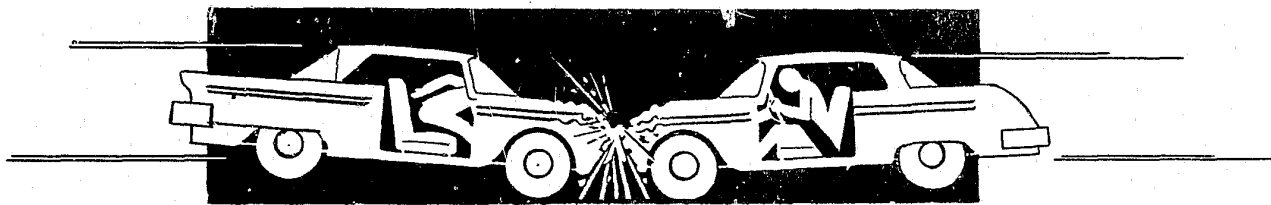




1973

# FATAL ACCIDENT FACTS



DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY  
PLANNING & RESEARCH

WINFIELD DUNN  
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TENNESSEE  
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CLAUDE A. ARMOUR  
COMMISSIONER  
DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY

To The Citizens of Tennessee:

One of the biggest problems facing this country is the tragic loss of lives and injuries that result from automobile accidents on its streets and highways.

The loss of any life in an automobile accident is a tragedy. It is a greater tragedy if that loss is the result of a needless and thoughtless act by a careless driver. Life is too precious a gift to be gambled with and perhaps lost in a traffic accident.

The Department of Safety is dedicated to the task of reducing deaths and injuries on the streets and highways of Tennessee. The Department has compiled a report illustrating fatal accident facts for 1973. This report constitutes an in-depth look at the causes and results of automobile accidents in Tennessee. Hopefully, it will make the public more aware of the results of fatal accidents. If only one life was lost in an automobile accident, it would still have been too great a price to pay. Slowing down to save gasoline is a commendable deed; slowing down to save lives is an even better deed.

It is our sincere wish that this report will serve as a guide to the motoring public to follow in trying to improve its driving habits. We hope that all citizens will join with the Department of Safety in a united effort to reduce deaths and injuries on our highways.

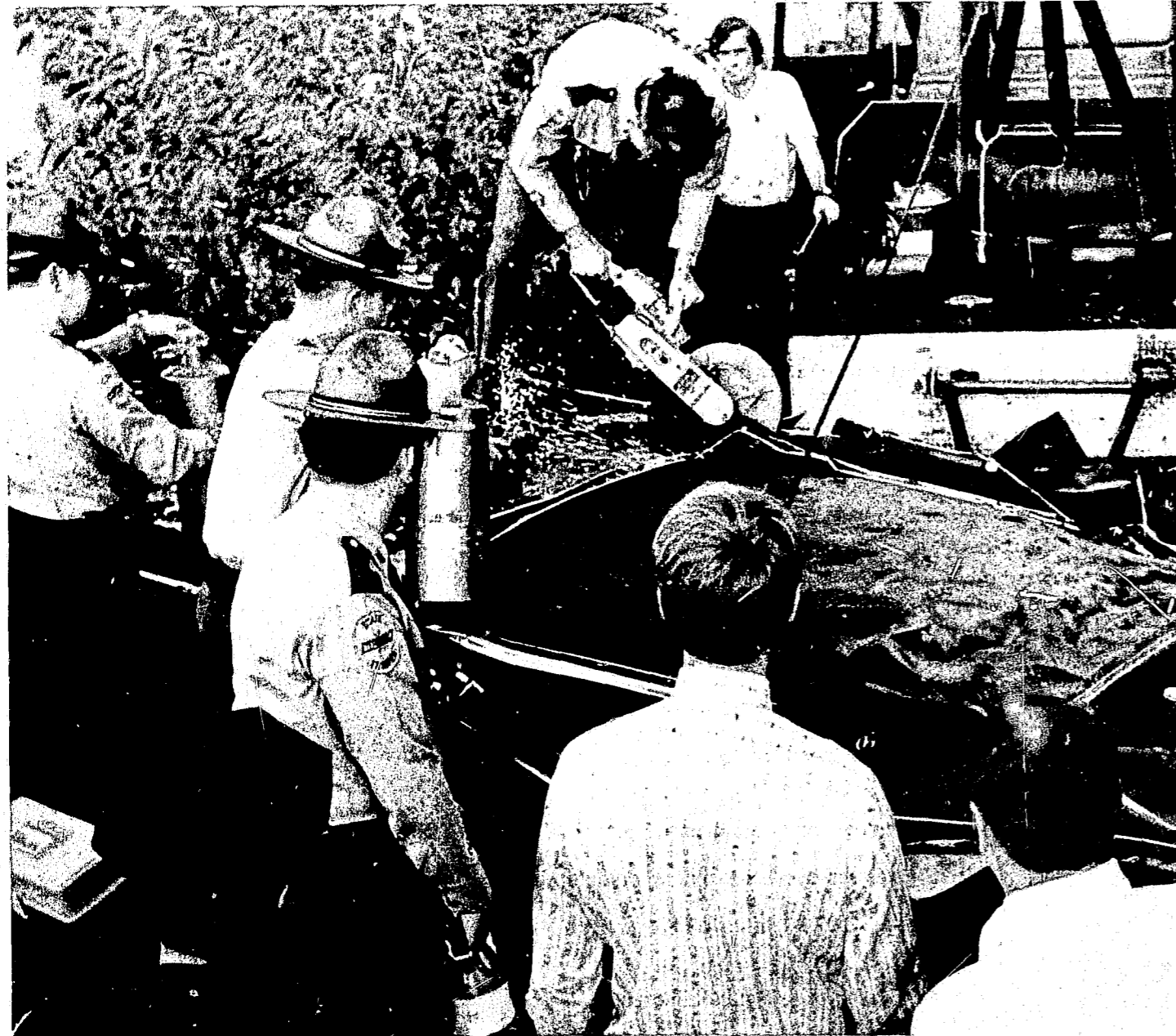
Sincerely,

*Winfield Dunn*  
*Claude A. Armour*

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1972-1973 TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS IN TENNESSEE



	1972	1973*
DEATHS	1,431	1,427
INJURIES	38,315	42,800
TOTAL REPORTED ACCIDENTS	133,626	140,020
MOTOR VEHICLE MILEAGE (Annual)	264,899,000	285,695,000
MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION	2,382,918	2,474,959
DEATH RATE (Number Killed Per 100 Million Miles)	5.4	4.9
INJURY PRODUCING ACCIDENTS:		
Fatal Accidents	1,205	1,235
Non-Fatal Injury Accidents	30,487	31,322
% of All Accidents Which Were Fatal	0.9%	0.9%
% of All Accidents Causing Non-Fatal Injuries	22.8%	22.3%

