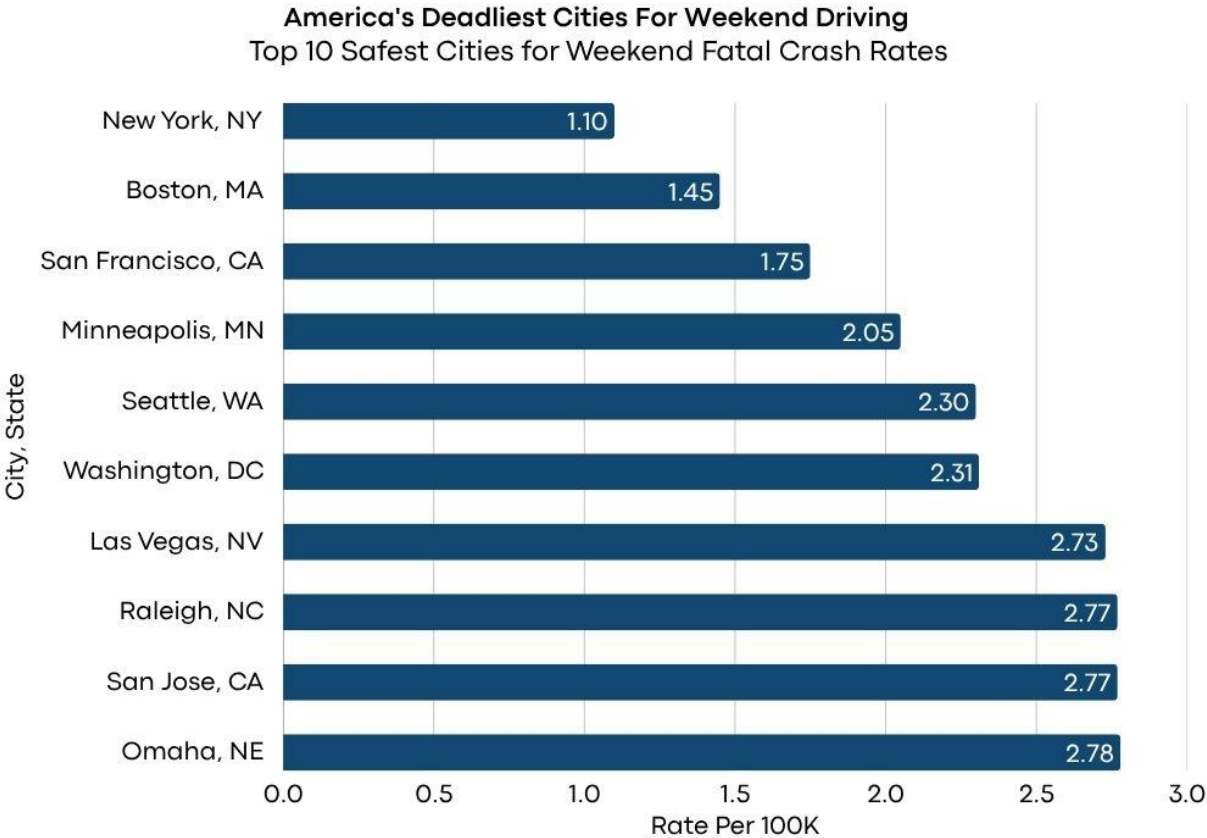


San Jose Posts 137 Weekend Traffic Deaths, Ninth-Lowest Per Capita Fatal Crash Rate Nationwide

Key Highlights

- San Jose recorded the 9th-lowest weekend fatal crash rate among the 50 largest U.S. cities at 2.77 per 100,000 residents, averaging 27.4 fatal crashes per year from 2020–2024.
- Weekend fatalities declined from 28 in 2020 to 22 in 2024, the lowest annual total in the five-year period, a 21.4% decrease.
- San Jose’s crash rate was over 80% lower than Memphis, the most dangerous major city, and closely matched Raleigh (2.77), with New York City leading as the safest at 1.10 per 100,000.



Data Source: NHTSA CRSS, U.S. Census Bureau | Study: Grigor Law Injury & Car Accident Lawyers

San Jose, California stands as one of the safest major American cities for weekend driving. According to a new analysis of federal crash data, San Jose recorded the 9th-lowest weekend fatal crash rate among the 50 largest U.S. cities from 2020 to 2024, with an average of 27.4

fatal crashes occurring on weekends each year. For a city of nearly one million residents, the rate of 2.77 per 100,000 is more than 80% below Memphis, the nation’s most dangerous major city, and more than five times lower on a per capita basis.

