

# Crash Rates

## Safety & Operations

**Crash Rate is one of six safety and operations factors ODOT may consider when evaluating a highway approach application.**

### Points of Interest

What are crash rates?

Factors considered in crash rates.

Why is ODOT concerned about crash rates?

### Factors Considered in Crash Rates

- ✓ Number of Crashes
- ✓ Highway Traffic Volume
- ✓ Highway Study Segment Length
- ✓ Highway Functional Classification
- ✓ Urban or Rural Abutting Land Uses
- ✓ Study Time Period

### What are Crash Rates?

**A Local Crash Rate** is a calculation of the crash frequency for a specific highway segment. Local crash rates for a specific highway segment can also be calculated using the ODOT Crash Summary Database tool or calculated manually.

**A Statewide Average Crash Rate** is a calculation of the average crash frequency for similar highway segments. Crash rates are calculated based on the number of crashes per million vehicle miles traveled (VMT) in a given year.

- ✓ Local crash rates are published annually by the ODOT Crash Analysis and Reporting Unit and available on the department's website. They are listed by highway and mile point in Section II State Highway Crash Rates in the most recent [Crash Rate Book](#).

- ✓ Statewide average crash rates are also published annually by the ODOT Crash Analysis and Reporting Unit and available on the department's website. These rates are available in Table II of the most recent [Crash Rate Book](#).

### Why is ODOT Concerned About Crash Rates?

When ODOT reviews an approach permit application, the local crash rate is compared to the statewide average crash rate. This is done to determine whether a proposed approach is on a highway segment with a local crash rate that is 20 percent higher than the statewide average crash rate for similar highways.



- A local crash rate that is significantly higher than the statewide average for similar highway segments may indicate there is a safety and operations concern in the vicinity.
- ODOT considers the number of crashes, type of crashes, direction of travel, location of crashes and other factors that may contribute to crashes when determining whether the local crash rate is a concern as it relates to the proposed approach.
- If ODOT determines that the type of crashes or crash frequency near a proposed approach is a safety and operations concern, the applicant may be required to mitigate the concern. If the concern cannot be mitigated, ODOT may deny the approach permit application.