

## Intersection Facts

Most drivers and pedestrians know from their own experiences that intersection safety is a big problem. The statistics come as no surprise. Briefing Sheets developed by the US Institute of Traffic Safety Engineers for “the media, decision-makers, the general public and others” cite the following:

- In 2002 approximately 3.2 million intersection-related crashes occurred representing 50 percent of all reported crashes. (40 to 50 percent is the range generally cited for this measure.)
- 9,612 fatal intersection crashes occurred representing 22 percent of total fatal crashes
- 1,066,000 intersection-related injury crashes occurred representing 55.3 percent of all injury crashes
- 2,092,000 “Property Damage Only” intersection crashes occurred representing 48.1 percent of all PDO crashes
- the total annual societal cost for intersection crashes was approximately \$96 billion
- the number of fatal crashes at traffic signals is rising faster than any other type of fatal crash nationwide
- despite improved intersection design and more sophisticated applications of traffic engineering measures, the annual toll of human loss due to intersection crashes has not substantially changed in more than 25 years
- Side impact crashes predominate—at signalized intersections, for example, yellow and red light runners T-boning left turners and green light jump starters—accounting for over 60 percent of fatal intersection crashes.
- Rear-end and head-on crashes each account for 5 percent. 28% — almost one in three fatal crashes at intersections—do not involve a collision with another motor vehicle in motion, a category that presumably incorporates pedestrian and cyclist fatalities.