




November 2022

Traffic Crashes in Southeast Michigan, 2021

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](#) on its Safety and Security webpage. Based on 2021 data, SEMCOG has updated information on traffic crashes, fatalities, serious injuries and various emphasis areas identified in the Traffic Safety Plan. Crash factors identified as emphasis areas include (ordered highest-to-lowest by number of fatalities): impaired drivers; lane departures; intersections; pedestrian(s); no seatbelt use; speed too fast; motorcycles; younger drivers; older drivers; commercial vehicles; distracted; red-light running; bicycles; and deer.

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	10-Year Trend
Crashes	122,832	128,088	136,636	138,710	145,510	145,427	144,104	141,390	105,485	124,631	
Fatalities	361	363	371	387	430	369	356	364	452	426	
Serious Injuries	2,267	2,145	2,002	1,913	2,076	2,235	2,069	2,031	2,036	2,309	

Southeast Michigan Traffic Crashes 2012-2021

- The number of traffic crashes in Southeast Michigan increased 18% in 2021 compared to 2020; however, it is still lower than 2019's pre-pandemic mark.
- Traffic fatalities dropped almost 6% from 2020 but were still much higher than recent pre-pandemic years.
- Serious injuries continued to increase, reaching a decade high, up 13% from 2020 and 2% from 2012 (the previous decade high).

Impaired crashes are the number one factor in fatalities

- Crashes involving an impaired driver have increased 5% since last year but were still lower than 2019. Impaired crashes are down 4% since 2012.
- Fatalities have increased slightly at 1% compared to 2020 but are up 45% from 2012.
- Serious injuries have increased 18% from 2020 and 16% from 2012, reaching a decade high with 468 people suffering serious injuries in crashes involving an impaired driver.

Lane departure crash severity increasing

- Crashes involving lane departure increased 10% from 2020.

- The number of fatalities were the same as 2020, but the number of serious injuries rose 18%, reaching a decade-high of 657 people seriously injured in crashes involving lane departure.
- Crashes involving lane departure accounted for 35% of total fatalities and 28% of total serious injuries in 2021.

Intersections are the most common crash factor

- After a major decrease in 2020, the number of crashes in intersections has increased 14% in 2021; it remains lower than the 9 years before the pandemic (2020).
- Fatalities decreased 4% compared to 2020 but are up 39% from 2012.
- Intersection-involved crashes account for 34% of fatalities and 37% of serious injuries, the highest combined share of any emphasis area.

Pedestrian fatalities drop

- Crashes involving pedestrians have increased slightly (4%) from 2020, are down 21% from 2012.
- Pedestrian fatalities have decreased 4% from 2020, are 20% higher than in 2012.
- Serious injuries increased 3% from 2020, are 19% less than the pre-pandemic level from 2019.
- In 2021, pedestrians were involved in less than 1% of all traffic crashes but accounted for 23% of all traffic fatalities in Southeast Michigan.

Serious injuries rising from no seatbelt use

- Crashes involving people not using a seatbelt increased 11% compared to 2020, but are down 21% compared to 2012.
- Fatalities remain high at 95 people, while the decade average is 88 people.
- Serious injuries involving no seatbelt increased 43% compared to 2020, only 26 people less than the decade high of 358 in 2012.
- While less than 1.5% of crashes involved no seatbelt use, those crashes account for 22.3% of all traffic fatalities and 14% of all serious injuries.

Speed too fast involved in more fatalities and serious injuries

- Crashes involved drivers whose speed is too fast for the road condition increased 4% from 2020.
- Fatalities and serious injuries increased for the fourth consecutive year and reached a decade high for both categories, up 7% and 14% from 2020, respectively.

Motorcycle-involved serious injuries reach decade high

- Crashes involving motorcyclists increased for the fourth consecutive year.
- With 5% decrease from the previous year, fatalities remained high at 58.
- Serious injuries have been on a steadily increasing trend for 6 years, reaching a decade high of 307 in 2021.

Younger driver (age 15-20) involvement in crashes remains high

- Crashes involving younger drivers account for 17% of all crashes, and were up 23% from 2020.
- The number of fatalities has increased almost 60% compared to the previous year, reaching a decade high of 70 people.
- Serious injuries have increased for the fourth consecutive year, with a 14% more than the year before.

