

STATE OF IOWA
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★ 1945 EDITION

IOWA HIGHWAY ACCIDENT FACTS



Compiled by

Motor Vehicle Accident Statistics Division
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Under Direction of

ROBERT D. BLUE
GOVERNOR

Published by
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UNDER DIRECTION OF

ROBERT D. BLUE
GOVERNOR

R. B. LAIRD, Deputy
ACTING COMMISSIONER

Acknowledgement is made of the splendid cooperation of Iowa Sheriffs, County Attorneys, Chiefs of Police, Iowa Highway Safety Patrolmen, and other peace officers in compiling these statistics.

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FOREWORD

by

R. B. LAIRD

ACTING COMMISSIONER, IOWA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

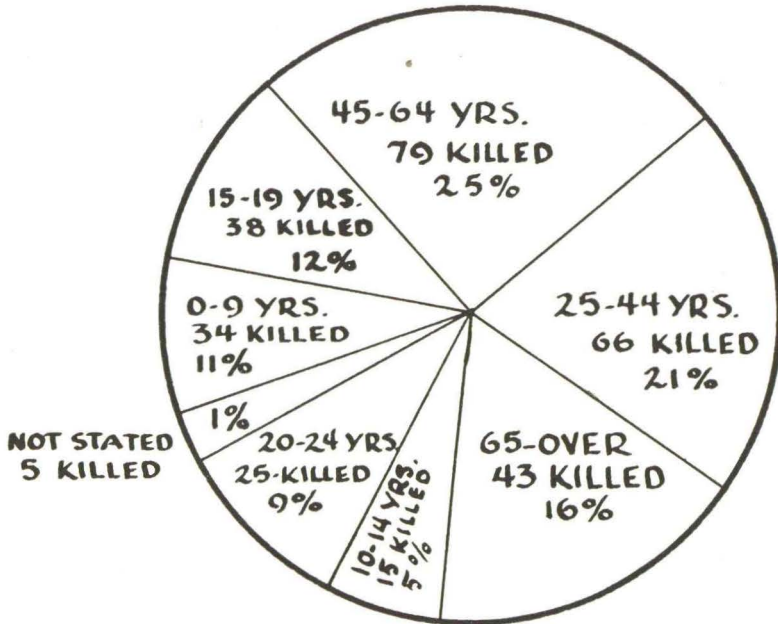
The ever-present campaign toward the preservation of lives carries on in Iowa among all law enforcement officers, safety educators, traffic engineers and safety leaders throughout the State, as well as the entire Nation.

It is through the publication of the 1945 Edition of IOWA HIGHWAY ACCIDENT FACTS that we hope to define more clearly our present traffic problems and the trend motor vehicle accidents have taken during the year 1944, which resulted in 310 deaths and 4,518 injuries.

The State of Iowa can be proud of its record in comparison with other states in the Nation, but our campaign must not stop there. We must continue to take every possible step in educating our people in highway safety—caution in driving, correction of faulty equipment on motor vehicles, carelessness. Traffic accidents result in loss of human life, loss of physical abilities, loss of vehicles, and loss of money. There is no profit.

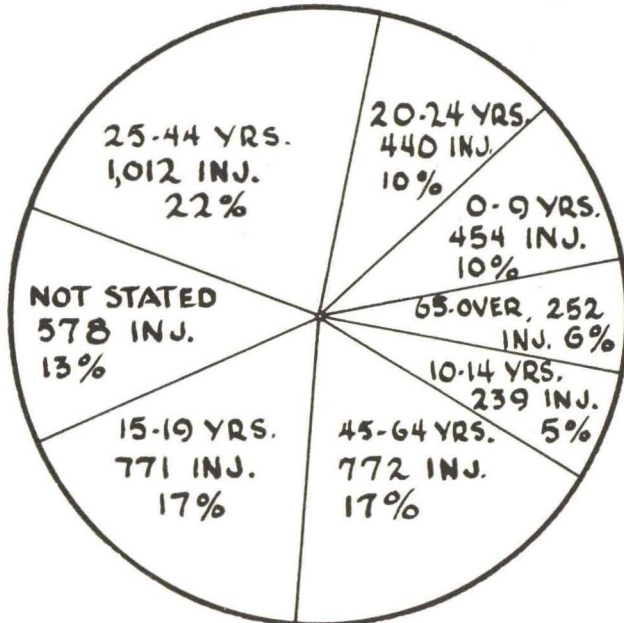
Please join the FIGHT FOR LIVES, which need not be lost on our streets and highways today!

PERSONS KILLED



310 killed on Iowa's highways during 1944.

PERSONS INJURED



4,518 injured in traffic accidents on Iowa's highways in 1944.

