

Traffic Safety Facts

2008 Data

Large Trucks

“One out of nine traffic fatalities in 2008 resulted from a collision involving a large truck.”

In 2008, 380,000 large trucks (gross vehicle weight rating greater than 10,000 pounds) were involved in traffic crashes in the United States; 4,066 were involved in fatal crashes. A total of 4,229 people died (11% of all the traffic fatalities reported in 2008) and an additional 90,000 were injured in those crashes.

In 2007, large trucks accounted for 4 percent of all registered vehicles and 7 percent of total vehicle miles traveled (2008 registered vehicle and vehicle miles traveled data not available). In 2008, 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.

One out of nine traffic fatalities in 2008 resulted from a collision involving a large truck.

Table 1
Involvement in Fatal and Injury Crashes and Involvement Rates for Large Trucks, 1998-2008

Year	Number of Large Trucks Involved in Fatal Crashes	Number of Large Trucks Registered	Vehicle Involvement Rate*	Vehicle Miles Traveled (millions)	Vehicle Involvement Rate**
1998	4,955	7,732,270	64.08	196,380	2.52
1999	4,920	7,791,426	63.15	202,688	2.43
2000	4,995	8,022,649	62.26	205,520	2.43
2001	4,823	7,857,675	61.38	209,032	2.31
2002	4,587	7,927,280	57.86	214,603	2.14
2003	4,721	7,756,888	60.86	217,917	2.17
2004	4,902	8,171,364	59.99	220,792	2.22
2005	4,951	8,481,999	58.37	222,523	2.22
2006	4,766	8,819,007	54.04	222,513	2.14
2007	4,633	9,027,624	51.32	226,963	2.04
2008	4,066	-	-	-	-
Year	Number of Large Trucks Involved in Injury Crashes	Number of Large Trucks Registered	Vehicle Involvement Rate*	Vehicle Miles Traveled (millions)	Vehicle Involvement Rate**
1998	89,000	7,732,270	1,146	196,380	45
1999	101,000	7,791,426	1,292	202,688	50
2000	101,000	8,022,649	1,253	205,520	49
2001	90,000	7,857,675	1,143	209,032	43
2002	94,000	7,927,280	1,189	214,603	44
2003	89,000	7,756,888	1,145	217,917	41
2004	87,000	8,171,364	1,062	220,792	39
2005	82,000	8,481,999	971	222,523	37
2006	80,000	8,819,007	911	222,513	36
2007	76,000	9,027,624	839	226,963	33
2008	66,000	-	-	-	-

*Rate per 100,000 registered vehicles. **Rate per 100 million vehicle miles traveled - = not available
Source: Vehicle miles traveled and registered vehicles – Federal Highway Administration.

Of the fatalities that resulted from crashes involving large trucks, 74 percent were occupants of another vehicle, 10 percent were nonoccupants, and 16 percent were occupants of a large truck.

Of the people injured in crashes involving large trucks, 71 percent were occupants of another vehicle, 3 percent were nonoccupants, and 26 percent were occupants of a large truck.

Table 2
Persons Killed or Injured in Crashes Involving Large Trucks, 2008

Killed	Number	Percentage of Total
Occupants of Large Trucks	677	16
— Single-Vehicle Crashes	430	10
— Multiple-Vehicle Crashes	247	6
Occupants of Other Vehicles in Crashes Involving Large Trucks	3,139	74
Nonoccupants (Pedestrians, Pedalcyclists, etc.)	413	10
Total	4,229	100
Injured	Number	Percentage of Total
Occupants of Large Trucks	23,000	26
— Single-Vehicle Crashes	10,000	11
— Multiple-Vehicle Crashes	13,000	15
Occupants of Other Vehicles in Crashes Involving Large Trucks	64,000	71
Nonoccupants (Pedestrians, Pedalcyclists, etc.)	3,000	3
Total	90,000	100

“In 2008, large trucks were 3.2 times more likely than other vehicles to be struck in the rear in two-vehicle fatal crashes.”

Large trucks were much more likely to be involved in a fatal multiple-vehicle crash – as opposed to a fatal single-vehicle crash – than were passenger vehicles (82% of all large trucks involved in fatal crashes, compared with 58% of all passenger vehicles).

In 30 percent of the two-vehicle fatal crashes involving a large truck and another type of vehicle, both vehicles were impacted in the front. The truck was struck in the rear 3.2 times as often as the other vehicle (19% and 6%, respectively).

