

# South Carolina Car Accident Lawyers Addresses Gap Between Declining Fatalities and Rising Crash Costs

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GREENVILLE, SC - May 05, 2026 -
South Carolina Car Accident Lawyers today responded to the South Carolina Department of Public Safety's 2024 traffic fatality report, which showed fatal crashes falling 9 percent to their lowest level in seven years. While acknowledging the positive trend, the firm cautioned that declining fatality counts do not reflect the full scope of injury crashes statewide, particularly given the state's $30.9 billion in annual crash-related economic and quality-of-life costs.

The SCDPS report confirmed that fatal traffic crashes reached their lowest level in at least seven years in 2024, marking the fourth consecutive year of decline and an 18 percent drop from the 2021 peak. Despite this improvement, South Carolina's vehicle miles traveled (VMT) based traffic fatality rate has historically exceeded the national average. The state recorded an average of approximately 1,059 traffic fatalities per year from 2017 through 2021, well above what population size alone would predict, according to SCDPS and NHTSA data.

Fatal and serious traffic crashes in South Carolina resulted in $30.9 billion in economic and quality-of-life costs in 2023, according to a July 2024 TRIP report. This figure encompasses medical treatment, lost wages, emergency response, property damage, and quality-of-life losses that insurance settlements routinely fail to fully address. Each South Carolina car accident lawyer faces the challenge of documenting these extensive damages while navigating the state's modified contributory negligence standard, which can significantly affect recovery amounts when fault is disputed.

The SCDPS has announced a virtual memorial service on April 25, 2026, to remember the more than 900 lives lost on South Carolina roadways in 2025, confirming that even with the 2024 improvement, the state continues to record fatal crash totals well above zero-fatality benchmarks. South Carolina car accident lawyers note that these statistics represent only fatal crashes, while thousands more injury collisions occur annually without making headlines.

"The 2024 fatality decline represents genuine progress for road safety in South Carolina, but it doesn't change the legal reality for tens of thousands of injury victims whose claims are disputed or undervalued by insurance carriers," said Shannon Ludwig, spokesperson for South Carolina Car Accident Lawyers. "Insurance companies don't adjust their claims-handling tactics based on statewide trend improvements. The $30.9 billion annual crash cost reflects losses that individual settlements consistently fail to fully compensate, and the legal process for documenting medical expenses, countering fault disputes, and resisting early settlement pressure remains the same regardless of fatality trends."

SCDPS data shows that DUI-related crashes, speed-related crashes, and unrestrained occupant crashes remain the three primary contributing factors to serious and fatal collisions statewide, each representing a distinct liability scenario that requires specific legal documentation to prove. South Carolina is one of only a handful of states that has not adopted comparative negligence. The state follows a modified contributory negligence standard that can significantly affect what car accident victims recover when fault is disputed.

South Carolina Car Accident Lawyers represents injured motorists across the state, handling all communication with insurance companies, gathering crash scene evidence, and building claims that account for the full economic and non-economic impact of a collision. The firm operates on a contingency fee basis with no upfront costs and provides free case reviews 24 hours a day.

South Carolina Car Accident Lawyers is a network of personal injury law firms representing injured motorists throughout South Carolina. The firm handles car accidents, truck accidents, motorcycle accidents, pedestrian accidents, and rideshare collisions statewide, serving Columbia, Charleston, Greenville, Myrtle Beach, Spartanburg, Rock Hill, Summerville, Hilton Head, Anderson, Florence, and communities across the state.

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## South Carolina Car Accident Lawyers

*South Carolina Car Accident Lawyers is a Greenville-based firm exclusively handling car, truck, motorcycle, pedestrian, and rideshare accident cases statewide. Available 24/7, they offer free case reviews and work on contingency.*

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