

# Quick Facts 2021

## General Statistics

Fatal Crashes	
2021	39,508
2020	35,935

Sources: FARS

Fatalities	
2021	42,939
2020	39,007

Source: FARS

Police-Reported Crashes	
2021	6,102,936
2020	5,251,006

Sources: FARS/CRSS

People Injured	
2021	2,497,657
2020	2,282,209

Sources: FARS/CRSS

Fatality Rate per 100 Million VMT	
2021	1.37
2020	1.34

Sources: FARS/FHWA

Fatality Rate per 100,000 Population	
2021	12.94
2020	11.77

Sources: FARS/Census Bureau

Injury Rate per 100 Million VMT	
2021	80
2020	79

Sources: FARS/CRSS/FHWA

Injury Rate per 100,000 Population	
2021	753
2020	688

Sources: FARS/CRSS/  
Census Bureau

Occupant Fatality Rate per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Traveled by Vehicle Type				
	Passenger Cars	Light Trucks	Large Trucks	Motorcycles
2021	1.26	0.76	0.31	30.20
2020	1.22	0.73	0.28	30.68

Sources: FARS/FHWA

Urban Versus Rural Fatalities*		
	Urban	Rural
2021	25,598 (60%)	17,103 (40%)
2020	22,513 (58%)	16,340 (42%)

Source: FARS

\*Percentage based on known land use.

## Exposure Data

Vehicle Miles Traveled (Millions) by Vehicle Type					
	Passenger Cars	Light Trucks	Large Trucks	Motorcycles	Total*
2021	1,074,905	1,694,094	327,026	19,642	3,132,411
2020	1,035,519	1,537,469	297,649	17,947	2,903,622

Source: FHWA. Passenger car and light-truck VMT revised by NHTSA. \*Total includes buses.

Registered Vehicles by Vehicle Type					
	Passenger Cars	Light Trucks	Large Trucks	Motorcycles	Total*
2021	107,934,093	170,108,546	13,859,181	9,881,414	302,722,453
2020	110,612,958	164,230,764	12,899,371	8,347,435	297,100,832

Sources: Registered Passenger Cars and Light Trucks—Polk data from S&P Global Mobility, Copyright © R.L. Polk & Co.; Registered Large Trucks and Motorcycles—FHWA; Total Registered—Polk data from S&P Global Mobility, Copyright © R.L. Polk & Co. and FHWA.

\*Total includes buses.



# Quick Facts 2021

## Clock Facts

Fatalities per Day	
2021	118
2020	107

Source: FARS

Alcohol-Impaired-Driving Fatalities per Day	
2021	37
2020	32

Source: FARS

Pedestrian Fatalities per Day	
2021	20
2020	18

Source: FARS

People Injured per Day	
2021	6,843
2020	6,236

Sources: FARS/CRSS

Pedestrians Injured per Day	
2021	166
2020	150

Sources: FARS/CRSS

## Alcohol

Alcohol-Impaired-Driving Fatal Crashes	
2021	12,162
2020	10,664

Source: FARS

Alcohol-Impaired-Driving Fatalities and Fatality Rate per 100 Million VMT		
	Fatalities	Fatality Rate
2021	13,384	0.43
2020	11,718	0.40

Sources: FARS/FHWA

Percentage of Drivers Involved in Fatal Crashes Who Had BACs of .08 g/dL or Higher, by Vehicle Type				
	Passenger Cars	Light Trucks	Large Trucks	Motorcycles
2021	24%	20%	3%	28%
2020	24%	19%	3%	26%

Source: FARS

Percentage of Drivers Involved in Fatal Crashes Who Had BACs of .08 or Higher, by Age Group									
	15–20 Years	21–24 Years	25–34 Years	35–44 Years	45–54 Years	55–64 Years	65–74 Years	75+	Total
2021	17%	27%	27%	23%	20%	16%	12%	8%	21%
2020	17%	26%	26%	22%	19%	16%	12%	7%	21%

Source: FARS



# Quick Facts 2021

## Occupant Protection

Nationwide Seat Belt Use Rate	
2021	90.4%
2020	90.3%

Source: NOPUS [Research Note DOT HS 813 241](#)

Child Restraint Use by Age Group				
	<1 Year	1–3 Years	4–7 Years	8–12 Years
2021	99.8%	93.7%	89.4%	86.8%
2020*	--	--	--	--

Source: NSUBS [Report 2021 DOT HS 813 396](#) \*Data Not Collected.

