

Traffic Safety Facts

2007 Data

Overview

“In 2007, there were an estimated 6,024,000 police-reported traffic crashes, in which 41,059 people were killed and 2,491,000 people were injured; 4,275,000 crashes involved property damage only.”

Introduction

Motor vehicle travel is the primary means of transportation in the United States, providing an unprecedented degree of mobility. Yet for all its advantages, deaths and injuries resulting from motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for people of every age from 3 through 6 and 8 through 34 (based on 2005 data). Traffic fatalities accounted for more than 90 percent of transportation-related fatalities. The mission of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is to reduce deaths, injuries, and economic losses from motor vehicle crashes.

Fortunately, much progress has been made in reducing the number of deaths and serious injuries on our Nation’s highways. In 2007, the fatality rate per 100 million vehicle miles of travel (VMT) fell to a historic low of 1.37. The 1997 rate was 1.64 per 100 million VMT. The National Occupant Protection Use Survey (NOPUS) reported a 82-percent seat belt use rate nationwide for 2008. Data has also shown an increase in the number of fatalities in alcohol-impaired-driving crashes — from 12,757 in 1997 to 12,998 in 2007. However, much remains to be done. The economic cost alone of motor vehicle crashes in 2000 was \$230.6 billion.

In 2007, 41,059 people were killed in the estimated 6,024,000 police-reported motor vehicle traffic crashes, 2,491,000 people were injured, and 4,275,000 crashes involved property damage only.

This overview fact sheet contains statistics on motor vehicle fatalities based on data from the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS). FARS is a census of fatal crashes within the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico (although Puerto Rico is not included in U.S. totals). Crash and injury statistics are based on data from the General Estimates System (GES). GES is a probability-based sample of police-reported crashes, from 60 locations across the country, from which estimates of national totals for injury and property-damage-only crashes are derived.

NHTSA has recently redefined their motorcycle terminology. The following terms will be used to define motorcycle occupants: a motorcycle rider is the operator only; a passenger is any person seated on the motorcycle but not in control of the motorcycle; and any combined reference to the “motorcycle rider” (operator) as well as the “passenger” will be referred to as motorcyclists. Prior NHTSA publications may not reflect this terminology.

“An average of 112 people died each day in motor vehicle crashes in 2007 — one every 13 minutes.”

Summary

In 2007, 41,059 people lost their lives in motor vehicle crashes — a decrease of 4 percent from 2006 (42,078).

The fatality rate per 100 million VMT in 2007 was 1.37. The injury rate per 100 million VMT in 2007 was 83. The fatality rate per 100,000 population was 13.61 in 2007, a decrease of 5 percent from the 2006 rate of 14.30.

An average of 112 people died each day in motor vehicle crashes in 2007 — one every 13 minutes.

In 2005, motor vehicle crashes were the leading cause of death for every age from 3 through 6 and 8 through 34.

Table 1

Motor Vehicle Occupants and Nonoccupants Killed and Injured, 1997-2007

| Year | Occupants by Vehicle Type | | | | | | Motor-cyclist | Nonmotorists | | | | Total |
|----------------|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------|----------------|-----------|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------|-----------|
| | Passenger Cars | Light Trucks | Large Trucks | Buses | Other/Un-known | Total | | Pedestrian | Pedal-cyclist | Other/Unknown | Total | |
| Killed | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1997 | 22,199 | 10,249 | 723 | 18 | 420 | 33,609 | 2,116 | 5,321 | 814 | 153 | 6,288 | 42,013 |
| 1998 | 21,194 | 10,705 | 742 | 38 | 409 | 33,088 | 2,294 | 5,228 | 760 | 131 | 6,119 | 41,501 |
| 1999 | 20,862 | 11,265 | 759 | 59 | 447 | 33,392 | 2,483 | 4,939 | 754 | 149 | 5,842 | 41,717 |
| 2000 | 20,699 | 11,526 | 754 | 22 | 450 | 33,451 | 2,897 | 4,763 | 693 | 141 | 5,597 | 41,945 |
| 2001 | 20,320 | 11,723 | 708 | 34 | 458 | 33,243 | 3,197 | 4,901 | 732 | 123 | 5,756 | 42,196 |
| 2002 | 20,569 | 12,274 | 689 | 45 | 528 | 34,105 | 3,270 | 4,851 | 665 | 114 | 5,630 | 43,005 |
| 2003 | 19,725 | 12,546 | 726 | 41 | 589 | 33,627 | 3,714 | 4,774 | 629 | 140 | 5,543 | 42,884 |
| 2004 | 19,192 | 12,674 | 766 | 42 | 602 | 33,276 | 4,028 | 4,675 | 727 | 130 | 5,532 | 42,836 |
| 2005 | 18,512 | 13,037 | 804 | 58 | 659 | 33,070 | 4,576 | 4,892 | 786 | 186 | 5,864 | 43,510 |
| 2006 | 17,925 | 12,761 | 805 | 27 | 601 | 32,119 | 4,837 | 4,795 | 772 | 185 | 5,752 | 42,708 |
| 2007 | 16,520 | 12,413 | 802 | 37 | 629 | 30,401 | 5,154 | 4,654 | 698 | 152 | 5,504 | 41,059 |
| Injured | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1997 | 2,340,612 | 754,820 | 30,913 | 16,887 | 5,602 | 3,148,833 | 52,574 | 77,011 | 57,802 | 11,393 | 146,206 | 3,347,614 |
| 1998 | 2,201,375 | 762,506 | 28,767 | 15,559 | 4,287 | 3,012,494 | 48,974 | 68,955 | 53,379 | 8,232 | 130,567 | 3,192,035 |
| 1999 | 2,137,503 | 846,865 | 32,892 | 21,958 | 7,377 | 3,046,596 | 49,986 | 85,235 | 51,290 | 3,132 | 139,656 | 3,236,238 |
| 2000 | 2,051,609 | 886,566 | 30,832 | 17,769 | 10,120 | 2,996,896 | 57,723 | 77,625 | 51,160 | 5,346 | 134,131 | 3,188,750 |
| 2001 | 1,926,625 | 860,527 | 29,424 | 15,427 | 9,197 | 2,841,201 | 60,236 | 77,619 | 45,277 | 8,339 | 131,235 | 3,032,672 |
| 2002 | 1,804,788 | 879,338 | 26,242 | 18,819 | 6,187 | 2,735,374 | 64,713 | 70,664 | 48,011 | 6,995 | 125,671 | 2,925,758 |
| 2003 | 1,756,495 | 889,048 | 26,893 | 18,174 | 6,714 | 2,697,324 | 67,103 | 69,949 | 46,378 | 7,847 | 124,174 | 2,888,601 |
| 2004 | 1,642,549 | 900,171 | 27,287 | 16,410 | 7,262 | 2,593,679 | 76,379 | 67,985 | 41,086 | 9,249 | 118,320 | 2,788,378 |
| 2005 | 1,573,396 | 872,137 | 27,284 | 11,133 | 9,832 | 2,493,782 | 87,335 | 64,446 | 45,439 | 7,684 | 117,568 | 2,698,686 |
| 2006 | 1,474,536 | 856,896 | 22,815 | 9,839 | 10,843 | 2,374,930 | 87,652 | 60,924 | 44,012 | 7,089 | 112,025 | 2,574,607 |
| 2007 | 1,379,181 | 841,451 | 23,314 | 12,141 | 7,703 | 2,263,789 | 102,994 | 70,286 | 43,481 | 9,822 | 123,589 | 2,490,372 |

