



Contact

For Immediate Release

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## **Auto Injuries and Fatalities Down in Texas**

The number of people injured and killed in automobile accidents in Texas has continued to decline since 2003. Both fatalities and injuries are down more than 20 percent since the Texas Department of Transportation took over record keeping of state traffic reports seven years ago.

Statistics released this week by the Texas Department of Transportation show the number of injury accidents and fatal accidents in the state have dropped in five of the last six years.

“Safer vehicles on our roadways and Texans driving fewer miles have had a dramatic impact in saving lives and preventing serious injuries in auto accidents across the state,” said Mark Hanna, a spokesman for the Insurance Council of Texas. “Today’s hard-hit economy, high gasoline prices and an aging population have also encouraged many drivers to stay home or drive fewer miles.”

A spokesman for the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) said Texas is following a national trend. “Nationally, crash rates have fallen to historic lows. Over the longer term research shows that more crashworthy vehicles, driven in part by insurance industry crash testing, along with higher safety belt use are driving down highway deaths and injuries,” said Russ Rader, an IIHS spokesman.

Several new auto safety features not only minimize injuries in accidents, but help drivers in avoiding some collisions. More vehicles on the road today are equipped with electronic stability control systems that can help prevent loss of control and roll-overs. Other safety features on newer cars include side airbags, lane departure warnings, forward collision warnings and active head restraints.

While crashes and injuries have gone down, auto insurance rates have remained stable in Texas due to increased medical costs and the expense of repairing new vehicles. The National Association of Insurance Commissioner’s (NAIC) most recent report lists Texas as 19<sup>th</sup> among states in auto insurance premiums.

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has provided (shown below) statistics of crash reports dating from 2003 through 2009. TxDOT defines a reportable motor vehicle traffic accident as any crash involving a motor vehicle on a road way, resulting in the injury or death of any person, or damage to the property of any one person to the extent of \$1,000.

<b>Statewide Reportable Motor Vehicle Traffic Crashes with any Injury or Fatality</b>				
<b>2003 – 2009</b>				
<b>Crash Year</b>	<b>Total Injury Crashes</b>	<b>Injured</b>	<b>Fatal Crashes</b>	<b>Fatalities</b>
2003	190,878	308,481	3,371	3,822
2004	180,539	288,685	3,286	3,725
2005	184,076	293,566	3,157	3,559
2006	173,878	272,728	3,119	3,522
2007	173,098	267,343	3,097	3,462
2008	160,748	245,117	3,114	3,474
2009	156,163	237,077	2,685	2,959

The Insurance Council of Texas is the largest state insurance trade association in the country consisting of more than 500 property and casualty insurers writing business in Texas. For more information turn to ICT's Web site at [www.insurancecouncil.org](http://www.insurancecouncil.org).

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