

Traffic Safety Facts

Crash•Stats

DOT HS 810 644

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Alcohol-Related Fatalities and Alcohol Involvement Among Drivers and Motorcycle Operators in 2005

Results from the 2005 Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) show that 16,885 alcohol-related¹ fatalities in motor vehicle traffic crashes were essentially unchanged from 2004.

Table 1 depicts fatalities in traffic crashes by the highest blood alcohol concentration (BAC) in the crash. There were only 34 fewer alcohol-related fatalities (BAC=.01+ gram per deciliter (g/dL)), a decline of 0.2 percent compared to 2004. In crashes where the highest BAC was .08 g/dL or greater, there were 54 fewer fatalities, a decline of 0.4 percent.

Table 1: Alcohol-Related¹ Fatalities in Traffic Crashes by the Highest BAC in the Crash

Description	2004	2005	Change	% Change
BAC .01+ g/dL	16,919	16,885	-34	-0.2%
BAC .01-.07 g/dL	2,325	2,346	+21	+0.9%
BAC .08+ g/dL	14,593	14,539	-54	-0.4%
BAC .15+ g/dL	10,060	10,081	+21	+0.2%

Source: FARS 2004 [Final], 2005 [ARF]

Table 2 depicts fatalities in traffic crashes by the highest BAC among a driver or motorcycle operator in the crash. There were 139 fewer fatalities in crashes where the highest BAC among a driver or motorcycle operator was .01 g/dL or greater, a decline of 0.9 percent compared to 2004. In crashes where the highest BAC was .08 g/dL or greater, there were 154 fewer fatalities, a decline of 1.2 percent. The illegal per se in all States and the District of Columbia is .08 g/dL.

Table 2: Fatalities in Traffic Crashes by the Highest Driver or Motorcycle Operator BAC in the Crash

Description	2004	2005	Change	% Change
BAC .01+ g/dL	15,311	15,172	-139	-0.9%
BAC .01-.07 g/dL	2,212	2,227	+15	+0.7%
BAC .08+ g/dL	13,099	12,945	-154	-1.2%
BAC .15+ g/dL	8,762	8,737	-25	-0.3%

Source: FARS 2004 [Final], 2005 [ARF]

Table 3 depicts alcohol involvement of drivers and motorcycle operators involved in fatal crashes relative to their sex and age. In 2005, 27 percent of male drivers and motorcycle operators involved in fatal crashes had a BAC of .01 g/dL or greater and 23 percent had a BAC of .08 g/dL or greater. As seen in Table 3, males age 21 to 34 showed the highest level of alcohol involvement at either level.

Table 3: Alcohol Involvement of Drivers and Motorcycle Operators in Fatal Crashes

Age Group	BAC = .01+ g/dL				BAC = .08+ g/dL			
	2004		2005		2004		2005	
	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%
MALES								
16-20	1,467	27%	1,271	25%	1,174	22%	1,008	19%
21-34	5,168	39%	5,160	38%	4,425	33%	4,469	33%
35-44	2,352	29%	2,343	29%	2,062	26%	2,031	25%
45-54	1,631	24%	1,696	24%	1,399	21%	1,456	20%
55-64	723	18%	766	17%	608	15%	620	14%
65+	430	10%	370	9%	327	8%	275	6%
Total	11,838	28%	11,667	27%	10,049	24%	9,906	23%
FEMALES								
16-20	305	13%	247	12%	224	10%	189	9%
21-34	899	20%	913	21%	746	17%	779	18%
35-44	506	19%	526	19%	438	16%	459	17%
45-54	345	15%	350	15%	304	13%	296	13%
55-64	127	9%	121	8%	93	6%	94	6%
65+	88	4%	75	4%	58	3%	52	3%
Total	2,286	15%	2,244	15%	1,875	12%	1,878	13%
TOTAL								
16-20	1,772	23%	1,518	21%	1,397	18%	1,198	16%
21-34	6,067	34%	6,073	34%	5,171	29%	5,248	29%
35-44	2,857	27%	2,870	27%	2,500	23%	2,490	23%
45-54	1,977	22%	2,046	22%	1,704	19%	1,752	19%
55-64	850	15%	887	15%	701	12%	714	12%
65+	518	8%	445	7%	384	6%	326	5%
Total	14,284	24%	14,068	24%	12,057	21%	11,921	20%

Note: Totals include drivers under 16 and unknown age. Percentages are of total drivers involved within the age group.

