**DC Traffic Fatalities by Ward**

Rosie Hughes

In 2021, traffic fatalities in the District hit a decade-long record high, with 40 people killed in traffic incidents just last year. With the exception of 2019, traffic fatalities in the District have increased every year since 2016.

There are some gaps in the available data for wards one, three, four and six which prevents proper totaling of traffic fatalities in those districts over the past decade. The District Department of Transportation website does not state if the missing data means there were no deaths in those wards in certain years or if the deaths were not counted.

The available data shows the majority of traffic fatalities over the past decade occurred in Ward Eight with Ward Seven close behind. In the past 10 years, there were 72 traffic fatalities in Ward Eight and 65 traffic fatalities in Ward Seven.

With 13 fatalities, 2021 was the deadliest year for Ward Seven. The available data shows that in no other year did a single ward surpass 13 fatalities.

In 2020, Wards Seven and Eight tied for greatest number of traffic fatalities, with 10 deaths in each ward.

The year that saw the fewest traffic fatalities was 2012, which had just 19 traffic fatalities, less than half those recorded in 2021. 2012 was the only year in the past decade when there were fewer than 25 traffic fatalities.

The increase in traffic fatalities over the past three years comes in spite of the District Department of Transportation’s [Vision Zero](https://www.dcvisionzero.com/) plan, which promised to eliminate all traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries within the District by 2024.

In 2021, Mayor Muriel Bowser [dedicated increased district funding](https://www.npr.org/local/305/2021/05/13/996516072/amid-rising-road-deaths-bowser-pledges-10-million-for-traffic-safety) and attention to traffic safety measures. Advocates hope to see renewed focus and energy on the issue in 2022 to bring down the deadly trend.

**Data Set in Google Sheets:**

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1-8OOI0TGUd_RNspf2heJMrKsOiYAnQP2JAWH48QTJeY/edit?usp=sharing>