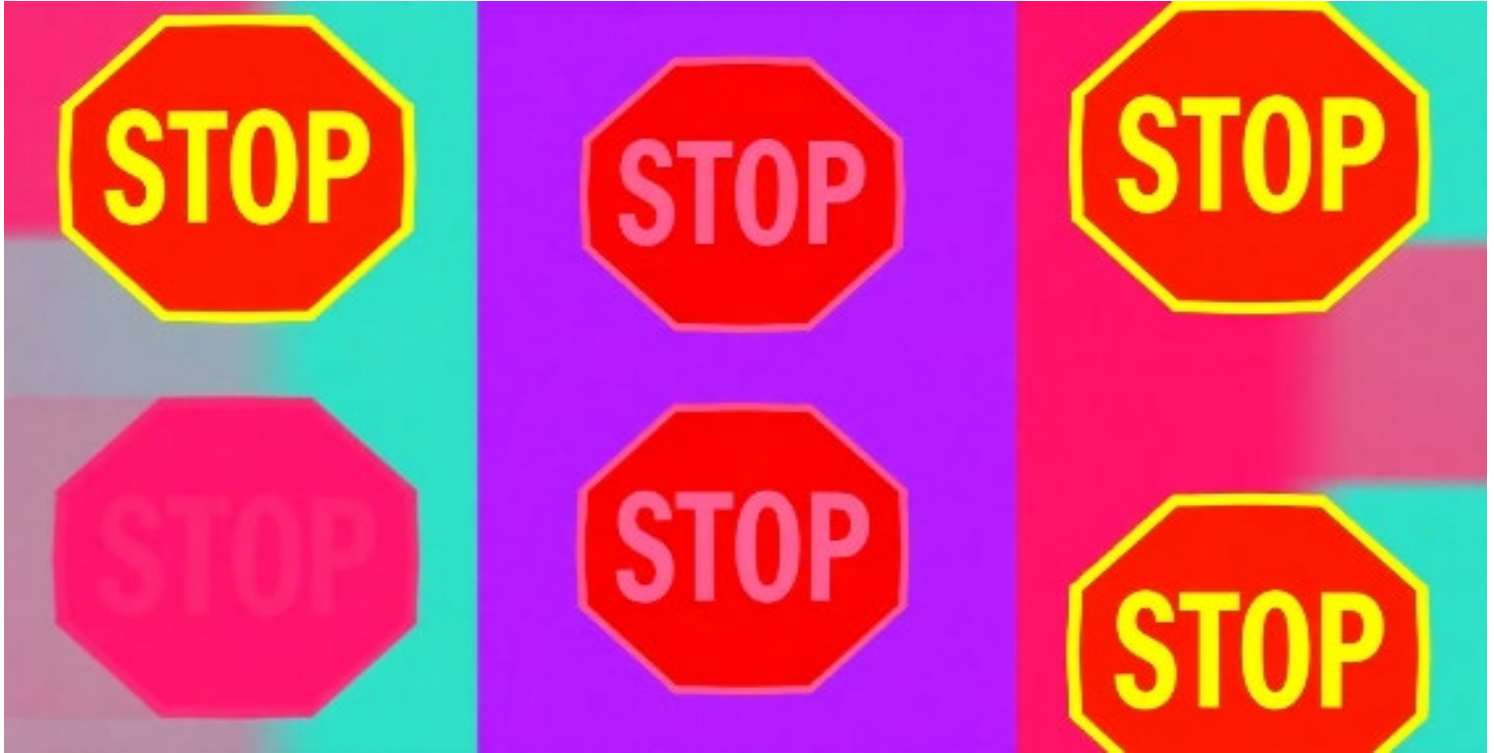


## Oklahoma Traffic Deaths Outpace National Average

New report highlights concerning trend of rising traffic fatalities in the state.

April 2, 2026



A bold visual statement on the urgent need to improve traffic safety across Oklahoma. *Oklahoma City Today*

A new report from TRIP, a national transportation research nonprofit, has found that Oklahoma's traffic fatality rate is exceeding the national average. The analysis examines the factors contributing to this concerning trend and the potential steps that could be taken to improve road safety across the state.

### WHY IT MATTERS

Traffic safety is a critical issue that impacts communities across Oklahoma. With the state's fatality rate surpassing national levels, this report shines a light on the need for greater investment and policy changes to protect drivers, passengers, cyclists, and pedestrians on Oklahoma's roads.

### THE DETAILS

The TRIP report found that Oklahoma's traffic fatality rate was 15.9 deaths per 100,000 population in 2021, compared to the national average of 14.5 deaths per 100,000. Factors contributing to the higher rate include rural road conditions, impaired and distracted driving, and a lack of seatbelt usage. The report recommends increased funding for infrastructure improvements,

enhanced traffic enforcement, and public education campaigns to address these safety challenges.

- The TRIP report was released on April 2, 2026.

### THE PLAYERS

#### TRIP

A national transportation research nonprofit that conducts data-driven analyses on infrastructure and safety issues.

### WHAT'S NEXT

State transportation officials have pledged to review the TRIP report's findings and work with local communities to develop a comprehensive strategy for improving road safety across Oklahoma.

### THE TAKEAWAY

This report underscores the urgent need for Oklahoma to prioritize traffic safety and make targeted investments to reduce fatalities on its roads. By addressing infrastructure, driver behavior, and public awareness, the state can work to bring its traffic death rate back in line with national averages and protect all who use its transportation network.