LOCATIONS OF 1973 ACCIDENTS

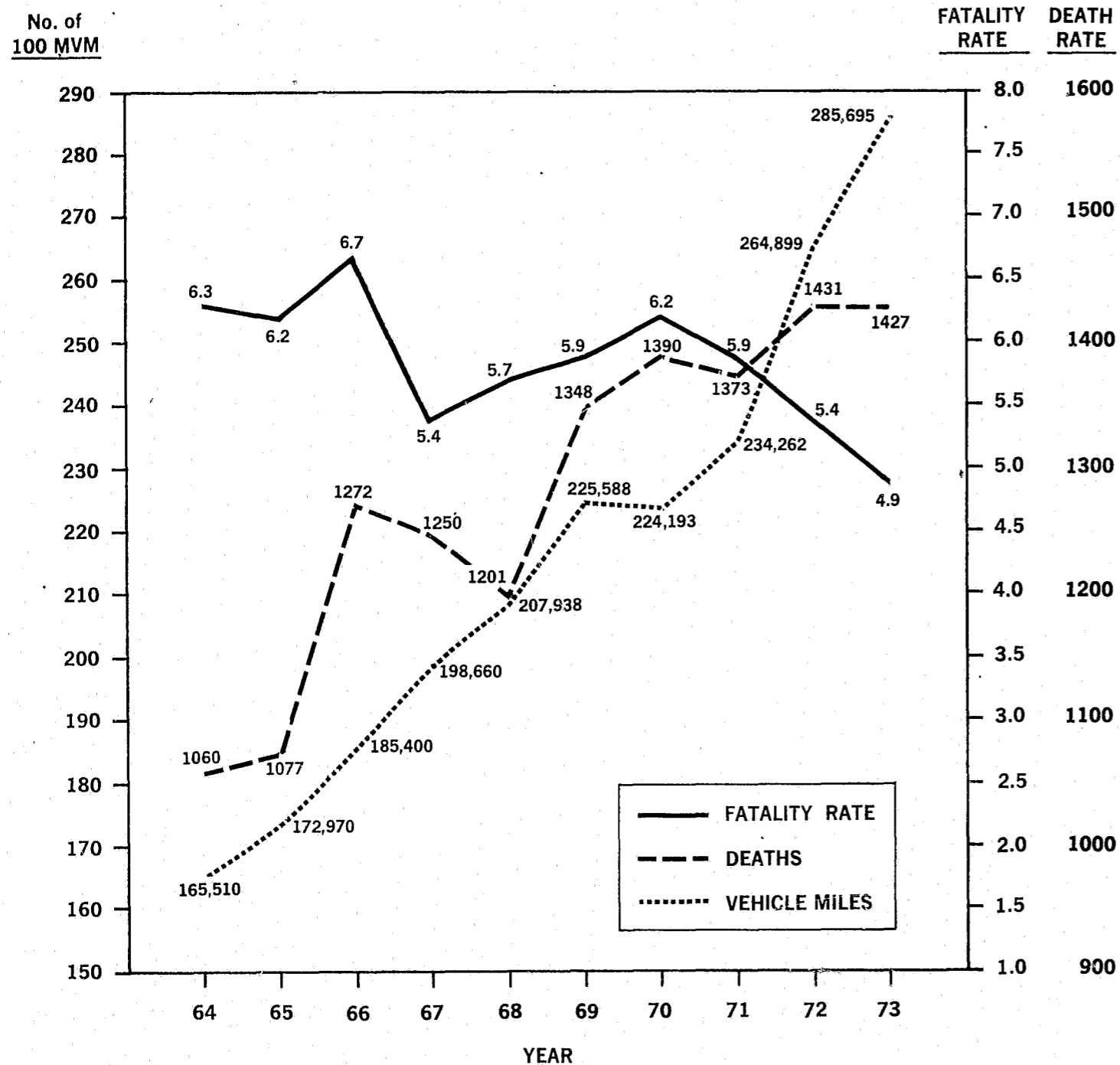
	Fatal Accidents	% of Total
URBAN	398	32.2
RURAL	837	67.8
TOTAL	1,235	100.0%

VEHICLE TRAVEL  
VS.  
DEATH AND DEATH RATES  
BY YEAR

Year	Vehicle Miles Travel (100 Million)	No. of Fatal Accidents	Fatal Accidents per 100,000,000 vm	No. of Fatalities	Death Rate per 100,000,000 vm
1964	165,510	904	5.5	1,060	6.3
1965	172,970	925	5.3	1,077	6.2
1966	185,400	1,028	5.5	1,272	6.7
1967	198,660	1,043	5.4	1,250	6.2
1968	207,938	1,045	5.0	1,201	5.7
1969	225,588	1,126	4.9	1,348	5.9
1970	224,193	1,153	4.7	1,390	6.2
1971	234,262	1,146	4.8	1,373	5.9
1972	264,899	1,221	4.6	1,431	5.4
1973	285,695	1,235	4.3	1,427	4.9

\* All 1973 figures are preliminary figures as of Jan. 10, 1974.  
All figures from Accident Records Section, Driver Control, Dept. of Safety, Statewide unless otherwise noted.

VEHICLE TRAVEL VS. DEATH AND DEATH RATES BY YEAR

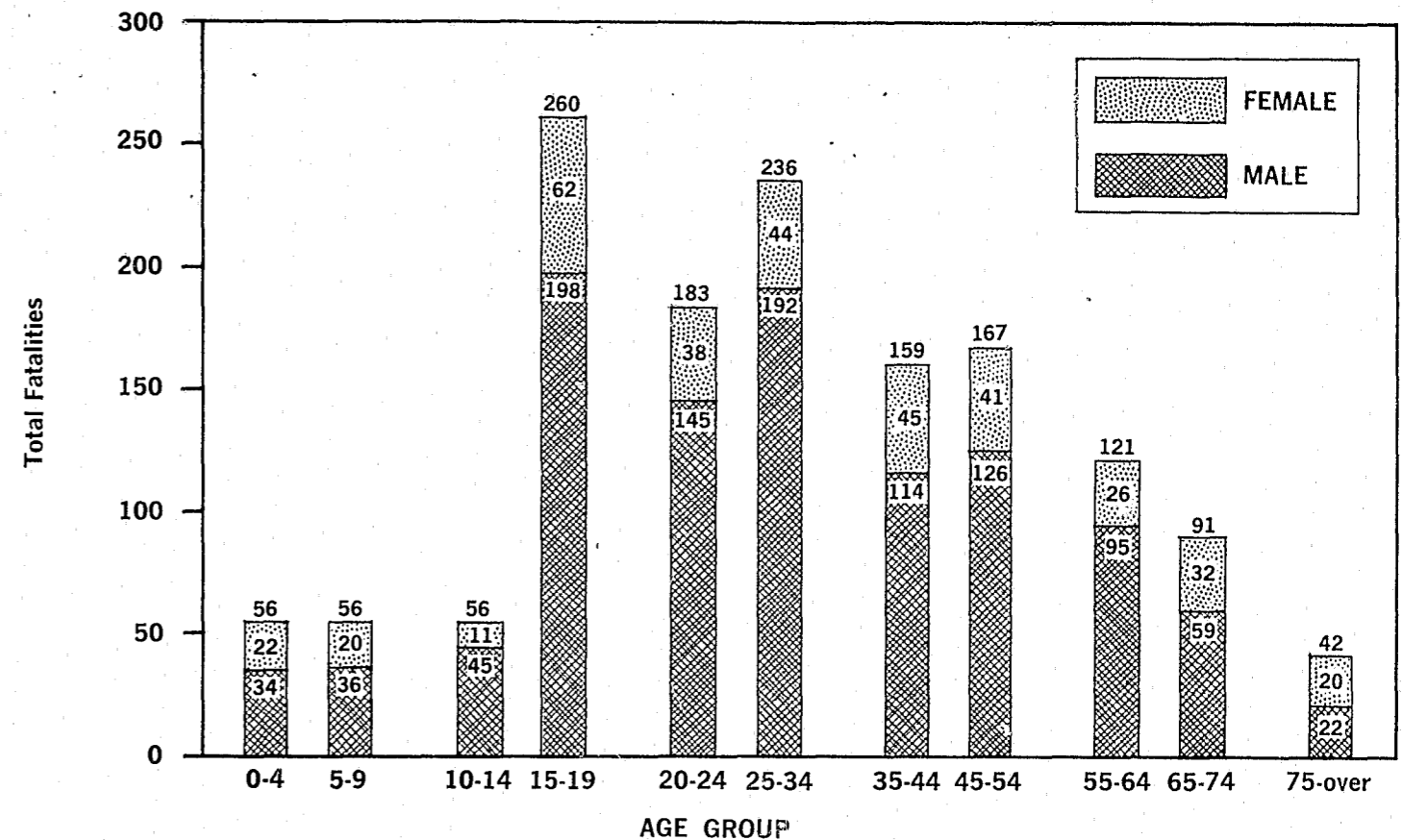


Motor vehicle mileage increased 73% between the years of 1964 and 1973. There were 165,510 annual vehicle miles driven (per 100 million miles) in 1964 and 285,695 miles driven in 1973.

Despite the increase in fatalities and accidents the death rate of 4.9 per 100,000,000 vehicle miles traveled is lower than it has been in the ten year period covering 1964-1973.