Source: FARS 2004 [Final], 2005 [ARF]

Table 4 (overleaf) shows, by State and age group, the breakdown of drivers and motorcycle operators with a BAC of .08 g/dL or greater in fatal crashes in 2005.

Table 5 (overleaf) shows, by State, alcohol-related fatalities, fatalities in crashes where the highest BAC was .08 g/dL or greater, and the percent change from 2004 to 2005.

¹ Fatalities that occur in a crash involving at least one driver, motorcycle operator, pedestrian, or pedalcyclist with a BAC of .01 g/dL or greater.

Table 4: Drivers and Motorcycle Operators With a BAC of .08 g/dL or Greater Involved in Fatal Crashes, by Age, 2005

State	Age Group													
	Total*		16-20		21-34		35-44		45-54		55-64		65+	
	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%
Alabama	323	21%	27	13%	141	30%	66	24%	56	23%	21	13%	11	7%
Alaska	24	24%	2	18%	13	40%	5	24%	2	9%	2	19%	1	18%
Arizona	327	21%	35	19%	127	28%	53	23%	36	19%	12	11%	11	8%
Arkansas	179	20%	17	16%	69	27%	42	28%	27	20%	17	14%	7	7%
California	1,117	19%	108	15%	532	29%	220	20%	143	16%	65	12%	22	5%
Colorado	187	22%	24	22%	85	30%	41	28%	22	17%	12	13%	3	4%
Connecticut	88	23%	13	29%	42	37%	15	19%	11	18%	5	10%	3	7%
Delaware	45	23%	4	12%	16	31%	10	28%	14	39%	0	1%	2	10%
Dist of Columbia	15	26%	0	6%	9	45%	3	28%	1	28%	0	0%	0	4%
Florida	932	19%	92	15%	391	26%	203	23%	157	20%	42	8%	35	6%
Georgia	385	15%	34	11%	168	23%	77	16%	56	14%	31	11%	15	6%
Hawaii	49	28%	3	16%	23	41%	15	34%	3	14%	2	15%	0	0%
Idaho	69	21%	9	21%	29	31%	13	24%	13	20%	4	9%	2	6%
Illinois	400	21%	44	19%	192	32%	80	24%	48	16%	23	13%	9	4%
Indiana	234	18%	23	14%	97	24%	51	23%	43	19%	14	11%	5	3%
Iowa	93	15%	11	14%	38	25%	18	17%	14	14%	7	11%	5	5%
Kansas	112	19%	7	10%	49	32%	24	24%	21	21%	6	9%	3	4%
Kentucky	233	18%	15	9%	107	26%	54	21%	36	18%	13	10%	6	4%
Louisiana	287	22%	21	14%	131	28%	61	23%	47	22%	18	15%	4	5%
Maine	45	20%	7	21%	16	30%	14	36%	6	15%	1	4%	1	4%
Maryland	151	17%	13	12%	71	24%	34	19%	17	13%	9	10%	5	5%
Massachusetts	130	22%	16	18%	67	34%	12	16%	22	22%	8	12%	4	6%
Michigan	288	18%	27	14%	122	29%	70	24%	47	15%	14	8%	3	1%
Minnesota	150	20%	13	12%	58	28%	40	28%	25	18%	9	11%	3	4%
Mississippi	277	24%	31	19%	106	28%	70	34%	46	27%	16	14%	7	6%
Missouri	366	22%	50	22%	152	33%	71	24%	56	20%	26	14%	10	5%
Montana	88	31%	3	11%	43	53%	21	47%	12	25%	7	16%	2	5%
Nebraska	68	19%	10	21%	25	27%	15	24%	13	21%	2	4%	2	5%
Nevada	114	19%	10	16%	55	29%	22	22%	13	14%	6	10%	6	9%
New Hampshire	49	22%	5	23%	21	35%	9	23%	9	21%	2	10%	1	3%
New Jersey	166	16%	13	13%	80	26%	41	17%	19	13%	8	7%	4	3%
New Mexico	121	21%	17	23%	52	30%	21	21%	19	21%	6	8%	5	10%
New York	337	18%	39	19%	154	26%	69	20%	42	15%	21	12%	8	4%
North Carolina	384	18%	40	14%	181	28%	82	22%	49	14%	19	9%	9	4%
North Dakota	43	33%	6	33%	18	47%	7	41%	9	34%	1	11%	2	12%
Ohio	367	19%	29	12%	158	30%	95	26%	59	17%	17	8%	7	3%
Oklahoma	210	20%	23	16%	86	30%	46	25%	26	14%	20	16%	7	6%
Oregon	117	17%	12	15%	38	22%	23	22%	28	20%	13	14%	3	3%
Pennsylvania	500	22%	44	17%	223	34%	111	25%	74	21%	30	12%	14	5%
Rhode Island	27	24%	5	25%	9	27%	5	26%	4	29%	2	18%	1	14%
South Carolina	318	22%	28	18%	147	32%	59	22%	51	23%	19	15%	10	7%
South Dakota	59	26%	9	36%	25	44%	13	26%	9	22%	2	11%	0	1%
Tennessee	349	20%	32	14%	146	28%	80	26%	53	19%	24	12%	11	6%
Texas	1,141	24%	125	20%	518	33%	208	24%	166	24%	69	16%	32	8%
Utah	32	9%	1	1%	12	9%	6	11%	8	14%	6	15%	1	2%
Vermont	27	26%	3	20%	13	39%	5	35%	5	31%	1	9%	0	0%
Virginia	248	20%	25	16%	99	29%	65	26%	27	15%	20	14%	10	6%
Washington	213	25%	27	28%	106	37%	33	24%	29	22%	13	12%	4	5%
West Virginia	102	20%	11	24%	44	27%	20	25%	16	20%	6	11%	3	5%
Wisconsin	285	27%	30	21%	122	38%	67	36%	37	23%	22	18%	6	5%
Wyoming	53	27%	7	32%	24	49%	8	22%	6	18%	4	16%	2	9%
National	11,921	20%	1,198	16%	5,248	29%	2,490	23%	1,752	19%	714	12%	326	5%
Puerto Rico	136	23%	15	20%	58	24%	21	24%	21	32%	14	24%	5	15%

