A PUBLIC-INTEREST DATA REPORT

The Arizona Road-Safety Report

Reported & computed by **AZ Law Now**

PLAIN ANSWERS ABOUT ARIZONA'S ROADS

AN OPEN LOOK AT ONE YEAR ON ARIZONA'S ROADS

DATA YEAR 2024 · FREE TO READ, CITE & SHARE

PHOENIX · MARICOPA COUNTY · ARIZONA

Phoenix's Deadliest Intersections

What a year on Arizona's roads actually looks like, by the numbers, and what the record says about when and where a crash turns fatal.

1,228

people killed on Arizona roads in 2024.

THAT'S 3.36 EVERY DAY.
ONE LIFE EVERY 7 HOURS, 9 MINUTES.

WHO READS THE DATA

We read the crash record the way we read a case: the road, the numbers, and the pattern underneath them.

AZ Law Now reads Arizona's crash record. We pulled the state and federal data and computed the lethality ourselves: which behaviors, which hours, and which corners actually turn a crash into a death.

It names no one and sells nothing. It just shows the work.

> WHY THIS MATTERS NOW
>
> On June 9, 2026, a suspected impaired driver ran a red light at more than twice the posted limit in Phoenix and caused a fatal multi-vehicle crash. Three of the deadliest things a driver can do, in one moment. The data shows it's a pattern, not an accident of one bad night.

01 Not all crashes kill equally

OUR ANALYSIS

Speeding causes the most crashes by far. But per crash, it isn't the deadliest act.

We took ADOT's driver-violation table and computed a kill rate for each behavior: the share of drivers with that violation who ended up in a fatal crash. Running a red light is 2.32 times more lethal per crash than going too fast for conditions.

KILL RATE BY DRIVER BEHAVIOR COMPUTED

Drivers in fatal crashes ÷ all drivers with the violation

BEHAVIOR	LETHALITY PER CRASH	KILL RATE	ODDS
Crossed the median 150 drivers · 15 in fatal crashes		10.00%	1 in 10
Exceeded the lawful speed 733 drivers · 71 in fatal crashes		9.69%	1 in 10
Drove wrong-way 136 drivers · 13 in fatal crashes		9.56%	1 in 10
Drove left of center 1,362 drivers · 88 in fatal crashes		6.46%	1 in 15
Ran a stop sign 1,418 drivers · 25 in fatal crashes		1.76%	1 in 57
Ran a red light THE INTERSECTION BEHAVIOR 5,891 drivers · 64 in fatal crashes		1.09%	1 in 92
Failed to yield 23,078 drivers · 139 in fatal crashes		0.60%	1 in 166
Went too fast for conditions 32,466 drivers · 152 in fatal crashes		0.47%	1 in 214

Hard speeding is nearly 10x more lethal per crash than "too fast for conditions."

Computed from ADOT 2024 Crash Facts, Table 5-11 (Driver Violations). Kill rate = drivers in a fatal crash ÷ all drivers cited for that violation. Presence in a fatal crash does not establish fault.

> The common read is that speed is the deadliest behavior because it causes the most crashes. It isn't.
> Speed is the volume leader. Per crash, running a red light kills 2.32x more often than driving too fast for conditions.
> The danger at an intersection isn't how many crashes happen there. It's the specific act.

