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STATE OF IOWA
1946

★ 1946 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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Des Moines

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ROBERT D. BLUE
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FRED L. WILKINS
COMMISSIONER

Acknowledgment 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

FRED L. WILKINS, COMMISSIONER

Iowa Department of Public Safety

The Year, 1945, was a banner year for traffic safety in the State of Iowa. Iowa won the Grand Award in the National Safety Council Traffic Safety Contest. Credit for this achievement goes to all of the enforcement officials of the state, public officials, and the entire driving and walking public.

Although 366 persons were killed in Iowa in 1945 and 6,143 persons were injured, Iowa had the lowest fatality rate in the Nation, per one hundred million motor vehicle miles. In addition to the fatality record, the enforcement, engineering, education and accident reporting programs were judged high to bring the state it's first grand award in traffic safety.

It is the hope of all of Iowa's public officials that Iowa's Centennial Year, 1946, will again prove to be a year in which Iowa will lead the nation in traffic safety.

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IOWA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

State Capitol

DES MOINES

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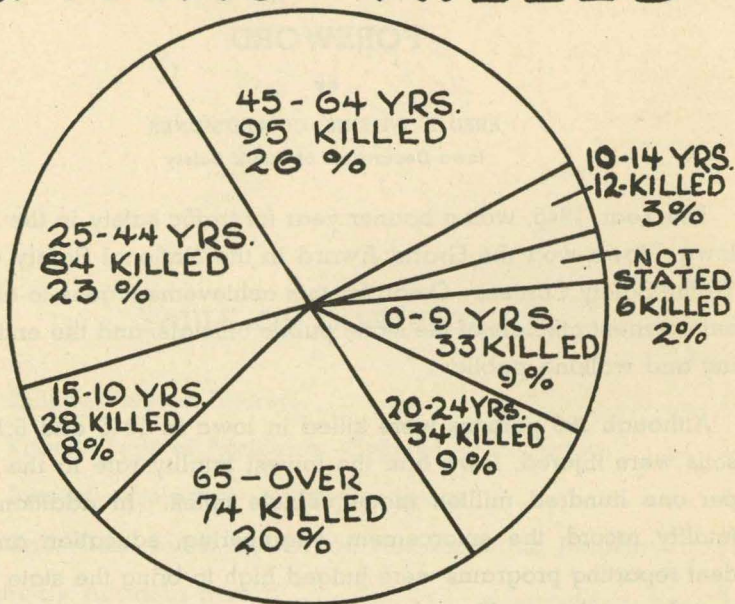
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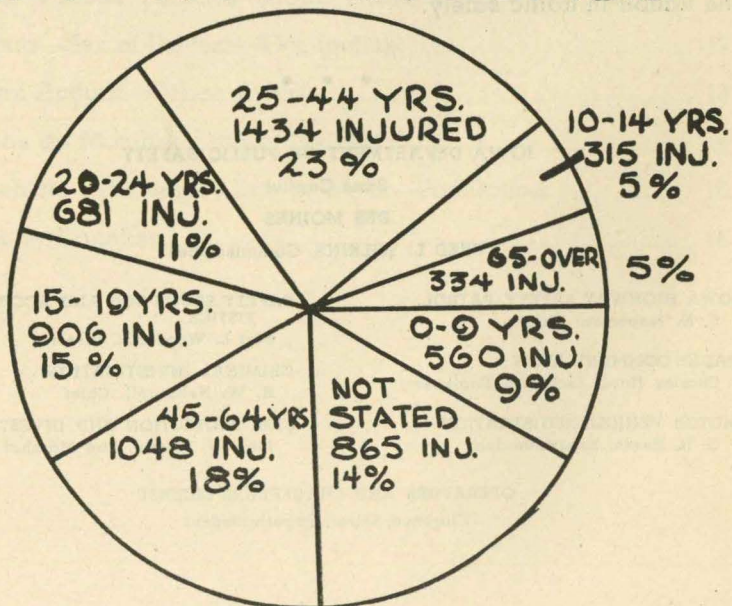
OPERATORS AND CHAUFFEURS LICENSE

