

Report: New Jersey has worst highways

by UPI

LOS ANGELES - More than half of U.S. interstate highways have reached congested status, and highway fatalities have risen, the annual Reason Foundation's study found.

The 16th annual report said California, Minnesota, New Jersey and North Carolina are stuck in the worst traffic, with more than 70 percent of urban interstates in those states qualifying as congested.

New Jersey's ranking of worst marks the eighth straight year at the bottom, the report said.

The study measures the performance of state-owned roads and highways from 1984 to 2005 in 12 categories, including traffic fatalities, congestion, pavement condition, bridge condition, highway maintenance and administrative costs.

Massachusetts reported the lowest fatality rate of 0.79 deaths per 100 million vehicle miles traveled, while Montana's roads were the deadliest, with 2.256 fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles.

The national average was 1.453 fatalities, up slightly from 1.440 in 2004

The organization's state-by-state report is available online at www.reason.org/ps360.

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