Although fatalities seemingly always remain too high it can be seen from these facts that improvements in the design of automobiles, highways, improved planning, improved traffic control devices, building of more Interstate Highways, improved traffic laws and more Highway Patrol officers does play a part in the reduction of fatal traffic accidents.

1973 FATALITIES BY AGE AND SEX



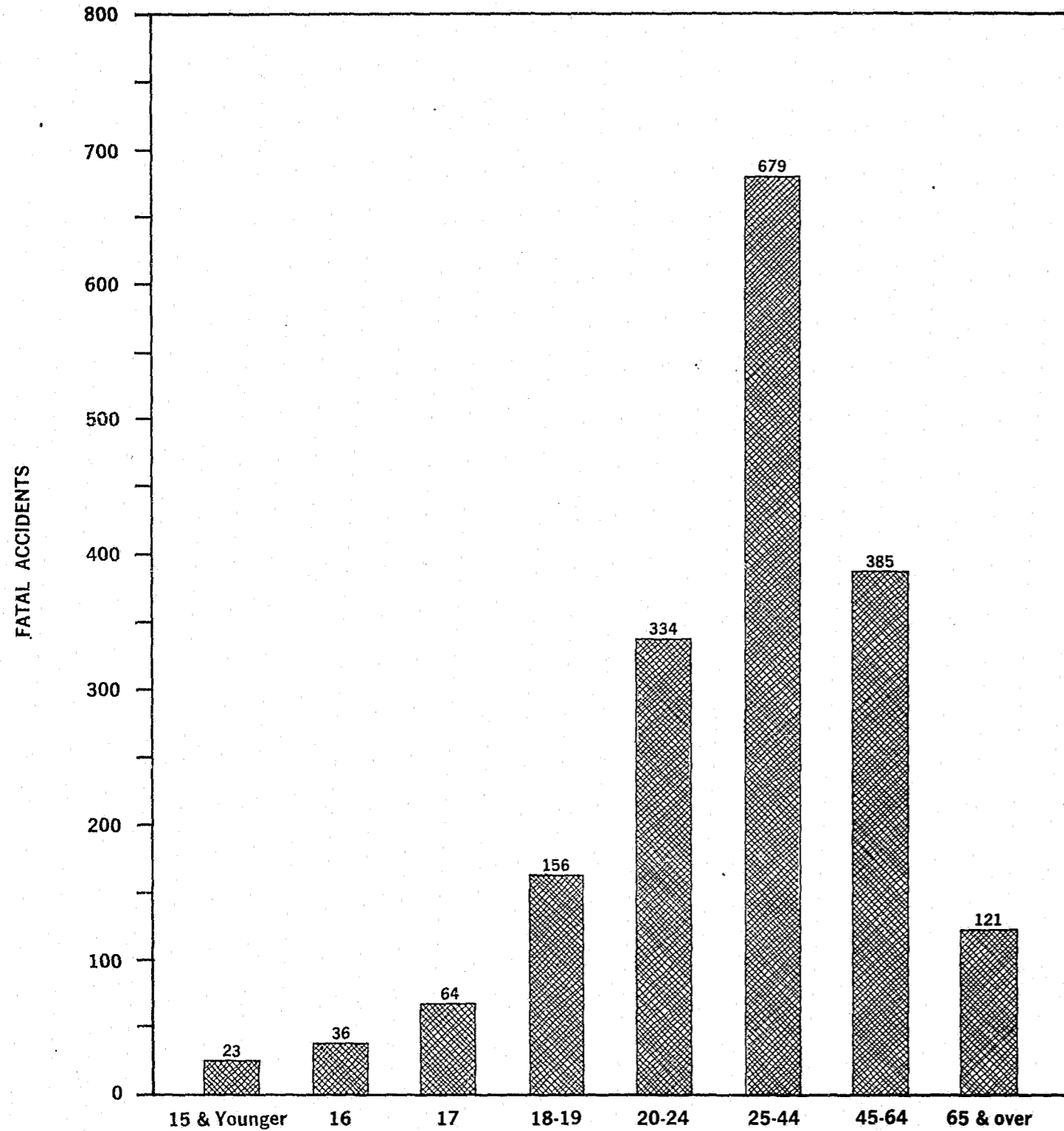
1973 FATALITIES BY AGE AND SEX

FATALITY AGE	TOTAL KILLED			PEDESTRIANS			BICYCLISTS		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
0-4	56	34	22	18	15	3	1	1	0
5-9	56	36	20	26	19	7	9	7	2
10-14	56	45	11	14	13	1	5	5	0
15-19	260	198	62	11	9	2	1	1	0
20-24	183	145	38	8	8	0	0	0	0
25-34	236	192	44	12	11	1	0	0	0
35-44	159	114	45	9	7	2	0	0	0
45-54	167	126	41	18	14	4	0	0	0
55-64	121	95	26	22	21	1	0	0	0
65-74	91	59	32	14	7	7	0	0	0
75-Over	42	22	20	12	7	5	0	0	0
TOTALS	1,427	1,066	361	164	131	33	16	14	2

Of the total 1,427 persons killed in 1973, 499 were under the age of 25 or 35% of the total. Of the 499 persons under the age of 25, 458 were males, or 32.1%

of the total. These facts show that age and sex have a distinct bearing on highway deaths.

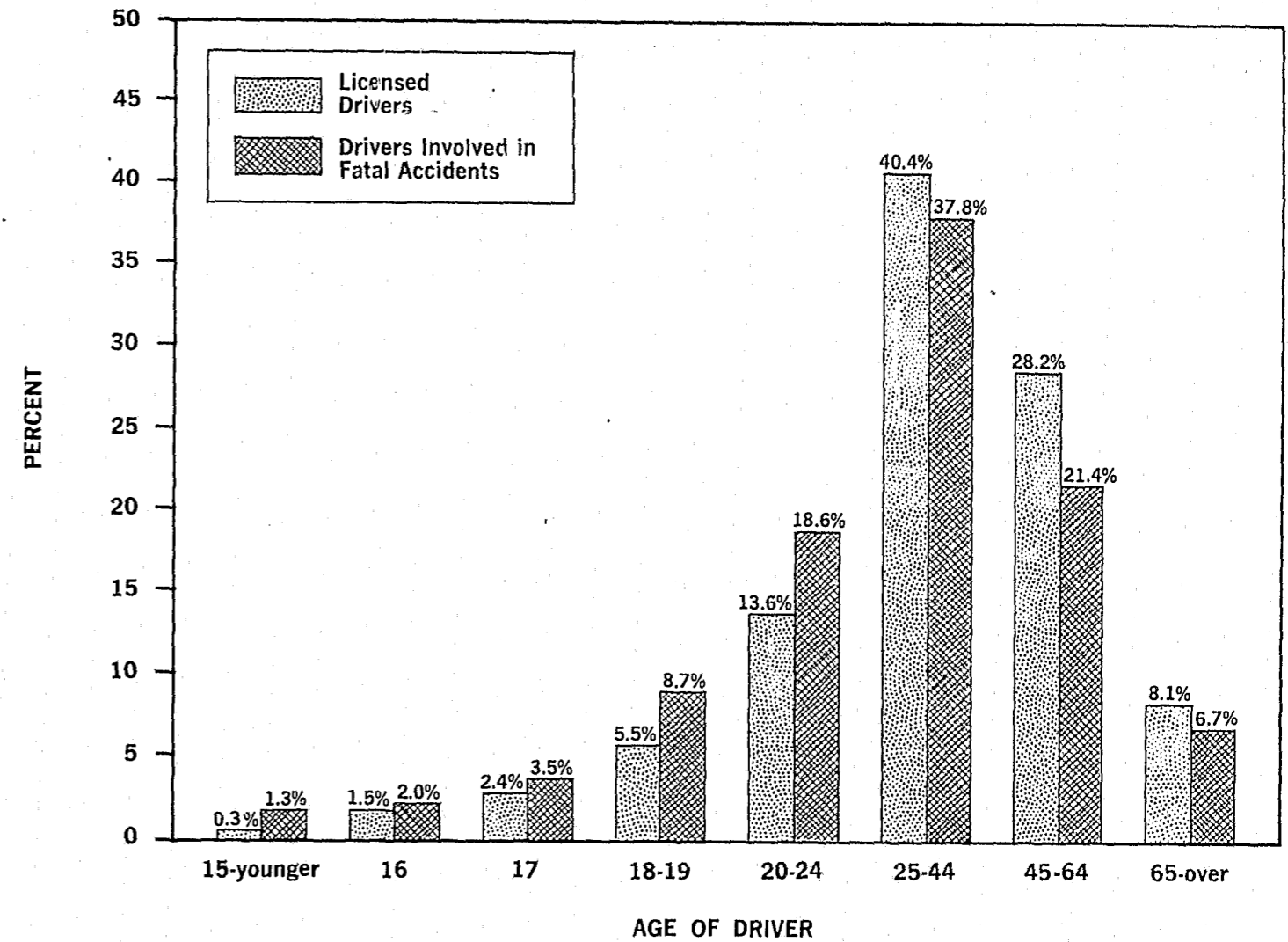
1973 COMPARISON OF DRIVERS INVOLVED IN FATAL ACCIDENTS BY AGE OF DRIVER



Of the 1,798 drivers involved in fatal accidents, 611 drivers or 34% are under the age of 25. Licensed drivers, however, under the age of 25 accounted for only 22.9%