Clarence Shirer, Superintendent

PERSONS KILLED



PERSONS INJURED



MOTOR VEHICLE FATALITIES—BY TYPE OF ACCIDENT 1940-1945

TYPE	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Motor Vehicle With						
Pedestrian	123	125	102	90	88	97
Other Motor Vehicle..	215	225	132	74	75	118
Railroad Train	42	52	49	45	47	47
Streetcar	2	1	2	..	4	2
Animal Drawn Vehicle	1	2	3	..	1	..
Bicycle	13	10	11	4	5	4
Animal	3	..	11	..	5	..
Fixed Object	44	58	39	27	9	27
Overturned in Roadway .	3	..	2	11	7	8
Ran Off Roadway	86	117	49	43	59	55
Other Non-Collision	5	8	6	10	10	8
Total	537	598	396	304	310	366

PERSONS KILLED — TYPE OF ACCIDENT 1943-1944-1945

TYPE OF ACCIDENT	1943	Per Cent	1944	Per Cent	1945	Per Cent	Total
Pedestrian	90	30	88	29	97	27	275
Other Motor Vehicles	74	24	75	25	118	32	267
Railroad Train	45	15	47	15	47	13	139
Street Car . . . . .	..	..	4	1	2	1	6
Animal Drawn Vehicle . . . . .	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Bicycle	4	1	5	1	4	1	13
Animal . . . . .	..	..	5	1	..	..	5
Fixed Object	27	9	9	3	27	7	63
Overturned in Roadway	11	4	7	3	8	2	26
Ran Off Roadway	43	14	59	19	55	15	157
Other Non-Collision	10	3	10	3	8	2	28
Miscellaneous . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	304	100%	310	100%	366	100%	980

TYPE OF ROAD SURFACE — 1945

ROAD SURFACE	Fatal Accidents	Per Cent	Non-Fatal Accidents	Per Cent	Property Damage Accidents	Per Cent
Concrete	162	50	1,926	49	4,386	44
Brick	21	6	476	12	1,596	16
Asphalt	18	5	492	13	1,791	18
Gravel	73	22	502	13	855	8
Sand or Dirt	14	4	100	3	165	2
Other	12	4	105	3	220	2
Not Stated	30	9	293	7	1,039	10
Total	330	100%	3,894	100%	10,052	100%

50 per cent of the fatal accidents, 49 per cent of the non-fatal accidents and 44 per cent of the property damage accidents occurred on concrete pavement.

PERSONS INJURED — TYPE OF ACCIDENTS — 1943-1945

TYPE	Injuries 1943	Per Cent	Injuries 1944	Per Cent	Injuries 1945	Per Cent
Pedestrian.....	717	15	734	16	864	14
Other Motor Vehicle.....	2,648	56	2,597	57	3,842	63
Railroad Train.....	128	3	130	3	124	2
Street Car.....	59	1	40	1	56	1
Animal Drawn Vehicle.....	11		18		27	
Bicycle.....	171	3	108	2	120	2
Animal.....	29	1	24	1	26	
Fixed Object.....	319	7	193	4	337	5
Overturned in Roadway.....	151	4	119	3	119	2
Ran Off Roadway.....	484	10	531	12	593	10
Other Non-Collision.....	18		24	1	35	1
Miscellaneous.....						
Total.....	4,735	100%	4,518	100%	6,143	100%

VIOLATIONS — ALL ACCIDENTS — 1945

Summons and Warning Tickets Written by Nature of Violation

VIOLATIONS	Fatal	Per Cent	Non- Fatal	Per Cent	Prop- erty Damage	Per Cent	Total All Vio- lations
Speed Violations.....	29	14	163	6	230	3	422
Did Not Have Right of Way.....	36	18	742	28	2,157	26	2,935
Following Too Closely.....	2	1	133	5	580	7	715
Passing Violations.....	7	4	98	4	318	4	423
Wrong Side of Road.....	37	18	377	14	870	11	1,284
Failure to Signal.....	2	1	108	4	576	7	686
Turning Violations.....	4	2	212	8	728	9	944
Disregarding Signals.....	40	20	222	8	560	7	822
Parking Violations.....	1	1	93	4	830	10	924
Lighting Violations.....	2	1	40	2	79	1	121
Reckless Driving.....	37	18	389	15	1,059	13	1,485
Other Violations.....	4	2	36	2	123	2	163
Total Violations.....	201	100%	2,613	100%	8,110	100%	10,924

37 of the 201 violations causing traffic fatalities resulted from reckless driving, and driving on the wrong side of the road. 40 were from disregarding signals. 36 fatal accidents resulted from drivers not having the right of way.