Table 3
Percentage of Principal Impact Points in Two-Vehicle Fatal Crashes Involving Large Trucks, 2008

Impact Point on Large Truck	Impact Point on Other Vehicle				Total
	Front	Left Side	Right Side	Rear	
Front	30	16	14	5	65
Left Side	7	1	1	0	9
Right Side	5	1	0	0	6
Rear	18	1	1	0	19
Total	60	19	15	6	100

“In 2008, 2 percent of the drivers of large trucks involved in fatal crashes had BAC levels of .08 or higher.”

In half (50%) of the two-vehicle fatal crashes involving a large truck and another type of vehicle, both vehicles were proceeding straight at the time of the crash. In 9 percent of the crashes, the other vehicle was turning. In 9 percent, either the truck or the other vehicle was negotiating a curve. In 8 percent, either the truck or the other vehicle was stopped or parked in a traffic lane (6% and 2%, respectively).

Most of the fatal crashes involving large trucks occurred in rural areas (64%), during the daytime (67%), and on weekdays (80%). During the week, 74 percent of the crashes occurred during the daytime (6 a.m. to 5:59 p.m.). On weekends, 63 percent occurred at night (6 p.m. to 5:59 a.m.).

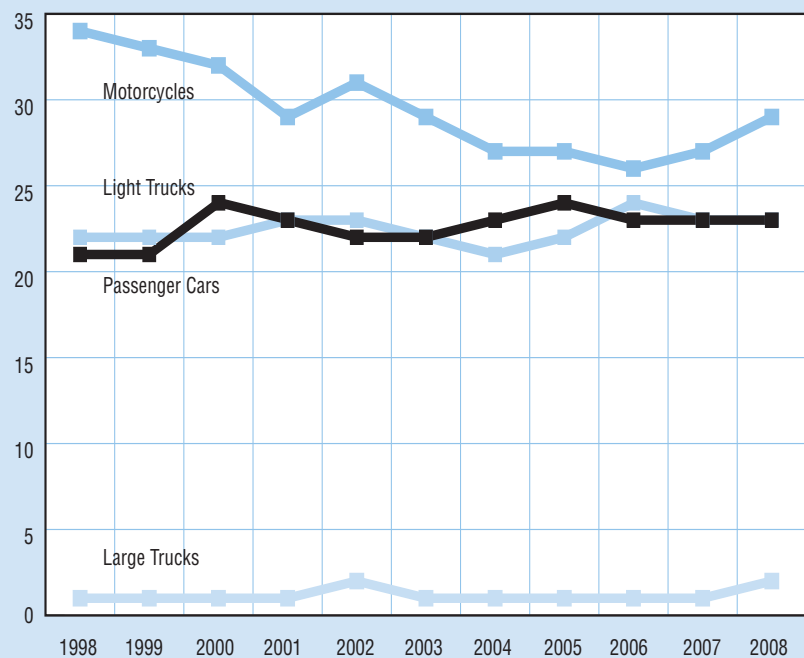
The percentage of large-truck drivers involved in fatal crashes who had a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 grams per deciliter (g/dL) or higher was 2 percent in 2008. For drivers of other types of vehicles involved in fatal crashes in 2008, the percentages of drivers with BAC levels .08 g/dL or higher were 23 percent for passenger cars, 23 percent for light trucks, and 29 percent for motorcycles.

Drivers of large trucks were less likely to have a previous license suspension or revocation than were passenger car drivers (7% and 15%, respectively).

Figure 1

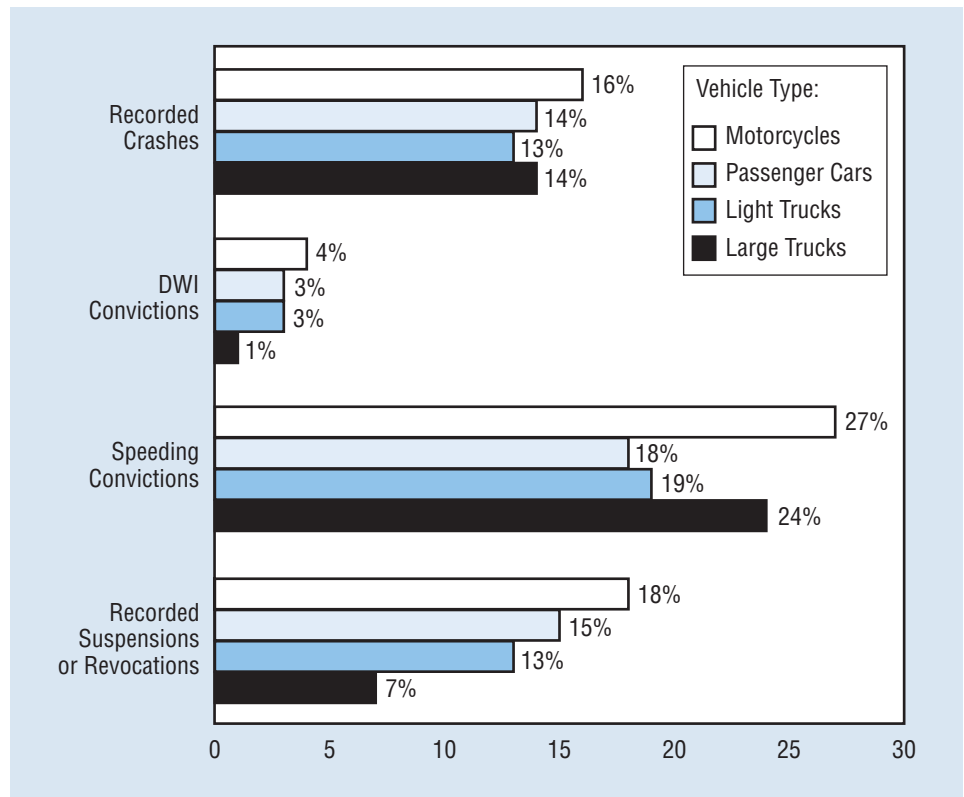
Estimated Proportions of Drivers in Fatal Crashes With BAC .08 g/dL or Greater, 1998-2008