PERSONS KILLED — TYPE OF ACCIDENTS — 1944

TYPE OF ACCIDENT	1942	Per Cent	1943	Per Cent	1944	Per Cent	Total
Pedestrian	102	26	90	30	88	29	278
Other Motor Vehicles	132	33	74	24	75	25	283
Railroad Train	49	12	45	15	47	15	141
Street Car	2	1	.....	.....	4	1	7
Animal Drawn Vehicle	3	1	.....	.....	1	.....	5
Bicycle	11	3	4	1	5	1	20
Animal	1	.....	.....	.....	5	1	6
Fixed Object	39	10	27	9	9	3	75
Overtaken in Roadway	2	1	11	4	7	3	20
Ran Off Roadway	49	12	43	14	59	19	151
Other Non-Collision	6	1	10	3	10	3	26
Miscellaneous .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total	396	100%	304	100%	310	100%	1,012

VIOLATIONS — ALL ACCIDENTS — 1944

Summons and Warning Tickets Written by Nature of Violation

VIOLATIONS	Fatal	Per Cent	Non-Fatal	Per Cent	Property Damage	Per Cent	Total All Violations
Speed Violations	49	25	233	11	358	5	640
Did Not Have Right of Way	20	10	672	30	2,113	30	2,805
Following Too Closely	2	1	100	4	505	7	607
Passing Violations	4	2	75	3	331	5	410
Wrong Side of Road	26	14	285	13	623	8	934
Failure to Signal	0	0	50	2	283	4	333
Turning Violations	2	1	81	4	370	5	453
Disregarding Signals	32	17	156	7	409	5	597
Parking Violations	0	0	45	2	534	8	579
Lighting Violations	1	1	25	1	53	2	79
Reckless Driving	53	28	457	22	1,301	19	1,811
Other Violations	2	1	28	1	99	2	129
Total Violations	191	100%	2,207	100%	6,979	100%	9,377

49 of the 191 violations causing traffic fatalities resulted from speed violations. 32 were from disregarding signals, and 53 were from reckless driving. 26 fatal accidents resulted from driving on the wrong side of the road.

TYPE OF COLLISIONS

TYPES OF MOTOR VEHICLES INVOLVED IN FATAL AND NON-FATAL ACCIDENTS—1944

TYPE OF VEHICLE	Vehicles in Fatal Accidents	Per Cent	Vehicles in Non-Fatal Accidents	Per Cent	Vehicles in Property Damage Accidents	Per Cent
Passenger Car.....	234	67	3,579	78	11,121	78
Com'l Vehicles (Trucks, Tractors, Etc.).....	92	26	778	17	2,360	17
Trolley Bus.....	1		6		29	0
Taxicab.....	1		47	1	160	2
Bus.....	5	2	60	1	145	1
School Bus.....	0	0	8	1	8	0
Motorcycle.....	5	2	53	1	9	0
Others.....	9	3	57	1	357	2
Total Vehicles.....	347	100%	4,588	100%	14,189	100%

Trucks represented a total of 105,884 of Iowa's total of 803,488 vehicles registered for the year 1944, or 13 per cent of all vehicles on our roadways.

TOTAL ACCIDENTS—PERSONS KILLED—PERSONS INJURED BY TYPES OF COLLISION—1944

TYPE OF ACCIDENT	Total All Accidents	Per Cent	Total Killed	Per Cent	Total Injured	Per Cent
Pedestrian.....	792	7	88	29	734	16
Other Motor Vehicle.....	8,028	74	75	25	2,597	57
Railroad Train.....	187	2	47	15	130	3
Street Car.....	154	2	4	1	40	1
Animal Drawn Vehicle.....	23	1	1		18	1
Bicycle.....	110	1	5	1	108	2
Animal.....	156	2	5	1	24	1
Fixed Object.....	399	3	9	3	193	4
Overtaken in Roadway.....	138	1	7	3	119	3
Ran Off Roadway.....	733	6	59	19	531	11
Other Non-Collision.....	47	1	10	3	24	1
Miscellaneous.....						
Totals.....	10,767	100%	310	100%	4,518	100%

10,767 total highway accidents in Iowa, 1944. 74 per cent total number of accidents occurred in collisions with other motor vehicles.

