

## Problem Statement

**Organization Name:** Washington Traffic Safety Commission (WTSC)

**Challenge Name:** Washington Fatal Crash Files

**Difficulty:** Level 4

### Background

The WTSC is Washington's designated State Highway Safety Office and, with our partners, believes in the vision of Target Zero and a future when there are no traffic fatalities or serious injuries on Washington roadways. Since the COVID-19 pandemic began in Spring 2020, Washington has experienced an unprecedented year-over-year increase in traffic fatalities. The WTSC manages traffic safety behavior programs which include heavy investments in media and outreach. Many of these efforts are intended for a statewide audience, and we also support numerous local media and community outreach efforts.

### Challenge

Local efforts are targeted at the communities and those who live in those communities. However, program managers have often wondered if the people who live in those communities are the same people involved in fatal crashes that occur there. This may be particularly relevant to large urban areas where many workers commute in from other communities. The communities that border Oregon and Idaho are also particularly relevant since traffic safety messaging through Washington outlets rarely cross over into Oregon or Idaho media markets.

Choose from the questions below. Additional analysis after these questions are answered are also welcome.

1. Among drivers involved in fatal crashes, what proportion are involved in crashes in communities where they live?
  - a. Are there differences in the types of crashes and behavior factors in those crashes among "residents" versus those deemed to be not "from" the area?
2. Are there specific resident ZIP Codes that tend to produce higher-risk drivers that are involved in fatal crashes at a higher rate?
  - a. What are the population demographics of these high-risk driver producing ZIP Codes?

### Data Considerations

ZIP Codes are not included in the data and must be matched to the files to be able to answer the above questions. ZIP Codes by longitude and latitude are located [here](#).