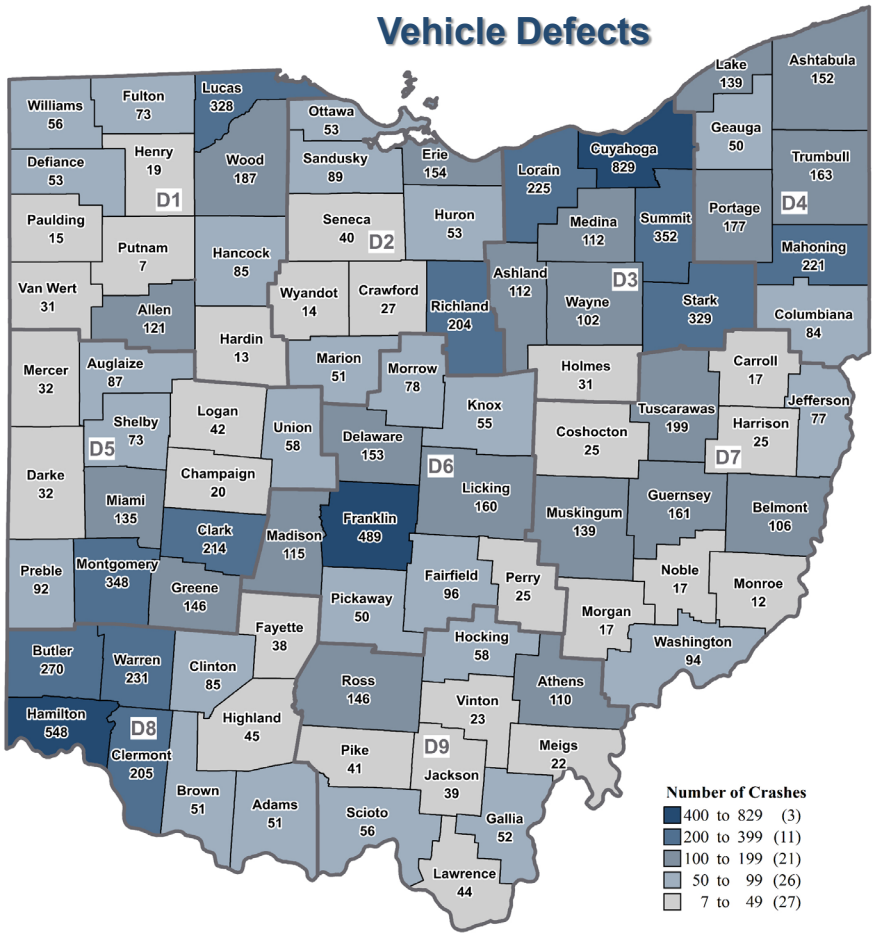
Traffic Safety Bulletin

March 2022

Vehicle Defects



Map and Table:

2017-2021 Vehicle Defect-Related Crashes

OSHP District	Number of Crashes
District 1	988
District 2	685
District 3	2,092
District 4	986
District 5	1,279
District 6	1,221
District 7	889
District 8	1,524
District 9	591
Total	10,255

Ohio Vehicle Defect-Related Crashes[1]

- Over the last five years (2017-2021), there have been 10,255 crashes in Ohio that were caused by a vehicle defect. Nearly one-in-five (18%) defect-related crashes occurred in just three Ohio Counties (Cuyahoga, Hamilton, and Franklin). Across Ohio, there were 48 defect-related fatal crashes that resulted in 56 deaths. An additional 2,795 people were injured in such crashes. With a total of 1,912 crashes, 2021 saw the lowest number of vehicle defect crashes over this time period.
- Brake failures (19%) and tire blowouts (18%) were the most common issues in defect-related crashes. In fatal defect-related crashes, tire blowouts were responsible for 31% of crashes.
- Not surprisingly, older vehicles were involved in the majority of defect-related crashes from 2017 to 2021. Vehicles from model years 1999-2008 accounted for 53% of the defective vehicles in crashes. On the other hand, model years 2010-2019 vehicles were involved in 25% of defect-related crashes. Brakes were the most common defect for older vehicles while tire blowouts caused the most crashes for newer vehicles.

OSHP Vehicle Defect Traffic Stops

- From 2017 to 2021, OSHP troopers made nearly 425,000 traffic stops in which a vehicle defect was found. Common defects included lights being out (tail lights, brake lights, headlights), window tint being too dark, cracked windshields and/or missing or expired registration stickers.

[1]A vehicle defect crash includes any crash involving one or more vehicles with a contributing circumstance of (18) operating defective equipment.