of the total drivers. This clearly indicates the fact that the age of the driver of an automobile has a connection with death on the highway.

1973 COMPARISON OF LICENSED DRIVERS AND DRIVERS INVOLVED IN FATAL ACCIDENTS BY AGE GROUP



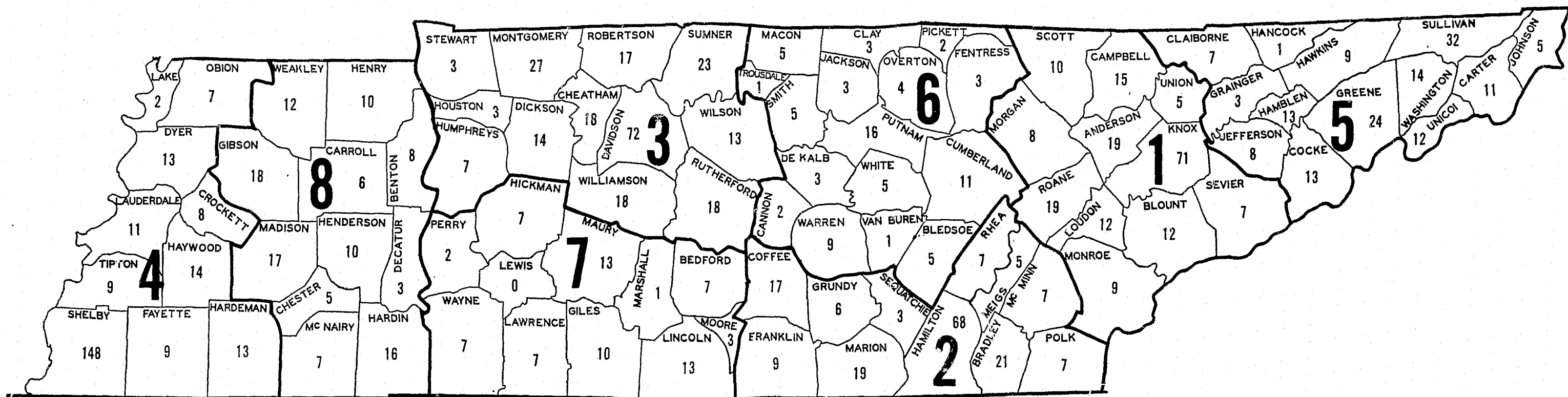
COMPARISON OF LICENSED DRIVERS AND DRIVERS INVOLVED IN ACCIDENTS BY AGE GROUPS

	% Licensed Drivers	% Drivers of Fatal Accidents
15 & Younger	0.3%	1.3%
16	1.5	2.0
17	2.4	3.5
18-19	5.5	8.7
20-24	13.6	18.6
25-44	40.4	37.8
45-64	28.2	21.4
65 & Over	8.1	6.7
	100.0%	100.0%

# STATE OF TENNESSEE

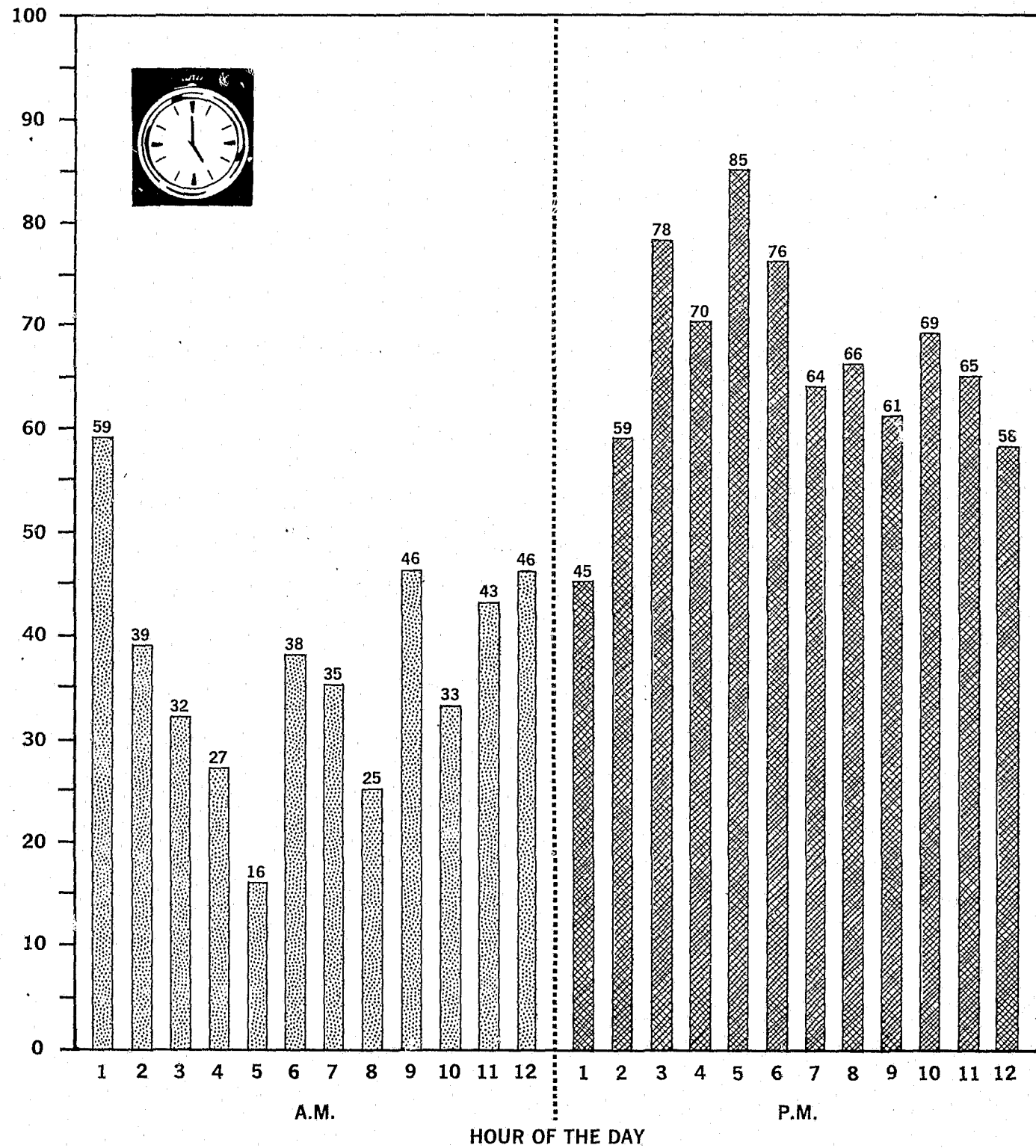
Population:

1960	3,567,089
1970	3,924,164
1980	4,456,200 (Projected)





