EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2001 traffic fatality count was 1,328, down 3.9 percent from the 2000 figure of 1,382. Compared with 2000, injuries were down 7.8 percent and total crashes were down 5.7 percent. These figures translated into a death rate of 1.4 per 100 million miles of travel, down 6.7 percent from the 2000 death rate. Nationally, fatalities were up 0.4 percent.

Exposure factors in 2001 showed increases in vehicle registrations, the number of drivers on Michigan roads, and travel mileage. They included motor vehicle registrations up 0.4 percent to 8.60 million, the number of licensed drivers is up 0.7 percent to 7.09 million, and vehicle travel mileage up 1.6 percent to 96.43 billion.

Consumption of alcohol continues to be a major factor in Michigan crashes, particularly the more serious crashes. In 2001, 3.9 percent of all crashes, including property damage only, were reported to involve drinking, and 20.5 percent resulted in injury or death. However, 43.7 percent of alcohol-related crashes involved injury or death, and 34.7 percent of fatal crashes involved drinking. Over 67.8 percent of alcohol-related fatal crashes involved only one vehicle, whereas only 48.3 percent of all crashes involved one vehicle.

Data on crashes in this book was obtained from 2001 Michigan Traffic Crash Report Forms (UD-10) submitted by local police departments, sheriff jurisdictions, and the Department of State Police. Other related information was obtained from the Departments of Transportation, State, and Community Health.

The University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute produced this publication with data on file at the Michigan Department of State Police as of June 18, 2002. We acknowledge, with appreciation, all involved agencies for their assistance.