



June 2019

## Traffic Crashes in Southeast Michigan, 2018

SEMCOG, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, developed the [Southeast Michigan Traffic Safety Plan](#), using the four Es of safety – engineering, education, enforcement, and emergency medical services – to address safety issues in the region. SEMCOG uses crash data from the Michigan State Police, Criminal Justice Information Center (CJIC), to update various [safety resources](#). Based on 2018 data, SEMCOG has updated information on traffic crashes, fatalities, and serious injuries in Southeast Michigan. Crash factors identified as key emphasis areas include pedestrians, bicycles, lane departures, drugs, alcohol, older drivers, and younger drivers. Distracted driving data as a crash factor has been collected for the last three years.

### Traffic crashes and injuries decreasing

- The number of traffic crashes in Southeast Michigan have continued to decrease in 2018 from 2016. There were 144,104 total crashes, down one percent from 2017, but still up 18 percent from 2009.
- Traffic fatalities decreased for a second year, down three percent from 369 in 2017 to 356 in 2018.
- Serious injuries decreased seven percent to 2,069 in 2018. This is a 20 percent decrease from 2009.

### Southeast Michigan Traffic Crashes, 2009-2018

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	10-Year Trend
<b>Crashes</b>	121,905	122,309	124,527	122,832	128,088	136,636	138,710	145,510	145,427	144,104	
<b>Fatalities</b>	340	333	340	361	363	371	387	430	369	356	
<b>Serious Injuries</b>	2,589	2,357	2,263	2,267	2,145	2,002	1,913	2,076	2,235	2,069	

### Pedestrian crashes continue to rise

- Crashes involving pedestrians increased for a second year, up seven percent to 1,308.
- Pedestrian fatalities decreased for a third year, down two percent from 2017 but still up 19 percent from 2009.
- In 2018, pedestrian crashes accounted for one percent of all crashes, yet 23 percent of the fatalities were a pedestrian. [Nationally](#), 16 percent of all traffic fatalities are pedestrians.

### Pedestrian Crashes, 2009-2018

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	10-Year Trend
<b>Crashes</b>	1,180	1,217	1,350	1,244	1,280	1,266	1,308	1,206	1,226	1,308	
<b>Fatalities</b>	68	68	78	80	88	94	103	101	83	81	
<b>Serious Injuries</b>	270	216	241	175	209	198	201	168	221	224	

### Bicycle crashes and serious injuries down to 10-year low

- Crashes involving bicycles decreased to 814, down 11 percent from 2017 and 16 percent from 2009.
- Bicyclist fatalities nearly doubled, up from five in 2017 to nine in 2018.
- Bicyclist serious injuries dropped 42 percent, the largest decrease of any key emphasis area.

### Bicycle Crashes, 2009-2018

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	10-Year Trend
<b>Crashes</b>	967	940	858	936	935	873	932	1,069	914	814	
<b>Fatalities</b>	8	15	14	7	10	12	14	16	5	9	
<b>Serious Injuries</b>	98	74	72	76	82	67	56	69	89	52	

### Lane departures decreasing but continue to be most deadly

- Crashes involving lane departure (vehicles running off the road or shifting lanes) decreased two percent.
- Lane-departure-involved fatalities decreased for a second year, down three percent. Nevertheless, they accounted for 37 percent of total fatalities, the highest for any emphasis area.
- Lane-departure-involved serious injuries decreased 10 percent, down to 562.

### Crashes Involving Lane Departure, 2009-2018

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	10-Year Trend
<b>Crashes</b>	19,171	18,236	18,538	17,943	19,373	20,257	18,660	18,818	18,950	18,559	
<b>Fatalities</b>	118	130	150	132	140	145	131	171	134	130	
<b>Serious Injuries</b>	708	681	687	639	658	579	536	562	621	562	

### Reported drug involvement in crashes and injuries decreasing

- Drug-involved crashes are down 10 percent from 2017, the first decrease in five years.
- Drug-involved fatalities are down six percent from 2017, but are still up 57 percent from 2009.
- Drug-involved serious injuries are down 27 percent from 2017, the largest decrease in the past decade.

