



SOUTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT
OF PUBLIC SAFETY

prevention — protection — enforcement

Department of Public Safety

Presentation to the House and Senate Transportation Committees
2025



South Dakota Department of Public Safety



HIGHWAY PATROL

DP DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT



ACCIDENT RECORDS



DRIVER LICENSING



FIRE MARSHAL



FUSION CENTER



HIGHWAY SAFETY



HOMELAND
SECURITY



SD LETS



STATE INSPECTIONS



WEIGHTS &
MEASURES



WILDLAND FIRE



VICTIMS' SERVICES



8-1-1
ONE CALL BOARD



9-1-1
COORDINATION



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Boards and Commissions

9-1-1: DPS employs the 9-1-1 Board Coordinator who is responsible for the coordination and administration of board activities.

8-1-1: DPS currently holds their budget only.

(One Call Board) New legislation to move administrative oversight to DPS, similar to the 9-1-1 Board.

SD Crime Victims Compensation Commission: DPS office of Victim Services Coordinates and administers the VCC.

Law Enforcement Standards and Training Commission: The Governor appoints two members to this commission.



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Crash Fatalities

There were approximately 18,322 state reportable crashes that included 129 fatal crashes in 2024. There were 141 fatalities last year.

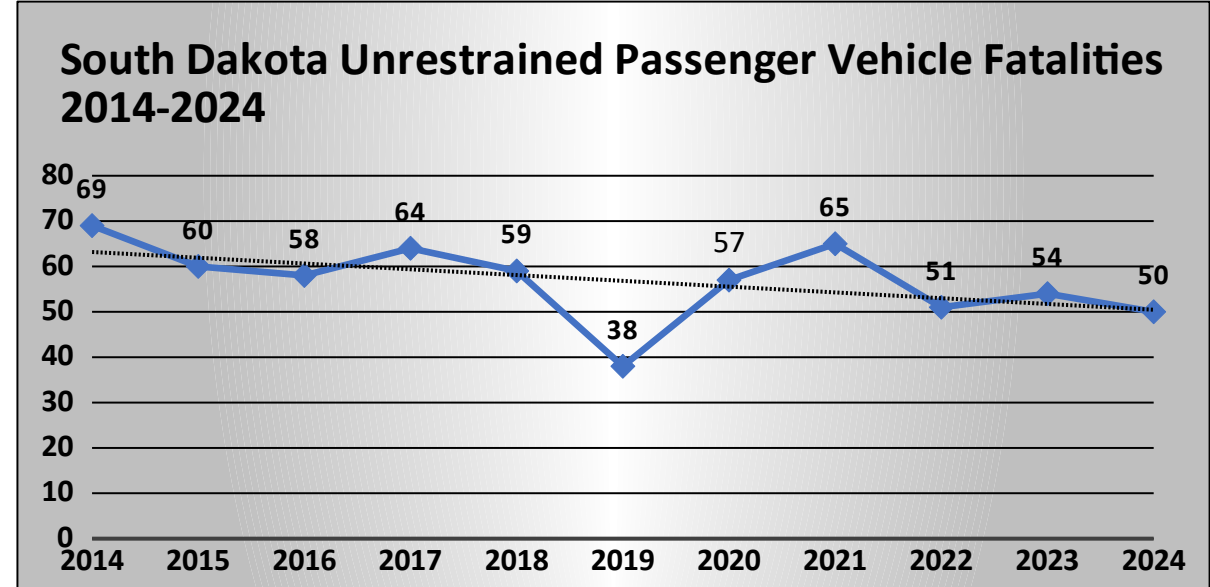
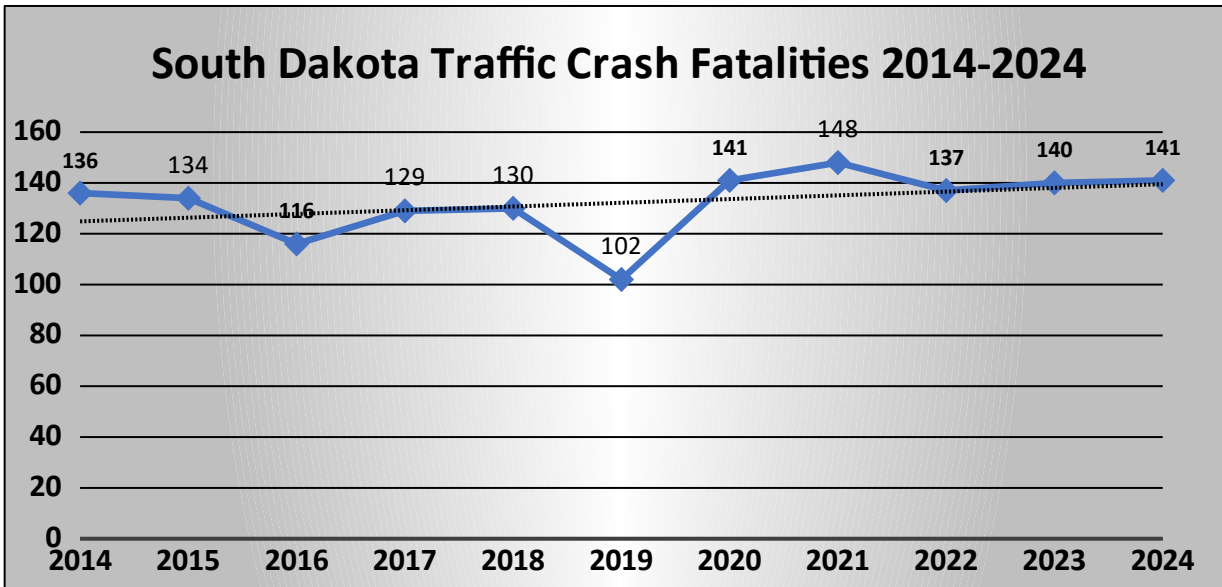