LIGHT CONDITIONS — 1945

LIGHT CONDITIONS	Total	Fatal	Non- Fatal	Property Damage
Daylight.....	8,080	146	2,038	5,896
Dusk.....	849	27	282	540
Dawn.....	149	7	39	103
Darkness—Street or Highway Lighted.....	2,890	51	754	2,085
Darkness—Street or Highway Not Lighted.....	1,215	62	466	687
Darkness—Lighting Not Stated.....	1,072	37	312	723
Unknown.....	21	...	3	18
Total Accidents.....	14,276	330	3,894	10,052

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

	No. of Accidents	No. of Deaths
State Highways.....	1,027	38
County and Local Roads (Rural).....	1,127	73
Federal Highways.....	1,667	77
Total Rural Accidents.....	3,821	188

TYPE OF COLLISIONS

TYPE OF MOTOR VEHICLES INVOLVED IN FATAL AND NON-FATAL ACCIDENTS—1945

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.....	299	67	4,994	80	15,501	82
Commercial Vehicles—						
Trucks, Tractors, Etc....	121	28	965	15	2,842	15
Trolley Bus.....	1	....	7	....	66	....
Taxicab.....	2	....	98	2	275	1
Bus.....	6	1	68	1	186	1
School Bus.....	....	....	....	....	12	....
Motorcycle.....	12	3	89	1	32	....
Others.....	4	1	32	1	268	1
Total Vehicles.....	445	100%	6,253	100%	19,182	100%

Trucks represented a total of 102,176 of Iowa's total of 800,430 vehicles registered for the year 1945 or 13 per cent of all vehicles on our roadways.

TOTAL ACCIDENTS—PERSONS KILLED—PERSONS INJURED BY TYPES OF COLLISION—1945

TYPE OF ACCIDENT	Total All Accidents	Per Cent	Total Killed	Per Cent	Total Injured	Per Cent
Pedestrian.....	920	7	97	27	864	14
Other Motor Vehicle.....	11,035	77	118	32	3,842	63
Railroad Train.....	203	1	47	13	124	2
Street Car.....	215	2	2	1	56	1
Animal Drawn Vehicle.....	39	....	....	....	27	....
Bicycle.....	126	1	4	1	120	2
Animal.....	131	1	....	....	26	....
Fixed Object.....	644	5	27	7	337	5
Overtaken in Roadway.....	144	1	8	2	119	2
Ran Off Roadway.....	774	5	55	15	593	10
Other Non-Collision.....	45	....	8	2	35	1
Miscellaneous.....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Totals.....	14,276	100%	366	100%	6,143	100%

14,276 total highway accidents in Iowa, 1945. 77 per cent total number of accidents occurred in collisions with other motor vehicles.

OUR HIGHWAY

YEAR	IOWA PERSONS INJURED	IOWA TRAFFIC FATALITIES	NATIONAL TRAFFIC FATALITIES	IOWA FATALITY RATIO	NATIONAL FATALITY RATIO
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
1945	6,143	366	28,500	5.0	11.4

Since July 5, 1945, gasoline tax has been 4 cents per gallon.