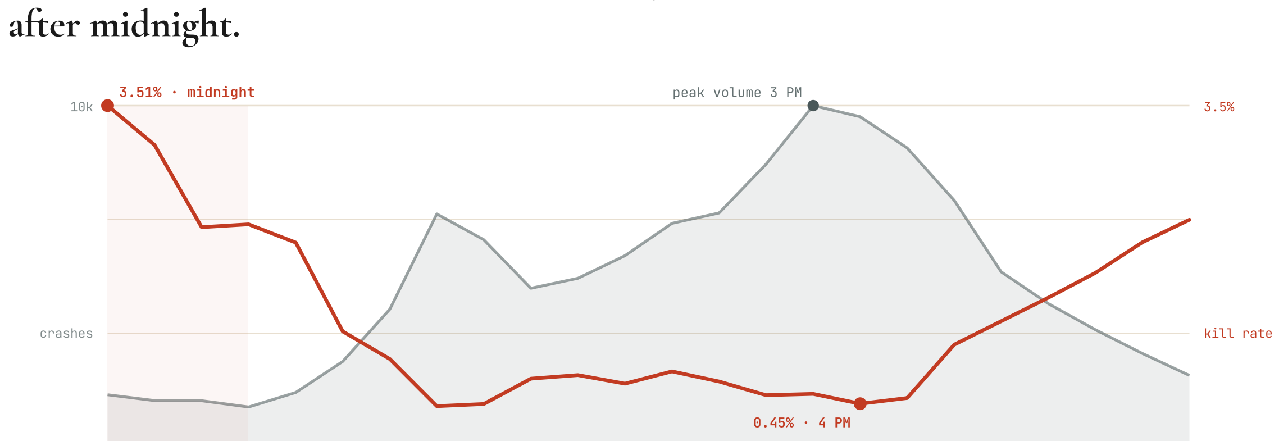
02 The midnight multiplier

OUR ANALYSIS

The hour of a crash predicts its lethality more than almost anything else. We computed a kill rate for all 24 hours of the day.

The hours with the most crashes and the hours with the most deadly *crashes are not the same window. They barely overlap.*

Crash volume peaks at rush hour. Lethality peaks after midnight.



A crash at midnight has a 3.51% chance of being fatal. The same crash at 4 PM: **0.45%**. That's a 7.8x multiplier.

Rush hour fills the roads, but the road empties out and turns lethal after dark: the kill-rate line climbs as the volume line falls. **Sunday is the deadliest day** (1.79x the Thursday rate), and a weekend crash is **1.74x more lethal** than a weekday one.

Computed from ADOT 2024 Crash Facts, Table 3-7 (Crashes by Hour and Day of Week). Kill rate = fatal crashes ÷ all crashes in that hour. Day and weekend rates computed the same way.

03 The intersection signature

OUR ANALYSIS

There's a crash type that belongs to the intersection: the left turn and the angle collision. We computed the kill rate for every collision manner. A left-turn crash is 3.2 times more likely to be fatal than a rear-end.

Left-turn collision

0.75% kill rate · 1 in 133

3.2x the rear-end rate

127 of **16,866** left-turn crashes were fatal. The turn across traffic is the signature intersection crash, and it kills.

Angle (broadside) collision

0.53% kill rate · 1 in 189

2.2x the rear-end rate

96 of **18,182** angle crashes were fatal. Together with left turns, angle and left-turn crashes are **1 in 3** multi-vehicle crashes but **28%** of the fatal ones.

Rear-end collision

0.24% kill rate · 1 in 425

the baseline

91 of **38,654** rear-end crashes were fatal. The most common multi-vehicle crash is also the most survivable.

Computed from ADOT 2024 Crash Facts, Table 3-1 (Manner of Collision in Multi-Unit Crashes). Bars scale to kill rate, left-turn = 100%.

Put the three findings together: a left turn, run on a red light, after midnight. That's the deadliest single moment on a Phoenix road. June 9 stacked all of it.

04 Where: the deadliest intersections

6 in 10 traffic injuries and about 4 in 10 traffic deaths in metro Phoenix happen at an intersection.

MAG, 2018 to 2022 · Maricopa Association of Governments intersection risk analysis (NSM-I)

HIGHEST-RISK METRO-PHOENIX INTERSECTIONS

SOURCE: MAG · DATA YEAR 2018 TO 2022 · SEVERITY-WEIGHTED

1	67th Ave & McDowell Rd	PHOENIX
2	51st Ave & Camelback Rd	GLENDALE
3	19th Ave & Peoria Ave	PHOENIX
4	67th Ave & Thomas Rd	PHOENIX
5	67th Ave & Indian School Rd	PHOENIX
6	83rd Ave & Indian School Rd	PHOENIX
7	Cave Creek Rd & Sweetwater Ave	PHOENIX
8	51st Ave & Thomas Rd	PHOENIX
9	27th Ave & Camelback Rd	PHOENIX
10	99th Ave & Lower Buckeye Rd	PHOENIX

9 of the 10 sit on the west side.