Crashes involving older (65+) drivers increasing

- The number of crashes involving an older driver have increased since a decade low in 2020. The number, 20,997, remains much lower than the 6 years before the pandemic.
- The number of fatalities continues to drop for the third year, down 10% from 2020, despite the increase in total number of crashes.
- Serious injuries have spiked 32% since 2020, reaching close to pre-pandemic data.

Commercial vehicle crashes all increased

- The number of crashes, fatalities, and serious injuries all increased about 25% ($\pm 2\%$).
- Total number of crashes are up 56% since 2012.
- There was an increase of 25% for fatalities compared to 2020, but it was still down 23% compared to 2019.

Distracted crashes, fatalities, and serious injuries rising

- Crashes involving distracted drivers have increased 18% since 2020 and 46% compared to 2016, the first year of available data.
- Fatalities and serious injuries involving distracted drivers have also increased drastically by 67% and 47%, respectively, from 2020.

Red-light running crashes reach decade high

- The number of red-light running crashes has increased 15% since 2020, up to 4,258 crashes, which is the decade high.
- While fatalities are lower than the previous year, serious injuries have increased by 22% and reached a decade high as well.

Bicyclist crashes, fatalities, and serious injuries continues to drop

- Crashes involving bicyclists decreased for a fifth year in a row, down 6% from 2020 and 29% from 2012.
- Fatalities and serious injuries have also dropped in the last year, down 73% and 11%, respectively.
- Fatalities have almost reached the decade low of 6 people, second-lowest to 5 people in 2017.

Driveway-related crashes, fatalities, and serious injuries rising

- The number of driveway-related crashes was up 26% to 7,098 crashes, but it was still much lower than numbers from before 2020 (all above 8,000).
- The number of fatalities doubled compared to the year before at 14 people. Serious injuries increased by 21% compared to 2020, but there were 42% fewer than in 2012.

Serious injuries from secondary crashes increased

- Secondary crashes have increased 13% from 2020 but remain lower than pre-pandemic levels.
- Fatalities have decreased 33%, down to 8 people.
- Serious injuries have increased 64% from 2020 and almost tripled from 2016 at 59 people.

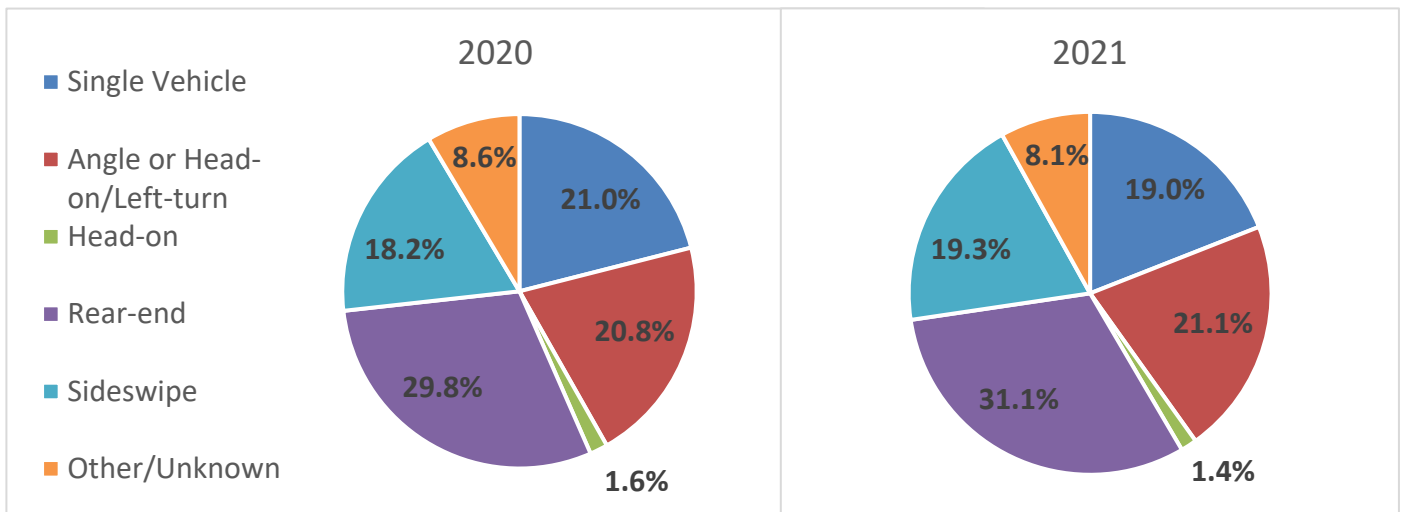
Deer crashes serious injuries reach decade high

- There was a 3% increase from 2020 and 24% increase from 2012 in total number of crashes involving deer.
- There were zero fatalities in 2021.
- The number of serious injuries has reached a decade high two years in a row and increased 46% compared to the previous decade high of 13 people in 2019. Compared to 2012, there has been a 90% increase in the number of serious injuries from crashes involving deer.