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Crash Fatalities

Of the fatalities where seatbelt use was applicable, 56.18% of fatalities were not wearing their seat belt. There were 50 lives lost by individuals who were not properly restrained.



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Crash Fatalities

Of those 141 fatalities:

33 fatalities were motorcycle related, 7 fatalities were related to ATV/UTVs, 8 fatalities were pedestrians, and 4 fatalities were bicyclists.

Compared to 2023, our pedestrian fatalities were down 46%



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Office of Highway Safety

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The Office of Highway Safety works to reduce fatalities and serious injuries from traffic related crashes. The Office receives grant funding through the National Highway Safety Traffic Administration (NHTSA) to work to change driver behavior.

FFY 2024 PROGRAM FUNDING

91 law enforcement projects addressed underage alcohol use, seat belt use, impaired driving and speeding:
\$3,032,308

16 community/non-profit projects promoting young driver education, prosecutor training, law enforcement training, bicycle safety, pedestrian safety, seat belt education and Stop the Bleed training to new drivers:
\$1,262,339

All are major contributing factors to traffic crashes and injuries.



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Some of this funding goes to educational items such as Safety Town, where students learn how to navigate our streets responsibly.



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One popular campaign to highlight is our Lessons Learned program, done in conjunction with the South Dakota Broadcaster's Association. This campaign encourages young drivers to visit the Lessons Learned website to answer a few questions related to traffic safety for a chance to win \$10,000 for themselves and \$10,000 for a school program of their choice. The goal is to get young drivers to think about safe driving habits. In 2024 we had 5,442 students from 182 schools and home school students participate. Our winner was a freshman from Watertown High School.



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Motorcycle Safety



One concern the Office of Highway Safety has seen the last few years is an increase in motorcycle related crashes and fatalities.

Of the 33 motorcycle fatalities in 2024, 21 were not wearing a helmet.



