

Oklahoma ranks among top-10 states for traffic fatality rates, new reports finds

by Robert De La Garza | Wednesday, September 23, 2026



OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. — A new study finds Oklahoma ranks in the top 10 nationwide for traffic fatality rates, with nearly two people killed on the state's roads each day over the last five years.

The report ranked Oklahoma 10th in the nation for traffic fatality rates in 2025. It found 4,130 people were killed in Oklahoma traffic crashes from 2020 through 2025 — an average of nearly two deaths a day.

"It's not about statistics, it's about people," said Rocky Moretti, director of policy and research for TRIP, a nonprofit transportation research group.

TRIP reported Oklahoma's 2025 fatality rate was 1.35 deaths per 100 million vehicle miles traveled, compared with the national rate of 1.10.

The deaths included drivers, passengers, pedestrians and bicyclists.

"Every one of those people is someone who's not coming home tonight," Moretti said. "And horrible tragedy for their families."

Moretti said speeding, impaired driving and distraction remain major safety concerns.

He urged drivers to slow down, wear seat belts, avoid distractions and never drive impaired.

"We have to be cautious and operate vehicles safely," he said. "We can't be impaired, and we shouldn't be distracted. Those are all critical factors."

TRIP also said roadway safety improvements, including clear lane markings, shoulders, rumble strips and turn lanes, can help reduce deadly crashes.

The group estimates fatal and serious crashes caused \$26.4 billion in economic and quality-of-life costs in Oklahoma last year.

"It starts with each of us," Moretti said. "Whether we're driving, walking or biking, we have to be aware of our surroundings and cautious. We're responsible for everyone else's safety."