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STATE OF IOWA  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

PEARL W. McMURRY, Commissioner



1953

ANNUAL  
SUMMARY

of

SAFETY RESPONSIBILITY AND  
DRIVERS LICENSE DIVISION

MILO W. CHALFANT, Director

# COMPARATIVE ACCIDENT, DAMAGE & SECURITY SUMMARY

1953	NUMBER ACCIDENTS	NUMBER DRIVERS AND OWNERS INVOLVED	NUMBER INSURED	NUMBER SECURITY REQUIRED	TOTAL PERSONAL INJURY AND PROPERTY DAMAGE
January	5,903	15,230	10,786	1,274	\$ 2,330,979.00
February	4,489	11,523	7,954	1,055	1,906,000.00
March	4,976	12,792	8,773	1,167	1,958,502.00
April	4,091	10,430	7,303	922	1,932,695.00
May	4,156	10,550	7,016	1,037	1,965,555.00
June	4,272	9,852	6,113	1,110	2,065,870.00
July	4,161	10,430	8,021	682	2,185,390.00
August	4,221	10,464	8,325	665	2,350,315.00
September	4,275	10,735	8,711	639	2,431,380.00
October	4,141	10,323	8,449	633	2,292,415.00
November	4,574	11,248	9,471	629	2,372,908.00
December	5,582	14,092	11,807	750	2,753,000.00
Total	54,841	137,669	102,729	10,563	\$26,545,009.00
1952					
January	6,216	16,172	11,156	1,566	\$ 2,387,600.00
February	4,603	11,810	8,025	1,237	1,826,825.00
March	5,539	14,310	9,644	1,529	2,342,255.00
April	3,900	10,045	6,394	1,268	1,687,157.00
May	4,261	10,959	7,051	1,403	2,128,280.00
June	4,258	10,847	6,706	1,451	2,192,006.00
July	4,261	10,831	6,983	1,403	2,017,841.00
August	4,757	11,941	7,577	1,530	3,021,580.00
September	4,259	10,660	6,931	1,324	2,247,005.00
October	4,319	10,953	7,120	1,393	2,308,232.00
November	4,841	12,203	8,064	1,294	2,417,295.00
December	6,411	16,353	11,363	1,392	2,516,177.00
Total	57,625	147,084	97,014	16,790	\$27,092,253.00

(NOTE: The total number of accidents includes "off-highway" motor vehicle accidents and, therefore is greater than the total accidents coded by the Department under definitions of the National Office of Vital Statistics.)



# PRIMARY CAUSES OF ACCIDENTS

CAUSES	TOTAL ACCIDENTS
1. Improper start from parked position	7993 = 14.6%
2. Failure to yield right-of-way	5768 = 10.5
3. Icy or wet roads	5633 = 10.3
4. Following too closely	5197 = 9.5
5. Improper passing	3678 = 6.7
6. Improper left turn	3593 = 6.6
7. Vehicle not under control	3064 = 5.6
8. Speed	2525 = 4.6
9. Wrong side of road-not in passing	2098 = 3.8
10. Failure to stop at Stop Sign	1807 = 3.3
11. Pedestrian careless	1242 = 2.3
12. Drivers vision obstructed (Foggy, cloudy, sun, lights or other.)	1120 = 2.0
✓ 13. Road defects (Defective shoulders, deep ruts, etc.)	1104 = 2.0
14. Illegal parking	1044 = 1.9
15. Sudden stop	1008 = 1.8
16. Driver careless	901 = 1.6
17. Improper right turn	892 = 1.6
18. Animal or object in right-of-way	888 = 1.6
19. Driver fatigued or ill	845 = 1.5
20. Defective brakes	788 = 1.4
21. Driver intoxicated or drugged	762 = 1.4
22. Hit and run	708 = 1.3
23. Mechanical failure of vehicles	599 = 1.1
24. Driver inexperienced or incompetent	565 = 1.0
25. Defective tires	292 = 0.5
26. Improper U-Turn	238 = 0.4
✓ 27. Inadequate road or railroad warning signs or signals	216 = 0.4
28. Improper lights	122 = 0.2
29. Miscellaneous causes	89 = 0.2
30. Stolen car	40 = 0.1
31. Pedestrian intoxicated	15 —
32. Driver physically or mentally disabled	4 —
33. Other causes	2 —
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>54840 99.8</b>



# NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS, VALUATION OF PROPERTY LOSS AND PERSONAL INJURIES

TOP NUMBERS - ACCIDENTS  
MIDDLE FIGURES - PROPERTY  
LOWER FIGURES - INJURIES

LOWER FIGURES											
Lyon 205 \$56,155 \$28,700	Osceola 166 \$63,355 \$48,700	Dickinson 247 \$79,705 \$36,250	Emmet 291 \$74,830 \$39,750	Kossuth 464 \$156,570 \$111,630	Winnebago 200 \$56,670 \$36,950	Worth 127 \$65,470 \$63,300	Mitchell 227 \$76,580 \$43,350	Howard 175 \$60,410 \$46,300	Winneshiek 356 \$119,685 \$76,650	Allamakee 234 \$70,430 \$53,350	
Sioux 291 \$81,300 \$84,350	O'Brien 284 \$87,550 \$47,600	Clay 435 \$132,400 \$76,425	Palo Alto 253 \$88,945 \$89,550		Hancock 209 \$71,845 \$77,400	Cerro Gordo 1,044 \$37,845 \$158,975	Floyd 394 \$121,980 \$86,300	Chickasaw 224 \$72,010 \$46,855	Fayette 456 \$156,020 \$104,650	Clayton 312 \$103,130 \$87,400	
Plymouth 418 \$155,325 \$128,625	Cherokee 339 \$103,065 \$69,325	Buena Vista 378 \$125,695 \$106,750	Pocahontas 248 \$86,015 \$36,350	Humboldt 221 \$72,600 \$36,550	Wright 297 \$100,320 \$102,110	Franklin 238 \$84,020 \$62,600	Butler 245 \$93,805 \$37,450	Bremer 393 \$153,400 \$119,575			
Woodbury 2,703 \$658,320 \$285,890	Ida 136 \$46,335 \$31,850	Sac 259 \$98,655 \$65,400	Calhoun 261 \$90,590 \$49,300	976 \$279,175 \$158,550	Hamilton 378 \$126,780 \$102,450	Hardin 351 \$111,820 \$75,675	Grundy 205 \$83,090 \$52,300	2,894 \$722,105 \$332,945	380 \$126,975 \$72,875	289 \$101,565 \$42,975	1,401 \$367,788 \$189,250
Monona 217 \$73,775 \$35,700	Crawford 372 \$121,710 \$108,500	Carroll 462 \$143,535 \$85,725	Greene 257 \$141,925 \$59,550	Boone 512 \$171,705 \$87,500	Story 763 \$247,440 \$145,350	Marshall 893 \$278,730 \$128,325	Tama 486 \$240,260 \$125,050	Benton 431 \$167,935 \$125,150	Linn 3,060 \$840,759 \$375,785	Jones 368 \$117,740 \$48,175	Jackson 354 \$124,540 \$116,475
Harrison 376 \$183,990 \$113,925	Shelby 210 \$68,715 \$38,200	Audubon 242 \$90,760 \$65,250	Guthrie 262 \$97,235 \$65,400	Dallas 482 \$172,185 \$113,050	Polk 6,788 \$1,727,325 \$609,255	Jasper 856 \$239,795 \$133,750	Poweshiek 355 \$130,580 \$59,400	Iowa 334 \$165,290 \$99,550	Johnson 1,023 \$321,815 \$131,650	Cedar 307 \$149,010 \$93,400	Clinton 915 \$288,340 \$132,450
Pottawattamie 1,810 \$608,130 \$388,810	Cass 410 \$454,213 \$100,750	Adair 186 \$65,295 \$10,700	Madison 265 \$119,105 \$61,650	Warren 383 \$169,055 \$100,800	Marion 401 \$136,160 \$103,550	Mahaska 563 \$174,085 \$88,250	Keokuk 260 \$99,170 \$83,050	Washington 371 \$148,650 \$121,725	Muscatine 751 \$192,600 \$146,225	Scott 2,438 \$686,681 \$302,250	
Mills 244 \$115,050 \$75,800	Montgomery 250 \$85,110 \$46,250	Adams 142 \$46,560 \$14,900	Union 282 \$84,755 \$67,650	Clarke 165 \$71,665 \$37,900	Lucas 231 \$73,745 \$48,275	Monroe 179 \$64,625 \$41,050	Wapello 1,060 \$262,835 \$120,750	Jefferson 290 \$99,435 \$77,750	Henry 358 \$132,416 \$74,050	Louisa 163 \$61,585 \$49,010	
Fremont 188 \$69,195 \$41,500	Page 367 \$109,975 \$68,550	Taylor 153 \$43,960 \$26,800	Ringgold 117 \$34,420 \$15,150	Decatur 204 \$80,185 \$81,700	Wayne 162 \$53,815 \$19,100	Appanoose 318 \$95,420 \$71,265	Davis 141 \$68,400 \$46,450	Van Buren 146 \$53,275 \$39,165	Lee 895 \$302,932 \$163,550	Des Moines 1,019 \$267,775 \$125,150	

