In 2010, 32,885 people lost their lives on America’s roadways in motor vehicle accidents (MVA)\(^1\). In Tennessee the number was 1,000, resulting in an age-adjusted rate of 15.6/100,000, 45.8% higher than the U.S. rate.

From 2001 to 2010, the age-adjusted MVA mortality rate in Tennessee was consistently higher than the national rate.

The MVA mortality rate in Tennessee decreased by 28.8%, from 21.9/100,000 in 2001 to 15.6/100,000 in 2010.

11,950 Tennesseans died due to MVA between 2001 and 2010, accounting for 2.1% of total deaths. Out of 90,385 deaths among Tennessee residents between the ages of 15 and 54, 8,409 (9.3%) were due to motor vehicle accidents.

From 2006 to 2010, the average, annual age-adjusted MVA mortality rate for Tennessee men (25.7/100,000) was more than double the rate for women (11.0/100,000).

The rate for men was consistently higher than that for women for all race groups.

From 2006 to 2010, MVA mortality rates in adolescents and persons 75+ years were higher than in other age groups. The average, annual MVA death rate among persons aged 15-24 years was 30.1 per 100,000.

During this same time period, 3,915 (69.4%) MVA deaths occurred among those 15 to 54 years of age, an average of 783 deaths per year.

Males had higher MVA mortality rates than females for all age groups over 15 years of age.

• The vehicle miles traveled (VMT) by Tennesseans on state roads increased by 4.2% (from 67,606 million in 2001 to 70,429 million in 2010), as compared to a 7.1% increase in licensed drivers in Tennessee (from 4.2 million in 2001 to 4.5 million in 2010).

• In contrast to increases in VMT and licensed drivers, the number of crashes in Tennessee decreased by 4.3%, from 175,637 in 2001 to 168,077 in 2010.

• The crash rate per 100 million VMT was highest (260.6) in 2002.

• The lowest crash rate was observed in 2009 (224.8/100 million VMT).

• Among 95 Tennessee counties, the average, annual age-adjusted MVA mortality rate in 2006-2010 ranged from 8.1/100,000 to 54.5/100,000.

• Williamson (8.1), Crockett (8.8), and Rutherford (11.6) had the lowest mortality rates.

• Grundy (54.5), Clay (54.3), and Perry (50.3) had the highest mortality rates.

**Motor Vehicle Accident Mortality Rate by Resident County, 2006-2010, Tennessee**

Prepared by the Tennessee Department of Health; Division of Policy, Planning and Assessment; Surveillance, Epidemiology and Evaluation section. Unless otherwise specified, statistics were derived from the Death Statistical System, provided by the Office of Health Statistics, Tennessee Department of Health.

Motor vehicle accident deaths were classified according to following ICD-10 codes: [V02–V04], [V09.1], [V09.2], [V12–V14], [V19], [V20–V28], [V29–V79] (4–9), [V80(3–5)], [V81.1], [V82.1], [V83–V86], [V87(0–8)], [V89.2]. (Source: Bergen G, Chen LH, Warner M, Fingerhut LA. Injury in the United States: 2007 Chartbook. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics, 2008; p159). Due to the difference in ICD-10 codes used, data presented here will not match the motor vehicle death statistics published by the Tennessee Department of Health, Office of Health Statistics.

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