DRIVER'S LI

Driving While Intoxicated.....	907	■
Manslaughter	9	■
Reckless Driving	167	■
Negligent Operator	69	■
Leaving Scene of Accident.....	10	■
Recommendation of Court (Non-Indictable Offense)	84	■
Mental Commitments to Institution.....	499	■
Inebriate Commitments to Institution.....	109	■
Physical Incompetents	39	■

The above chart shows some of the causes for the loss of driving privi

Every licensed driver in the state has a folder in which is filed his reco
folder, so that, at a glance, the authorities may ascertain the record each

ACCIDENT RECORD

IOWA M. V. REGISTRATION	NATIONAL M. V. REGISTRATION	IOWA GASOLINE TAX	IOWA HOMICIDES
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
800,430	31,933,683	19,622,624.71	33

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

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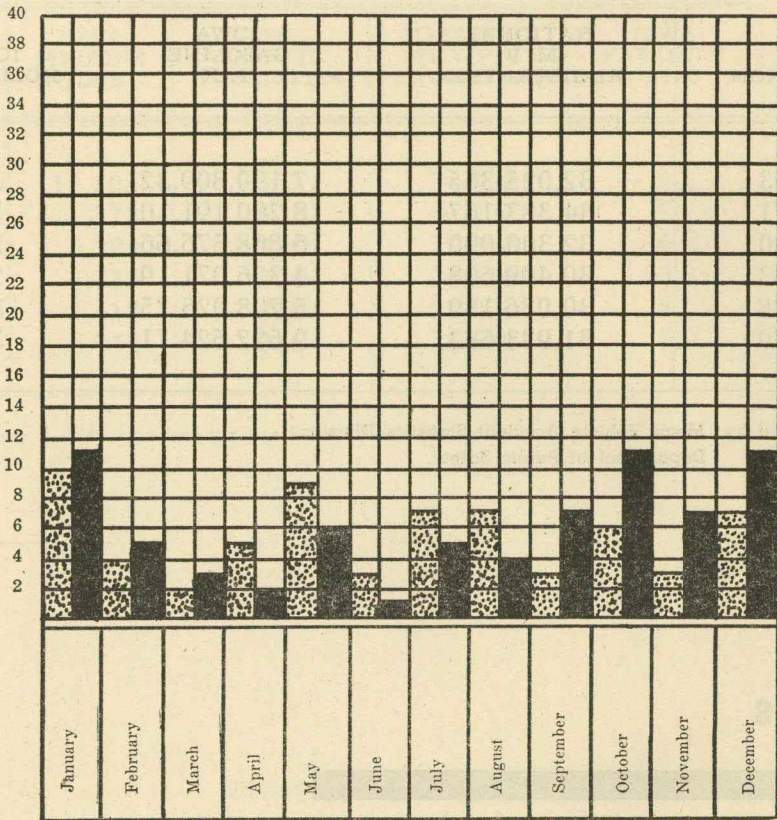
es of 1893 drivers during 1945.

All records of arrests, warnings, and accidents are filed in each individual's driver has built for himself.

PEDESTRIAN DEATHS BY MONTHS

Shaded Bar—1944

Solid Bar—1945



PEDESTRIAN FATALITIES

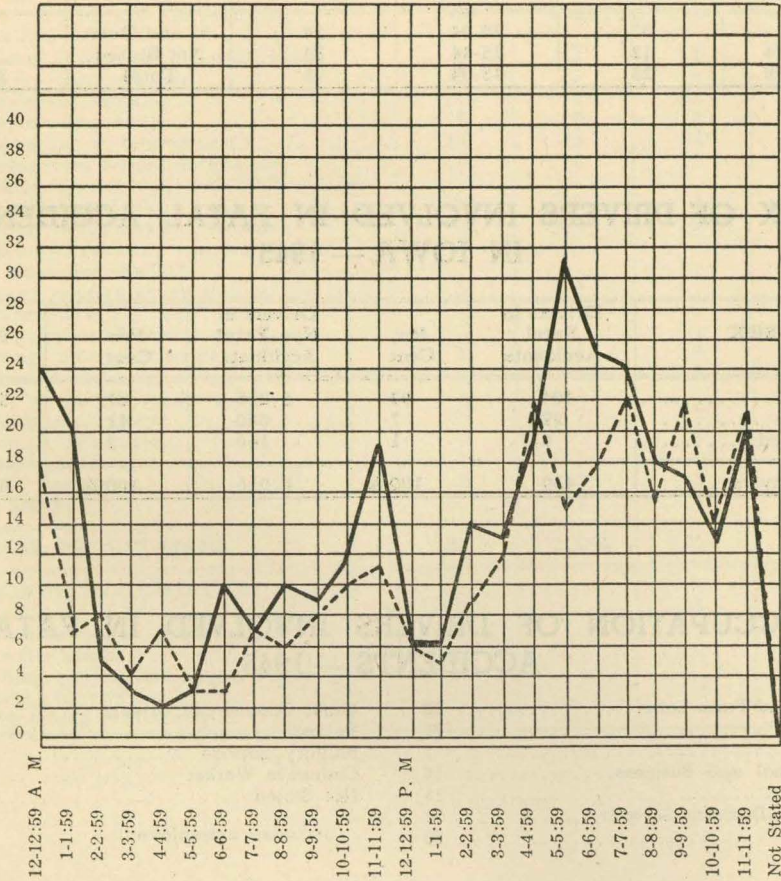
YEAR	Total	Male	Female	0-4	5-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 and	Not
									Over		Stated
1940.....	123	105	18	9	13	7	14	35	42	3
1941.....	125	108	17	4	15	12	17	24	49	4
1942.....	102	79	23	12	27	5	6	22	26	4
1943.....	90	69	21	10	23	8	7	20	22	..
Total.....	440	361	79	35	78	32	44	101	139	11