MAG intersection risk analysis (NSM-I), 2018 to 2022

OUR FRESH CORROBORATION COMPUTED

We pulled the federal fatal-crash records, and the west-side pattern holds.

The named ranking above is MAG's, and it covers 2018 to 2022. To check whether it still describes the road today, we downloaded NHTSA's federal fatal-crash files for 2022 and 2023, filtered to Maricopa County, and grouped 1,276 fatal crash events by intersection.

The same arterials dominate both datasets. 19th Avenue, 43rd Avenue, 51st Avenue, and 67th Avenue run through both rankings.

Two of MAG's exact corners reappear among the deadliest in the fresh federal data: 67th Ave & McDowell and Cave Creek & Sweetwater. Two independent sources, two different methods, the same west-side map.

The 43rd Avenue corridor is the new signal. In the fresh federal data, 43rd Ave is the single most lethal arterial: fatal crashes at Thunderbird, Thomas, and Northern, totaling 10 deaths across 5 crash events in 2022 and 2023. These spots repeat across both years, which reads as structural, not chance.

43rd Ave & Thunderbird Rd	fatal '22 + '23	43rd Ave & Thomas Rd	fatal '22 + '23
35th Ave & Thunderbird Rd	fatal '22 + '23	19th Ave & Northern Ave	fatal '22 + '23
103rd Ave & Olive Ave	fatal '22 + '23	67th Ave & McDowell Rd	in both rankings

Computed from NHTSA FARS 2022 to 2023, Maricopa County, fatal crashes only. Intersections grouped on primary and cross street with a geographic consistency check. Single-name geo-suspect entries excluded.

AN HONEST METHODOLOGY NOTE

Our corroboration counts fatal crashes only, because that's the federal data anyone can download. A complete **current, all-severity** ranking, the kind that captures injury and fender-bender crashes too, needs ADOT's CRIS incident-level data, which the state does not publish openly. We've filed for it through a public-records request.

Until it lands, we say plainly what we have: a fresh fatal-crash corroboration that confirms MAG's west-side pattern, not a replacement for it. The June 9 crash is a behavior example only. We make no claim that its location ranks.

05 Maricopa crashes more, dies less

OUR ANALYSIS

Phoenix isn't just dangerous. It's a crash factory where most crashes don't kill. The danger is the subset that does.

CRASHES VS DEATHS

73%

of Arizona's crashes happen in Maricopa County, but only **48%** of the deaths. Outside Maricopa, a crash is **2.65x more likely to kill**. Rural interstates and mountain roads turn crashes fatal far more often than dense, lower-speed city streets.

Computed from ADOT 2024 Crash Facts, Table 2-2.

THE DAILY BILL

$32.4M

leaves Maricopa County every single day to crashes. The county's crashes cost **$11.8 billion** in 2024, **56.6%** of Arizona's entire crash bill, about **$2,600 per resident** per year.

Computed from ADOT 2024 Crash Facts, Table 1-4 (Estimated Economic Loss by County).

06 The statewide context

KILLED · 2024	CRASHES	INJURED	ALCOHOL DEATHS
1,228	121,107	54,426	347
Down **6.12%** from 2023, the second straight drop.	Reported across Arizona in one year.	**149 every day.** Roughly one every 10 minutes.	**28.26%** of all road deaths in 2024.
ADOT 2024 Crash Facts	ADOT 2024 Crash Facts	ADOT 2024 Crash Facts	ADOT 2024 Crash Facts

WHAT THIS MEANS

Every number points the same way. The deadliest crash isn't the busy one. It's the left turn run on a red light, after midnight, on a west-side arterial. Knowing where the danger concentrates, and when, protects families and the public.

We read the record so you get answers.

QUESTIONS ABOUT ARIZONA'S ROADS? YOU GET ANSWERS

(602) 654-0202

07 How we built this

METHODOLOGY

PRIMARY SOURCES ONLY

Every figure traces to a named government dataset: **ADOT's 2024 Crash Facts** for the statewide record, **NHTSA's FARS** federal fatal-crash files for the fresh intersection corroboration, and the **MAG** intersection study for the named ranking. We read the source, not the news write-up.

