

**MEDIA RELEASE
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**ATLANTIC COUNTY HIGHWAY SAFETY
2000 FATAL CRASH SUMMARY REPORT**

Forty one people were killed in 34 traffic crashes in Atlantic County in 2000, compared with 36 fatalities in 34 crashes in 1999.

In the Fourth Quarter of 2000 (October through December), 11 people died in 9 traffic crashes compared with 9 deaths and 9 crashes in October, November and December of 1999.

According to statistics released by the Atlantic County Office of Highway Safety, 20 of the 27 victims in fatal motor vehicle crashes did not wear safety belts. Two victims were motorcyclists (one wearing a helmet, the second without a helmet) and 7 others were pedestrians. In 5 crashes it could not be determined if safety restraints were used.

Of the 34 fatal crashes, alcohol/drug involvement was a contributing factor in 11 of the crashes; unsafe speed 4; driver inattention 4; failure to obey traffic signal 4; failure to yield 4; ice/snow 2; asleep at the wheel 1; improper lane change 1 and uncontrolled child 1. The contributing circumstances in 2 other fatal crashes are unknown, however one may have been caused by heart failure.

According to Atlantic County Executive Dennis Levinson "Police reports continue to point out that most of the fatal collisions on our roadways are due to driver error and are preventable."

"Caution and care while driving, refraining from alcohol use when behind the wheel, and wearing safety belts would have greatly reduced the Countywide totals," said Levinson.

In 2000, Egg Harbor Township had 9 traffic deaths, (including 2 double fatality's). Atlantic City had 7 deaths, (including a triple fatality in June). Egg Harbor City 4, (including a triple fatality in December). Mullica Township 4, (including a double fatality). Hamilton Township 3. Buena Vista Township 2. Buena Boro 2. Galloway Township 2. Northfield 2. Pleasantville 2. Absecon, Folsom, Hammonton and Somers Point had 1 each.

Twenty five victims were Atlantic County residents, 16 non-county.
Twenty five victims were male, 16 female.

Eighteen fatal crashes occurred on state roads, 12 on county roads and 4 on municipal streets.

Editors Please Note: "The number of fatal crashes in 2000 and 1999 was the same, 34. However, there was a significant increase in crashes that resulted in **multiple deaths** in 2000

compared to 1999. Twelve people were killed in 5 crashes in 2000. They included 2 Triple fatalities and 3 double fatalities. Four people were killed in 2 crashes in 1999. That included 2 double fatalities.”

For further information contact Atlantic County Director of Highway Safety & Community Affairs Michael Schurman at (609) 407-6739.