# Disparities in Road Safety: High Fatalities in New Mexico and Mississippi Compared to Massachusetts



**Road Safety Disparities Across the United States**

Recent research reveals stark differences in road safety across the United States, with some states showing significantly higher risks of fatal car accidents. According to a Forbes Advisor analysis, New Mexico ranks as the state with the most dangerous drivers, displaying high numbers of crashes attributed to distracted, intoxicated, or negligent motorists.

Oklahoma, Wyoming, and Texas also record poor driving safety statistics. These findings are pertinent as 43.8 million people are expected to travel 50 miles or more over the Memorial Day weekend, an increase from last year, approaching the 2005 record.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reports a 12.7% rise in fatal crashes between 2019 and 2023. Contributing factors include the increased use of cell phones while driving and the legalization of recreational cannabis in 24 states. Additionally, the rapid population growth in Sun Belt states, where urban planning often lacks sufficient sidewalks and bike lanes, exacerbates the danger.

In contrast, Massachusetts is noted for having the safest drivers in the country. Other states with commendable road safety records include New Hampshire, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, and Rhode Island. Mississippi, however, leads in fatal car crashes with 31.95 deadly incidents per 100,000 licensed drivers.

Data for this analysis were gathered from the NHTSA, the FBI, analytics firm Arity, and other sources, tracking road fatalities and incidences involving drunk, distracted, drowsy, or speeding drivers. The National Safety Council reports that 44,450 people died in traffic crashes in 2023, with fatality rates still exceeding pre-pandemic levels.

Mark Chung, executive vice president of the National Safety Council, highlighted the daily risks Americans face on the roadways, emphasizing the urgency of addressing this public safety issue.