The study conducted by [Grigor Law Injury & Car Accident Lawyers](#) analyzed five years (2020–2024) of weekend fatal crash data from the NHTSA Crash Report Sampling System (CRSS) via the CDAN query tool across the 50 largest U.S. cities by population. For each city, the average annual number of weekend fatal crashes was calculated, then divided by the city’s 2024 population and multiplied by 100,000 to produce a per capita rate. Cities were ranked from lowest to highest per capita rate to identify the safest major cities for weekend driving.

How San Jose Compares: Top 10 Safest Cities for Weekend Fatal Crash Rates

Cities With the Fewest Weekend Fatal Crashes Per 100,000 Residents (2020–2024)

Rank	City, State	Population	Avg. Annual Fatal Crashes	Rate Per 100,000
1	New York, NY	8,596,825	94.6	1.10
2	Boston, MA	674,311	9.8	1.45
3	San Francisco, CA	820,945	14.4	1.75
4	Minneapolis, MN	430,125	8.8	2.05
5	Seattle, WA	773,205	17.8	2.30
6	Washington, DC	691,310	16.0	2.31
7	Las Vegas, NV	675,152	18.4	2.73
8	Raleigh, NC	499,017	13.8	2.77
9	San Jose, CA	987,831	27.4	2.77
10	Omaha, NE	489,247	13.6	2.78

New York City led the nation as the safest major city for weekend driving with a rate of just 1.10 per 100,000 residents, despite recording 94.6 average annual weekend fatal crashes in raw terms, underscoring how its massive population of over 8.5 million produces a far lower per capita rate. Boston, San Francisco, and Minneapolis rounded out the top four safest cities. San Jose ranked 9th-safest at 2.77 per 100,000, closely matching Raleigh (2.77) and just ahead of Omaha (2.78). The safest cities are concentrated in the Northeast, West Coast, and Upper Midwest, with strong transit infrastructure and urban density contributing to lower weekend fatality rates.

Looking at the study, Chrissy Grigoropoulos, Founder of Grigor Law Injury & Car Accident Lawyers, Commented:

"While San Jose's ranking among the 10 safest major U.S. cities for weekend fatal crashes is encouraging, 137 lives lost over five years is still 137 too many. At 2.77 per 100,000 residents, San Jose is performing significantly better than the national average for large cities, and the downward trend to just 22 weekend fatal crashes in 2024 is a positive sign. However, continued investment in road safety, pedestrian infrastructure, impaired driving enforcement, and speed management remains essential to sustain this progress and move closer to the goal of zero preventable traffic deaths."

San Jose Weekend Fatal Crashes: Year-by-Year Breakdown (2020-2024)

Annual Weekend Fatal Crashes in San Jose

Year	Weekend Fatal Crashes
2020	28
2021	31
2022	27
2023	29
2024	22
5-Year Average	27.4

Weekend fatal crashes in San Jose remained relatively stable over the five-year period before declining sharply in 2024. After a brief rise to 31 in 2021, the highest annual total in the study period, numbers settled to 27 in 2022 and 29 in 2023 before dropping to 22 in 2024, the lowest in the five-year period and a 21.4% decrease from 2020. Over the full five-year period, San Jose recorded 137 total weekend fatal crashes, translating to a rate of 2.77 per 100,000 residents, the 9th-lowest among the 50 largest U.S. cities. The 2024 decline suggests that San Jose's road safety efforts may be gaining traction, though sustained investment will be critical to maintaining this positive trajectory.

Methodology

This study analyzed five years (2020-2024) of weekend fatal crash data using the NHTSA Crash Report Sampling System (CRSS), accessed via the CDAN query tool (cdan.dot.gov/query). Weekend fatal crashes were defined as fatal motor vehicle crashes occurring on Saturdays and Sundays. For each of the 50 largest U.S. cities by population, the total number of weekend fatal crashes was collected for each year from 2020 through 2024. The five-year average was then calculated for each city. This average was divided by each city's estimated 2024 population from the U.S. Census Bureau and multiplied by 100,000 to calculate the rate per 100,000 residents. Cities were ranked from highest to lowest per capita rate.

Data Sources

Data Source: NHTSA Crash Report Sampling System (CRSS) via CDAN

Weekend Fatal Crash Data: <https://cdan.dot.gov/query>

Population Data:

<https://www.census.gov/data/datasets/time-series/demo/popest/2020s-total-cities-and-towns.html>

Research Dataset:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/16GNtGWndNX4EaL3nBhtErVWBDNO61ScS8b58fLQ9dsU/edit?gid=0#gid=0>

Study By: <https://grigorlaw.com>

About Grigor Law Injury & Car Accident Lawyers

Grigor Law Injury & Car Accident Lawyers represents injured individuals and their families in serious personal injury and car accident cases across the United States. The firm produces data-driven research to inform policymakers, journalists, and communities on highway safety.