## TOTALS

Property Loss - 16,985,699  
Personal Injury - 9,559,310



# SUSPENSIONS AND REVOCATIONS OF DRIVERS LICENSE

1. Operating a Motor Vehicle While Intoxicated. (1st Offense)	2425
2. Violation of a Restricted License.	579
3. Reckless Driving.	566
4. Incompetent to drive a Motor Vehicle.	293
5. Violation of a School Permit.	208
6. Operating a Motor Vehicle While Intoxicated. (2nd Offense)	205
7. Habitual Violator.	191
8. Insanity.	141
9. Prohibited Passing.	117
10. Habitual reckless or negligent driver of a Motor Vehicle.	117
11. Speeding.	112
12. Inebriacy.	80
13. Permitting unlawful or fraudulent use of License.	80
14. Violation of an Instruction Permit.	52
15. Leaving the Scene of an Accident.	34
16. Operating a Motor Vehicle While Intoxicated. (3rd Offense)	33
17. No Red Lights on rear of a Motor Vehicle.	31
18. Running Stop Sign.	25
19. Failure to have Motor Vehicle under control.	24
20. Running into a car on the left side of street.	19
21. A Felony in the Commission of which a Motor Vehicle is used.	17
22. Failure to have Motor Vehicle under control so as to be able to stop within assured clear distance ahead.	11
23. Negligent driver--Attempting to wreck his own automobile.	8
24. Leaving Scene of an Accident--No aid given.	5
25. Failure to yield right of way.	4
26. Charge of Operating a Motor Vehicle While Intoxicated.	2
27. Violation of Yellow Sign--No passing Line.	2
28. Hit and Run.	0
29. Other	623
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6004</b>

SEX	
MALE	5845
FEMALE	178

AGE OF OMVI VIOLATORS	
1. 15 to 19 years.	41
2. 20 to 24 years.	190
3. 25 to 34 years.	620
4. 35 to 44 years.	641
5. 45 to 54 years.	482
6. 55 to 64 years.	247
7. 65 to 74 years.	57
8. 75 and over.	5
9. Age Not Given.	377

## DRIVER IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

It is felt that the Driver Improvement Program played a definite part in the decrease of Iowa traffic accidents in 1953.

The Division maintains an accumulative permanent record of over 2,000,000 drivers, showing all restrictions, violations, traffic convictions, accidents, suspensions or revocations against their driving records. Under the driver improvement program the records of potential bad drivers are reviewed. The driver may be issued a warning letter, re-examined, interviewed or suspended. The record of a driver showing two or more traffic convictions and/or involvement in two or more chargeable accidents during the past year is reviewed.

### COMPARATIVE SUMMARY

	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>
1. Records Reviewed.	20,685	31,263
2. Records Actioned.	13,043	17,675
3. Warning Letters.	6,193	11,214
4. Re-Examinations.	166	327
5. Sergeants Interviews.	231	520
6. Suspensions.	537	830