1973 FATAL ACCIDENTS BY HOUR OF THE DAY

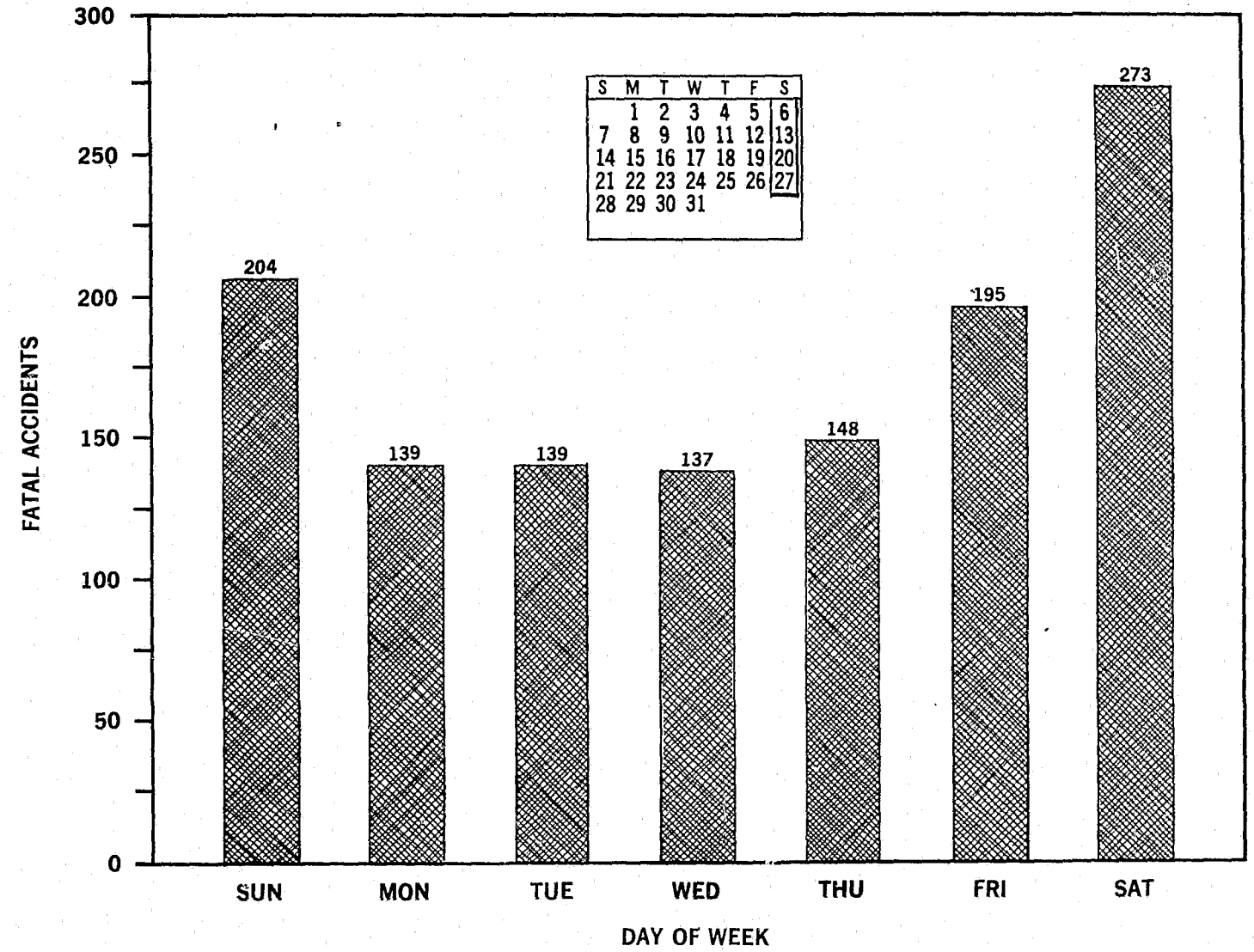


The highest number of fatal accidents in a 24-hour period occurred at 5:00 p.m. with 85. The lowest

number was 16 at 5:00 a.m. The hours between 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. were the most dangerous for fatal

accidents. There was a total of 1,235 fatal accidents in 1973.

1973 FATAL ACCIDENTS BY DAY OF WEEK



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
204	139	139	137	148	195	273

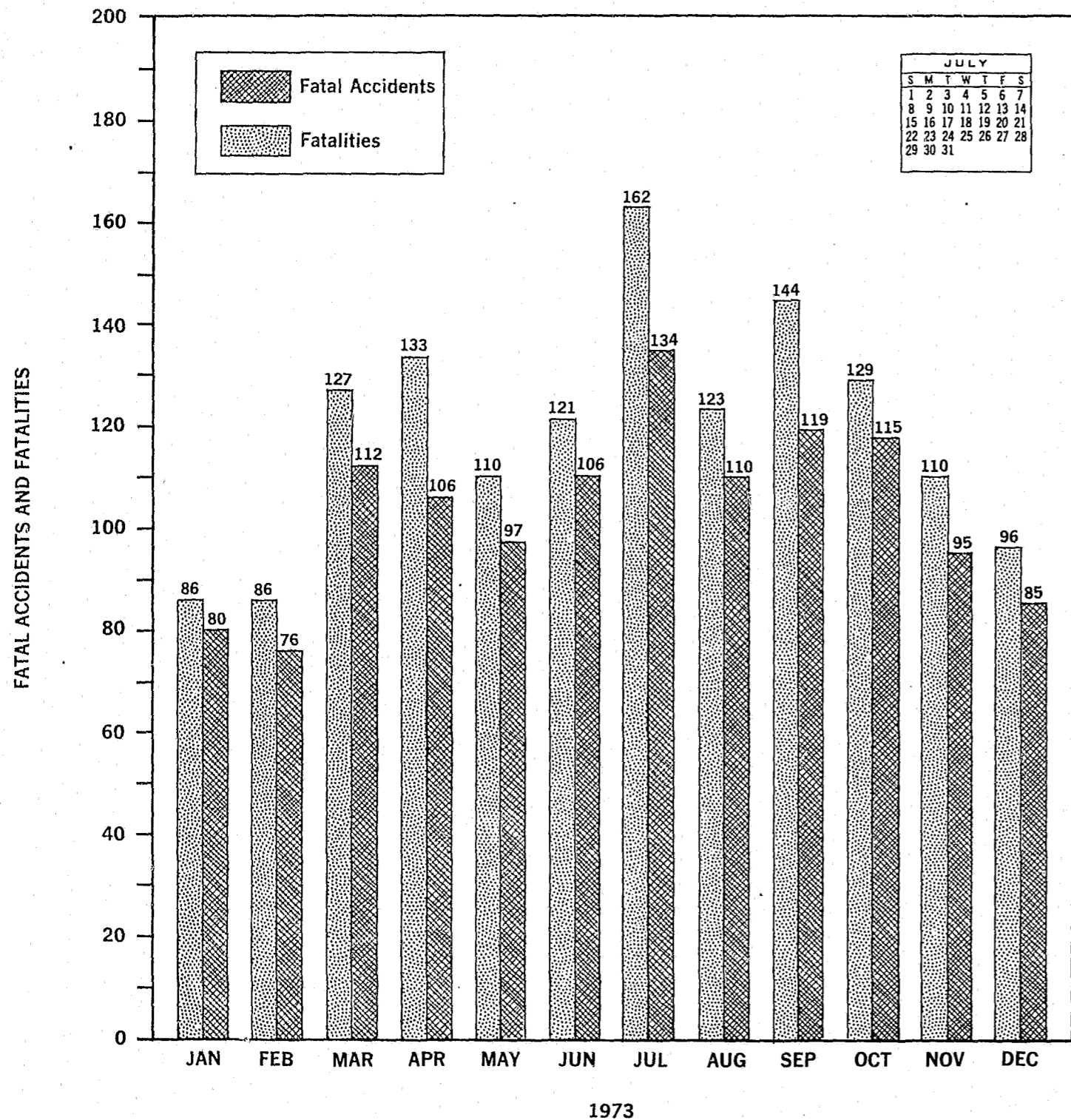
The highest number of fatal accidents occurred on Saturday with 273 or 22.1% of the total 1,235 fatal accidents.

Wednesday had the lowest number of fatal accidents, 137 or 11.1% of the total fatal accidents.

