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Seat Belts And Contributory Negligence

Over 53,000 Americans were killed in traffic accidents in 1967. This is a rate of more than 1,000 a week or between 100 and 200 a day. Also in 1967, an additional 1,900,000 persons were injured in automobile accidents and the total financial loss from deaths and injuries exceeded ten billion dollars.

1 NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL, ACCIDENT FACTS, at 51 (1968 ed.). 53,100 Americans were killed in automobile accidents in 1967.
2 Id. at 40.
3 Id. at 5. This total includes $7,300,000,000 estimated cost of injuries and insurance administrative costs and an estimated $3,400,000,000 in property damage. Not included are costs of certain public agency activities such as police, fire, and courts; damages awarded in excess of direct cost; and indirect costs to employers.

[37]