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	..
1945..	101	82	19	20	6	3	2	10	25	25	..
Total	189	147	42	41	12	7	3	17	47	52	..

GRAPH SHOWING HOURS OF OCCURRENCE OF FATAL TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS—1944-45

1944—Broken Line

1945—Solid Line



CONDITIONS OF MOTOR VEHICLES INVOLVED IN FATAL AND NON-FATAL ACCIDENTS—1945

TYPE OF DEFECT	Total	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Property Damage
Defective Brakes.....	435	5	124	306
Headlights Out.....	181	8	61	112
Headlights Insufficient.....	44	2	11	31
Headlights Glaring.....	27	...	8	19
Rear Lights Insufficient.....	14	...	7	7
Rear Lights Out.....	80	1	23	56
Other Lights Deficient.....	8	1	4	3
Steering Mechanism Defective.....	112	6	41	65
Puncture or Blowout.....	152	6	55	91
Worn or Smooth Tires.....	53	...	21	32
Other Defects in Equipment.....	178	6	60	112
Apparently No Defects.....	24,596	410	5,838	18,348
Total Vehicles.....	25,880	445	6,253	19,182

AGE GROUP OF PERSONS KILLED IN IOWA — 1945

Years	Number	Years	Number	Years	Number
0-9	33	20-24	34	65 and Over	74
10-14	12	25-44	84	Not Stated	6
15-19	28	45-64	95	Total	366

SEX OF DRIVERS INVOLVED IN FATAL ACCIDENTS IN IOWA — 1945

SEX	Drivers in Fatal Accidents	Per Cent	Drivers in Non-Fatal Accidents	Per Cent	Total
Male.....	404	92	5,256	87	5,660
Female.....	29	7	660	11	689
Not Stated.....	6	1	140	2	146
Total Drivers.....	439	100%	6,056	100%	6,495

OCCUPATION OF DRIVERS INVOLVED IN FATAL ACCIDENTS — 1945

Farmer and Farm Labor.....	96	Other Commercial Drivers	92
Laborer	72	Retired	6
Clerical	7	Military Service	22
Professional and Business.....	16	Ordnance Worker .....	..
Student	15	Not Stated	75
Housewife-Domestic Servant	18		
Salesmen	20	(included unemployed)	

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

AGE OF DRIVER	1943	Per Cent	1944	Per Cent	1945	Per Cent
13-15 Years.....	123	1	243	1	99	2
16 ".....	387	2	512	3	174	3
17 ".....	616	4	808	4	297	5
18 ".....	560	4	526	3	184	3
19 ".....	471	3	422	2	136	2
20 ".....	387	2	454	2	150	2
21-24 ".....	1,277	8	1,492	8	593	10
25-44 ".....	6,022	38	6,521	37	2,286	38
45-64 ".....	3,469	22	4,186	24	1,391	23
65 and Over.....	716	5	802	6	305	5
Not Stated.....	1,674	11	1,798	10	441	7
Total Drivers.....	15,702	100%	17,764	100%	6,056	100%