Table 2

People Killed and Injured and Fatality and Injury Rates, 1997-2007

| Year | Killed | Resident Population (Thousands) | Fatality Rate per 100,000 Population | Licensed Drivers (Thousands) | Fatality Rate per 100,000 Licensed Drivers | Registered Motor Vehicles (Thousands) | Fatality Rate per 100,000 Registered Vehicles | Vehicle Miles Traveled (Billions) | Fatality Rate per 100 Million VMT |
|----------------|-----------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Killed | | | | | | | | | |
| 1997 | 42,013 | 267,784 | 15.69 | 182,709 | 22.99 | 203,568 | 20.64 | 2,562 | 1.64 |
| 1998 | 41,501 | 270,248 | 15.36 | 184,861 | 22.45 | 208,076 | 19.95 | 2,632 | 1.58 |
| 1999 | 41,717 | 272,691 | 15.30 | 187,170 | 22.29 | 212,685 | 19.61 | 2,691 | 1.55 |
| 2000 | 41,945 | 282,194 | 14.86 | 190,625 | 22.00 | 217,028 | 19.33 | 2,747 | 1.53 |
| 2001 | 42,196 | 285,112 | 14.80 | 191,276 | 22.06 | 221,230 | 19.07 | 2,797 | 1.51 |
| 2002 | 43,005 | 287,888 | 14.94 | 194,602 | 22.10 | 225,685 | 19.06 | 2,856 | 1.51 |
| 2003 | 42,884 | 290,448 | 14.76 | 196,166 | 21.86 | 230,633 | 18.59 | 2,890 | 1.48 |
| 2004 | 42,836 | 293,192 | 14.61 | 198,889 | 21.54 | 237,949 | 18.00 | 2,965 | 1.44 |
| 2005 | 43,510 | 295,896 | 14.70 | 200,549 | 21.70 | 245,628 | 17.71 | 2,989 | 1.46 |
| 2006 | 42,708 | 298,755 | 14.30 | 202,810 | 21.06 | 251,423 | 16.99 | 3,014 | 1.42 |
| 2007 | 41,059 | 301,621 | 13.61 | - | - | 257,708 | 15.93 | 2,996 | 1.37 |
| Year | Injured | Resident Population (Thousands) | Injury Rate per 100,000 population | Licensed Drivers (Thousands) | Injury Rate per 100,000 Licensed Drivers | Registered Motor Vehicles (Thousands) | Injury Rate per 100,000 Registered Vehicles | Vehicle Miles Traveled (Billions) | Injury Rate per 100 Million VMT |
| Injured | | | | | | | | | |
| 1997 | 3,348,000 | 267,784 | 1,250 | 182,709 | 1,832 | 203,568 | 1,644 | 2,562 | 131 |
| 1998 | 3,192,000 | 270,248 | 1,181 | 184,861 | 1,727 | 208,076 | 1,534 | 2,632 | 121 |
| 1999 | 3,236,000 | 272,691 | 1,187 | 187,170 | 1,729 | 212,685 | 1,522 | 2,691 | 120 |
| 2000 | 3,189,000 | 282,194 | 1,130 | 190,625 | 1,673 | 217,028 | 1,469 | 2,747 | 116 |
| 2001 | 3,033,000 | 285,112 | 1,064 | 191,276 | 1,585 | 221,230 | 1,371 | 2,797 | 108 |
| 2002 | 2,926,000 | 287,888 | 1,016 | 194,602 | 1,503 | 225,685 | 1,296 | 2,856 | 102 |
| 2003 | 2,889,000 | 290,448 | 995 | 196,166 | 1,473 | 230,633 | 1,252 | 2,890 | 100 |
| 2004 | 2,788,000 | 293,192 | 951 | 198,889 | 1,402 | 237,949 | 1,172 | 2,965 | 94 |
| 2005 | 2,699,000 | 295,896 | 912 | 200,549 | 1,346 | 245,628 | 1,099 | 2,989 | 90 |
| 2006 | 2,575,000 | 298,755 | 862 | 202,810 | 1,269 | 251,423 | 1,024 | 3,014 | 85 |
| 2007 | 2,491,000 | 301,621 | 826 | - | - | 257,708 | 966 | 2,996 | 83 |