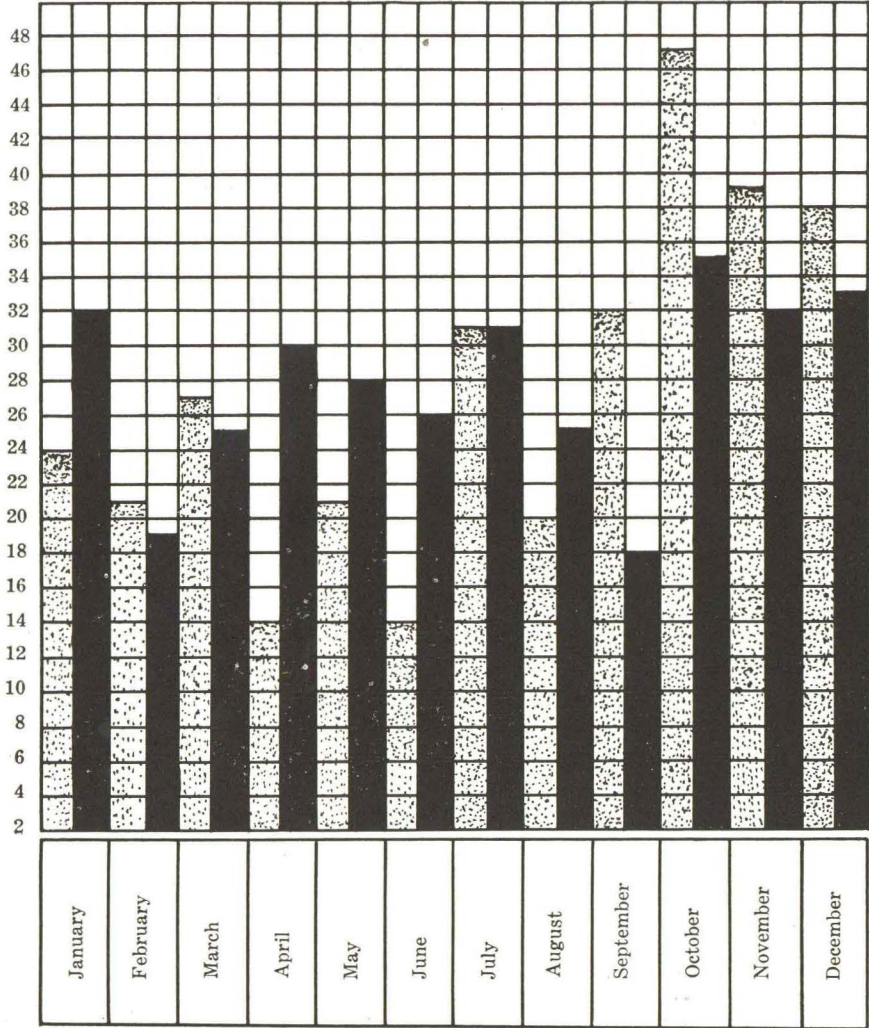
ALL DEATHS BY MONTHS

1943—304

1944—310

Shaded Bar—1943

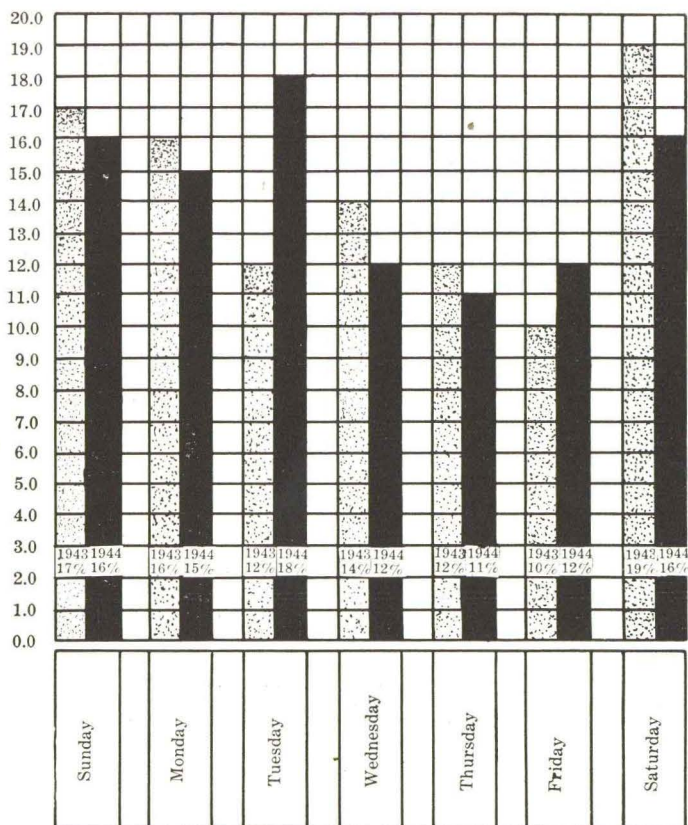
Solid Bar—1944



LIGHT CONDITIONS — 1944

LIGHT CONDITIONS	Total	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Property Damage
Daylight	6,330	123	1,581	4,626
Dusk	504	16	150	338
Dawn	124	7	35	82
Darkness—Street or Highway Lighted	2,051	40	604	1,407
Darkness—Street or Highway Not Lighted	942	59	367	516
Darkness—Lighting Not Stated	780	28	225	527
Unknown	36	.....	1	35
Total Accidents	10,767	273	2,963	7,531

FATAL ACCIDENTS BY DAY OF WEEK



Shaded Bar—1943

Solid Bar—1944

During 1944, Thursday was the safest day to be driving, Tuesday was the most dangerous.

ACCIDENTS AND DEATHS ACCORDING TO POPULATION IN RURAL AND URBAN AREAS — 1944

	No. of Accidents	No. of Deaths †
Below 1,000 Population.....	319	22
1,000-2,500 Population.....	336	8
2,500-5,000 Population.....	572	12
5,000-10,000 Population.....	610	10
10,000-100,000 Population.....	6,005	63
Total Urban Accidents.....	7,842	115

RURAL ACCIDENTS AND DEATHS ACCORDING TO FEDERAL AND STATE HIGHWAYS AND LOCAL STREETS AND ROADS

	No. of Accidents	No. of Deaths
State Highways.....	697	48
County and Local Roads (Rural).....	941	50
Federal Highways.....	1,014	60
Total Rural Accidents.....	2,652	158

PEDESTRIAN TIPS

1. CROSS AT CROSSWALKS.
2. WAIT ON THE SIDEWALK. DON'T STEP OFF THE CURB.
3. CROSS ON SIGNAL.
4. BE SURE THE WAY IS CLEAR.
5. BE DOUBLY ALERT DURING THE FIRST FEW STEPS.
6. CROSS WITHIN THE CROSSWALK.
7. WALK TO THE RIGHT ON CROSSWALK.
8. WALK, DON'T RUN.
9. ON RURAL ROADS WHERE THERE IS NO SIDEWALK, WALK FACING TRAFFIC.
10. AFTER DARK WEAR SOMETHING WHITE.