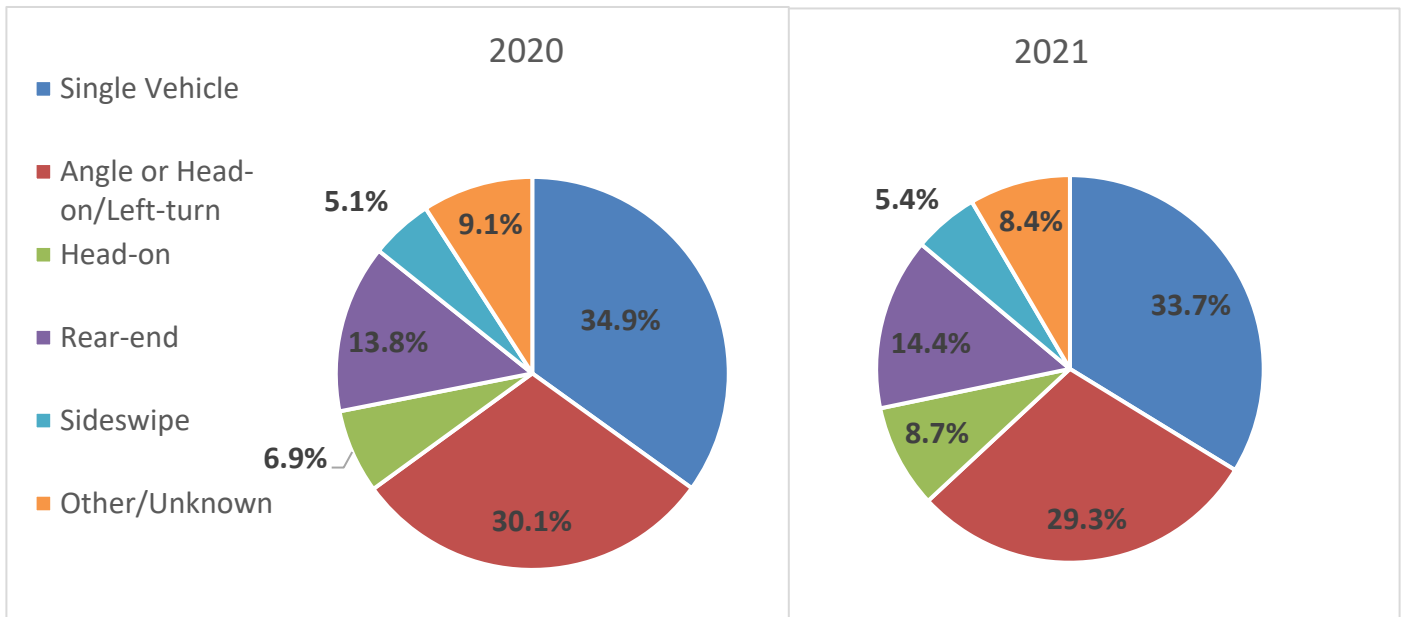
Type distribution shifts with traffic patterns

- In 2020, vehicles miles traveled dropped 18% compared to 2019. Preliminary 2021 data show an increase from 2020 but still below pre-pandemic levels.
- Rear-end crashes continue to be the most common, while single-vehicle and angle or head-on/left-turn crashes result in the most traffic fatalities and serious injuries.
- Severe head-on crashes had the greatest increase of 1.8% among all the crash types.