Sources: Vehicle Miles of Travel and Licensed Drivers — Federal Highway Administration; Registered Vehicles — R.L. Polk & Co. and Federal Highway Administration; Population — U.S. Bureau of the Census. 2007 Licensed Driver data not available.

Vehicle occupants accounted for 74 percent and motorcycle riders accounted for 13 percent of traffic fatalities in 2007. The remaining 13 percent were pedestrians, pedalcyclists, and other nonoccupants.

Occupant Protection

In 2007, 49 States and the District of Columbia had seat belt use laws in effect. Use rates vary widely from State to State, reflecting factors such as differences in public attitudes, enforcement practices, legal provisions, and public information and education programs.

From 1975 through 2007, NHTSA estimates that seat belts saved 241,789 passenger vehicle occupants age 5 and older, including 15,147 lives saved in 2007. If all passenger vehicle occupants over age 4 wore seat belts, 20,171 lives (that is, an additional 5,024) could have been saved in 2007.

“NHTSA estimates that 15,147 lives were saved in 2007 by the use of seat belts.”

“Alcohol-impaired-driving fatalities fell to 12,998 in 2007 — 32 percent of all traffic fatalities for the year.”

In 2007, it is estimated that 382 children under age 5 were saved as a result of child restraint use. An estimated 8,709 lives were saved by child restraints from 1975 through 2007.

Children in rear-facing child safety seats should not be placed in the front seat of cars equipped with passenger-side air bags. The impact of a deploying air bag striking a rear-facing child safety seat could result in injury to the child. NHTSA also recommends that children age 12 and under sit in the rear seat away from the force of a deploying air bag.

In 2007, 33 percent of passenger car occupants and 37 percent of light-truck occupants involved in fatal crashes were unrestrained.

In fatal crashes, 76 percent of passenger vehicle occupants who were totally ejected from vehicles were killed. Seat belts are effective in preventing total ejections: only 1 percent of the occupants reported to have been using restraints were totally ejected, compared with 31 percent of the unrestrained occupants.

Table 3

Restraint Use Rates for Passenger Vehicle Occupants in Fatal Crashes, 1997 and 2007

| Type of Occupant | Restraint Use Rate (Percent) | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|------|
| | 1997 | 2007 |
| Drivers | 58 | 68 |
| Passengers - Front Seat | 56 | 68 |
| - Rear Seat | 43 | 59 |
| - 5 Years Old and Older | 47 | 60 |
| - 4 Years Old and Younger | 69 | 84 |
| - All Passengers | 48 | 62 |
| All Occupants | 54 | 65 |

Alcohol

In 2007, there were 12,998 alcohol-impaired-driving fatalities. This is a decrease of 4 percent compared to 2006 (13,491 fatalities), and it represents an average of one alcohol-related fatality every 40 minutes.

The 12,998 alcohol-impaired-driving fatalities in 2007 (32% of total traffic fatalities for the year) represent a 2-percent increase from the 12,757 alcohol-impaired-driving fatalities reported in 1997 (30% of the total)

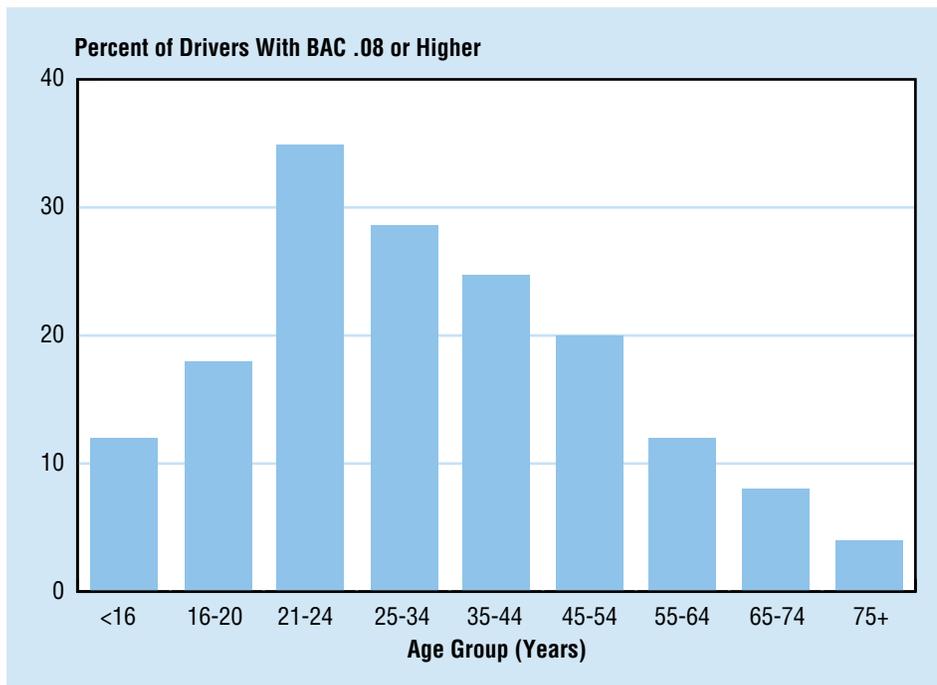
Over 1.46 million drivers were arrested in 2006 for driving under the influence of alcohol or narcotics. This is an arrest rate of 1 for every 139 licensed drivers in the United States.