Friday, Saturday and Sunday accounted for 672 fatal accidents or 54.4% of the total.



1973 FATAL ACCIDENTS AND FATALITIES BY MONTH

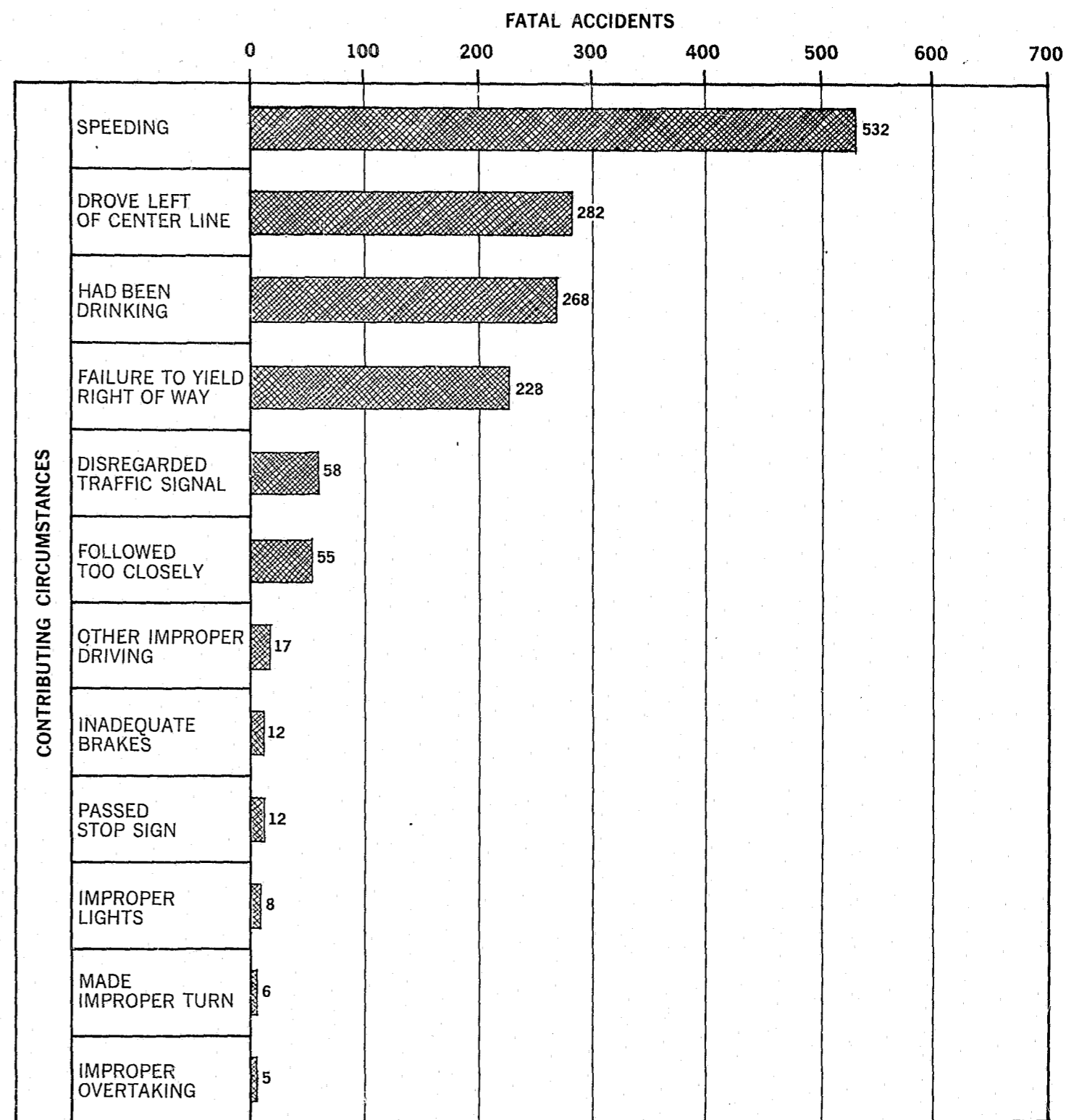


July had the largest number of fatal accidents and fatalities, 134 and 162 respectively.

February had the lowest number of fatal accidents and fatalities, 76 and 86 respectively.

Fatal accidents were the lowest in the months of January through June, and highest in the months of July through December.

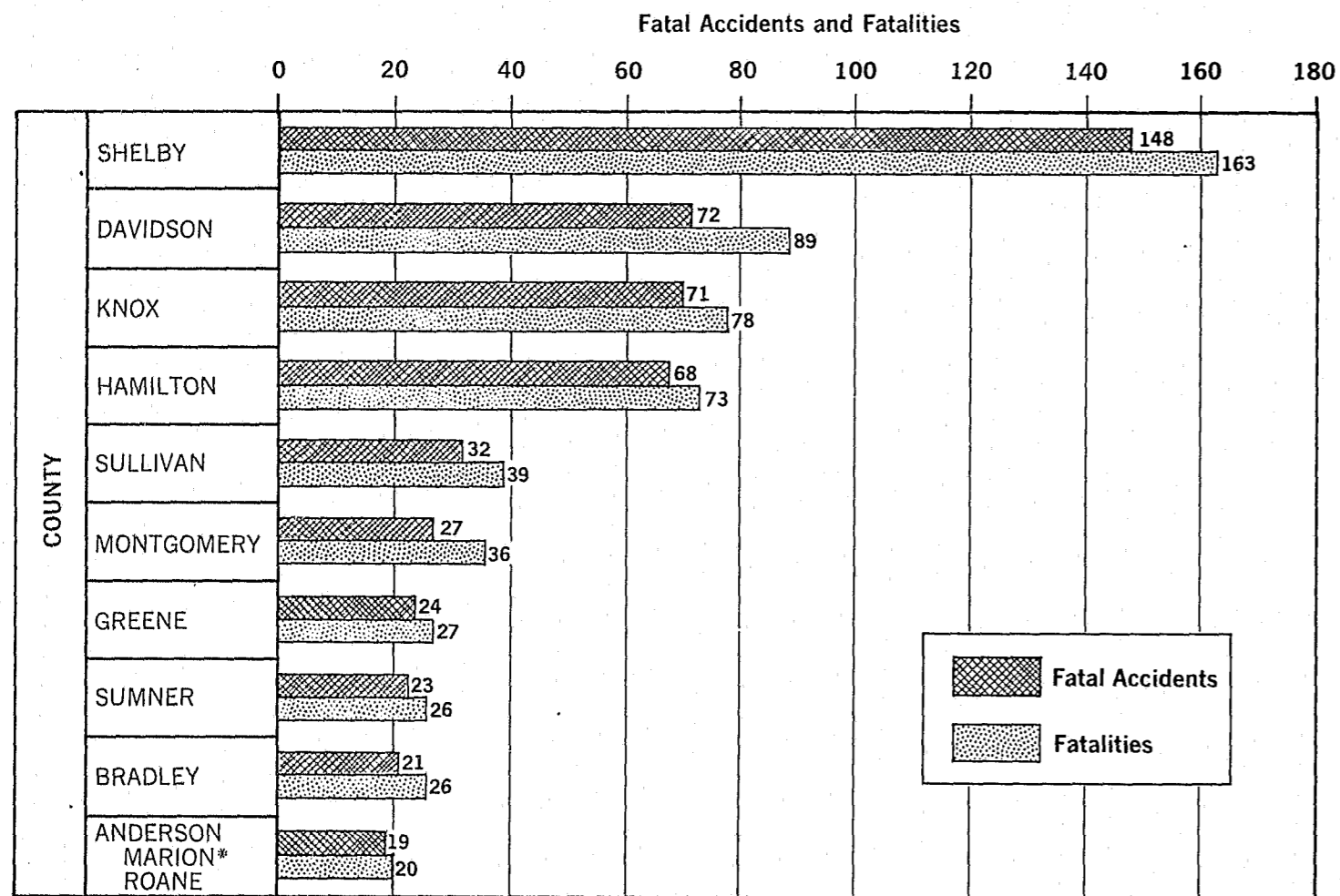
1973 CONTRIBUTING CIRCUMSTANCES IN FATAL ACCIDENTS



Speeding was the biggest contributing circumstance in fatal accidents in 1973 leading to 532 contributing circumstances or 35.9% of the 1,483 total contributing

circumstances. Speeding and drinking together accounted for over 800 contributing circumstances or 53.9% of the overall total.