*Includes drivers under 16 and unknown age. Percentages are of total drivers involved within the age group.

Source: FARS 2005 [ARF]

Table 5: Alcohol-Related Fatalities, Fatalities in Crashes Involving a BAC of .08 g/dL or Greater, and Percent Change, 2004-2005

State	*Fatalities by the Highest BAC in the Crash						**Fatalities by the Highest Driver or Motorcycle Operator BAC in the Crash					
	BAC = .01+ g/dL			BAC = .08+ g/dL			BAC = .01+ g/dL			BAC = .08+ g/dL		
	2004	2005	% Change	2004	2005	% Change	2004	2005	% Change	2004	2005	% Change
Alabama	432	423	-2.1%	387	382	-1.3%	405	399	-1.5%	360	358	-0.6%
Alaska	31	35	+12.9%	29	31	+6.9%	29	32	+10.3%	27	27	0.0%
Arizona	446	492	+10.3%	385	434	+12.7%	389	417	+7.2%	334	362	+8.4%
Arkansas	264	233	-11.7%	218	208	-4.6%	247	219	-11.3%	201	195	-3.0%
California	1,667	1,719	+3.1%	1,390	1,466	+5.5%	1,432	1,478	+3.2%	1,179	1,250	+6.0%
Colorado	265	244	-7.9%	228	213	-6.6%	236	229	-3.0%	200	198	-1.0%
Connecticut	131	120	-8.4%	119	101	-15.1%	125	109	-12.8%	112	91	-18.8%
Delaware	51	66	+29.4%	47	59	+25.5%	43	59	+37.2%	39	53	+35.9%
Dist of Columbia	19	26	+36.8%	15	21	+40.0%	18	22	+22.2%	13	17	+30.8%
Florida	1,244	1,471	+18.2%	1,065	1,271	+19.3%	1,053	1,207	+14.6%	886	1,023	+15.5%
Georgia	536	545	+1.7%	461	463	+0.4%	472	489	+3.6%	403	413	+2.5%
Hawaii	64	71	+10.9%	51	58	+13.7%	54	65	+20.4%	44	53	+20.5%
Idaho	93	89	-4.3%	81	85	+4.9%	88	86	-2.3%	76	82	+7.9%
Illinois	613	580	-5.4%	524	477	-9.0%	561	535	-4.6%	475	440	-7.4%
Indiana	304	320	+5.3%	257	273	+6.2%	281	302	+7.5%	241	253	+5.0%
Iowa	111	118	+6.3%	92	102	+10.9%	105	112	+6.7%	87	96	+10.3%
Kansas	139	151	+8.6%	115	122	+6.1%	136	145	+6.6%	113	115	+1.8%
Kentucky	307	313	+2.0%	269	267	-0.7%	290	293	+1.0%	256	246	-3.9%
Louisiana	424	394	-7.1%	349	347	-0.6%	389	357	-8.2%	315	309	-1.9%
Maine	70	59	-15.7%	58	50	-13.8%	69	58	-15.9%	57	49	-14.0%
Maryland	286	235	-17.8%	234	191	-18.4%	257	203	-21.0%	211	161	-23.7%
Massachusetts	207	171	-17.4%	186	150	-19.4%	189	153	-19.0%	169	134	-20.7%
Michigan	431	421	-2.3%	368	363	-1.4%	386	373	-3.4%	329	312	-5.2%
Minnesota	191	201	+5.2%	170	176	+3.5%	180	187	+3.9%	156	163	+4.5%
Mississippi	352	371	+5.4%	327	331	+1.2%	337	342	+1.5%	312	302	-3.2%
