Travel Mode, South Dakota, 2008



Injuries by Travel Mode, South Dakota, 2008



\*\*Other includes ATVs, SUVs, Bicycles, Farm Machinery, Bus, Motor Home, Snowmobile, Heavy Equipment, Train, Animal Drawn Vehicles and Other Types of Motor Vehicles.

Source: South Dakota Department of Public Safety