

## Traffic deaths in Maine up more than national rate, study says

Plus, fatal and serious crashes in the state last year cost roughly \$10.6 billion.



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WASHINGTON D.C., DC — A [study](#) released Wednesday by the nonprofit [TRIP](#), a national transportation research group, claimed Maine has had a higher-than-national-average increase in traffic-related deaths over the past decade.

The number of traffic fatalities in the state rose 37 percent from 2014 to 2024, according to the study, while the national number is up 20 percent. But the number of traffic fatalities in Maine increased 17 percent from 2021 to 2024 alone.

TRIP also estimated that based on a report from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, fatal and serious crashes in the state last year cost \$10.6 billion, which is made up of \$2.6 billion in economic costs and \$8 billion in human impact, such as permanent disabilities and injuries and emotional suffering.

Crashes in Maine's highway work zones also took eight lives from 2019 to 2023.

There are ongoing initiatives by the state to improve traffic safety.

The Maine Department of Transportation collaborated with the Maine Transportation Safety Coalition to develop the [Strategic Highway Safety Plan](#), which aims to comprehensively address the state's highway safety.

The plan also includes the [Toward Zero Deaths](#) vision, a national goal for eliminating serious injuries and deaths on the country's roads.