

Traffic Safety Facts

Crash•Stats

Alcohol-Related Fatalities by State, 2003

Introduction

An alcohol-related crash is a crash that involved at least one driver, pedestrian or pedal-cyclist with a Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) of 0.01 g/dl or above (non-sober). A fatality that occurs in such a crash is defined as an alcohol-related fatality.

This fact sheet provides statistics on alcohol-related fatalities in the states in 2003 and also compares those numbers with the corresponding data for 2002¹. Of particular interest are the changes in the number of alcohol related fatalities in states that were the *Strategic Evaluation (SE)* States.

In 2003, based on NHTSA's success with its priority safety belts campaign, *Click It or Ticket (CIOT)*, the agency initiated a comparable impaired driving campaign, the *You Drink and Drive You Lose (YD&DYL)* law enforcement crackdown. Like

CIOT, YD&DL uses high visibility law enforcement, along with paid advertising and earned media during a nationally coordinated crackdown. Special emphasis was placed in the 13 SE States, by offering additional resources for paid media, evaluation and technical assistance.

Results

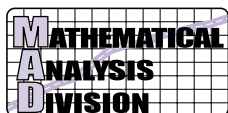
Overall, 42,643 persons died in motor vehicle traffic crashes in the U.S. in 2003, a drop of 362 fatalities from 2002. Alcohol-related fatalities dropped to 17,013 in 2003 – the first decrease since 1999. The 511 fewer alcohol-related fatalities reflected a 3 percent reduction from the 17,524 fatalities in 2002. Table 1 (overleaf) depicts these changes and also illustrates the changes that took place in the SE states. As seen from Table 1, although the SES and the rest of the nation had similar decreases in the overall number of fatalities in 2003, the SES showed a greater magnitude of decline in alcohol-related fatalities. In fact, four of the 13 SES showed an increase in the total number of

fatalities while twelve of the states showed a decrease in alcohol-related fatalities from 2002.

In the SE States, there were 380 fewer alcohol-related fatalities in 2003 as compared to 2002. In the non-SE States, there were 131 fewer alcohol-related fatalities in 2003. NHTSA estimates BAC values when they are not reported to FARS. The numbers depicted in Table 1 are a combination of known BAC values reported to FARS as well as estimated BAC values for those cases without a reported BAC value. The difference in the estimates of alcohol involvement between 2002 and 2003 are significant if they are outside the margin of the error of estimation. Alcohol-related fatalities in the SE States declined significantly in 2003 as compared to 2002. However, the decrease of 131 alcohol-related fatalities in the other (non-SE) states was within the margin of error and hence was not a significant decline. The overall decline of 511 alcohol-related fatalities for the nation was outside the margin of error and hence a significant decline.



U.S. Department of Transportation
**National Highway Traffic Safety
Administration**



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Comparison of Total and Alcohol-Related Fatalities between 2002 and 2003, Strategic Evaluation (SE) States versus Other States

