

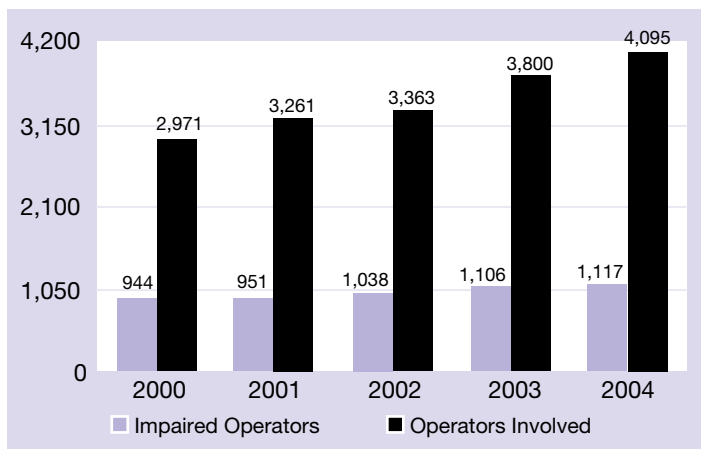
Traffic Safety Facts

Crash•Stats

Impaired Motorcycle Operators Involved in Fatal Crashes

The number of impaired (BAC \geq .08) motorcycle operators involved in fatal crashes has increased the past few years. However, the proportional increase of impaired operators is lower than the proportional increase of total operators involved (see Figure 1 below). The number of motorcycle operators involved in fatal crashes has increased by 38 percent, from 2,971 in 2000 to 4,095 in 2004, whereas the number of impaired motorcycle operators has increased only by 18 percent, from 944 in 2000 to 1,117 in 2004. Impaired motorcycle operators as a proportion of total motorcycle operators involved in fatal crashes has declined from 32 percent in 2000 to 27 percent in 2004. In 2004, a higher percent of motorcycle operators involved in fatal crashes had blood alcohol concentrations (BAC) of .08 grams per deciliter (g/dL) or higher, than any other type of motor vehicle (see Table 1).

Figure 1
Impaired Motorcycle Operators and Operators Involved



This data is from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS), which annually collects crash statistics from 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico and is made available by the National Center for Statistics and Analysis (NCSA).

Table 1
Drivers/Operators Involved in Fatal Crashes with a BAC \geq .08 g/dL by Vehicle Type

Vehicle Type	Percentage
Passenger Cars	22
Light Trucks	21
Large Trucks	1
Motorcycles	27

Source: FARS 2004 (ARF)

Table 2 (overleaf) shows total and impaired motorcycle operators involved in fatal crashes by State and year. In 2004, among the eleven States (in bold) with 100 or more motorcycle operators involved in fatal crashes, five States (highlighted) had higher proportions of impaired motorcycle operators than the national average (27 percent).

Definition: The term 'impaired' is used for BAC levels .08 g/dL or higher. All 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico have by law created a threshold making it illegal to drive with a BAC of .08 g/dL or higher. More information on "alcohol related" crashes and fatalities could be obtained at: www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/pdf/nrd-30/NCSA/TSF2003/809761.pdf.

For questions regarding the above reported data, contact Cherian Varghese [202-366-1114] or Umesh G. Shankar [202-366-5558]. This issue of Crash•Stats and other general information on highway traffic safety may be accessed by Internet users at: www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/departments/nrd-30/ncsa/AvailInf.html

Table 2

Total and Impaired Motorcycle Operators Involved in Fatal Crashes by State and Year