#### Drug-Involved Crashes, 2009-2018

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	10-Year Trend
<b>Crashes</b>	816	976	998	1,008	997	1,016	1,169	1,245	1,245	1,126	
<b>Fatalities</b>	53	53	44	44	63	53	78	94	88	83	
<b>Serious Injuries</b>	120	124	114	119	117	112	137	186	200	146	

### Alcohol-involved crashes steady, injuries decreasing

- The number of alcohol-involved crashes remained steady in 2018, down less than one percent.
- Alcohol-involved fatalities and serious injuries decreased, down six percent and four percent, respectively.
- Alcohol-involved fatalities accounted for 35 percent of all traffic fatalities in 2018, the second highest for all emphasis areas.

#### Alcohol-Involved Crashes, 2009-2018

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	10-Year Trend
<b>Crashes</b>	4,397	4,001	4,129	4,187	4,155	4,074	4,078	4,089	4,023	4,019	
<b>Fatalities</b>	115	96	108	92	95	94	115	124	132	124	
<b>Serious Injuries</b>	346	361	358	357	334	303	322	329	341	328	

### Crashes involving older drivers continue to increase

- Crashes involving drivers age 65 and older increased for the ninth consecutive year to 23,924, a 10-year high and up 48 percent from 2009.
- Crashes involving older drivers resulted in 75 fatalities, unchanged from 2017 but up 56 percent from 2009.
- The number of registered drivers age 65 and older is at a 10-year high, up 31 percent from 2009.
- SEMCOG’s [Regional Forecast](#) projects that the number of people age 65 and older will continue to grow substantially, by 67 percent from 2015 to 2045. The share of crashes involving older drivers is also likely to grow.

### Crashes Involving Older Drivers (65+), 2009-2018

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	10-Year Trend
<b>Crashes</b>	16,178	16,834	17,430	17,799	18,799	20,306	21,436	23,180	23,789	23,924	
<b>Fatalities</b>	48	70	52	69	74	60	62	93	75	75	
<b>Serious Injuries</b>	396	326	308	379	313	350	327	331	328	336	

### Young drivers have highest involvement in crashes, but declining

- Crashes involving drivers age 16-24 decreased for a second year, down six percent from 2017.
- Fatalities and serious injuries from young-driver-involved crashes are down 34% and 20% from 2017, respectively, and at a 10-year low.
- The number of registered drivers age 16-24 is also at a 10-year low, down five percent from 2009.
- Young drivers still have the highest crash involvement of any crash emphasis area. Young-driver-involved crashes account for at least 30 percent of the region’s total crashes, fatalities, and serious injuries.

### Crashes Involving Young Drivers (16-24), 2009-2018

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	10-Year Trend
<b>Crashes</b>	42,350	42,945	43,343	43,162	44,509	45,675	47,615	49,490	48,041	45,361	
<b>Fatalities</b>	108	103	109	116	103	109	123	116	115	76	
<b>Serious Injuries</b>	906	903	885	819	793	656	620	743	762	611	

### Safety campaign educates people who walk, bike, and drive

SEMCOG and local governments continue to engage in [safety education](#) throughout Southeast Michigan. Those efforts include a “Walk. Bike. Drive. Safe” campaign, with safety tips and explanations of state laws, infrastructure, and signage. Tips include:

- Obey all traffic laws, signs, and signals.
- Share the road with all users and stay alert.
- Don’t tailgate – keep safe distances while driving and passing.
- Don’t drive after consuming drugs or alcohol.
- Avoid distractions, including talking or texting on your phone, while driving, biking, or walking.
- Be safe. Be seen! Use lights and wear bright clothing when walking or biking.

Campaign resources are available on [SEMCOG’s website](#).

