EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2002 traffic fatality count was 1,279, down 3.7 percent from the 2001 figure of 1,328. Compared with 2001, injuries were down 0.2 percent and total crashes were down 1.3 percent. These figures translated into a death rate of 1.3 per 100 million miles of travel, down 7.1 percent from the 2001 death rate. Nationally, fatalities were up 0.7 percent.

Exposure factors in 2002 showed increases in vehicle registrations, the number of drivers on Michigan roads, and travel mileage. They included motor vehicle registrations up 1.0 percent to 8.69 million, the number of licensed drivers is up 0.7 percent to 7.14 million, and vehicle travel mileage up 1.8 percent to 98.17 billion.

Consumption of alcohol continues to be a major factor in Michigan crashes, particularly the more serious crashes. In 2002, 4.0 percent of all crashes, including property damage only, were reported to involve drinking, and 20.7 percent of all crashes resulted in injury or death. However, 43.9 percent of alcohol-related crashes involved injury or death, and 32.7 percent of fatal crashes involved drinking. 60.9 percent of alcohol-related fatal crashes involved one vehicle, whereas only 32.9 percent of all crashes involved one vehicle.

Data on crashes in this book was obtained from 2002 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 May 19, 2003. We acknowledge, with appreciation, all involved agencies for their assistance.