In fatal crashes in 2007, 27 percent of motorcycle riders had BAC levels of .08 g/dL or higher, as compared with 23 percent for drivers of light trucks, 23 percent for passenger car drivers, and 1 percent for drivers of large trucks.

In fatal crashes in 2007, the highest percentages of drivers with BAC levels of .08 g/dL or higher were recorded for drivers 21 to 24 years old (35%), followed by ages 25 to 34 (29%) and 35 to 44 (25%).

“The highest percentage of drivers in fatal crashes who had BAC levels of .08 g/dL or higher was for drivers 21 to 24 years old.”

Figure 1
Drivers With BAC Levels of .08 or Higher Involved in Fatal Crashes by Age Group, 2007



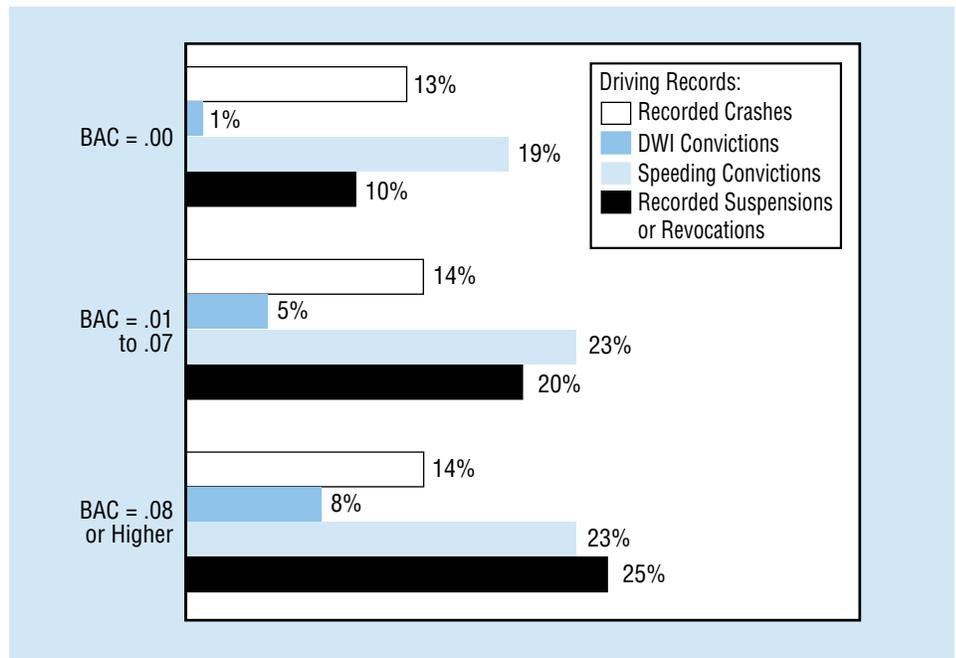
For more information:

Information on traffic fatalities is available from the National Center for Statistics and Analysis, NVS-424, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590. NCSA can be contacted at 800-934-8517. Fax messages should be sent to 202-366-7078. General information on highway traffic safety can be accessed by Internet users at www.nhtsa.gov/portal/site/nhtsa/nca. To report a safety-related problem or to inquire about motor vehicle safety information, contact the Vehicle Safety Hotline at 888-327-4236.

Other fact sheets available from the National Center for Statistics and Analysis are *Alcohol*, *African American*, *Bicyclists and Other Cyclists (formerly titled Pedalcyclists)*, *Children*, *Hispanic*, *Large Trucks*, *Motorcycles*, *Occupant Protection*, *Older Population*, *Pedestrians*, *Race and Ethnicity*, *Rural/Urban Comparisons*, *School Transportation-Related Crashes*, *Speeding*, *State Alcohol Estimates*, *State Traffic Data*, and *Young Drivers*. Detailed data on motor vehicle traffic crashes are published annually in *Traffic Safety Facts: A Compilation of Motor Vehicle Crash Data from the Fatality Analysis Reporting System and the General Estimates System*. The fact sheets and annual Traffic Safety Facts report can be accessed online at www.nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/cats.

“The economic cost of speeding-related crashes is estimated to be \$40.4 billion each year.”

