

KFOR Oklahoma City

# Oklahoma traffic deaths 19% higher than national average, report finds

Katelyn Ogle/KFOR | Thursday, April 2, 2026



OKLAHOMA'S TRAFFIC FATALITY RATE IS ABOVE THE NATIONAL AVERAGE

OKLAHOMA'S NEWS 4  
4:36 PM 84\*KFOR.COM

OKLAHOMA CITY (KFOR) — A new study, from a national transportation research non-profit based out of Washington DC, shows Oklahoma’s fatality rate on the roads is 19% higher than the national average. “It definitely gives us the data that we need to reassess what we’re doing here in Oklahoma,” said Lt. Mark Southall with the Oklahoma Highway Patrol.

Southall is talking about the new Trip report that can be found [here](#).

Trip examined the rate of crashes and the causes across the state.

It was found that from 2020 to 2025, 4,127 people were killed on Oklahoma roads. That’s a \$17 Billion impact on the state every year.

Rocky Moretti, the Director of Policy & Research for Trip, said speeding, especially in work zones, is a major concern. Drivers often go far above the posted speed limit.

“Unsafe speeds were cited as a factor in 33% in work zone fatal crashes,” said Moretti.

Overall, rural roads are the most dangerous, with less forgiving conditions than interstates.

“83% of our roadways are considered rural,” said Lt. Southall. “We have a lot of gravel roadways here in Oklahoma, and the shoulders have a lot of immovable objects next to them, such as trees.”

The report also showed Oklahomans are still not buckling up. Southall said the state’s low penalty is a problem.

“So, if someone’s violating, see by law, all it is \$20,” said Southall.

When it comes to motorcycles, there’s no penalty for riding without a helmet.

“The most protective thing that a motorcyclist can do is wear a helmet,” said Southall.

Both TRIP and OHP said that while the state works to make roads safer, drivers still play the biggest role. Slowing down, paying attention, and buckling up could save lives.