

Drive Like a Local!

Findings From the Vermont State Crash Database

ABSTRACT

This study examined single- and two-vehicle police-reported crashes in Vermont between 2003 and 2008. It evaluated the likelihood of being at fault for out-of-state drivers versus in-state drivers. Analysis using nominal logistic regression estimated that out-of-state drivers are over twice as likely to be at-fault for a single-vehicle crash and 6.5% more likely to be at-fault for a two-vehicle crash.

Season and road type were statistically different interactions between in-state and out-of-state drivers for single-vehicle crashes. Driving during the winter months had more pronounced effects of increasing single-vehicle crash fault for out-of-state drivers than for in-state drivers, while driving during the summer decreased the odds of being at-fault for out-of-state drivers. In-state drivers, on the other hand, were more apt to cause a crash on unpaved roads. The interactions were less pronounced for two-vehicle crashes as none of the variables tested were significant for either group.

The crash evaluation of fault for “foreign” drivers’ crashes has been understudied in the United States. Previous research, conducted mostly in other countries, has been limited but has shown that foreign drivers are more likely to be involved in a crash. This study in Vermont strongly suggests the need for further study of this factor as well as identification of associated interventions.