PEDESTRIAN ACTIONS

TYPE OF ACTION	Killed 1944	Per Cent	Killed 1945	Per Cent
1a. Crossing at intersection—with signal.....	1	1	11	11
b. Same—against signal.....	3	3	3	3
c. Same—no signal.....	14	16	21	21
d. Same—diagonally.....	3	3	3	3
2. Crossing not at intersection.....	28	33	22	21
3. Coming from behind parked cars.....	7	8	11	11
4a. Walking in roadway—with traffic—side- walks available.....	3	3	1	1
b. Same—sidewalks not available.....	10	12	9	9
c. Walking in roadway—against traffic— sidewalks available.....	..	..	..	..
d. Same—sidewalks not available.....	5	6	..	..
5. Standing in safety zone.....	..	..	..	..
6. Getting on or off streetcar.....	..	..	..	..
7. Getting on or off other vehicle.....	1	1	4	4
8. Pushing or working on vehicle in roadway.....	2	2	5	5
9. Other working in roadway.....	2	2	..	..
10. Playing in roadway.....	6	7	2	2
11. Hitching on vehicle.....	..	..	1	1
12. Lying in roadway.....	1	1	1	1
13. Not in roadway.....	2	2	3	3
14. Not stated.....	..	..	4	4
TOTAL PEDESTRIANS.....	88	100%	101	100%
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION				
15. On sled.....	1	..	1	..
16. On coaster wagon, tricycle, etc.....	1	..	..	..
17. On roller skates.....	..	..	..	..
18. Pushing, pulling car, buggy, wagon, etc.....	..	..	..	..
19. Vending in roadway—no cart.....	..	..	2	..
20. Hitch-hiking in roadway.....	..	..	..	..

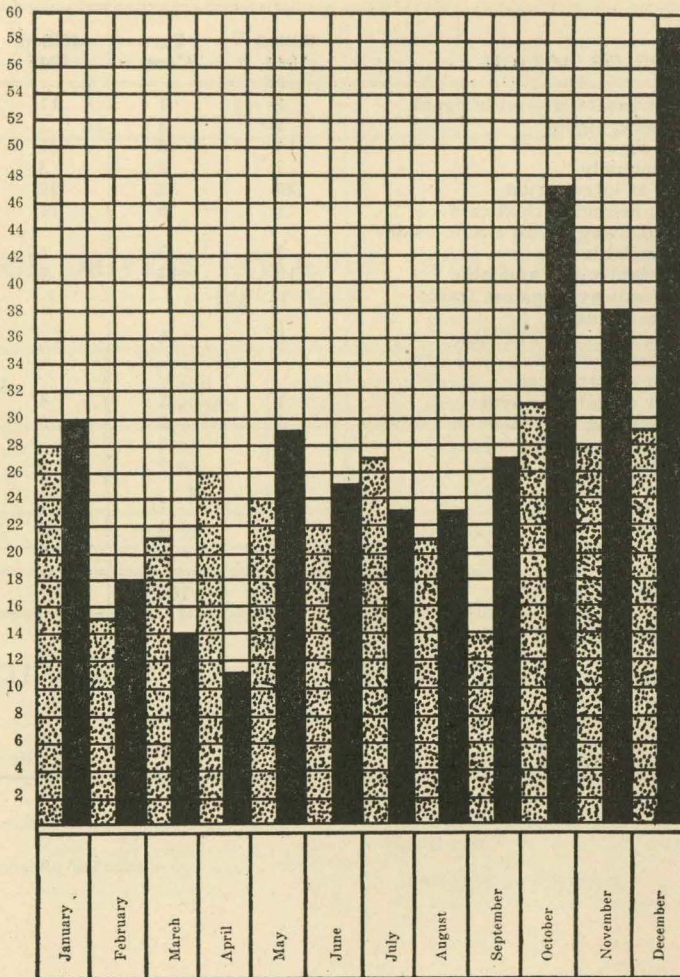
ACCIDENTS AND DEATHS ACCORDING TO POPULATION IN URBAN AREAS — 1945

URBAN—Within Incorporated City or Town	No. of Accidents	No. of Deaths
Below 1,000 Population.....	378	16
1,000 to 2,500 Population.....	431	17
2,500 to 5,000 Population.....	746	17
5,000 to 10,000 Population.....	802	12
10,000 to 175,000 Population.....	8,098	80
Total Urban Accidents.....	10,455	142

