

January 29, 2013

## New Mexico Traffic Crashes Involving Careless Driving Citations 2002 - 2011

Produced for the NMDOT Traffic Safety Division under Contract # C05579  
by the University of New Mexico, Geospatial and Population Studies, Traffic Research Unit (TRU)

During the 10 years from 2002 to 2011<sup>1</sup> there were 905 crashes between “vulnerable road users” (motorcyclists, pedalcyclists, pedestrians) and all other vehicles in which the crash met the following criteria:

1. The vulnerable user was killed or received an incapacitating (“Class A”) or visible (“Class B”) injury.
2. The driver of the larger vehicle was cited for careless driving.
3. The vulnerable driver was not cited.

These injuries break down as follows:

### Injury to Vulnerable Road Users

| Injured Road User                              | Killed    | Incapacitating Injury | Visible Injury |
|--|-----------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Motorcyclist (drivers and passengers combined) | 4         | 71                    | 114            |
| Pedalcyclist                                   | 1         | 33                    | 77             |
| Pedestrian                                     | 5         | 58                    | 115            |
| <b>Total</b>                                   | <b>10</b> | <b>162</b>            | <b>306</b>     |

There were a total of 1,424 crashes during the period in which at least one person involved was cited for careless driving, but only the ones above resulted in fatalities to vulnerable drivers. The impact on the court system of any change in the careless driving penalty would be minor, with an average of between 100 and 150 careless driving citations per year.

Among the 519 crashes that involved a careless driving citation but did not meet the criteria above, the most common by far, 346, involved only a motorcyclist cited for careless driving, and no citation issued to the driver of the other vehicle. These resulted in many motorcyclist injuries and six pedestrian injuries, but no fatalities. After this, the next most common, with only 30 crashes, was crashes in which only a pedalcyclist was cited for careless driving. These resulted in 18 pedalcyclist injuries and one pedestrian injury.

1. These are the most recent data available. Data for 2011 are preliminary.