

County crash data available

The Iowa DOT's Office of Traffic and Safety announces that county crash data are available on its website, Crash Analysis and Resources (www.iowadot.gov/crashanalysis/), follow the Data link, then the County Profiles link).

Michael Pawlovich, Iowa DOT traffic safety and crash data engineer, maintains the website. He says, "This information was developed and made available to address media and citizens' requests more proactively and to enhance our highway safety marketing efforts. We hope this information will cause people to consider how they might become safer drivers and discuss safety with their kids or parents."

Crash frequency information for every county is available in both standard tabular format (Microsoft Word documents and .pdf files) and map formats (.pdf and .jpg files) (figure 1). The standard county profiles cover crashes related to several factors, including those identified by the federally mandated Comprehensive Highway Safety Program (CHSP):

- Impaired drivers, vehicle speeds, inattentive/distracted drivers, older drivers, and younger drivers,
- Vehicle/animal (typically deer),
- Roadways or intersections,
- Vehicle type, including heavy trucks and motorcycles, and
- Multiple-vehicle cross centerline/cross median, multiple fatality, and single-vehicle run-off-road.

The county profiles provide snapshots of local crash conditions. In addition, the main web page includes links to two data analysis tools, CMaT and SAVER/Diagram Magic, that agencies can use to perform their own analyses. For example, a local agency may need specific information to support a funding request for a proposed safety improvement. The Iowa DOT offers training in both of these tools.

The website provides links to several other sources of traffic information for public agencies specializing in different aspects of highway safety (see the Partners at the bottom of the main page). It also provides a link to submit specific data requests (www.iowadot.gov/crashanalysis/, follow the Data Requests link).

For more information

For information about crash data analysis tools or the website in general, contact Pawlovich, 515-239-1428, Michael.Pawlovich@dot.iowa.gov.

Local agencies needing assistance with specific crash data analyses can contact Iowa Traffic Safety Data Service at CTRE, www.ctre.iastate.edu/itsds/. ■

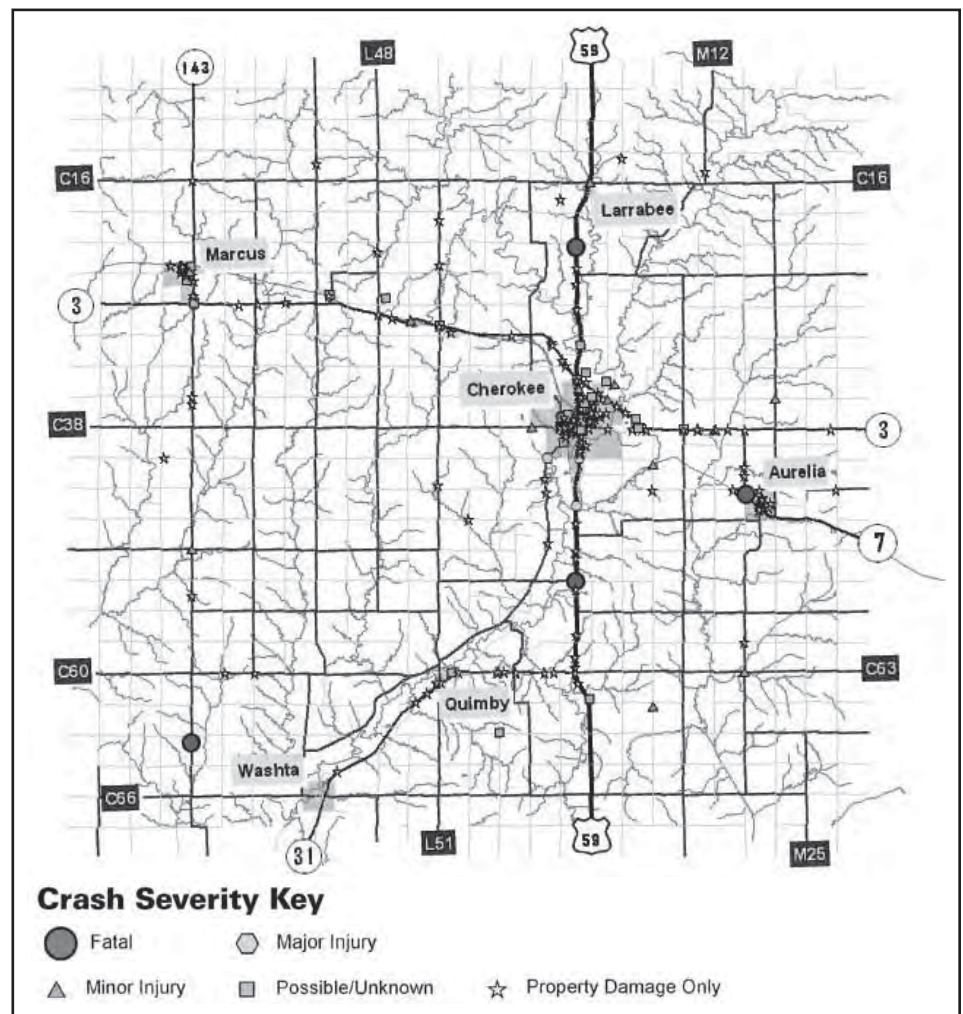


Figure 1. Crash data Cherokee County, Iowa, 2001–2005