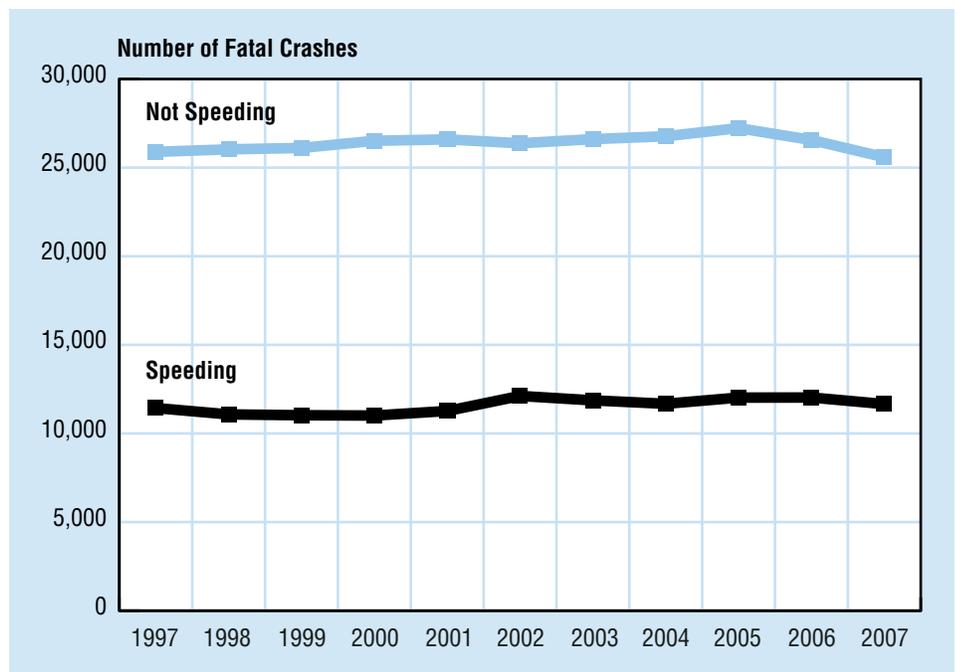
Figure 2
Previous Driving Records of Drivers Involved in Traffic Crashes by Blood Alcohol Concentration, 2007



Speeding

NHTSA considers a crash to be speeding-related if the driver was charged with a speeding-related offense or if an officer indicated that racing, driving too fast for conditions, or exceeding the posted speed limit was a contributing factor in the crash.

Figure 3
Fatal Crashes by Speeding Status, 1997-2007



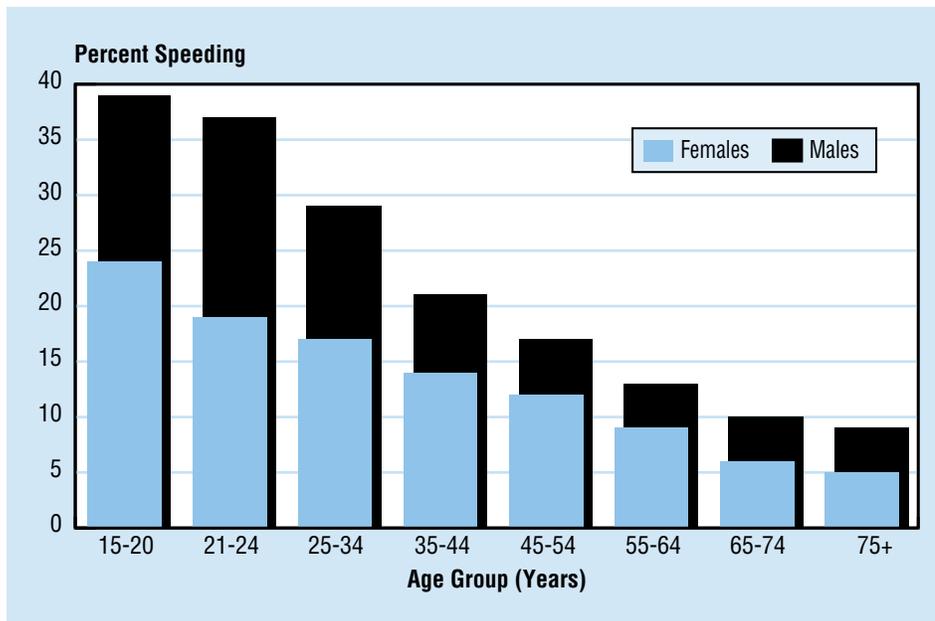
Speeding is one of the most prevalent factors contributing to traffic crashes. The economic cost to society of speeding-related crashes is estimated by NHTSA to be \$40.4 billion per year. In 2007, speeding was a contributing factor in 31 percent of all fatal crashes, and 13,040 lives were lost in speeding-related crashes.

For drivers involved in fatal crashes, young males are the most likely to be speeding. With the increase in driver age, the proportion of all crashes that are speeding-related have decreased. In 2007, 39 percent of the 15- to 20-year-old male drivers who were involved in fatal crashes were speeding at the time of the crash.

In 2007, 88 percent of speeding-related fatalities occurred on roads that were not Interstate highways.

Alcohol and speeding are clearly a deadly combination. Speeding involvement is prevalent for drivers involved in alcohol-related crashes. In 2007, 40 percent of the drivers with BAC levels of .08 g/dL or higher who were involved in fatal crashes were speeding, compared with only 15 percent of the drivers with BAC levels of .00 (i.e., no alcohol) involved in fatal crashes.

Figure 4
Speeding Drivers in Fatal Crashes by Age and Sex, 2007



“In 2007, 39 percent of 15- to 20-year-old male drivers involved in fatal crashes were speeding.”

“Per vehicle mile, motorcyclists were 35 times more likely than passenger car occupants to die in a traffic crash.”