PEDESTRIAN ACTIONS

TYPE OF ACTION	Killed 1943	Per Cent	Killed 1944	Per Cent
1a. Crossing at intersection—with signal.....			1	1
b. Same—against signal.....	4	5	3	3
c. Same—no signal.....	10	11	14	16
d. Same—diagonally.....	2	2	3	3
2. Crossing not at intersection.....	25	28	28	33
3. Coming from behind parked cars.....	12	14	7	8
4a. Walking in roadway—with traffic—sidewalks available.....			3	3
b. Same—sidewalks not available.....	16	18	10	12
c. Walking in roadway—against traffic—sidewalks available.....				
d. Same—sidewalks not available.....	2	2	5	6
5. Standing in safety zone.....				
6. Getting on or off street car.....				
7. Getting on or off other vehicle.....			1	1
8. Pushing or working on vehicle in roadway.....	3	3	2	2
9. Other working in roadway.....	3	3	2	2
10. Playing in roadway.....	8	9	6	7
11. Hitching on vehicle.....				
12. Lying in roadway.....	2	2	1	1
13. Not in roadway.....	2	2	2	2
14. Not stated.....	1	1		
TOTAL PEDESTRIANS.....	90	100%	88	100%
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION				
15. On sled.....	4		1	
16. On coaster wagon, tricycle, etc.....			1	
17. On roller skates.....				
18. Pushing, pulling cart, buggy, wagon, etc.....				
19. Vending in roadway—no cart.....				
20. Hitch-hiking in roadway.....	1			

PEDESTRIAN FATALITIES

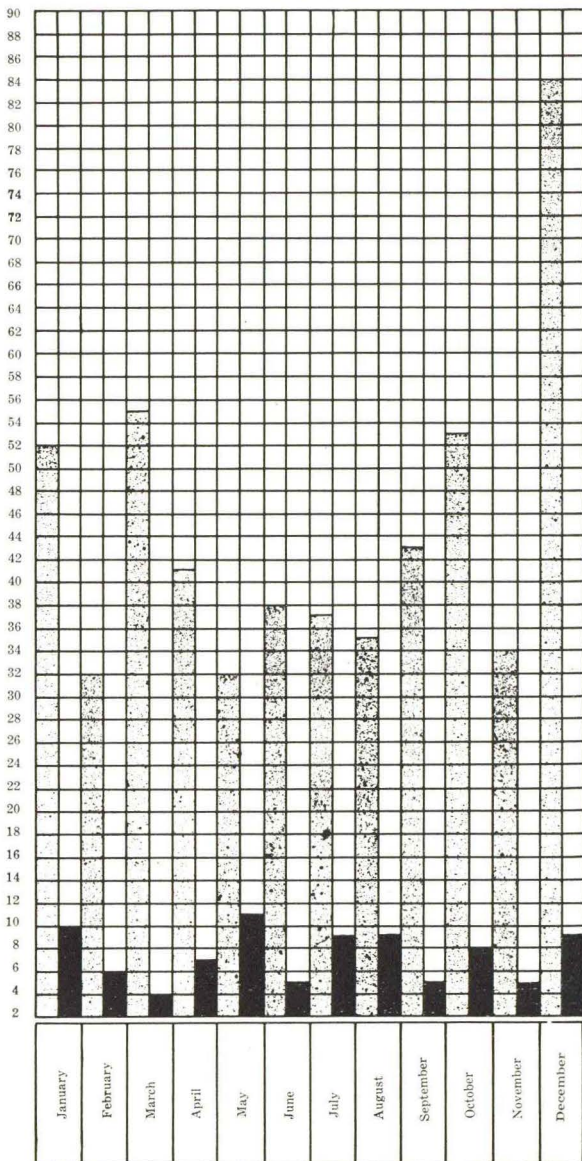
YEAR	Total	Male	Female	0-4	5-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 and Over	Not Stated
1939.....	117	80	37	12	14	6	10	31	44	.....
1940.....	123	105	18	9	13	7	14	35	42	3
1941.....	125	108	17	4	15	12	17	24	49	4
1942.....	102	79	23	12	27	5	6	22	26	4
1943.....	90	69	21	10	23	8	7	20	22	.....
Total.....	557	441	116	47	92	38	54	132	183	11

Year	Total	Male	Female	0-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-44	45-64	65 and Over	Not Stated
1944	88	65	23	21	6	4	1	7	22	27	.....
Total	88	65	23	21	6	4	1	7	22	27	.....

PEDESTRIAN DEATHS BY MONTHS

Shaded Bar—Pedestrian Deaths Over a 5-year Period.

Solid Bar — Pedestrian Deaths for 1944.



OUR HIGHWAY

YEAR	IOWA PERSONS INJURED	IOWA TRAFFIC FATALITIES	NATIONAL TRAFFIC FATALITIES	IOWA FATALITY RATIO	NATIONAL FATALITY RATIO
1925	-----	261	21,877	-----	19.0
1926	-----	264	23,430	-----	18.0
1927	-----	284	25,796	-----	17.7
1928	-----	383	27,996	-----	17.4
1929	-----	455	31,215	11.2	17.3
1930	-----	619	32,929	14.1	17.4
1931	-----	582	33,675	12.3	17.0
1932	8,646	530	29,451	13.6	16.0
1933	13,623	546	31,363	13.4	17.1
1934	11,423	544	36,101	11.1	18.4
1935	10,196	575	36,369	11.5	17.4
1936	10,194	526	38,079	9.9	16.4
1937	10,108	571	39,643	10.2	15.9
1938	9,794	486	32,582	8.3	12.8
1939	11,004	530	32,386	8.6	12.2
1940	12,103	537	34,400	8.3	12.0
1941	11,373	601	40,000	8.7	12.6
1942	6,388	396	27,800	6.8	12.6
1943	4,735	304	23,300	4.8	11.0
1944	4,518	310	23,800	4.1	11.0

*Gasoline tax of 2 cents per gallon 1925, 1926 and part of 1927; 3 cents per gallon from 1927 to July 4, 1945, after that date the gasoline tax will be 4 cents per gallon.

