



Safe Infrastructure

Objective:

Keep people safe in their homes and communities

Strategy:

Maintain safe and secure county-owner infrastructure, including roads, bridges, buses, and transit facilities, parks and buildings such as courts

Why is this strategy important?

King County residents want to be safe when riding the bus, traveling on County roads and conducting business in government buildings. Safety is the highest priority for County residents, based on our 2012 Resident Survey.

How is our performance?

King County courthouses are very safe. Significantly less than one percent of individuals screened have weapons or exhibit behavior that results in an arrest. In addition, there has been a decrease in incidents between 2009 and 2011 even though the number of customers visiting courthouses has remained stable. Incidents include a threat to or assault against the court or court community, including jurors, litigants, witnesses, attorneys, court personnel, or others.

Unincorporated King County's collision rates are consistently lower over the last decade than state and federal rates. Motor vehicle injury collision rates on unincorporated King County roadways have been dropping over the last decade.

Fatalities on Unincorporated King County roads occur in such small numbers relative to population that there is not a statistically significant trend over time. A single incident can change total annual numbers dramatically. Fatality rates for Unincorporated King County are consistently lower than State and Federal rates, and have decreased at a faster rate than state and federal rates over the last decade. Pedestrian collisions are infrequent, but tend to result in a higher proportion of fatalities.

King County's public education efforts, improved road signage & warning systems, traffic cameras and road condition alerts have contributed to improved safety. In 2011, Metro transit total accidents per million miles increased 2.3 percent from 2010's record low. The rate of preventable accidents was also up by 10.5 percent compared to 2010. Preventable accidents were 30.3 percent of total accidents in 2011, an increase of 2.4 percentage points from a year earlier. However, the 2011 accident rate is down considerably compared with 2006.

Metro has placed increased emphasis on security since 2003. Beginning in 2006, a substantial increase in full-time Metro Transit Police resulted in an increase in arrests and other enforcement

actions on transit coaches and property. Arrests and infractions dropped 24 percent in 2011 compared with 2010. A 38 percent decline in assaults on passengers was offset by a 9.5 percent increase in passenger disturbances. "Passenger assault" is defined as an assault with a clear or identified victim. An altercation among riders with no identified victim is considered a disturbance. A continued emphasis on accurate reporting by bus operators in 2011 resulted in some incidents being shifted from the "passenger assaults" category to "disturbances."

Assaults on operators declined by 1.2 percent between 2011 and 2010, reflecting the success of Metro's Operator Assault Reduction Project. This project focuses on close coordination between Transit Operations and Metro Transit Police to provide timely assault responses, improved investigation follow-up, and targeting of Transit Police patrols. The project also includes a training program that helps operators learn how to de-escalate potential conflicts and communicate effectively with challenging passengers.

Moving forward

King County's infrastructure operating agencies identify safety as a high priority and will continue to do their part in keeping King County residents safe in their communities.

King County continues to place a high priority on road safety. The county's safety-related efforts include response to citizen-reported safety concerns, addressing conditions at identified high-accident locations, installation and repair of warning devices and guardrail systems, and traffic law enforcement activities.

County agencies measure safety statistics and manage their operations to continually improve safety. For example, Metro Transit has established targets for preventable accidents that will allow the agency to identify problem areas and assign resources to address challenges.

Related Links

[King County Metro monthly safety reports](#)

[King County Roads Division Traffic Safety Reports](#)

Technical Notes

For courthouse incident data, arrests include remands for court, so some individuals are taken into court custody for adjudication reasons in addition to behavior or safety incidents.

Regional District Courts include facilities located in Bellevue, Burien, Issaquah, Kent, Redmond, Renton, and Shoreline

King County Sheriff's Office staff provide after-hours scanning for individuals in addition to those represented on the charts on this page. On average, after-hours scanning is provided for 33,360 people at the Norm Maleng Regional Justice Center, King County Courthouse, and Youth Service Center (combined).

For transit arrests and infractions, an arrest involves taking a person into custody or issuing a citation for the purpose of charging them with a criminal offense. An infraction is a notice issued by transit police on a non-criminal matter commanding a person to go to court for resolution of the suspected violation.

For assaults on Metro transit operators, assaults are self-reported by transit operators on Security Incident Reports

Charts and Maps.