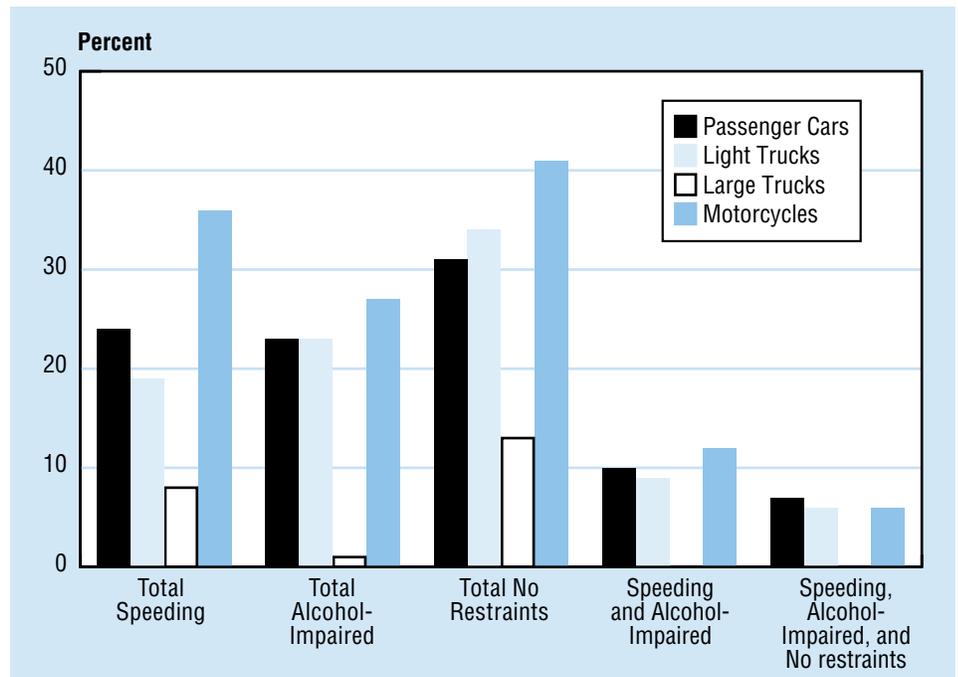
Motorcycles

The 5,154 motorcyclist fatalities in 2007 accounted for 13 percent of all traffic fatalities for the year. An additional 103,000 motorcyclist were injured.

Per vehicle mile traveled in 2006, motorcyclists were 35 times more likely than passenger car occupants to die in a motor vehicle traffic crash and 8 times more likely to be injured (motorcycle VMT data is not available for 2007).

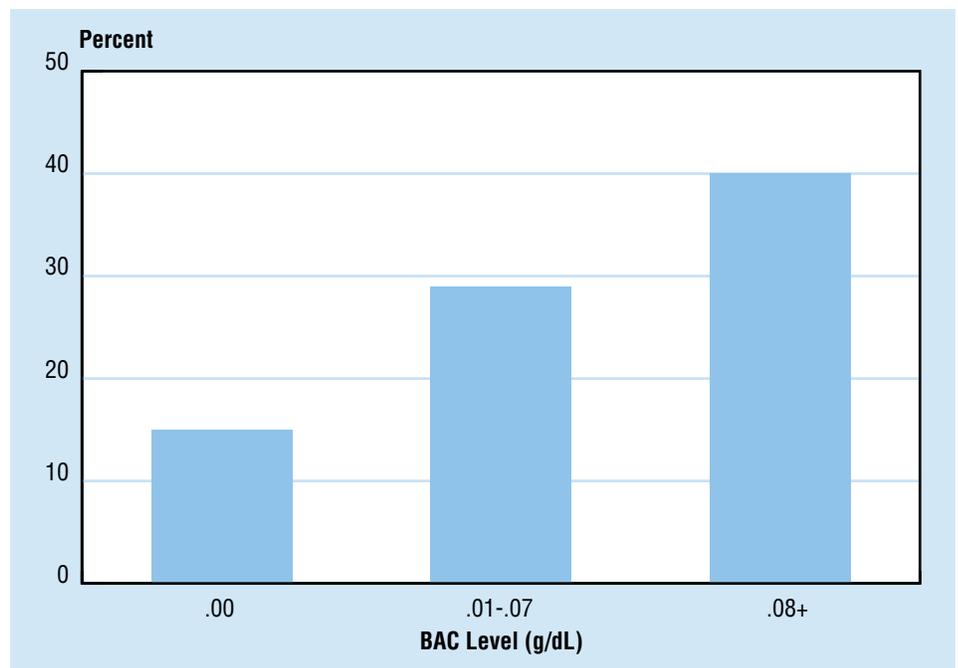
Figure 5
Speeding, Alcohol Involvement, and Failure to Use Restraints Among Drivers Involved in Fatal Crashes by Vehicle Type, 2007

“In fatal crashes, 36 percent of motorcycle riders were speeding.”



In 2007, 36 percent of all motorcycle riders involved in fatal crashes were speeding, as compared to 24 percent for passenger car drivers, 19 percent for light-truck drivers, and 8 percent for large-truck drivers.

Figure 6
Percentage of All Drivers Who Were Speeding in Fatal Crashes, By BAC Level, 2007



In 2007, 41 percent of fatally injured motorcycle riders and 53 percent of fatally injured passengers were not wearing helmets at the time of the crash.

Over one-fourth of motorcycle riders (26%) involved in fatal crashes in 2007 were driving the vehicles with invalid licenses at the time of the collision.

The percentage of motorcycle riders involved in fatal crashes in 2007 who had BAC levels of .08 g/dL or higher — 27 percent — was higher than for any other type of motor vehicle driver.

