

# Passenger Vehicle Occupant Fatalities by Restraint Use and Ejection Status, 2003

## Introduction

This document provides descriptive statistics on the extent of restraint use among fatally injured occupants of passenger vehicles in 2003. Data are presented for occupants of Passenger Cars, Pickup Trucks, Minivans, Large Vans, SUVs and other types of Light Trucks and Vans (LTVs).

As shown in the Table (overleaf), 56 percent of the occupants killed in fatal crashes were not restrained, i.e., they were not wearing safety belts or not properly restrained in child-safety seats, etc. The chance of a serious injury is higher when an occupant is not restrained, among other things, the chances of being ejected out of the vehicle increases. Fatality rates among non-ejected occupants are dramatically lower as compared with the ejected occupants in the same crash.

## Source

The data used in this document are from NCSA's Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) Annual Report File for 2003.

## Results

Overall, 44 percent of unrestrained passenger vehicle occupants are ejected, partially or totally, from the vehicle as compared to only 6 percent of restrained occupants. Other notable observations include:

- 65 percent of fatally injured unrestrained SUV occupants were ejected totally or partially, the highest among all types of passenger vehicles. The lowest such proportion was 35 percent for passenger cars.

- 57 percent of fatally injured unrestrained SUV occupants were totally ejected from their vehicles. This compared with 28 percent of all unrestrained passenger car occupants, 39 percent of all unrestrained pickup truck occupants and 41 percent of all unrestrained minivan occupants.
- 50 percent of all fatally injured passenger car occupants were unrestrained as compared to 71 percent of all pickup truck occupants, 64 percent of all SUV occupants and 52 percent of all minivan occupants.
- Overall, about 26 percent of fatally injured occupants were ejected from their vehicles. Also, about 80 percent of all ejected, fatally injured occupants were totally ejected.

## Fatally Injured Passenger Vehicle Occupants by Type of Vehicle, Restraint Use and Ejection Status, 2003

Vehicle Type by Restraint Use		Ejection Status								Total	
		Not Ejected		Totally Ejected		Partially Ejected		Unknown			
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Passenger Car	Used	9,309	95%	236	2%	208	2%	38	0%	9,791	100%
	Not Used	6,271	65%	2,708	28%	634	7%	56	1%	9,669	100%
	Total	15,580	80%	2,944	15%	842	4%	94	0%	19,460	100%
Light Truck - Pickup	Used	1,607	94%	30	2%	70	4%	4	0%	1,711	100%
	Not Used	2,123	51%	1,632	39%	403	10%	35	1%	4,193	100%
	Total	3,730	63%	1,662	28%	473	8%	39	1%	5,904	100%
Light Truck - Utility	Used	1,410	89%	90	6%	83	5%	5	0%	1,587	100%
	Not Used	1,004	35%	1,624	57%	210	7%	20	1%	2,859	100%
	Total	2,414	54%	1,714	39%	293	7%	25	1%	4,446	100%
Light Truck - Minivan	Used	655	92%	32	5%	20	3%	1	0%	708	100%
	Not Used	400	51%	325	41%	64	8%	2	0%	791	100%
	Total	1,055	70%	357	24%	84	6%	3	0%	1,499	100%
Light Truck - Van	Used	816	93%	40	5%	24	3%	1	0%	882	100%
	Not Used	601	51%	484	41%	95	8%	5	0%	1,184	100%
	Total	1,417	69%	524	25%	119	6%	6	0%	2,066	100%
Light Truck - Other	Used	7	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	7	100%
	Not Used	9	45%	8	40%	3	15%	0	0%	20	100%
	Total	16	59%	8	30%	3	11%	0	0%	27	100%
Total	Used	13,142	94%	393	3%	384	3%	48	0%	13,968	100%
	Not Used	10,015	56%	6,459	36%	1,346	8%	117	1%	17,936	100%
	Total	23,157	73%	6,852	21%	1,730	5%	165	1%	31,904	100%

Source: NCSA FARS 2003 Annual Report File

Note: Totals may not equal previously reported totals as occupants whose restraint use was coded as "Unknown" were pro-rated between the restraint used and unused categories. The pro-rated fatality counts have been rounded to the nearest integer. Percents do not add up to 100% across columns due to independent rounding.

For additional copies of this Crash•Stats, please call 1-800-934-8517 or fax your request to (202) 366-3189. For questions regarding the data reported in this document, contact Rajesh Subramanian [202-366-5371]. This document and other general information on highway safety may be accessed by internet users at <http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/departments/nrd-30/ncsa/AvailInf.html>



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