

## **Safety in Northwest Harris County: 1999-2001**

The following information applies to safety in Northwest Harris County (see Figure 1 for the boundaries of the study area. First, there are some caveats about the data:

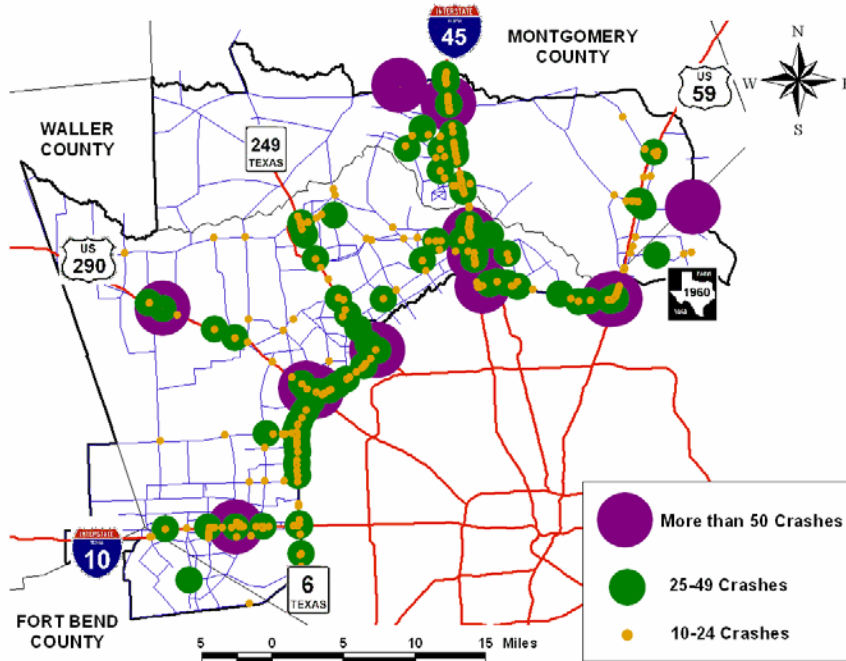
1. The data H-GAC has analyzed is distributed by the Accident Records Bureau of the Department of Public Safety. This is the state agency vested with documenting crashes for the State. Currently, their reporting requirements are that all fatal crashes, all injury crashes, and all property damage only (PDO) crashes in which one or more vehicles were towed be reported. Thus, they do not include the typical 'fender bender' in which no one is injured and all vehicles are driven away from the crash scene. In other words, the data we have represent the more serious crashes.
2. H-GAC has geocoded the crashes. However, because the data are kept in a very old information system by DPS in which road names are represented either by five-digit codes, the first five letters of the road name, or control-section numbers (for rural state roads), there is inevitably some geocoding error. H-GAC was able to geocode about 82% of all crashes in the DPS data set with about 90% accuracy on average.
3. To date, crashes for 1998-2001 have been geocoded. Thus, any conclusions about location are only tentative.
4. Spatial accuracy is within 50-100 yards. One would need actual crash diagrams to have more accuracy.
5. Please cite the Accident Records Bureau of the Texas Department of Public Safety as the source for the crash data and cite the Houston-Galveston Area Council as the source for the crash analysis.

### **Results of Northwest Harris County Analysis**

1. Between 1999 and 2001, there were 17,925 crashes in Northwest Harris County. These included 149 fatal crashes, 796 incapacitating injury crashes, 2,859 probable injury crashes, 6,745 possible injury crashes, and 7,376 serious property damage crashes. Figure 1 shows the location of crashes within Northwest Harris County.
2. Of the 17,925 crashes, 14,622 were with other vehicles, 2,285 were with fixed objects, 105 were with parked cars, 102 were with animals, 85 were with a pedestrian, 75 were with bicyclists, 1 was with a train, and 72 were with other objects. 522 incidents occurred with the vehicle overturning, and 56 occurred for other reasons not identified.
3. Crash hot spots are small areas where there is a concentration of crashes. They are a better indicator of hazard than a single location since they consider the interaction of several roads in affecting safety. Using the *CrimeStat* program, 32 hot spots were identified that had 75 or more crashes. Figure 2 shows the location of crash hot spots within Northwest Harris County. These areas were:
  - A. FM 1960 at SH 249 (279 crashes).
  - B. IH-10 West at SH 6 (251 crashes).
  - C. IH-45 North at Cypresswood (236 crashes).

- D. FM 1960 between US 59 North and Townsen (235 crashes).
  - E. US 59 North just north of FM 1960 (169 crashes).
  - F. IH-45 North at FM 2920 (168 crashes).
  - G. US 59 North just north of Sorters-McClellan (167 crashes).
  - H. SH 6 at FM 529 (162 crashes)
  - I. IH-45 North just north of SH 242 (147 crashes).
  - J. IH-10 West at Fry Road. (145 crashes).
  - K. SH 249 just north of FM 2920 (145 crashes).
  - L. US 290 just northwest of Huffmeister Road (140 crashes)
  - M. IH-45 North at Woodlands Parkway (133 crashes)
  - N. US 290 between Huffmeister Road and FM 1960(127 crashes)
  - O. IH-10 West at Barker-Cypress (120 crashes)
  - P. IH-45 North at Spring-Steubner (118 crashes)
  - Q. IH-45 North just north of FM 1488 (117 crashes)
  - R. IH-45 North just north of Rayford-Sawdust Road (116 crashes)
  - S. FM 1960 at the intersection of Jones and Windfern (115 crashes)
  - T. FM 1314 at US 59 North (111 crashes)
  - U. FM 1488 at SH 242 (111 crashes)
  - V. FM 1960 between IH-45 North and Imperial Valley (102 crashes)
  - W. SH 6 between West Road and FM 529 (101 crashes)
  - X. IH-45 North at Research Forest (100 crashes)
  - Y. SH 6 at Keith Harrow Blvd. (98 crashes)
  - Z. US 290 just east of Becker Road (96 crashes)
  - AA. SH 249 between FM 2920 and Holderreith (96 crashes)
  - BB. SH 6 at Clay Road (88 crashes)
  - CC. FM 1960 just west of Aldine-Westfield (86 crashes)
  - DD. IH-10 West at Mason Road (85 crashes)
  - EE. IH-10 West just west of SH 6 (79 crashes)
  - FF. IH-45 North just south of Rayford-Sawdust (77 crashes)
4. Based on the estimate of VMT from our modeling group, *serious crash risk* was calculated. This is the number of serious crashes per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT). Between 1999 and 2001, serious crash risk in Northwest Harris County was 109.0 crashes per 100 million VMT. This is significantly less than the regional average of 204 serious crashes per 100 million VMT.

**Figure 1**  
**Safety in Northwest Harris County: 1999-2001**  
**Location of Crashes**



**Figure 2**  
**Safety in Northwest Harris County: 1999-2001**  
**Crash Hot Spots**