NHTSA estimates that helmets saved the lives of 1,784 motorcyclists in 2007. If all motorcyclists had worn helmets, an additional 800 lives could have been saved.

Large Trucks

In 2007, 12 percent (4,808) of all the motor vehicle traffic fatalities reported involved large trucks (gross vehicle weight rating greater than 10,000 pounds).

Of the fatalities that resulted from crashes involving large trucks, 75 percent were occupants of other vehicles, 8 percent were nonoccupants, and 17 percent were occupants of large trucks.

“One out of nine traffic fatalities in 2007 resulted from collisions involving a large truck.”

Table 4

Fatalities and Injuries in Crashes Involving Large Trucks, 2007

| | File Type | Number | Percentage of Total |
|--------------------------------|---|----------------|---------------------|
| FARS - Type of Fatality | Occupants of Large Trucks | 802 | 17 |
| | Single-Vehicle Crashes | 502 | 10 |
| | Multiple-Vehicle Crashes | 300 | 6 |
| | Occupants of Other Vehicles in Crashes Involving Large Trucks | 3,601 | 75 |
| | Nonoccupants (Pedestrians, Pedalcyclists, etc.) | 405 | 8 |
| | Total | 4,808 | 100 |
| GES - Type of Injury | Occupants of Large Trucks | 23,000 | 23 |
| | Single-Vehicle Crashes | 10,000 | 10 |
| | Multiple-Vehicle Crashes | 13,000 | 13 |
| | Occupants of Other Vehicles in Crashes Involving Large Trucks | 75,000 | 75 |
| | Nonoccupants (Pedestrians, Pedalcyclists, etc.) | 2,000 | 2 |
| | Total | 100,000 | 100 |

Large trucks accounted for 8 percent of all vehicles involved in fatal crashes and 4 percent of all vehicles involved in injury and property-damage-only crashes in 2007.

Three-quarters (75%) of the large trucks involved in fatal crashes in 2007 collided with other motor vehicles in transport.

“Ejection from the vehicle accounted for 28 percent of all passenger vehicle occupant fatalities.”

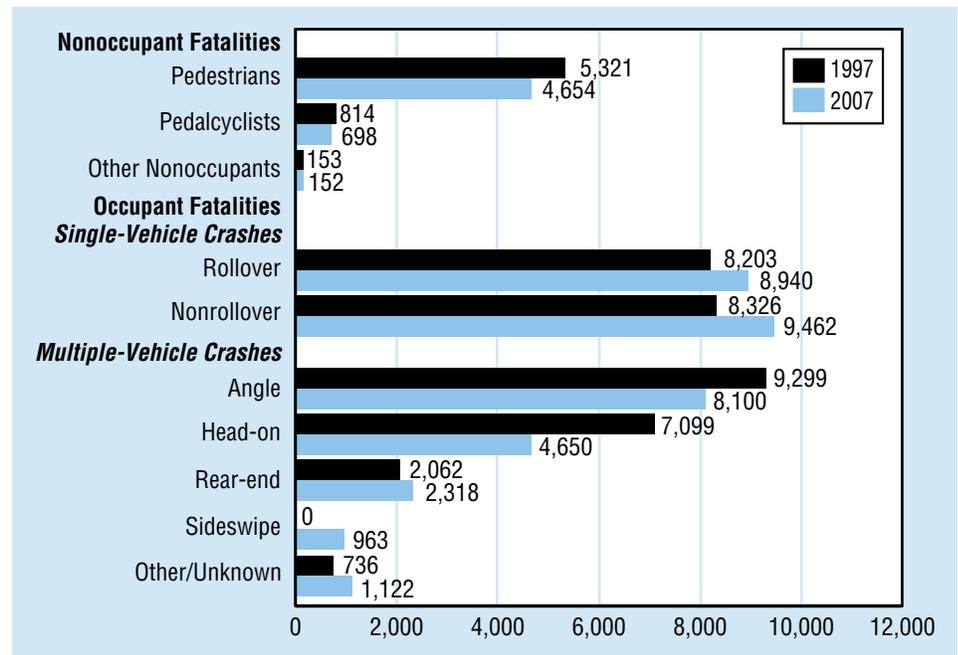
Only 1 percent of the drivers of large trucks involved in fatal crashes in 2007 had BAC levels of .08 g/dL or higher, compared with 23 percent for passenger cars, 23 percent for light trucks, and 27 percent for motorcycles.

Cars, Light Trucks, and Vans

In 2007, 28,933 occupants of passenger vehicles were killed in traffic crashes and an additional 2,221,000 were injured, accounting for 81 percent of all occupant fatalities (passenger cars 46%, light trucks and vans 35%) and 94 percent of all occupants injured (passenger cars 58%, light trucks and vans 36%).

Occupant fatalities in single-vehicle crashes accounted for 45 percent of all motor vehicle fatalities in 2007. Occupant fatalities in multiple-vehicle crashes accounted for 42 percent of all fatalities, and the remaining 13 percent were nonoccupant fatalities (pedestrians, pedalcyclists, etc.).

Figure 7
Fatalities in Traffic Crashes, 1997 and 2007



“More than half of the passenger vehicle occupants killed in traffic crashes in 2007 were unrestrained.”

In 2007, 54 percent of passenger vehicle occupant fatalities occurred in vehicles that sustained frontal damage.

Ejection from the vehicle accounted for 28 percent of all passenger vehicle occupant fatalities. The ejection rate for occupants of light trucks in fatal crashes was 38 percent.

