



June 2017

## Traffic Crashes in Southeast Michigan, 2016

Traffic safety is critical when planning and implementing a transportation system. This is why SEMCOG, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, developed the [Southeast Michigan Traffic Safety Plan](#), utilizing the four Es of safety: engineering, education, enforcement, and emergency medical services to address safety issues in the region. SEMCOG uses crash data from the Michigan State Police, Criminal Justice Information Center (CJIC), to update various [safety resources](#). Based on 2016 data, SEMCOG has updated information on traffic crashes, fatalities, and serious injuries. Crash factors identified as key emphasis areas include older drivers, younger drivers, pedestrians, bicycles, lane departures, drugs, and alcohol.

### Total crashes, fatalities, and serious injuries on the rise

- Traffic crashes in Southeast Michigan increased for the fourth consecutive year. There were 145,510 total crashes, a five percent increase from 2015.
- Traffic fatalities increased for the sixth consecutive year, up from 387 in 2015 to 430 in 2016. The 11 percent increase was the largest increase in fatalities in the past decade.
- Serious injuries increased nine percent in 2016, the first increase in four years.

### Southeast Michigan Traffic Crashes, 2007-2016

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	10-Year Trend
<b>Crashes</b>	140,115	133,440	121,905	122,309	124,527	122,832	128,088	136,636	138,710	145,510	
<b>Fatalities</b>	382	342	340	333	340	361	363	371	387	430	
<b>Serious Injuries</b>	2,834	2,542	2,589	2,357	2,263	2,267	2,145	2,002	1,913	2,076	

### Crashes and fatalities involving older drivers have increased

- Crashes involving drivers age 65 and older increased for the seventh consecutive year, up eight percent.
- Crashes involving older drivers resulted in 31 more fatalities, a 50 percent increase from 2015. This was the highest rate of increase in fatalities for any crash emphasis area in the [Southeast Michigan Traffic Safety Plan](#).
- SEMCOG's [Regional Forecast](#) projects that the number of people age 65 and over will continue to grow substantially, from 700,000 in 2015 to 1,150,000 in 2035. The share of crashes involving older drivers is also likely to grow.

### Crashes Involving Older Drivers (65+), 2007-2016

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	10-Year Trend
<b>Crashes</b>	16,852	16,344	16,178	16,834	17,430	17,799	18,799	20,347	21,436	23,180	
<b>Fatalities</b>	66	61	48	70	52	69	74	60	62	93	
<b>Serious Injuries</b>	368	372	396	326	308	379	313	350	327	331	

### Crashes involving younger drivers up, fatalities down

- Crashes involving drivers age 16-24 increased for the fourth consecutive year, up four percent. Crashes involving younger drivers accounted for 34 percent of all traffic crashes in Southeast Michigan in 2016. [Nationally](#), drivers under the age of 20 have crash rates nearly four times higher than older drivers.
- Young driver-involved fatalities decreased six percent, while serious injuries increased 20 percent. This was the first increase in young driver-involved serious injuries in the past decade.

### Crashes Involving Younger Drivers (16-24), 2007-2016

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	10-Year Trend
<b>Crashes</b>	48,881	45,852	42,301	42,890	43,281	43,127	44,460	45,627	47,561	49,442	
<b>Fatalities</b>	134	102	108	103	109	116	103	109	123	116	
<b>Serious Injuries</b>	1,024	942	903	901	885	818	793	655	620	743	

### Pedestrian crashes are down, but fatality rate still exceeds nation

- Crashes involving pedestrians decreased eight percent. Pedestrian fatalities decreased for the first time in the past decade, down two percent. Serious injuries also decreased 16 percent.
- In 2016, pedestrian crashes still accounted for less than one percent of all crashes, yet pedestrians accounted for 24 percent of all traffic fatalities. [Nationally](#), pedestrian fatalities account for only 15 percent of all traffic fatalities.

### Pedestrian Crashes, 2007-2016

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	10-Year Trend
<b>Crashes</b>	1,299	1,204	1,180	1,217	1,350	1,244	1,280	1,266	1,308	1,206	
<b>Fatalities</b>	64	66	68	68	78	80	88	94	103	101	
<b>Serious Injuries</b>	271	279	270	216	241	175	209	198	201	168	

### Bicycle crashes, fatalities, and serious injuries continue to increase

- Crashes involving bicycles increased 15 percent, to a 10-year high of 1,069. Bicyclist fatalities and serious injuries also increased 14 percent and 23 percent, respectively.
- Bicycle crashes accounted for less than one percent of all crashes in 2016. Bicyclists accounted for four percent of all traffic fatalities, which is double the [national](#) rate of two percent.