Unsafe Incidents at King County Courthouses

Weapons Confiscations

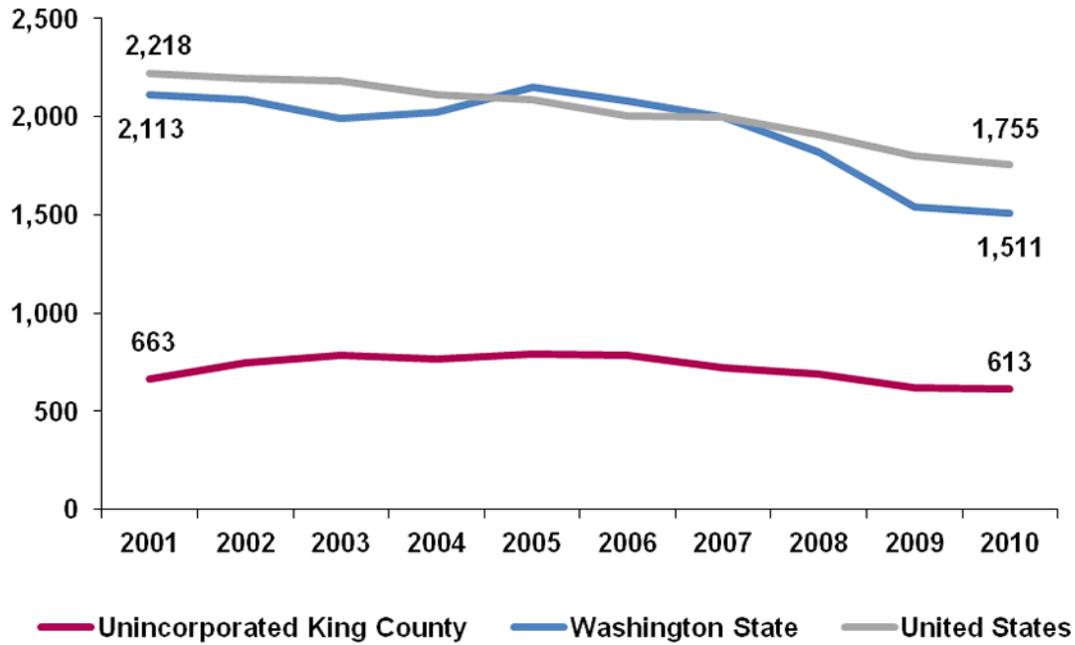
	2009	2010	2011
Main Courthouses, King County Courthouse and Maleng Regional Justice Center	1018	1,228	655
Youth Service Center	250	201	12
Regional District Courts	2	9	32
Total	1270	1438	699
Total People Screened	2,458,206	2,377,023	2,448,130
Proportion with Confiscated Weapons	0.05%	0.06%	0.03%

Arrests and Citations Issued

	2009	2010	2011
Main Courthouses, King County Courthouse and Maleng Regional Justice Center	830	691	614
Youth Service Center	11	7	0
Regional District Courts	88	276	68
Total	929	974	682
Total People Screened	2,458,206	2,377,023	2,448,130
Proportion with Arrests	0.04%	0.04%	0.03%

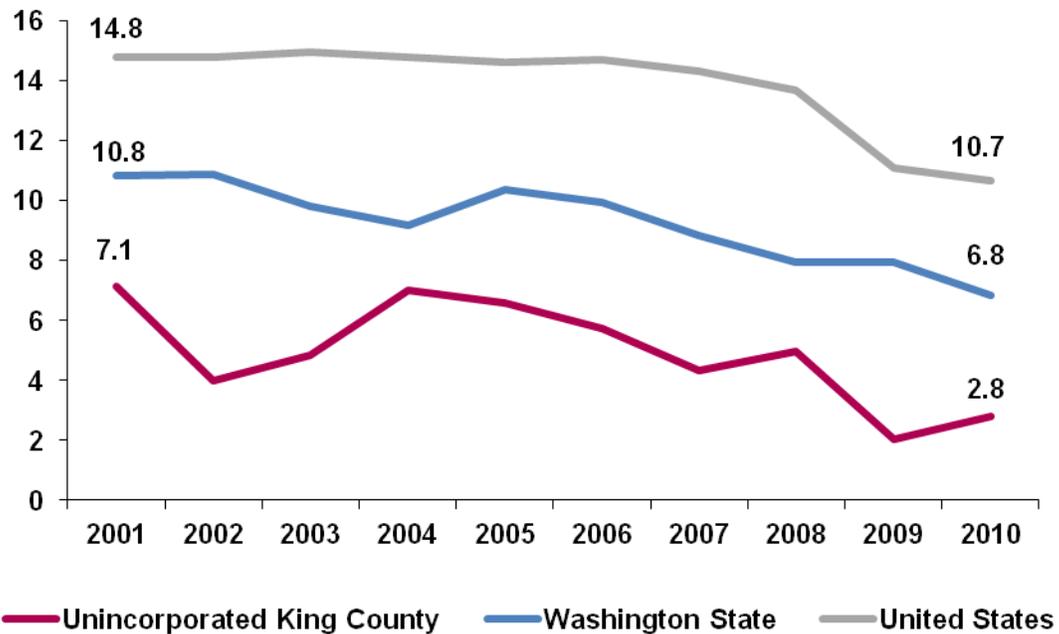
Data Source: King County Sheriff's Office