1973 FATAL ACCIDENTS AND FATALITIES BY THE TEN HIGHEST COUNTIES



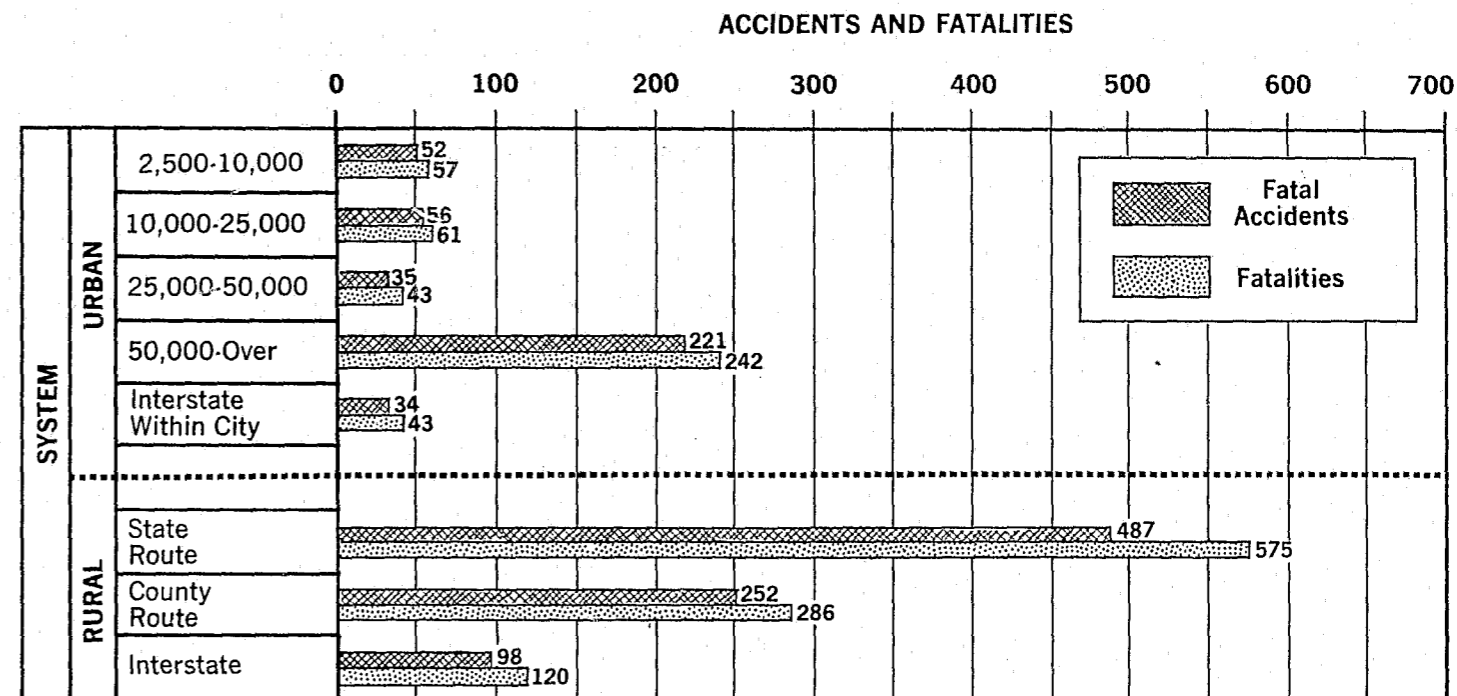
County	Fatal Accidents	Fatalities
1. Shelby	148	163
2. Davidson	72	89
3. Knox	71	78
4. Hamilton	68	73
5. Sullivan	32	39
6. Montgomery	27	36
7. Greene	24	27
8. Sumner	23	26
9. Bradley	21	26
* 10. Anderson	19	20
Marion	19	20
Roane	19	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>617</b>

\*These three counties same.

The highest number of fatal accidents and fatalities in 1973 occurred in Shelby County in West Tennessee. There were 148 fatal accidents and 163 fatalities. The

largest number of fatal accidents and fatalities occurred in the four largest populated counties.

1973 FATAL ACCIDENTS AND FATALITY RATE BY SYSTEM



SYSTEM	Fatal Accidents	Fatalities	Total Accidents	Fatalities
<b>URBAN</b>				
2,500-10,000	52	57	4.2%	4.0%
10,000-25,000	56	61	4.5	4.3
25,000-50,000	35	43	2.8	3.0
50,000 & Over	221	242	17.9	17.0
I-City	34	43	2.8	3.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>32.2%</b>	<b>31.3%</b>
<b>RURAL</b>				
State Route	487	575	39.4%	40.3%
County Route	252	286	20.4	20.0
Interstate	98	120	8.0	8.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>837</b>	<b>981</b>	<b>67.8%</b>	<b>68.7%</b>

**OVERALL TOTALS**

Urban and Rural  
1,235 fatal accidents  
1,427 fatalities

In 1973 there were 1,235 fatal accidents and 1,427 fatalities. Of these fatal accidents, 67.8% occurred in rural areas and 68.7% of the fatalities occurred in rural areas. Urban

areas with populations between 25,000-50,000 had the lowest fatal accident rate with a percentage of 2.8% and a 3.0% percentage for fatalities. State routes had the most

fatal accidents and fatalities. The Interstate System had the lowest number.