State	2000			2001			2002			2003			2004		
	Total	.08+		Total	.08+		Total	.08+		Total	.08+		Total	.08+	
	Num	Num	%	Num	Num	%	Num	Num	%	Num	Num	%	Num	Num	%
Alabama	47	18	39	42	13	31	45	10	22	52	14	28	74	14	19
Alaska	6	4	63	8	5	63	12	4	33	13	3	20	8	3	33
Arizona	93	27	29	76	21	28	96	31	32	113	22	20	117	33	28
Arkansas	28	9	31	37	9	24	39	10	27	52	16	31	57	9	17
California	286	76	27	300	67	22	331	75	23	399	99	25	460	109	24
Colorado	76	26	35	83	27	32	76	24	32	71	25	35	80	18	22
Connecticut	51	22	42	49	14	29	50	13	26	29	11	38	60	23	38
Delaware	5	1	20	10	4	39	8	6	71	12	5	40	8	2	29
Dist of Columbia	6	2	35	6	1	23	7	2	31	7	3	36	9	0	2
Florida	270	66	25	292	89	30	336	108	32	380	115	30	437	109	25
Georgia	62	10	17	101	19	19	85	21	25	108	26	24	114	23	20
Hawaii	20	9	47	19	4	18	23	6	26	21	6	28	21	8	39
Idaho	18	7	41	19	7	35	12	2	19	19	6	33	26	9	34
Illinois	128	40	31	138	42	31	103	35	34	140	55	39	161	56	35
Indiana	73	22	30	85	28	33	89	26	30	82	24	30	105	23	22
Iowa	31	9	30	41	13	31	42	9	22	46	16	35	38	10	27
Kansas	21	5	26	30	9	29	31	11	34	33	11	33	32	8	23
Kentucky	39	14	36	60	13	21	45	11	24	58	11	18	67	20	30
Louisiana	58	22	39	64	17	26	72	22	31	86	32	37	76	20	26
Maine	18	6	33	14	3	21	13	1	10	22	9	40	23	5	23
Maryland	48	13	26	56	11	20	58	16	27	61	13	21	68	21	30
Massachusetts	33	10	30	55	13	24	62	21	34	37	11	29	58	20	35
Michigan	90	25	28	100	28	28	87	23	27	84	26	31	83	25	30
Minnesota	38	9	25	41	12	30	47	15	31	63	18	29	55	11	20
Mississippi	21	4	19	28	7	24	25	8	32	43	9	21	40	11	26
Missouri	44	18	41	54	16	29	59	19	32	90	26	29	57	15	27
Montana	14	6	41	12	6	49	25	6	23	12	4	33	20	5	27
Nebraska	3	0	0	10	4	44	16	7	46	13	0	2	20	3	16
Nevada	21	7	32	24	5	19	34	8	22	28	6	21	60	16	26
New Hampshire	26	7	28	25	7	28	14	5	34	10	1	11	32	9	27
New Jersey	54	17	31	72	16	22	52	17	32	56	16	28	73	21	28
New Mexico	27	9	34	33	7	21	34	10	29	34	11	33	38	10	26
New York	126	27	22	148	28	19	149	32	21	161	35	22	151	33	22
North Carolina	103	21	21	111	29	27	124	30	24	108	27	25	139	34	24
North Dakota	4	0	3	4	1	13	1	0	20	4	2	50	9	4	39
Ohio	130	55	42	123	57	47	138	60	44	143	50	35	135	45	33
Oklahoma	23	10	44	36	11	30	38	10	26	44	13	31	72	25	34
Oregon	40	11	27	33	10	31	26	10	39	42	14	34	36	10	26
Pennsylvania	156	62	40	138	47	34	136	52	38	159	48	30	163	60	37
Rhode Island	12	6	50	6	1	17	10	4	43	13	5	42	10	6	64
South Carolina	85	33	39	89	38	42	91	43	47	94	33	35	96	26	28
South Dakota	25	7	28	21	6	30	25	4	17	22	4	19	28	2	6
Tennessee	69	19	28	78	21	27	78	24	30	92	25	27	96	24	25
Texas	232	99	43	241	89	37	267	103	39	346	116	34	286	101	35
Utah	22	8	36	28	3	10	18	4	21	23	1	6	30	4	15
Vermont	6	1	17	13	3	24	5	1	20	4	2	50	11	2	21
Virginia	43	7	16	45	14	30	54	16	30	57	13	22	59	19	31
Washington	37	18	49	57	19	33	53	19	36	60	15	25	72	17	23
West Virginia	17	7	40	21	5	24	29	8	26	31	10	33	28	5	16
Wisconsin	80	32	40	76	31	40	82	33	41	103	41	40	83	28	34
Wyoming	6	0	2	9	5	51	11	5	46	20	4	21	14	7	49
NATIONAL	2,971	944	32	3,261	951	29	3,363	1,038	31	3,800	1,106	29	4,095	1,117	27
Puerto Rico	51	11	22	49	17	35	63	17	27	58	12	21	68	22	32

Source: NCSA, FARS 2000-2003 (Final), 2004 (ARF)