

2018 Economic Impact of Crashes

Using figures determined by the Federal Highway Administration and published in the Highway Safety Manual, an estimation of economic costs associated with crashes in Fort Collins can be made. The crash costs shown are adjusted to reflect 2018 values. Crash costs include monetary losses associated with medical care, emergency services, property damage, and lost productivity. They also include costs related to the reduction in the quality of life related to injuries.

Societal cost of crashes in 2018:
\$ 165 million

Crash Severity	Number of Crashes	Cost Per Crash	Societal Cost
Property Damage Crashes	2860	\$ 10,600	\$ 30,316,000
Possible Injury Crashes	681	\$ 65,900	\$ 44,877,900
Non-Incapacitating Injury Crashes	226	\$ 117,100	\$ 26,464,600
Incapacitating Injury Crashes	27	\$ 320,700	\$ 8,658,900
Fatal Crashes	9	\$ 6,065,200	\$ 54,586,800
Total	3,803		\$ 164,904,200

Table 1

Economic impact of traffic crashes in Fort Collins in 2018

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) completed a study on the costs of crashes. The NHTSA study not only concentrated on the costs of crashes, but also who pays the costs. The study found that society at large pays for about 75% of all costs incurred for traffic crashes. Those costs are passed on to the general public through insurance premiums, taxes, direct out of pocket payments for goods/services, and increased medical costs.

Comparison with Other Cities

The most consistent way to compare the City's crash frequency with that of other entities is to compare the fatal crash rate (crashes per 100,000 population). The following tables are sorted by fatal crash rate and compare Fort Collins to other cities in Colorado with similar population and also compare to other peer cities nationwide with similar population (between 90,000 and 200,000).

Colorado Cities								
City	Population	Fatal Crashes, 2014 - 2018					Avg.	Fatal Crash Rate (Crashes per 100,000 Population)
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018		
Pueblo	111,750	8	4	5	16	16	9.8	8.8
Lakewood	156,798	13	15	13	8	17	13.2	8.4
Greeley	107,348	8	5	7	11	9	8	7.5
Arvada	120,492	4	6	10	4	5	5.8	4.8
Longmont	96,577	4	5	2	6	6	4.6	4.8
Fort Collins	170,100	5	4	8	13	9	7.8	4.6
Thornton	136,436	4	3	11	9	1	5.6	4.1
Boulder	107,353	0	1	6	0	2	1.8	1.7
Total CO Cities	1,006,854	46	43	62	67	65	56.6	5.6

Table 2
Fatal crash rate comparison to other Colorado Cities

Colorado crash data is from CDOT. Population estimates are for 2018 and are from the U.S. Census

Peer Cities								
City	Population	Fatal Crashes, 2013 - 2017					Avg.	Fatal Crash Rate (Crashes per 100,000 Population)
		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017		
Boca Raton, FL	98,150	12	10	12	18	6	11.6	11.8
Springfield, MO	167,376	13	14	21	19	17	16.8	10.0
Coral Springs, FL	133,037	10	7	8	13	7	9.0	6.8
Norman, OK	122,843	8	7	9	6	9	7.8	6.3
San Angelo, TX	100,119	6	7	8	3	4	5.6	5.6
Richardson, TX	116,783	3	7	8	10	4	6.4	5.5
Broken Arrow, OK	108,303	7	3	8	4	7	5.8	5.4
Fort Collins, CO	167,500	3	5	4	8	13	6.6	3.9
Olathe, KS	137,472	8	2	5	7	3	5.0	3.6
Cedar Rapids, IA	132,228	2	5	1	8	5	4.2	3.2
Overland Park, KS	191,278	4	3	7	7	8	5.8	3.0
Bellevue, WA	144,444	4	3	6	3	2	3.6	2.5
Naperville, IL	147,682	1	3	0	4	2	2.0	1.4
Total Peer Cities	1,767,215	81	76	97	110	87	90.2	5.1

Table 3
Fatal crash rate comparison to similar peer cities nationwide

Note: 2017 is most current national data available

Crash data for other communities outside Colorado (peer cities) was obtained from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Fatal Accident Reporting System which contains data through 2017. Population estimates are for 2017 and are from the U.S. Census.