

Arkansas traffic fatalities reportedly up 30% in last decade

Despite a 12% decrease in traffic fatalities since 2021, Arkansas has seen a 30% increase within the last decade.



Credit: KTHV

An Arkansas lawmaker is pushing to "regulate" short-term rentals. House Bill 1445 aims to create more state-level oversight instead leaving it to local governments.

Author: Samantha Romano | Wednesday, July 23, 2025

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — According to a [report released by TRIP](#), a national transportation research nonprofit, the number of traffic fatalities in Arkansas increased 30% from 2014 to 2024, and the state's fatality rate increased 12%.

Arkansas's 2024 traffic fatality rate was the fifth highest in the U.S. From 2021 to 2024, the number of traffic fatalities in the state decreased by 12% and the fatality rate per 100 million VMT decreased by 15%.

TRIP estimates these crashes in Arkansas caused a total of \$18.7 billion in the value of societal harm in 2024, which includes \$4.6 billion in economic costs and \$14 billion in quality-of-life costs.

In 2011, U.S. traffic fatalities dropped to 32,749, the lowest since 1949 when there were 30,246. By 2018, it had increased to 36,835. In 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic, the number and rate of traffic fatalities increased.

To help combat traffic fatalities, the U.S. Department of Transportation introduced the National Roadway Safety Strategy in 2022, which focuses on safe driving practices and post-crash care.

"While it is good news that the number of traffic fatalities is trending downward in recent years, the sharp increase in traffic fatalities over the past decade must be addressed," said Dave Kearby, TRIP's executive director. "Making a commitment to eliminating fatal and serious injuries on the nation's roadways will require robust investment and coordinated activities by transportation and safety-related agencies in providing the needed layers of protection for the nation's motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists, including safe road users, safe roads, safe vehicles, safe speeds and high-quality post-crash care."