ACCIDENT RECORD

IOWA M. V. REGISTRATION	NATIONAL M. V. REGISTRATION	IOWA GASOLINE TAX	IOWA HOMICIDES
661,630	19,937,274	\$3,215,404.88*	58
705,874	22,001,393	5,033,892.97*	57
711,951	23,133,243	7,362,138.21*	59
741,673	24,493,124	9,138,707.68	56
790,165	26,501,443	9,987,186.06	64
788,675	26,545,281	11,724,784.38	78
760,284	25,832,884	12,365,168.45	63
691,637	24,115,129	10,795,088.42	72
636,379	23,874,232	10,609,231.87	74
676,254	24,951,662	11,898,587.22	59
709,691	26,227,276	12,687,170.74	52
740,550	28,165,550	13,695,875.35	44
760,634	29,705,220	14,979,889.85	58
773,503	29,485,680	15,504,247.01	32
805,525	30,615,087	16,434,407.31	44
900,803	32,025,365	17,190,809.32	32
938,571	34,383,167	18,200,191.10	50
875,200	32,300,000	16,868,576.66	29
821,943	30,499,608	14,326,071.19	22
803,488	30,086,189	15,208,025.75	34

Prepared by: Motor Vehicle Accident Statistics Division,
Department of Public Safety.

PEDESTRIAN DEATHS BY MONTH AND YEAR 1937-1938-1939-1940-1941-1942-1943-1944

MONTH	1937	Per Cent	1938	Per Cent	1939	Per Cent	1940	Per Cent	1941	Per Cent	1942	Per Cent	1943	Per Cent	1944	Per Cent
January . . .	10	6	7	7	10	9	10	8	10	8	11	9	11	12	10	11
February . .	12	7	7	7	10	9	9	7	6	5	7	7	4	4	6	7
March	9	5	9	9	9	7	18	15	12	9	9	11	7	8	4	5
April	22	14	6	6	10	9	13	11	7	6	9	7	3	3	7	8
May	16	10	8	7	9	7	4	3	3	3	7	6	10	11	11	12
June	10	6	3	3	5	4	9	7	8	6	10	9	6	7	5	6
July	7	4	10	9	4	3	2	2	4	3	13	15	9	10	9	10
August	18	11	10	9	11	9	10	8	7	6	4	2	5	6	9	10
September . .	11	7	7	7	10	9	12	10	12	9	6	8	8	9	5	6
October	12	7	9	9	10	9	12	10	12	9	10	9	11	12	8	9
November . . .	14	8	16	15	15	13	6	5	12	9	5	5	6	7	5	6
December . . .	25	15	13	12	14	12	18	14	32	27	11	12	10	11	9	10
Total Pedest'ns	166	100%	105	100%	117	100%	123	100%	125	100%	102	100%	90	100%	88	100%

—14—

PEDESTRIAN FATAL and NON-FATAL ACCIDENTS—Directional Analysis

DIRECTION	Total Fatal	Car Entering	Car Within	Car Leaving	Non-Intersection	Not Stated
		Intersection				
Car Going Straight	73	5	4	5	59	.....
Car Turning Right	1	.....	.....	1	.....	.....
Car Turning Left	3	1	.....	2	.....	.....
Car Backing	3	1	.....	.....	2	.....
All Others	5	.....	.....	.....	4	1
Total Pedestrian Accidents	85	7	4	8	65	1

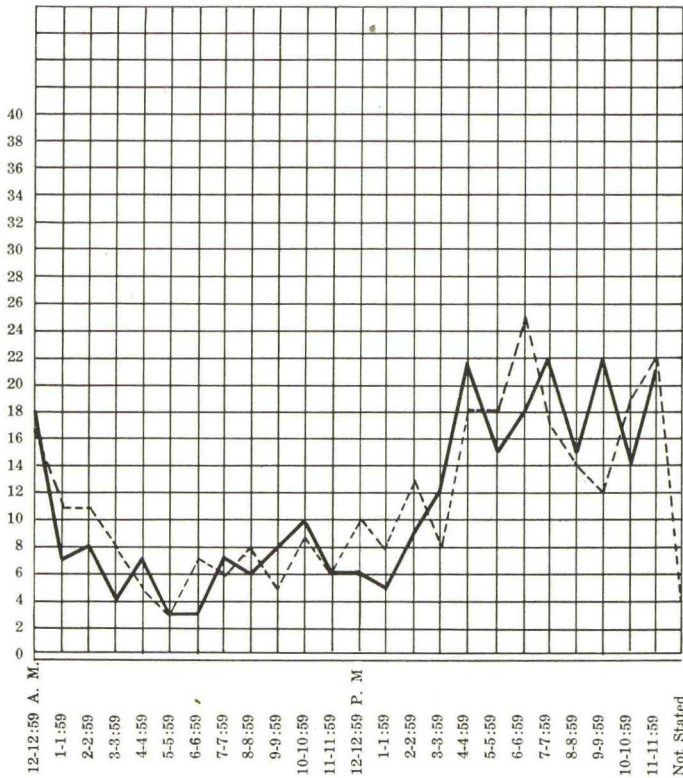
NON-FATAL PEDESTRIAN ACCIDENTS

DIRECTION	Total Non-Fatal Injury	Car Entering	Car Within	Car Leaving	Non-Intersection	Not Stated
		Intersection				
Car Going Straight	553	115	27	86	325	.....
Car Turning Right	41	6	2	32	1	.....
Car Turning Left	68	7	3	56	2	.....
Car Backing	20	6	1	1	12	.....
All Others	25	1	.....	.....	13	11
Total Pedestrian Accidents	707	135	33	175	353	11

GRAPH SHOWING HOURS OF OCCURRENCE OF FATAL TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS — 1943-1944

1943—Broken Line

1944—Solid Line



In 1944 the most fatal accidents occurred between the hours of 4:00 p. m. and 5:00 p. m., 7:00 p. m. and 8:00 p. m., and from 9:00 p. m. to 10:00 p. m.