ALL DEATHS BY MONTHS

Shaded Bar—1944

Solid Bar—1945



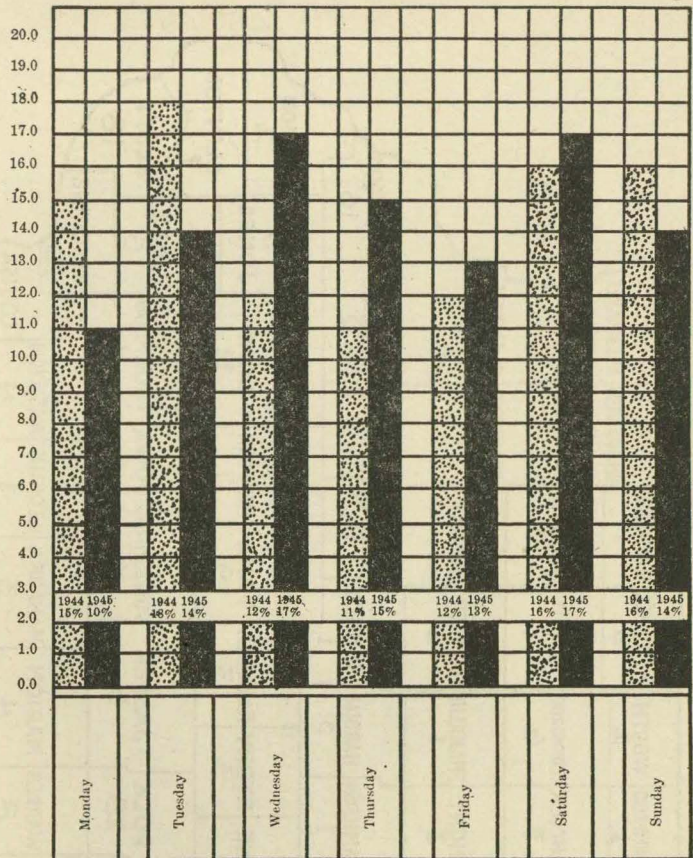
KIND OF LOCALITY

LOCALITY	1944		1945		Property Damage	
	Fatal	Per Cent	Non-Fatal	Per Cent	Property Damage	Per Cent
Manufacturing District	11	3	126	3	402	4
Shopping Business District	38	12	746	19	2,687	27
Residential District	74	22	1,322	34	3,886	39
School District	4	1	65	2	118	1
Open Country	177	54	1,403	36	2,257	23
Other	2	1	4	0	24	0
Not Stated	24	7	228	6	678	6
Total Accidents	330	100%	3,894	100%	10,052	100%