“Drivers of large trucks were less likely to have a previous license suspension or revocation than were passenger car drivers.”



Nearly one-fourth (24%) of all large-truck drivers involved in fatal crashes in 2008 had at least one prior speeding conviction, compared to 18 percent of passenger car drivers involved in fatal crashes.

Figure 2
Previous Driving Records of Drivers Involved in Fatal Traffic Crashes, by Type of Vehicle, 2008



Note: Excluding all drivers with unknown previous records

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 *Overview, Alcohol, African American, Bicyclists and Other Cyclists, Children, Hispanic, 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/index.aspx.

Table 4
Large-Truck Involvement in Fatal Crashes by State, 2008

State	Total Vehicles Involved in Fatal Crashes	Large Trucks Involved in Fatal Crashes		
		Number	Percentage of Total Vehicles	Percentage of U.S. Total for Large Trucks
Alabama	1,289	124	9.6	3.0
Alaska	91	5	5.5	0.1
Arizona	1,261	99	7.9	2.4
Arkansas	784	77	9.8	1.9
California	4,749	304	6.4	7.5
Colorado	713	58	8.1	1.4
Connecticut	360	26	7.2	0.6
Delaware	153	7	4.6	0.2
Dist of Columbia	44	2	4.5	0.0
Florida	4,227	269	6.4	6.6
Georgia	2,070	179	8.6	4.4
Hawaii	140	6	4.3	0.1
Idaho	304	32	10.5	0.8
Illinois	1,437	136	9.5	3.3
Indiana	1,122	128	11.4	3.1
Iowa	571	69	12.1	1.7
Kansas	498	57	11.4	1.4
Kentucky	1,102	98	8.9	2.4
Louisiana	1,169	104	8.9	2.6
Maine	204	21	10.3	0.5
Maryland	817	50	6.1	1.2
Massachusetts	444	20	4.5	0.5
Michigan	1,414	90	6.4	2.2
Minnesota	641	62	9.7	1.5
Mississippi	985	70	7.1	1.7
Missouri	1,253	117	9.3	2.9
Montana	286	27	9.4	0.7
Nebraska	284	41	14.4	1.0
Nevada	446	21	4.7	0.5
New Hampshire	195	12	6.2	0.3
New Jersey	811	48	5.9	1.2
New Mexico	446	43	9.6	1.1
New York	1,703	112	6.6	2.8
North Carolina	1,892	143	7.6	3.5
North Dakota	137	21	15.3	0.5
Ohio	1,649	133	8.1	3.3
Oklahoma	1,009	108	10.7	2.7
Oregon	521	39	7.5	1.0
Pennsylvania	2,030	195	9.6	4.8
Rhode Island	81	2	2.5	0.0
South Carolina	1,165	81	7.0	2.0
South Dakota	148	13	8.8	0.3
Tennessee	1,383	92	6.7	2.3
Texas	4,619	421	9.1	10.4
Utah	350	32	9.1	0.8
Vermont	102	6	5.9	0.1
Virginia	1,097	71	6.5	1.7
Washington	710	54	7.6	1.3
West Virginia	480	46	9.6	1.1
Wisconsin	857	67	7.8	1.6
Wyoming	187	28	15.0	0.7
U.S. Total	50,430	4,066	8.1	100.0
Puerto Rico	536	27	5.0	100.0

Note: Totals may not equal sum of components due to independent rounding.