Collisions per 100,000 population on Unincorporated King County Roads



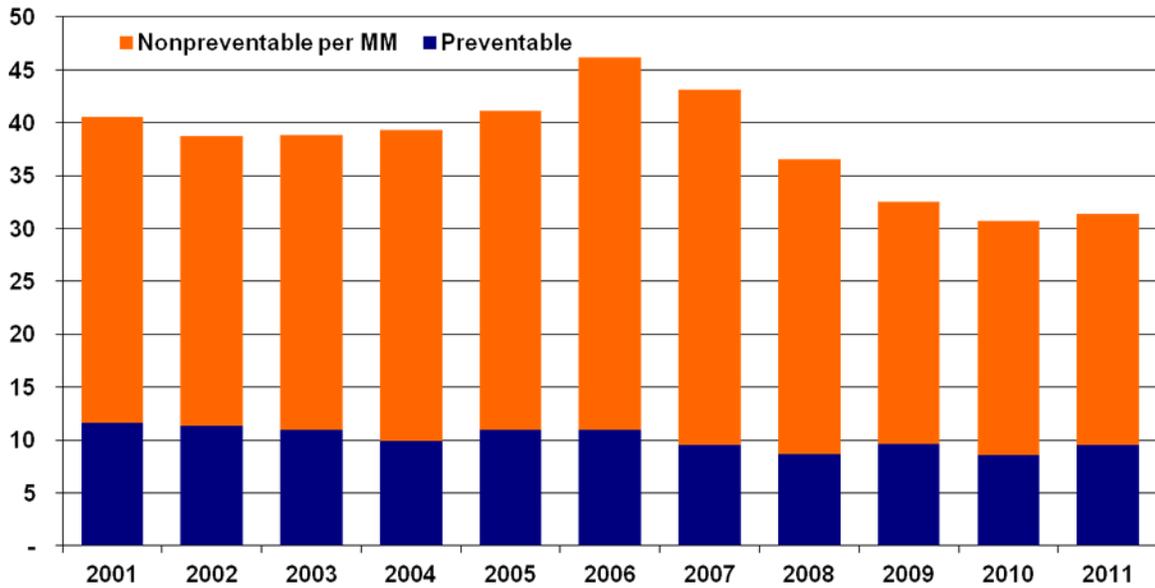
Data Source: King County Roads Services Division

