

# Introduction

*What Every Driver Must Know* contains information about operating a motor vehicle safely on Michigan roads. Although this publication includes information about many Michigan traffic laws, it is not meant as a legal document or as a substitute for the Michigan Vehicle Code. Information in this publication is subject to change.

**The Michigan Department of State Information Center telephone number and other helpful resources are printed on the back cover.**

Please remember that driving is a privilege and not a right. Drivers must drive responsibly and safely, obey traffic laws, and never drink and drive. Finally, buckle up and make sure all passengers do too. It is the law!

**Before you read further, consider these facts about driving in Michigan. In 2005:**

- 350,838 motor vehicle crashes were reported. Deaths numbered 1,129 and 90,510 people were injured.
- Twenty-six percent of all fatal traffic crashes occurred at an intersection.
- Alcohol was involved in 317 fatal crashes.
- Four out of five accidental deaths for young people ages 15-24 were due to motor vehicle crashes.
- Motor vehicle crashes remained the number one cause of accidental death for young children, far outpacing the next two most frequent causes: fires and drowning.
- More than one-third of all pedestrian fatalities occurred at crossings other than at intersections.
- Excessive speed was a factor in 12.5 percent of fatal crashes.

2005 Quick Fact

Michigan Traffic Crash Data — Michigan Department of State Police/Office of Highway Safety Planning