WE COMPUTED THE KILL RATES

The lethality numbers are ours. ADOT publishes crash counts. We divided fatal crashes by total crashes per behavior, per hour, per collision type, and per county to get a **kill rate** nobody else publishes from this data. Every calculation uses only the published counts.

VERIFIED, THEN FLAGGED

Computations were checked in code against ADOT's own totals. Where a number was thin or a name looked ambiguous in the federal file, we flagged it and left it out. We did not design a finding. We struck it from the data.

> THE ONE LIMITATION WE WANT STATED PLAINLY
>
> Our intersection corroboration covers **fatal crashes only**, because FARS is the federal fatal-crash file. It is the right source for a "deadliest" claim, but it is not an all-severity "most crash-prone" ranking. That requires ADOT's CRIS incident-level export, which the state does not publish openly and which we've requested through public records. MAG's ranking is severity-weighted but covers 2018 to 2022. We present these as two complementary sources that agree, and we disclose each one's date and scope rather than blend them into a single false ranking.

PROVENANCE LEDGER · EVERY HEADLINE NUMBER

MEASURED read directly from a published table. COMPUTED our calculation from published counts. VERIFIED confirmed against the named source.

HEADLINE FIGURE	PROVENANCE	SOURCE
1,228 killed in 2024, down 6.12%	VERIFIED	ADOT 2024 Crash Facts (statewide totals)
121,107 crashes · 54,426 injured · 347 alcohol deaths	VERIFIED	ADOT 2024 Crash Facts
Run a red light is 2.32x more lethal per crash than too-fast-for-conditions	COMPUTED	ADOT Table 5-11 (Driver Violations)
Midnight crash 7.8x more likely to kill than 4 PM · Sunday deadliest day	COMPUTED	ADOT Table 3-7 (Crashes by Hour and Day)
Left-turn crash 3.2x more lethal than rear-end	COMPUTED	ADOT Table 3-1 (Manner of Collision)
Maricopa = 73% of crashes, 48% of deaths, 2.65x more lethal outside	COMPUTED	ADOT Table 2-2 (by County)
$11.8B Maricopa crash cost · $32.4M per day	COMPUTED	ADOT Table 1-4 (Economic Loss by County)
Top-10 metro-Phoenix intersections (named ranking)	MEASURED	MAG intersection risk analysis (NSM-I), 2018 to 2022
6 in 10 injuries, 4 in 10 deaths happen at an intersection	MEASURED	MAG intersection risk analysis (NSM-I)
43rd Ave corridor most lethal (10 deaths, 5 events) · west-side pattern holds	COMPUTED	NHTSA FARS 2022 to 2023, Maricopa, fatal crashes only

REFERENCES

Arizona Department of Transportation. (2025). *2024 motor vehicle crash facts for the state of Arizona.* https://azdot.gov/sites/default/files/2025-07/2024-Crash-Facts.pdf

Arizona Department of Transportation. (2025). *Traffic fatalities in Arizona dip for second year in a row* [Press release]. https://azdot.gov/news/traffic-fatalities-arizona-dip-second-year-row

Maricopa Association of Governments. (2023). *Regional intersection safety analysis: Network screening methodology for intersections (NSM-I), 2018–2022.* Reported by KJZZ. https://kjzz.org/content/1864266

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. (2024). *Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS), 2022–2023 national file* [Data set]. U.S. Department of Transportation. https://static.nhtsa.gov/nhtsa/downloads/FARS/

Statewide figures are ADOT data year 2024. Kill rates, lethality ratios, and economic-cost figures are computed by AZ Law Now from the published counts in the sources above.

The named intersection ranking uses MAG data from 2018 to 2022 and reflects that period, not 2024. The intersection corroboration uses NHTSA FARS 2022 to 2023 fatal-crash records only and is not an all-severity ranking.

The June 9 reference is a behavior example only and makes no claim that any location ranks as dangerous. This report is public-interest data journalism, not legal advice, and creates no attorney-client relationship.

AZ Law Now
YOU GET ANSWERS

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