

From The Beat To The Bench  
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The Ohio State Highway Patrol has recently released a statistical report comparing its arrests in 2009 to 2008 by counties for a number of offenses.

Statewide 2009 arrests for OVI's and Driving Under Suspensions have actually decreased over the prior year. However, citations for speeding 20+ over the speed limit have increased substantially. Erie County arrests followed the statewide trend for OVI and DUS charges. However, Lorain County shows an increase in both OVI (845 to 835) arrests and DUS (731 to 683) arrests from 2008. It must be remembered that these figures reflect Highway Patrol arrests, only.

In fact, Lorain County ranks fifth in the State for OVI stops by the Highway Patrol. Surprisingly, Lorain County ranks first in the State for felony OVI cases. Interestingly Cuyahoga County, despite it's huge population, does not rank in the "Top 10" for either OVI or felony OVI cases.

In Lorain County the Highway Patrol reports that in 2009 it investigated 19 fatal car crashes as compared to 29 fatal car crashes in 2008 and 24 fatal car crashes in 2007.

These 19 fatal crashes are further broken down to show that 10 occurred in rural areas and 9 occurred in urban areas. Six were drug or alcohol related and nine involved motorcycles.

In Erie County the Highway Patrol reports that in 2009 it investigated 6 fatal car crashes as compared to 11 fatal car crashes in 2008 and 1 fatal car crash in 2007.

These 6 fatal crashes are further broken down to show that all 6 occurred in rural areas. Neither drugs, alcohol nor motorcycles were involved in any of these fatal car crashes.

Unfortunately in 2009, one of the fatal accidents occurred on State Route 60 south of Vermilion and another occurred on State Route 6 in Vermilion.

In Lorain County both felony and misdemeanor arrests as well as drug arrests have increased significantly.

In Erie County felony and misdemeanor arrests are up but drug violations have decreased slightly.

Again it must be remembered that we are only looking at statistics compiled from Ohio State Highway Patrol arrests. The Ohio Supreme Court keeps track of statistics on all types of cases for each court in Ohio. When we receive the Supreme Court report I will write another article regarding any trends that we may be experiencing here.