Total Crashes by Crash Type



Fatalities & Serious Injuries by Crash Type



Emphasis Area	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	10-Year Trend
Total Number of Crashes											
Crashes	122,832	128,088	136,636	138,710	145,510	145,427	144,104	141,390	105,485	124,631	
Fatalities	361	363	371	387	430	369	356	364	452	426	
Serious Injuries	2,267	2,145	2,002	1,913	2,076	2,235	2,069	2,031	2,036	2,309	
Impaired Crashes											
Crashes	4,716	4,711	4,587	4,720	4,755	4,745	4,636	4,600	4,328	4,550	
Fatalities	110	123	113	149	170	167	162	151	158	160	
Serious Injuries	403	392	352	386	418	457	403	428	395	468	
Lane Departure-Involved Crashes											
Crashes	17,943	19,373	20,257	18,660	18,818	18,950	18,559	18,761	16,730	18,410	
Fatalities	132	140	145	131	171	134	130	120	150	150	
Serious Injuries	639	658	579	536	562	621	562	513	556	657	
Intersection-Involved Crashes											
Crashes	41,006	41,712	45,100	46,718	51,379	50,359	48,496	46,478	35,928	41,109	
Fatalities	105	95	105	109	130	113	101	137	152	146	
Serious Injuries	859	775	730	716	885	892	817	829	822	864	
Pedestrian Crashes*											
Crashes	1,244	1,280	1,266	1,308	1,206	1,226	1,308	1,294	941	979	
Fatalities	80	88	94	103	101	83	81	72	100	96	
Serious Injuries	175	209	198	201	168	221	224	227	179	185	
No Seatbelt Crashes											
Crashes	2,286	2,119	1,899	2,046	1,941	1,685	1,562	1,697	1,627	1,809	
Fatalities	97	88	83	77	88	86	74	90	101	95	
Serious Injuries	358	320	253	281	296	264	215	250	233	332	
Speed too Fast											
Crashes	9,490	10,812	13,013	10,354	10,305	10,168	10,307	10,237	8,230	8,522	
Fatalities	61	55	60	59	81	58	62	63	74	79	
Serious Injuries	282	269	273	204	283	238	235	266	274	313	

Motorcycle Crashes*											
Crashes	1,326	1,222	1,136	1,205	1,332	1,192	1,056	1,117	1,192	1,318	
Fatalities	52	51	45	62	57	48	55	48	61	58	
Serious Injuries	225	192	199	160	216	230	225	250	285	307	
Younger (15-20) Driver-Involved Crashes											
Crashes	24,586	24,792	24,420	25,801	26,896	26,120	24,220	23,212	17,402	21,476	
Fatalities	57	56	45	60	50	48	35	46	44	70	
Serious Injuries	461	412	335	330	373	385	284	294	336	384	
Older (65+) Driver-Involved Crashes											
Crashes	17,799	18,799	20,306	21,436	23,180	23,789	23,924	24,391	16,672	20,997	
Fatalities	69	74	60	62	93	75	75	78	63	57	
Serious Injuries	379	313	350	327	331	328	336	358	270	357	
Commercial Vehicle-Involved Crashes											
Crashes	4,740	5,216	6,278	6,153	6,175	7,009	7,962	7,966	5,790	7,406	
Fatalities	27	26	37	38	38	28	40	39	24	30	
Serious Injuries	107	125	108	112	120	148	145	134	111	137	
Distracted											
Crashes					5,252	9,608	9,140	8,729	6,525	7675	
Fatalities					14	28	24	19	12	20	
Serious Injuries					127	172	168	134	101	148	
Red-Light Running-Involved Crashes											
Crashes	3,452	3,506	3,488	3,730	4,083	4,008	4,043	3,950	3,690	4,258	
Fatalities	21	10	12	18	23	9	19	20	18	16	
Serious Injuries	173	115	135	157	153	139	124	129	161	197	
Bicycle Crashes*											
Crashes	936	935	873	932	1,069	914	814	784	705	665	
Fatalities	7	10	12	14	16	5	9	12	22	6	
Serious Injuries	76	82	67	56	69	89	52	78	74	66	

Driveway Related											
Crashes	8,698	8,421	8,758	9,229	8,902	9,108	8,725	8,224	5,655	7098	
Fatalities	19	17	17	15	10	11	9	11	7	14	
Serious Injuries	179	142	105	62	102	108	91	103	85	103	
Secondary											
Crashes					1,056	1,925	1,820	1,814	1,587	1791	
Fatalities					6	11	5	7	12	8	
Serious Injuries					21	50	32	46	36	59	
Deer-Involved Crashes											
Crashes	5,206	5,667	5,557	5,871	5,487	5,583	5,958	6,552	6,277	6,441	
Fatalities	1	2	0	1	1	2	1	1	1	0	
Serious Injuries	10	7	4	7	7	8	8	10	13	19	

*only includes the vulnerable road users in the fatality/serious injury counts