Missouri	460	515	+12.0%	398	434	+9.0%	428	479	+11.9%	369	398	+7.9%
Montana	105	124	+18.1%	99	112	+13.1%	103	116	+12.6%	97	105	+8.2%
Nebraska	92	91	-1.1%	79	78	-1.3%	88	88	0.0%	74	76	+2.7%
Nevada	154	159	+3.2%	135	143	+5.9%	129	143	+10.9%	112	126	+12.5%
New Hampshire	59	60	+1.7%	52	55	+5.8%	57	58	+1.8%	51	54	+5.9%
New Jersey	270	263	-2.6%	217	217	0.0%	235	222	-5.5%	185	180	-2.7%
New Mexico	213	189	-11.3%	189	172	-9.0%	181	160	-11.6%	157	143	-8.9%
New York	594	524	-11.8%	507	434	-14.4%	513	443	-13.6%	435	358	-17.7%
North Carolina	549	549	0.0%	488	484	-0.8%	484	475	-1.9%	423	414	-2.1%
North Dakota	39	58	+48.7%	35	46	+31.4%	38	57	+50.0%	34	45	+32.4%
Ohio	492	505	+2.6%	417	409	-1.9%	464	480	+3.4%	392	385	-1.8%
Oklahoma	282	283	+0.4%	247	249	+0.8%	257	263	+2.3%	225	231	+2.7%
Oregon	204	177	-13.2%	164	139	-15.2%	192	153	-20.3%	150	121	-19.3%
Pennsylvania	616	636	+3.2%	546	559	+2.4%	583	595	+2.1%	517	523	+1.2%
Rhode Island	43	43	0.0%	41	34	-17.1%	40	38	-5.0%	38	29	-23.7%
South Carolina	463	464	+0.2%	410	396	-3.4%	421	425	+1.0%	368	359	-2.4%
South Dakota	83	80	-3.6%	74	76	+2.7%	80	73	-8.8%	71	69	-2.8%
Tennessee	542	464	-14.4%	469	397	-15.4%	509	434	-14.7%	439	371	-15.5%
Texas	1,704	1,569	-7.9%	1,481	1,371	-7.4%	1,552	1,408	-9.3%	1,336	1,224	-8.4%
Utah	75	37	-50.7%	72	35	-51.4%	70	35	-50.0%	67	33	-50.7%
Vermont	32	29	-9.4%	21	28	+33.3%	31	29	-6.5%	20	28	+40.0%
Virginia	363	347	-4.4%	314	284	-9.6%	336	323	-3.9%	288	263	-8.7%
Washington	247	294	+19.0%	223	253	+13.5%	225	272	+20.9%	202	235	+16.3%
West Virginia	142	126	-11.3%	119	116	-2.5%	130	118	-9.2%	108	108	0.0%
Wisconsin	358	369	+3.1%	318	328	+3.1%	338	353	+4.4%	297	313	+5.4%
Wyoming	59	65	+10.2%	53	56	+5.7%	57	63	+10.5%	51	54	+5.9%
National	16,919	16,885	-0.2%	14,593	14,539	-0.4%	15,311	15,172	-0.9%	13,099	12,945	-1.2%
Puerto Rico	250	217	-13.2%	224	184	-17.9%	198	179	-9.6%	174	145	-16.7%

*Fatalities that occur in a crash involving at least one driver, motorcycle operator, pedestrian, or pedalcyclist with a BAC of .01 g/dL or greater.

**Fatalities that occur in a crash involving at least one driver or motorcycle operator with a BAC of .01 g/dL or greater.

Source: FARS 2004 [Final], 2005 [ARF]

This 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/nca/AvailInf.html