

When Crashes Spike: A 24-Year Look at Fatal Car Accidents in America

Fatal car crashes in the USA show a strong seasonal pattern from 1992 to 2016. Peaks in fatal crash percentage changes are observed in **March** (Spring Break travel), **May** (Memorial Day), **July** (Independence Day), and **October** (Halloween), while sharp declines occur in **January–February** (post-holiday lull), **September** (end of summer and school reopening), and **November** (before winter).

Over the two decades (1992–2016), while the **seasonal pattern remained consistent**, the **magnitude** of monthly changes **gradually decreased**, suggesting **improvements in road safety, vehicle technology, enforcement of traffic laws, and public awareness campaigns**. However, key holiday and travel periods still show notable spikes each year, highlighting persistent vulnerabilities linked to human behavior during specific months.

Targeted safety interventions (especially before high-risk months) and continued **improvements in vehicle safety and law enforcement** are crucial to further reduce fatalities.