CONDITION OF MOTOR VEHICLES INVOLVED IN FATAL AND NON-FATAL ACCIDENTS — 1944

TYPE OF DEFECT	Total	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Property Damage
Defective Brakes	318	9	98	211
Headlights Out	93	1	35	57
Headlights Insufficient	27	1	12	15
Headlights Glaring	13	1	5	8
Rear Lights Insufficient	9	1	1	8
Rear Lights Out	34	1	7	26
Other Lights Deficient	3	1	2	1
Steering Mechanism Defective	78	3	29	46
Puncture or Blow Out	94	7	36	51
Worn or Smooth Tires	30	1	7	22
Other Defects in Equipment	99	6	26	67
Apparently No Defects	18,326	319	4,330	13,677
Total Vehicles	19,124	347	4,588	14,189

AGE GROUPS OF PERSONS KILLED IN IOWA — 1944

Years	Number	Years	Number	Years	Number
0-9	34	20-24	25	65 and Over	50
10-14	15	25-44	66	Not Stated	3
15-19	38	45-64	79	Total	310

SEX OF DRIVERS INVOLVED IN FATAL ACCIDENTS IN IOWA — 1944

SEX	Drivers in Fatal Accidents	Per Cent	Drivers in Non-Fatal Accidents	Per Cent	Total
Male	311	93	3,921	88	4,232
Female	27	6	452	10	479
Not Stated	7	1	71	2	78
Total	345	100%	4,444	100%	4,789

OCCUPATION OF DRIVERS INVOLVED IN FATAL ACCIDENTS — 1944

Farmer and Farm Labor	67	Salesmen	11
Laborer (Except Farm)	69	Other Commercial Drivers	74
Clerical	9	Retired	4
Professional and Business	28	Military Service	12
Student	14	Ordnance Workers	3
Housewife—Domestic Servants	11	Not Stated (Includes Unemployed)	43

AGE GROUP OF DRIVERS INVOLVED IN NON-FATAL AND PROPERTY DAMAGE ACCIDENTS

AGE OF DRIVER	1942	Per Cent	1943	Per Cent	1944	Per Cent
13-15 Years	107	. . . . .	123	1	243	1
16 "	389	2	387	2	512	3
17 "	587	3	616	4	808	4
18 "	987	4	560	4	526	3
19 "	989	4	471	3	422	2
20 "	722	3	387	2	454	2
21-24 "	2,789	12	1,277	8	1,492	8
25-44 "	9,192	40	6,022	38	6,521	37
45-64 "	4,843	21	3,469	22	4,186	24
65 and Over	837	4	716	5	802	6
Not Stated	1,643	7	1,674	11	1,798	10
Total Drivers	23,085	100%	15,702	100%	17,764	100%

Note: In 1944 there was an increase of 120 drivers in the age group, 13-15 years, over 1943. The 18 and 19 year age were the only age group that did not show an increase over 1943.

EXPERIENCE OF DRIVERS INVOLVED IN ALL ACCIDENTS — 1944

EXPERIENCE	Drivers in Fatal Accidents	Per Cent	Drivers in Non-Fatal Accidents	Per Cent
Less Than 3 Months	2	1	31	1
3 to 6 Months	2	1	32	1
6 to 12 Months	1	0	22	1
1 to 5 Years	41	11	745	16
6 Years or Over	131	38	2,312	52
Not Stated	168	49	1,302	29
Total Drivers	345	100%	4,444	100%

TYPE OF ROAD SURFACE — 1944

ROAD SURFACE	Fatal Accidents	Per Cent	Non- Fatal Accidents	Per Cent	Property Damage Accidents	Per Cent
Concrete	132	48	1,396	47	3,590	48
Brick	15	5	429	15	1,352	18
Asphalt	15	5	244	8	872	11
Gravel	57	21	455	15	731	10
Sand or Dirt	25	9	241	8	467	6
Other	1	2	16	1	30	1
Not Stated	28	10	182	6	489	6
Total	273	100%	2,963	100%	7,531	100%

Forty-eight per cent of the fatal accidents, 47 per cent of the non-fatal accidents, and 48 per cent of the property damage accidents occurred on concrete pavements.