Black Hills Motorcycle crashes

- In 2024 there were 5 motorcycle fatalities related to the rally.
- There were 65 motorcycle fatalities in the Black Hills area. We define this area as Custer, Fall River, Lawrence, Meade and Pennington Counties. Of these, 13 were fatalities, two involved alcohol, and 7 were not wearing a helmet.



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Motorcycle Safety



The Office of Highway Safety also expends funds for motorcycle safety education and training. The South Dakota Safety Council provides motorcycle safety rider education courses.



We continue to work with the South Dakota Safety Council to develop 3-wheel and 4-wheel curriculum to properly address safety concerns.



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South Dakota Highway Patrol Staffing

- Authorized 201 sworn positions. There are currently 21 vacancies.
- We have implemented a number of new and different recruiting strategies to move the needle. If you attended a statewide high school sporting event last winter or spring, you probably saw our recruitment advertising.





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Highway Patrol – Crash Reduction Efforts



Each summer (summer because higher traffic and higher crash stats), our Districts operate under a summer enforcement plan. This plan often requires a certain number of patrols on specific segments of roadway. Analytical data tells us where crashes historically have occurred and where our visibility and enforcement efforts effectively reduced crashes.



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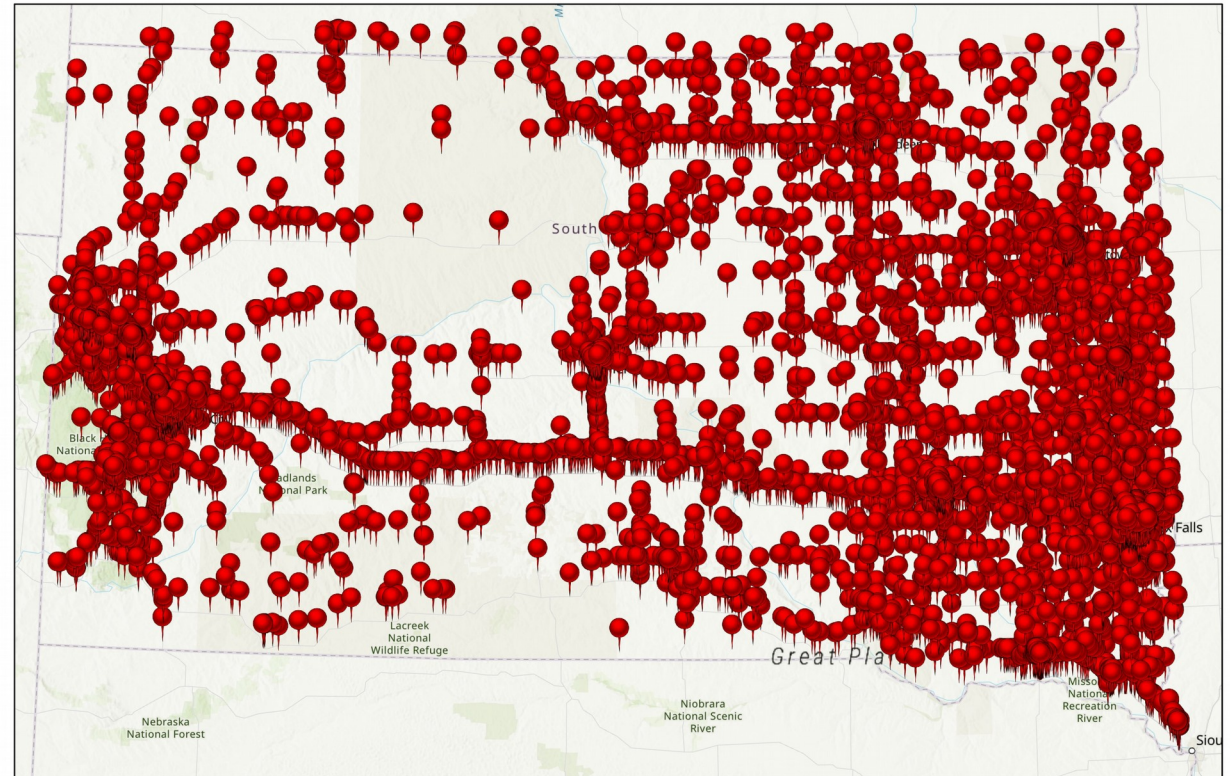
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Highway Patrol – Crash Reduction Efforts