Year	2002			2003			Change (Percent Change)	
State	Total	Alcohol-Related	% of Total	Total	Alcohol-Related	% of Total	Total	Alcohol-Related
U.S.	43,005	17,524	41%	42,643	17,013	40%	-362 (-0.8%)	-511 (-2.9%)
SE States	19,773	8,267	42%	19,591	7,887	40%	-182 (-0.9%)	-380 (-4.6%)
Alaska	89	37	41%	95	35	37%	+6 (+6.7%)	-2 (-5.4%)
Arizona	1,132	489	43%	1,120	470	42%	-12 (-1.1%)	-19 (-3.9%)
California	4,088	1,628	40%	4,215	1,626	39%	+127 (+3.1%)	-2 (-0.1%)
Florida	3,136	1,279	41%	3,169	1,274	40%	+33 (+1.1%)	-5 (-0.4%)
Georgia	1,524	533	35%	1,603	488	30%	+79 (+5.2%)	-45 (-8.4%)
Louisiana	907	427	47%	894	406	45%	-13 (-1.4%)	-21 (-4.9%)
Mississippi	885	335	38%	871	320	37%	-14 (-1.6%)	-15 (-4.5%)
Montana	269	126	47%	262	128	49%	-7 (-2.6%)	+2 (+1.6%)
New Mexico	449	219	49%	439	198	45%	-10 (-2.2%)	-21 (-9.6%)
Ohio	1,418	558	39%	1,277	467	37%	-141 (-10%)	-91 (-16%)
Pennsylvania	1,614	649	40%	1,577	618	39%	-37 (-2.3%)	-31 (-4.8%)
Texas	3,823	1,810	47%	3,675	1,709	47%	-148 (-3.9%)	-101 (-5.6%)
West Virginia	439	179	41%	394	148	37%	-45 (-10%)	-31 (-17%)
Other States	23,232	9,257	40%	23,052	9,126	40%	-180 (-0.8%)	-131 (-1.4%)
Alabama	1,038	410	39%	1,001	415	41%	-37 (-3.6%)	+5 (+1.2%)
Arkansas	640	241	38%	627	254	41%	-13 (-2.0%)	+13 (+5.4%)
Colorado	743	314	42%	632	246	39%	-111 (-15%)	-68 (-22%)
Connecticut	325	144	44%	294	131	45%	-31 (-9.5%)	-13 (-9.0%)
Delaware	124	50	40%	142	60	42%	+18 (+15%)	+10 (+20%)
Dist. Of Columbia	47	24	51%	67	34	50%	+20 (+43%)	+10 (+42%)
Hawaii	119	47	39%	135	72	53%	+16 (+13%)	+25 (+53%)
Idaho	264	91	34%	293	107	37%	+29 (+11%)	+16 (+18%)
Illinois	1,420	653	46%	1,453	639	44%	+33 (+2.3%)	-14 (-2.1%)
Indiana	792	262	33%	834	262	31%	+42 (+5.3%)	0 (0%)
Iowa	405	137	34%	441	145	33%	+36 (+8.9%)	+8 (+5.8%)
Kansas	507	227	45%	471	206	44%	-36 (-7.1%)	-21 (-9.3%)
Kentucky	915	302	33%	928	276	30%	+13 (+1.4%)	-26 (-8.6%)
Maine	216	50	23%	207	75	36%	-9 (-4.2%)	+25 (+50%)
Maryland	661	276	42%	649	281	43%	-12 (-1.8%)	+5 (+1.8%)
Massachusetts	459	224	49%	462	207	45%	+3 (+0.7%)	-17 (-7.6%)
Michigan	1,277	494	39%	1,283	481	37%	+6 (+0.5%)	-13 (-2.6%)
Minnesota	657	256	39%	657	267	41%	0 (0%)	+11 (+4.3%)
Missouri	1,208	518	43%	1,232	504	41%	+24 (+2.0%)	-14 (-2.7%)
Nebraska	307	117	38%	293	121	41%	-14 (-4.6%)	+4 (+3.4%)
Nevada	381	165	43%	368	182	50%	-13 (-3.4%)	+17 (+10%)
New Hampshire	127	50	39%	127	52	41%	0 (0%)	+2 (+4.0%)
New Jersey	771	281	36%	747	275	37%	-24 (-3.1%)	-6 (-2.1%)
New York	1,530	482	31%	1,491	529	35%	-39 (-2.5%)	+47 (+9.8%)
North Carolina	1,576	592	38%	1,531	554	36%	-45 (-2.9%)	-38 (-6.4%)
North Dakota	97	49	50%	105	52	50%	+8 (+8.2%)	+3 (+6.1%)
Oklahoma	739	251	34%	668	255	38%	-71 (-9.6%)	+4 (+1.6%)
Oregon	436	180	41%	512	207	40%	+76 (+17%)	+27 (+15%)
Rhode Island	84	46	55%	104	57	55%	+20 (+24%)	+11 (+24%)
South Carolina	1,053	549	52%	968	488	50%	-85 (-8.1%)	-61 (-11%)
South Dakota	180	92	51%	203	98	48%	+23 (+13%)	+6 (+6.5%)
Tennessee	1,177	485	41%	1,193	447	37%	+16 (+1.4%)	-38 (-7.8%)
Utah	328	71	22%	309	46	15%	-19 (-5.8%)	-25 (-35%)
Vermont	78	27	35%	69	29	41%	-9 (-12%)	+2 (+7.4%)
Virginia	914	379	41%	943	364	39%	+29 (+3.2%)	-15 (-4.0%)
Washington	658	299	45%	600	259	43%	-58 (-8.8%)	-40 (-13%)
Wisconsin	803	360	45%	848	387	46%	+45 (+5.6%)	+27 (+7.5%)
Wyoming	176	67	38%	165	62	38%	-11 (-6.3%)	-5 (-7.5%)

Source: NCSA FARS 2002 (Final) and 2003 (Annual Report Files)

¹ The 2002 numbers are based on the final version of the file and will differ from previously reported statistics for 2002 that were based on the Annual Report File.