CONDITION OF ROAD SURFACE IN ALL ACCIDENTS — 1944

CONDITION	Fatal Accidents	Per Cent	Non- Fatal Accidents	Per Cent	Property Damage Accidents	Per Cent
Dry	175	64	1,806	61	3,977	53
Wet	26	9	435	15	1,034	14
Muddy	4	2	25	1	50	1
Snowy	9	4	152	4	546	7
Icy	22	8	316	11	1,356	18
Not Stated	37	13	229	8	568	7
Total	273	100%	2,963	100%	7,531	100%

WEATHER CONDITION — ALL ACCIDENTS — 1944

CONDITIONS PREVAILING	Fatal	Per Cent	Non- Fatal	Per Cent	Property Damage	Per Cent
Clear	150	55	1,768	60	4,267	57
Cloudy	50	18	578	19	1,536	20
Raining	14	5	245	8	597	8
Snowing	11	4	125	4	486	6
Fog	12	5	66	3	115	2
Other (Mist, Sleet, Dust, Smoke)	9	3	61	2	215	3
Not Stated	27	10	120	4	315	4
Total Accidents	273	100%	2,963	100%	7,531	100%

MOTOR VEHICLE FATALITIES — BY TYPES OF ACCIDENT 1939-1944

TYPE	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
Motor Vehicle With						
Pedestrian.....	117	123	125	102	90	88
Other Motor Vehicle.....	191	215	225	132	74	75
Railroad Train.....	44	42	52	49	45	47
Street Car.....	3	2	1	2		4
Animal Drawn Vehicle.....	2	1	2	3		1
Bicycle.....	7	13	10	11	4	5
Animal.....	1	3		1		5
Fixed Object.....	57	44	58	39	27	9
Overtuned in Roadway.....		3		2	11	7
Ran Off Roadway.....		86	117	49	43	59
Other Non-Collision.....	108	5	8	6	10	10
Miscellaneous.....						
Total.....	530	537	598	396	304	310

PERSONS INJURED — TYPES OF ACCIDENT 1942-1943-1944

TYPE	Injuries 1942	Per Cent	Injuries 1943	Per Cent	Injuries 1944	Per Cent
Pedestrian.....	987	15	717	15	734	16
Other Motor Vehicle.....	3,569	56	2,648	56	2,597	57
Railroad Train.....	158	3	128	3	130	3
Street Car.....	38	1	59	1	40	1
Animal Drawn Vehicle.....	27		11		18	
Bicycle.....	215	3	171	3	108	2
Animal.....	35	1	29	1	24	1
Fixed Object.....	465	7	319	7	193	4
Overtuned in Roadway.....	34	1	151	4	119	3
Ran Off Roadway.....	830	13	484	10	531	12
Other Non-Collision.....	30		18		24	1
Miscellaneous.....						
Total.....	6,388	100%	4,735	100%	4,518	100%

LOCATION OF ACCIDENTS BY POPULATION GROUPS

1944

URBAN—WITHIN INCORPORATED CITY OR TOWN	Fatal	Per Cent	Non-Fatal	Per Cent	Property Damage	Per Cent
Below 1,000 Population	22	16	100	5	219	4
1,000 to 2,500 Population	8	8	90	4	246	4
2,500 to 5,000 Population	12	11	97	5	475	8
5,000 to 10,000 Population	10	10	135	7	475	8
10,000 or Over	63	55	1,565	79	4,440	76
Total Urban Accidents	115	100%	1,987	100%	5,855	100%