**1973 FATALITIES BY MAJOR HOLIDAY PERIODS**

**Memorial Day (78 Hours)**

(May 25-6:00 p.m.)-(May 28-Midnight)  
Total Deaths ..... 26

**Fourth of July (30 Hours)**

(July 3-6:00 p.m.)-(July 5-Midnight)  
Total Deaths ..... 6

**Labor Day (78 Hours)**

(Aug. 31-6:00 p.m.)-(Sept. 3-Midnight)  
Total Deaths ..... 22

**Thanksgiving (102 Hours)**

(Nov. 21-6:00 p.m.)-(Nov. 25-Midnight)  
Total Deaths ..... 23

**Christmas (102 Hours)**

(Dec. 21-6:00 p.m.)-(Dec. 25-Midnight)  
Total Deaths ..... 22

**New Years (102 Hours)**




(Dec. 28-6:00 p.m.)-(Jan. 1-Midnight)  
Total Deaths ..... 12

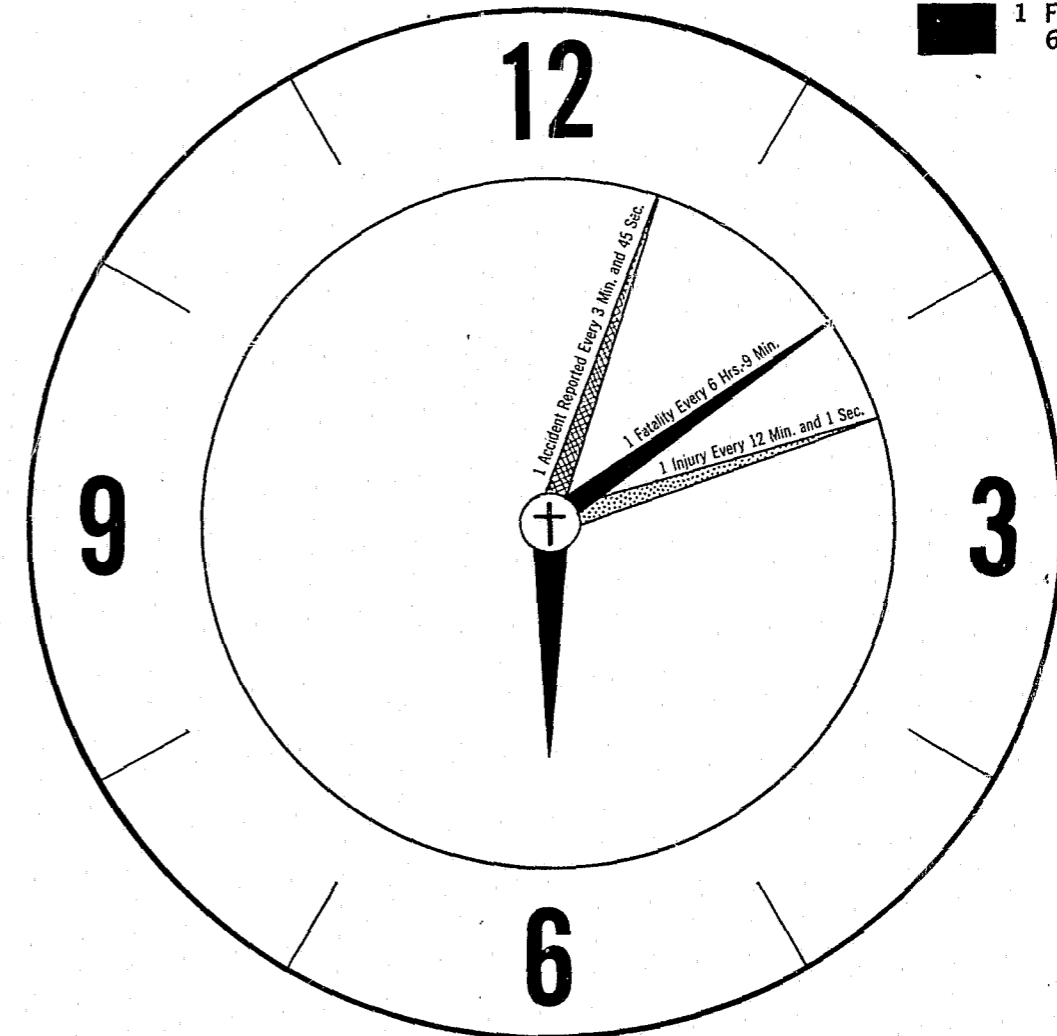
**OVERALL TOTAL ..... 111**

**Most Severe Accident During 1973:**

July 27, 1973, 5:43 a.m., eight (8) persons were killed on I-65 in Davidson County when their vehicle struck a traffic island and went through a protective guard rail. The vehicle then plunged approximately 150 feet off the Silliman Evans Bridge in Nashville killing eight (8) of the nine occupants.

**TENNESSEE'S  
1973 TRAFFIC TOLL  
FREQUENCY**

-  1 Accident Reported Every 3 Minutes and 45 Seconds
-  1 Injury Every 12 Minutes and 1 Second
-  1 Fatality Every 6 Hours-9 Minutes



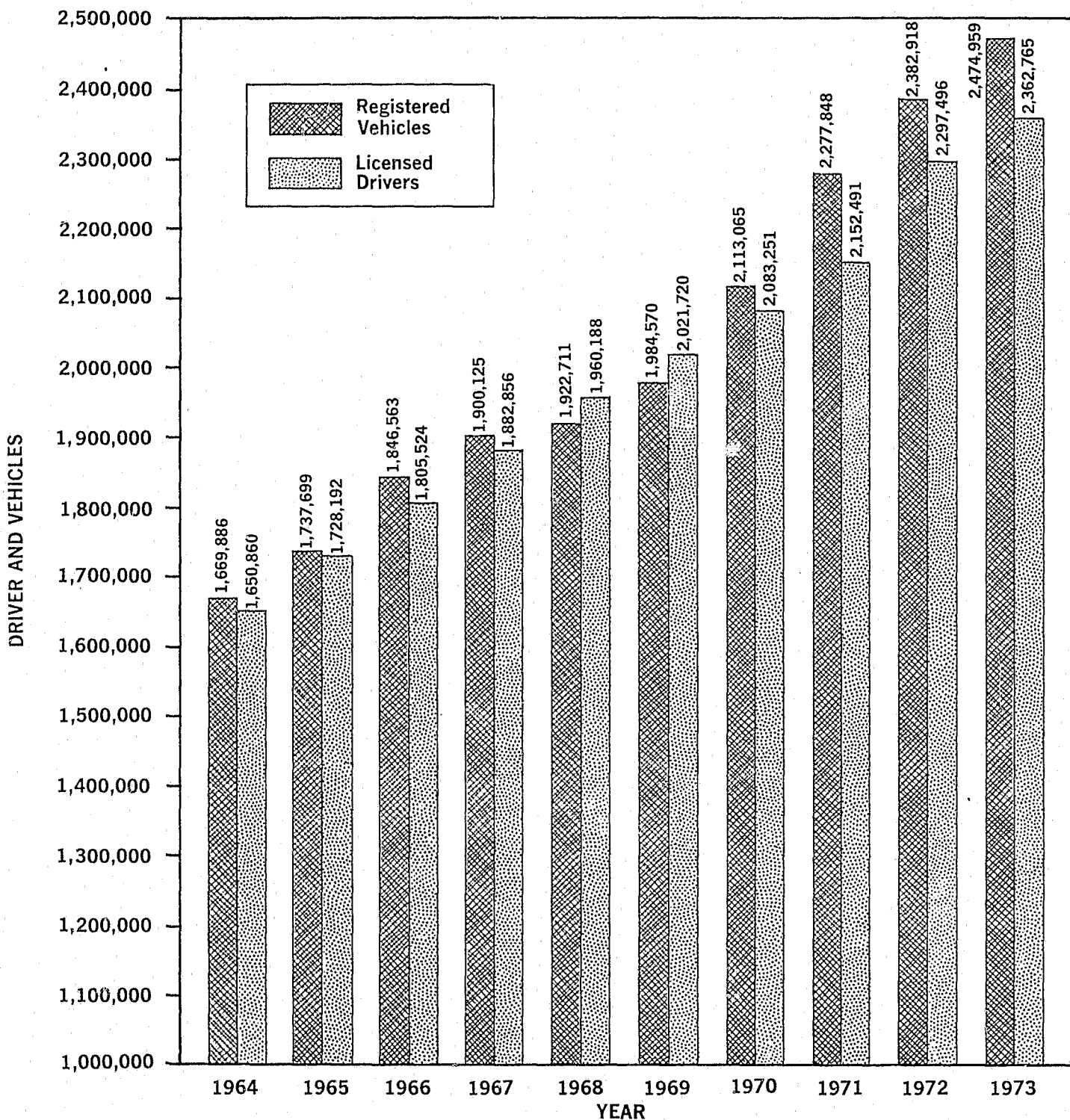
**ACCIDENT TOTALS IN 1973**

Reported Accidents	140,020
Injuries	42,800
Fatalities	1,427

**DAILY AVERAGE IN 1973**

Reported Accidents	383
Persons Injured	117
Persons Killed	3.9

**TEN YEAR COMPARISON (1964-1973)  
REGISTERED VEHICLES AND LICENSED DRIVERS**



<b>VEHICLES</b>	1,669,886	1,737,699	1,846,563	1,900,125	1,922,711	1,984,570	2,113,065	2,277,848	2,382,918	2,474,959
<b>DRIVERS</b>	1,650,860	1,728,192	1,805,524	1,882,856	1,960,188	2,021,720	2,083,251	2,152,491	2,297,496	2,362,765

## SUMMARY

This study indicated that traffic accidents and fatalities on our highways are increasing. 1,427 fatalities were recorded in 1973 on Tennessee streets and highways. In spite of this increase, the death rate of 4.9 per 100,000,000 vehicle miles traveled is lower than it has been in the last ten years. (1964-1973).

Speed continues to be the biggest single contributing factor to the cause of accidents, accounting for 35.9% of all contributing factors.

In 1973, a traffic accident was reported every 3 minutes and 45 seconds, one injury every 12 minutes and 1 second, and one fatality every 6 hours and 9 minutes.

Fatal accidents were highest in the afternoon hours of the day, on the last day of the week, and the summer and fall months of the year.

The age of the driver of an automobile, as well as the sex of the driver, affected the proportionate distribution of all fatal accidents. In proportion to age group and sex the male driver under 25 years of age accounts for the greatest number of fatal accidents.

The counties with the most population and the highest number of motor vehicle registration had the greatest number of fatal accidents.