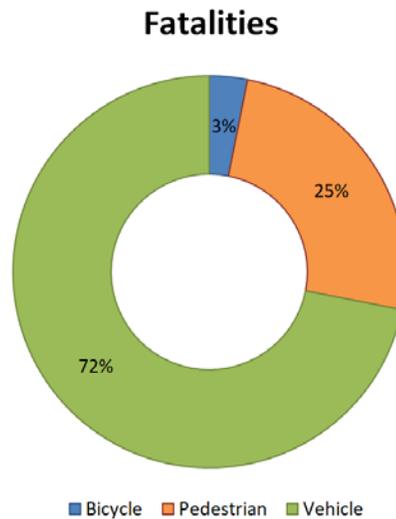
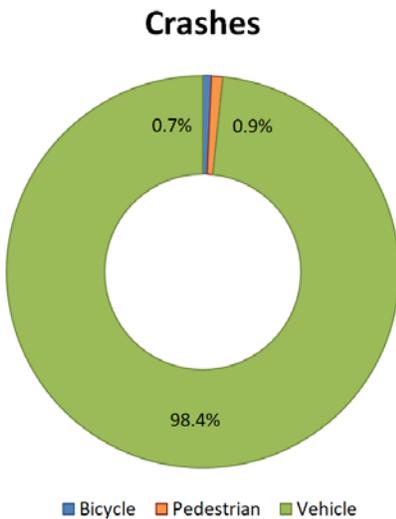
#### Bicycle Crashes, 2007-2016

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	10-Year Trend
<b>Crashes</b>	1,060	976	967	940	858	936	935	873	932	1,069	
<b>Fatalities</b>	7	9	8	15	14	7	10	12	14	16	
<b>Serious Injuries</b>	98	83	98	74	72	76	82	67	56	69	

### Crashes involving pedestrians and bicycles have high fatality rates

- Between 2012 and 2016, crashes involving pedestrians and bicyclists accounted for under two percent of all traffic crashes but 28 percent of all traffic fatalities.

#### Pedestrian- and Bicycle-Involved Crashes vs. Fatalities, 2012-2016



### Crashes involving lane departure continue to be most deadly

- Crashes involving lane departure (vehicles running off the road or shifting lanes) increased one percent, yet lane departure-involved fatalities increased 31 percent. Lane departure-involved serious injuries also increased five percent.
- Lane departure-involved fatalities accounted for 40 percent of all traffic fatalities in 2016, the highest for any emphasis area.

#### Crashes Involving Lane Departure, 2007-2016

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	10-Year Trend
<b>Crashes</b>	21,317	22,099	19,171	18,236	18,538	17,943	19,373	20,257	18,660	18,818	
<b>Fatalities</b>	170	135	118	130	150	132	140	145	131	171	
<b>Serious Injuries</b>	864	765	708	681	687	639	658	579	536	562	

### Reported drug involvement up in crashes, fatalities, and serious injuries

- Drug-involved crashes, fatalities, and serious injuries are all at a 10-year high. They increased four percent, 17 percent, and 28 percent respectively. New police reporting and training methods may be a factor in this increase.
- Drug-involved fatalities accounted for 21 percent of all traffic fatalities in 2016.

#### Drug-Involved Crashes, 2007-2016

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	10-Year Trend
<b>Crashes</b>	764	686	816	976	998	1,008	997	1,016	1,169	1,221	
<b>Fatalities</b>	40	50	53	53	44	44	63	53	78	91	
<b>Serious Injuries</b>	114	101	120	124	114	119	117	112	137	175	

## Alcohol-involved crashes slightly down, but deaths and serious injuries up

- Alcohol-involved crashes decreased less than one percent. Alcohol-involved fatalities and serious injuries both increased, up six percent and two percent, respectively.
- Alcohol-involved fatalities accounted for 28 percent of all traffic fatalities in 2016.

### Alcohol-Involved Crashes, 2007-2016

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	10-Year Trend
<b>Crashes</b>	5,101	4,538	4,397	4,001	4,129	4,187	4,155	4,074	4,078	4,060	
<b>Fatalities</b>	122	117	115	96	108	92	95	94	115	122	
<b>Serious Injuries</b>	446	391	346	361	358	357	334	303	322	329	

## Safety campaign educates people who walk, bike, and drive

SEMCOG and local governments engage in [safety education](#) throughout Southeast Michigan, including a “Walk. Bike. Drive. Safe” campaign, with safety tips as well as explanations of state laws, infrastructure, and signage. Tips include:

- Obey all traffic laws, signs, and signals.
- Share the road with all users and stay alert.
- Don’t tailgate – keep safe distances while driving and passing.
- Don’t drive after consuming drugs or alcohol.
- Avoid distractions, including talking or texting on your phone, while driving, biking, or walking.
- Be safe. Be seen! Use lights and wear bright clothing when walking or biking.

**WALK**

Over 65% of pedestrian deaths happen on the road in areas not meant for walking.

When crossing the street:

- Use a marked crosswalk
- Watch for turning vehicles

**BIKE**

Over 62% of bicyclist deaths happen in the dark.

Use a bike light and wear bright and reflective clothing when riding at night.

**DRIVE**

SLOW DOWN

A driver's vision and ability to react and stop decrease with speed.

- Slow down to see more
- Watch for people walking & biking
- Avoid distractions

Safety is everyone's responsibility | For more information, go to [semcog.org/WalkBikeDriveSafe](http://semcog.org/WalkBikeDriveSafe)

This graphic, along with other resources, is available on [SEMCOG's website](#).