

More people die in collisions with semitrailers in Oklahoma than almost anywhere else

KOCO 5 looked into why deaths are so high in the state

[Meghan Mosley](#)
Reporter



Tuesday, December 5, 2023

OKLAHOMA CITY — A new report released on Tuesday showed more people die in collisions with semitrailers in Oklahoma than almost anywhere else.

KOCO 5 looked into why deaths are so high in the state. Oklahoma ranks high on the list for larger trucks involved in deadly crashes.

A new nationwide report showed the Sooner State as fifth on the list.

"What we're seeing is a significant growth in freight travel, largely on trucks across the country," said Rocky Moretti, the director of policy and research with TRIP Transportation Research.

A report from TRIP, a national transportation research nonprofit, showed Oklahoma ranked fifth per capita in deadly crashes involving large trucks. From 2017-2021, 115 people were killed every year in the state from those crashes.

"We also know, though, that if we invest adequately in our highways, that we can do a lot of improvements that can make them safer. Particularly on our rural highways," Moretti said.

The study is based on population and the amount of truck travel in the state. They said rural roads play a part in the crashes, and continued investment in the transportation system could be a solution.

"The challenge is to continue as we upgrade our transportation system in Oklahoma, to put in cost-effective repairs that are going to keep us safe, including passenger vehicles and large trucks, as well," Moretti said.