



Safety

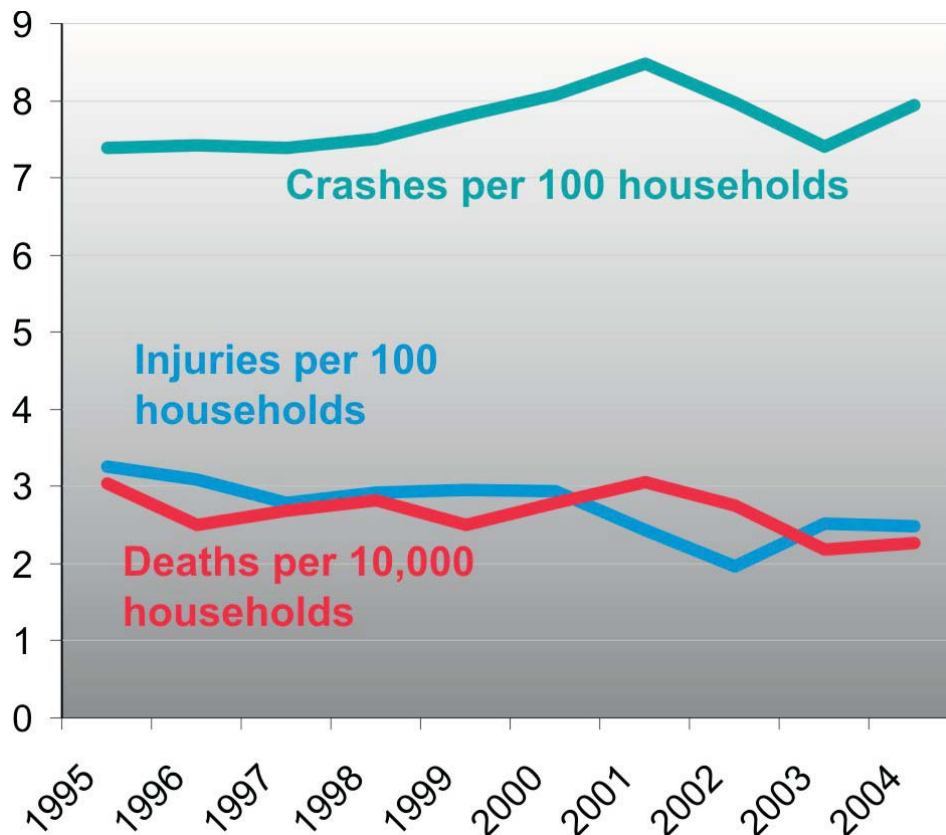
Goal: A transportation system that provides safe, environmentally sensitive and efficient mobility choices for people and goods. Metro Vision also calls for a system that integrates with and supports the social, economic and physical land use development of the region and state.

Policies: Develop and maintain a safe transportation system for all of its users. Traffic safety is a major public health concern.

Measures: The number and severity of crashes involving motor vehicles on our region's roadways. The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) defines crashes as reported collisions between autos/trucks and other vehicles, trains, bicycles, pedestrians or objects and reported single-vehicle incidents, such as rollovers.

Conclusions: In 2004, there were about 81,000 crashes and 231 fatal accidents on our region's roads. While the overall crash rate (per 100 households) has increased slightly since 1995, the death rate has declined since 2001. The 2004 injury rate is also lower than it was in 1995, but has increased in recent years.

Crash, Injury and Death Rates



Congestion and safety are related concerns. Increasing congestion can cause the accident rate to increase. Accident severity may be less, however, if travel speeds are lower. Conversely, crashes can cause significant additional delay on top of routine congestion.

The safer design of new vehicles should help reduce injury and death rates in the future. The role of human behavior, however, is more difficult to address. Improper driver behavior is the primary cause of 80 percent of the crashes in Colorado.

Action Steps: To promote the safety and security of all transportation system users, our region can take the following actions:

- Conduct further analysis of crash data to determine locations of concern.
- Implement mitigation projects that will decrease crashes, especially those involving fatalities.
- Monitor and support legislation aimed at cost-effectively improving the safety of drivers, passengers, pedestrians, and bicyclists.