More than half (54%) of the passenger vehicle occupants killed in traffic crashes in 2007 were unrestrained.

SUVs had the highest rollover involvement rate of any vehicle type in fatal crashes — 34 percent, as compared with 28 percent for pickups, 17 percent for vans, and 17 percent for passenger cars.

SUVs also had the highest rollover rate for passenger vehicles in injury crashes — 10 percent, compared with 9 percent for pickups, 4 percent for vans, and 4 percent for passenger cars.

Driver Age

In 2007, 13 percent of the total U.S. resident population (more than 37 million) were people age 65 years and older.

In 2007, 196,000 older individuals were injured in traffic crashes, accounting for 8 percent of all the people injured in traffic crashes during the year. These older individuals made up 14 percent of all traffic fatalities, 14 percent of all vehicle occupant fatalities, and 19 percent of all pedestrian fatalities.

The percentage of older drivers involved in fatal crashes in 2007 who had BAC levels of .08 g/dL or higher (6%) was lower than for any other group of adult drivers.

In two-vehicle fatal crashes involving an older driver and a younger driver, the vehicle driven by the older person was nearly twice as likely to be the one that was struck (59% and 33%, respectively). In 46 percent of these crashes, both vehicles were proceeding straight at the time of the collision. In 25 percent, the older drivers were turning left — 5 times more often than the younger drivers.

Youth

In 2007, 16- to 24-year-olds represented 24 percent of all traffic fatalities compared with 5 percent for age 15 and under, 46 percent for ages 25 to 54, and 24 percent for age 55 and older.

On a per population basis, drivers under the age of 25 had the highest rate of involvement in fatal crashes of any age group.

In 2007, 18 percent of 16- to 20-year-old drivers involved in fatal crashes had BAC levels of .08 g/dL or higher. The highest percentages were for drivers ages 21 to 24 and 25 to 34 (35% and 29%, respectively).

One-fifth (20%) of all children between the ages of 5 and 9 who were killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes were pedestrians. Children age 15 and under accounted for 18 percent of the pedestrian fatalities in 2007.

Passenger vehicle occupants ages 10 to 24 involved in fatal crashes had the lowest restraint use rate (57%), and those under age 10 had the highest rate (80%).

Male/Female Fatal Crash Involvement

In 2006, the fatal crash involvement rate per 100,000 population was almost 3 times higher for male drivers than for females.

Males accounted for 71 percent of all traffic fatalities, 70 percent of all pedestrian fatalities, and 88 percent of all pedalcyclist fatalities in 2007.

“In 2007, older people made up 14 percent of all traffic fatalities and 19 percent of all pedestrian fatalities.”

“Males accounted for 71 percent of all traffic fatalities, 70 percent of all pedestrian fatalities, and 88 percent of all pedalcyclist fatalities in 2007.”

Among male drivers involved in fatal crashes in 2007, 25 percent had BAC levels of .08 g/dL or higher, compared with 13 percent of the female drivers involved in fatal crashes.

Among female drivers of passenger vehicles involved in fatal crashes in 2007, 24 percent were unrestrained at the time of the collision, compared with 36 percent of male drivers in fatal crashes.

Pedestrians

In 2007, 70,000 pedestrians were injured and 4,654 were killed in traffic crashes in the United States, representing 3 percent of all the people injured in traffic crashes and 11 percent of all traffic fatalities.

On average, a pedestrian is killed in a motor vehicle crash every 113 minutes, and one is injured every 8 minutes.

Alcohol involvement — either for the driver or the pedestrian — was reported in 49 percent of the traffic crashes that resulted in pedestrian fatalities. Of the pedestrians involved, 35 percent had BAC levels of .08 g/dL or higher. Of the drivers involved in fatal crashes, only 14 percent had BAC levels of .08 g/dL or higher. In 6 percent of the crashes, both the driver and the pedestrian had BAC levels of .08 g/dL or higher.

Pedalcyclists

In 2007, 698 pedalcyclists were killed and an additional 44,000 were injured in traffic crashes. Pedalcyclists made up 2 percent of all traffic fatalities and 2 percent of all the people injured in traffic crashes during the year.

Most of the pedalcyclists injured or killed in 2007 were males (83% and 88%, respectively), and most were between the ages of 5 and 44 (79% and 55%, respectively).

Over one-seventh (15%) of the pedalcyclists killed in traffic crashes in 2007 were between the ages of 5 and 15.

“Pedestrian fatalities in 2007 were 13-percent lower than in 1997.”

“Over one-seventh of the pedalcyclists killed in traffic crashes in 2007 were between 5 and 15 years old.”

Table 5

Nonoccupant Traffic Fatalities, 1997-2007

| Year | Pedestrian | Pedalcyclist | Other | Total |
|------|------------|--------------|-------|-------|
| 1997 | 5,321 | 814 | 153 | 6,288 |
| 1998 | 5,228 | 760 | 131 | 6,119 |
| 1999 | 4,939 | 754 | 149 | 5,842 |
| 2000 | 4,763 | 693 | 141 | 5,597 |
| 2001 | 4,901 | 732 | 123 | 5,756 |
| 2002 | 4,851 | 665 | 114 | 5,630 |
| 2003 | 4,774 | 629 | 140 | 5,543 |
| 2004 | 4,675 | 727 | 130 | 5,532 |
| 2005 | 4,892 | 786 | 186 | 5,864 |
| 2006 | 4,795 | 772 | 185 | 5,752 |
| 2007 | 4,654 | 698 | 147 | 5,499 |