Vehicle Related Fatalities per 100,000 population



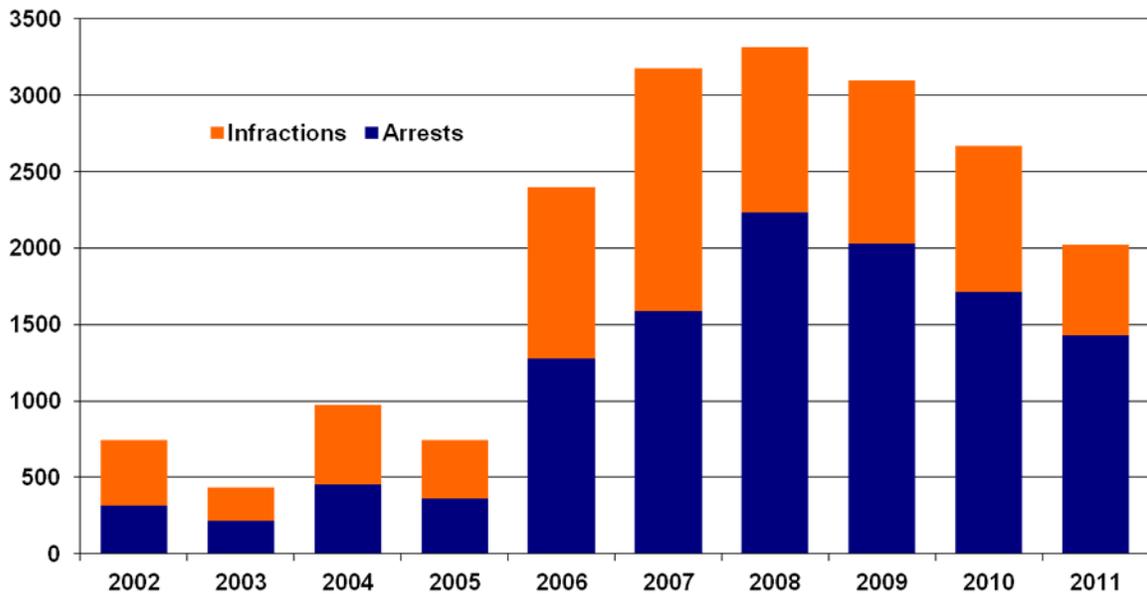
Data Source: King County Roads Services Division

Transit Accidents Per Million Miles



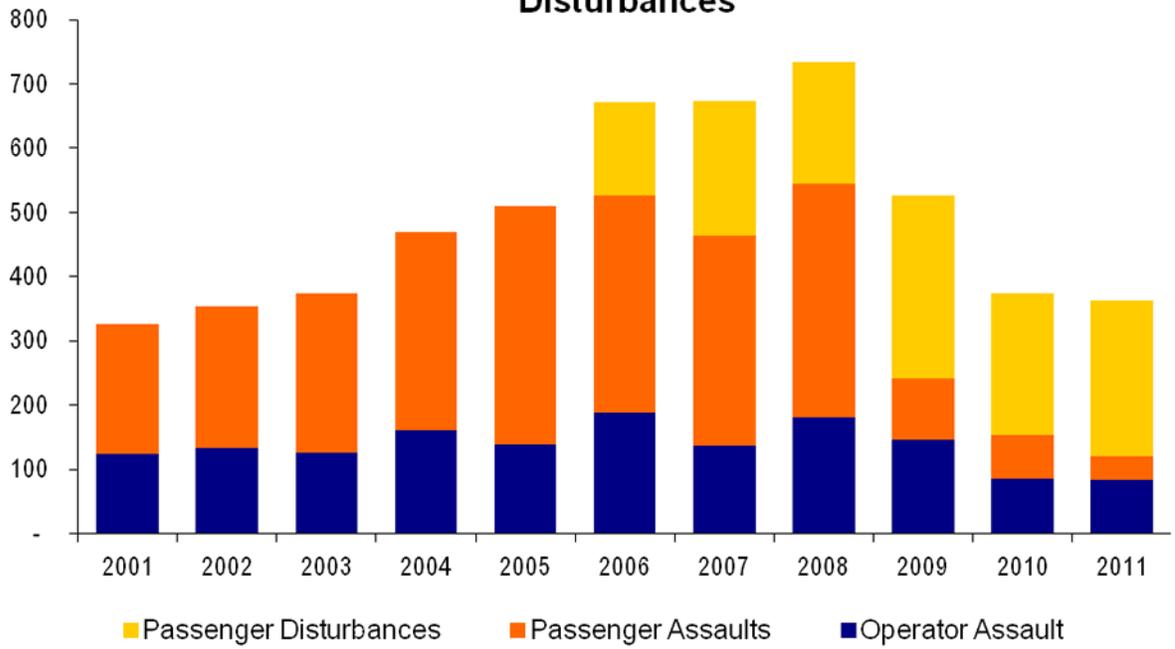
Data Source: Metro Transit Annual Management Report 2011

Arrests and Infractions on Transit Coaches and Property



Data Source: Metro Transit Annual Management Report 2011

Metro Transit Passenger and Operator Assaults and Disturbances



Data Source: King County Metro Transit