

## Fatality Rates

Fatality rates are an important overall measure of each state’s road performance. The nation’s highway fatality rate improved slightly for 2007: 41,015 fatalities were reported, lower than 42,605 reported for 2006.

As travel continued to increase, the average fatality rate was 1.355 fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles (Table 15, Fatality Rates, and Figure 8), down 4.6 percent from 1.421 in 2006.

Since 1984 the overall fatality rate has dropped about 48 percent. For 2007, Massachusetts reported the lowest rate, 0.757 fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles, while Montana reported the highest, 2.45 fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles.

In 2007, slowing travel (down 3.6 percent from 2004), reduced speeds and greater seatbelt use, along with the economic recession, combined to lower fatalities even further. For 2008, 37,313 fatalities were reported, for a rate of 1.28 fatalities per 100 million miles.\* (This is a decrease of 9.1 percent from 2007, when traffic fatalities were 41,015 and the fatality rate was 1.36.)

\*National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Early estimate of motor vehicle fatalities in 2008, March 2009.

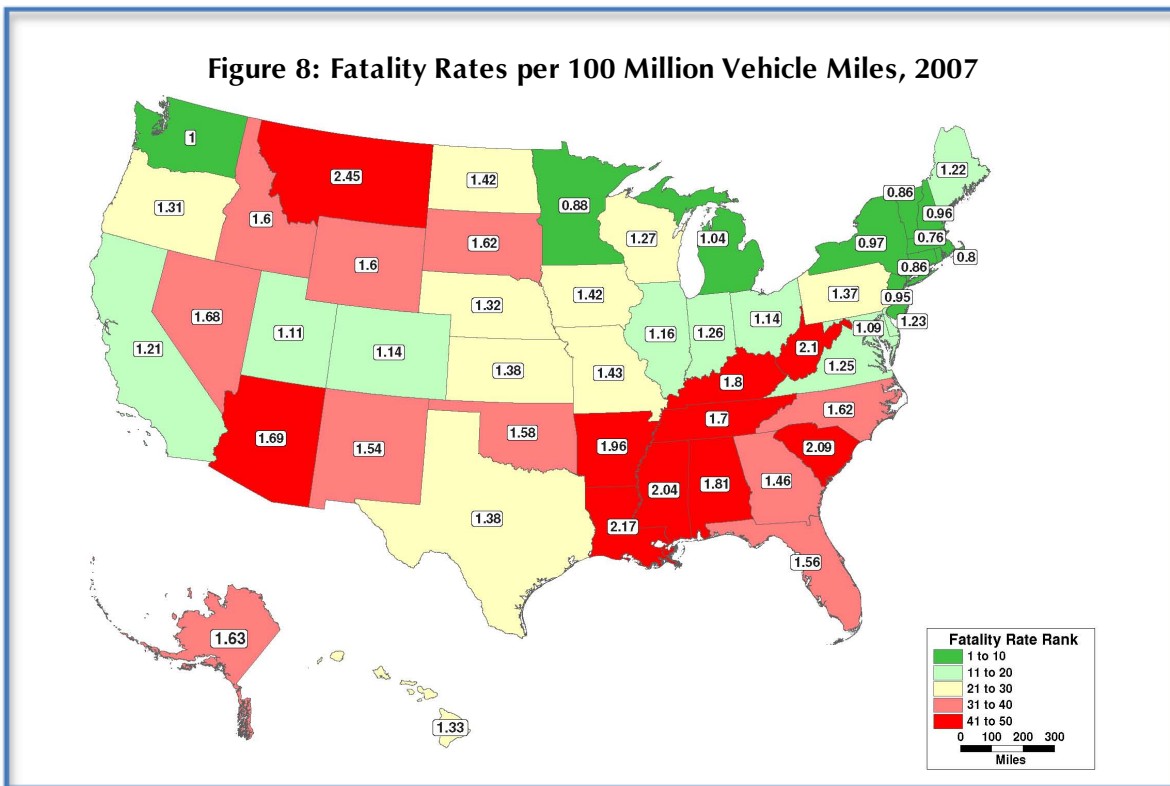


Table 15: Fatality Rates, 2007

Rank (1-25)	State	Fatalities per 100 Million Miles	Rank (26-50)	State	Fatalities per 100 Million Miles
1	MA	0.76	26	TX	1.38
2	RI	0.80	27	KS	1.38
3	VT	0.86	28	ND	1.42
4	CT	0.86	29	IA	1.42
5	MN	0.88	30	MO	1.43
6	NJ	0.95	31	GA	1.46
7	NH	0.96	32	NM	1.54
8	NY	0.97	33	FL	1.56
9	WA	1.00	34	OK	1.58
10	MI	1.04	35	ID	1.60
11	MD	1.09	36	WY	1.60
12	UT	1.11	37	NC	1.62
13	OH	1.14	38	SD	1.62
14	CO	1.14	39	AK	1.63
15	IL	1.16	40	NV	1.68
16	CA	1.21	41	AZ	1.69
17	ME	1.22	42	TN	1.70
18	DE	1.23	43	KY	1.80
19	VA	1.25	44	AL	1.81
20	IN	1.26	45	AR	1.96
21	WI	1.27	46	MS	2.04
22	OR	1.31	47	SC	2.09
23	NE	1.32	48	WV	2.10
24	HI	1.33	49	LA	2.17
25	PA	1.37	50	MT	2.45
				US	1.36