In almost every area we target we can show a measurable impact to the crash stats. Unfortunately, if we are targeting specific areas, the untargeted areas sometimes see an increase. We saw that last year in some of our statistics.

Where we focused our attention, crashes decreased. Where we weren't actively present (like secondary highways), crashes increased. This reinforces the fact that our visibility and enforcement works in reducing crashes.

ALL VEHICLE CRASHES, 2024



 1 Crash



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Highway Patrol – Crash Reduction Efforts

Additionally, in FY 2024, there were 1,686 DUI arrests. 137 of which were directly related to sobriety check points.



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Highway Patrol – Crash Reduction Efforts



Aggressive Driving and Pursuit Mitigation

We've had several successful operations this past year partnering with Sioux Falls Police and our aircraft. The aircraft is primarily used in pursuit scenarios to identify aggressive driving or assist in locating those committing dangerous actions, instead of engaging in what could be a pursuit endangering other motorists (Veterans Parkway).

This use for the aircraft is in addition to regular search and rescue and event monitoring we do.



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Drivers Licensing Fee Increase

The Driver Licensing program is self-funded. There are no general funds used to support the daily operation of the DL program.

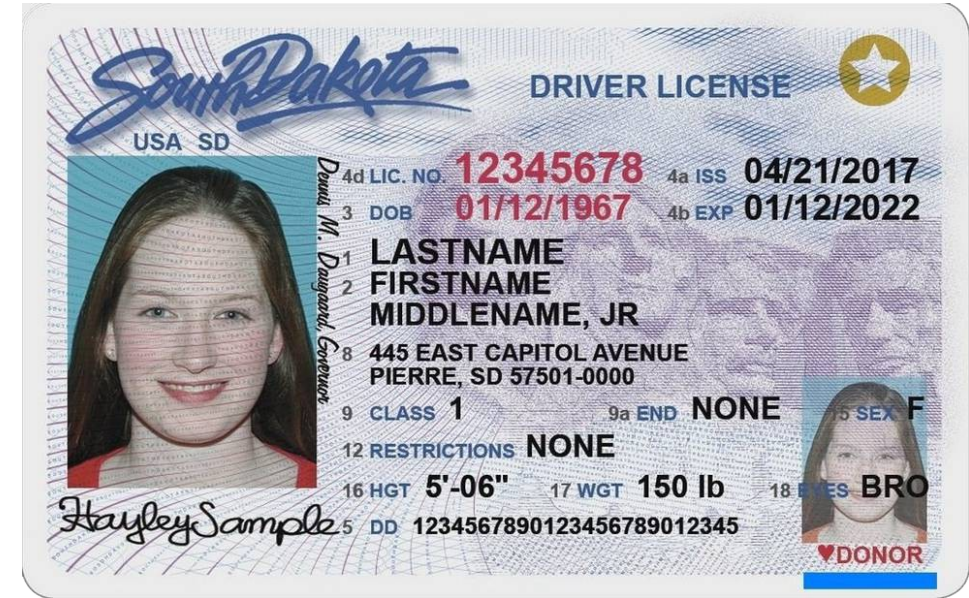
We are requesting a fee increase this year from \$28 to \$38 for a general driver's license.

Total of driver's licenses issued:

FY2022 = 235,444 Total (214,813 DL & 20,631 ID)

FY2023 = 233,044 Total (212,667 DL & 20,377 ID)

FY2024 = 204,956 Total (183,137 DL & 21,819 ID)



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