**FATAL
ACCIDENTS
BY
DAY
OF
WEEK**

Shaded Bar—1944

Solid Bar—1945



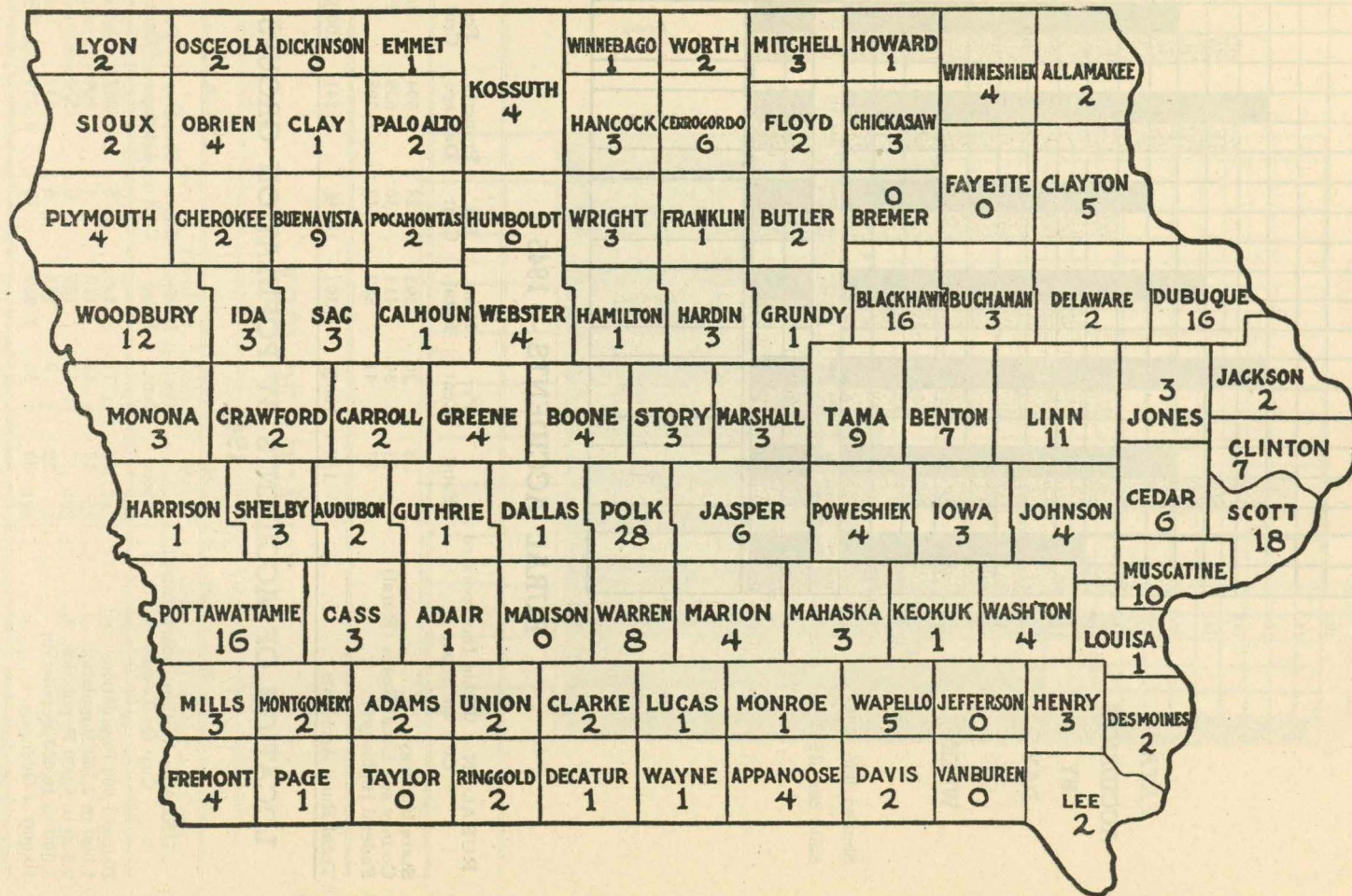
RURAL ACCIDENTS — 1945

RURAL—Not Within Incorporated City Or Town	Fatal	Per Cent	Non-Fatal	Per Cent	Property Damage	Per Cent
State Highway	38	20	395	28	594	26
County and Local Roads (Rural)	73	39	415	30	639	29
Federal Highways	77	41	582	42	1,008	45
Total Rural Accidents	188	100%	1,392	100%	2,241	100%

**LOCATION OF ACCIDENTS BY POPULATION GROUPS
1945**

URBAN—Within Incorporated City Or Town	Fatal	Per Cent	Non-Fatal	Per Cent	Property Damage	Per Cent
Below 1,000 Population	16	11	125	5	237	3
1,000 to 2,500 Population	17	12	110	4	304	4
2,500 to 5,000 Population	17	12	155	6	574	7
5,000 to 10,000 Population	12	9	153	6	637	8
10,000 or Over	80	56	1,959	79	6,059	78
Total Urban Accidents	142	100%	2,502	100%	7,811	100%

FATALITIES BY COUNTIES—1945



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