RURAL ACCIDENTS

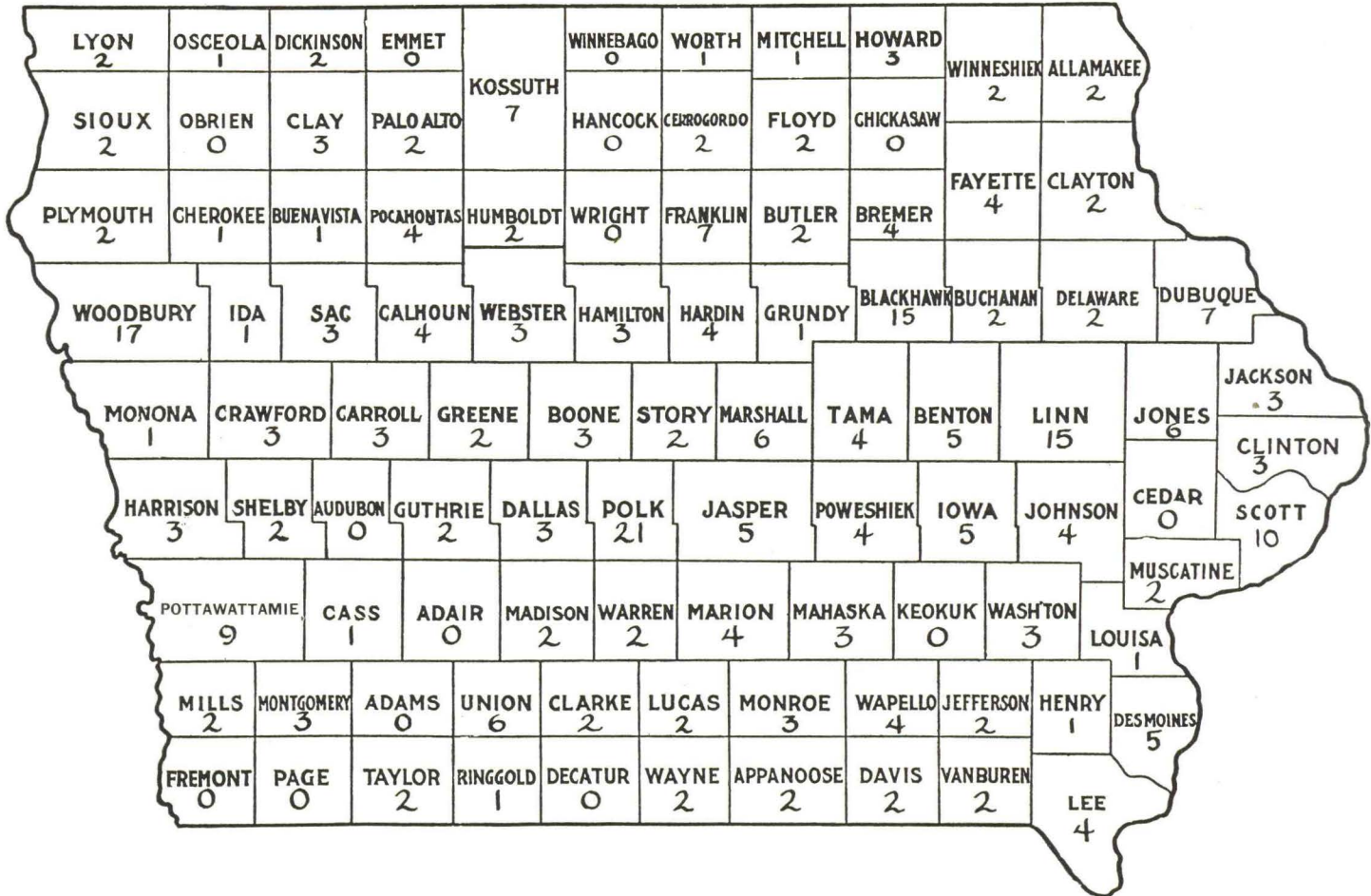
1944

RURAL—NOT WITHIN INCORPORATED CITY OR TOWN	Fatal	Per Cent	Non-Fatal	Per Cent	Property Damage	Per Cent
State Highway	48	30	236	24	461	27
County and Local Roads (Rural)	50	31	391	40	550	33
Federal Highways	60	39	349	36	665	40
Total Rural Accidents	158	100%	976	100%	1,676	100%

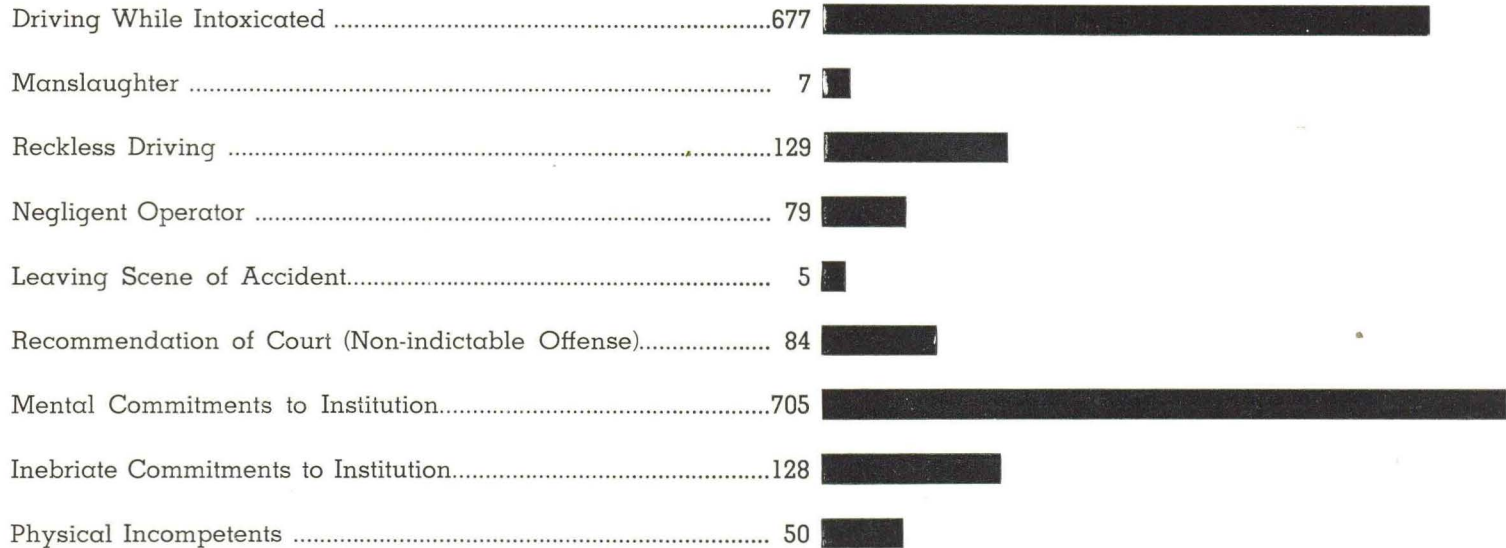
KIND OF LOCALITY

LOCALITY	Fatal	Per Cent	Non-Fatal	Per Cent	Property Damage	Per Cent
Manufacturing Industrial	18	7	137	5	342	4
Shopping Business District	19	7	588	20	2,018	27
Residential District	60	21	1,012	34	2,964	39
School District	1	.....	47	1	111	2
Open Country	157	57	1,013	34	1,677	22
Other	2	1	25	1	43	1
Not Stated	16	7	141	5	376	5
Total Accidents	273	100%	2,963	100%	7,531	100%

FATALITIES BY COUNTIES — 1944



DRIVERS' LICENSE FACTS



The above chart shows some of the causes for the loss of driving privileges of 2,084 drivers during 1944.

Every licensed driver in the state has a folder in which is filed his record. All records of arrests, warnings, and accidents are filed in each individual's folder, so that, at a glance, the authorities may ascertain the record each driver has built for himself.

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