Percentage of Passenger Vehicle Occupant Fatalities Who Were Unrestrained*, by Age Group													
	<4 Years	4–7 Years	8–12 Years	13–14 Years	15–20 Years	21–24 Years	25–34 Years	35–44 Years	45–54 Years	55–64 Years	65–74 Years	75+	Total**
2021	61 (30%)	89 (41%)	76 (36%)	82 (59%)	1,377 (56%)	1,247 (57%)	2,854 (61%)	1,960 (58%)	1,396 (51%)	1,232 (45%)	762 (35%)	651 (26%)	11,813 (50%)
2020	53 (32%)	80 (43%)	79 (40%)	75 (57%)	1,337 (57%)	1,217 (60%)	2,572 (61%)	1,755 (58%)	1,234 (51%)	1,194 (46%)	703 (36%)	601 (28%)	10,925 (51%)

Source: FARS \*Where restraint use was known. \*\*Includes unknown age.

## Children

Children (<15 Years Old) Fatalities by Person Type				
	Total	Total Occupants	Passenger Vehicle Occupants*	Nonoccupants
2021	1,184	950	863	234
2020	1,101	852	763	249

Source: FARS \*Subset of Total Occupants.

Children (<15 Years Old) Injured by Person Type				
	Total	Total Occupants	Passenger Vehicle Occupants*	Nonoccupants
2021	162,298	150,397	136,484	11,902
2020	139,058	127,490	119,571	11,569

Sources: FARS/CRSS \*Subset of Total Occupants.



# Quick Facts 2021

## Older Population

### Older Population (65+ Years Old) Fatalities by Person Type

	Total	Total Occupants	Passenger Vehicle Occupants*	Nonoccupants
2021	7,489	5,863	4,981	1,626
2020	6,582	5,139	4,374	1,443

Source: FARS \*Subset of Total Occupants.

### Older Population (65+ Years Old) Injured by Person Type

	Total	Total Occupants	Passenger Vehicle Occupants*	Nonoccupants
2021	266,064	252,966	229,700	13,099
2020	233,249	221,832	198,662	11,418

Sources: FARS/CRSS \*Subset of Total Occupants.

## School Bus

### Total School Bus Occupant Fatalities\* (All Ages)

	School Bus	Special-Use School Bus
2021	8	3
2020	2	1

Source: FARS \*In school-bus-related crashes.

### Young School Bus Occupant Fatalities\* (18 and Younger)

	School Bus	Special-Use School Bus
2021	1	0
2020	1	0

Source: FARS \*In school-bus-related crashes.

### Pedestrian Fatalities (18 and Younger) Struck by School Bus\*

	School Bus	Special-Use School Bus
2021	3	1
2020	2	0

Source: FARS \*In school-bus-related crashes.



# Quick Facts 2021

## Motorcycles

Motorcyclist Fatalities	
2021	5,932
2020	5,506

Source: FARS

Unhelmeted* Motorcyclist Fatalities	
2021	2,251 (39%)
2020	2,086 (39%)

Source: FARS

\*Percentage where helmet use was known.

Motorcyclists Injured	
2021	82,686
2020	78,944

Sources: FARS/CRSS

## Speeding

Speeding-Related Fatalities*	
2021	12,330 (29%)
2020	11,428 (29%)

Source: FARS \*Percentage of Total Fatalities.

## Large Trucks

Fatalities in Crashes Involving Large Trucks*	
2021	5,788
2020	4,945

Source: FARS

People Injured in Crashes Involving Large Trucks*	
2021	154,993
2020	141,613

Sources: FARS/CRSS

\*Includes commercial and non-commercial vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of 10,000 lbs or more.

Percentage of Fatalities in Crashes Involving Large Trucks by Person Type			
	Truck Occupants	Occupants of Other Vehicles	Nonoccupants
2021	17%	72%	11%
2020	17%	71%	13%

Source: FARS



# Quick Facts 2021

## Pedestrians

Pedestrian Fatalities	
2021	7,388
2020	6,565

Source: FARS

Pedestrian Fatalities* Who Had BACs of .01 g/dL or Higher and BACs of .08 or Higher		
	BAC= .01+ g/dL	BAC= .08+ g/dL
2021	2,486 (35%)	2,174 (31%)
2020	2,231 (35%)	1,932 (31%)

Source: FARS \*Age 14 and older.

Pedestrians Injured	
2021	60,577
2020	54,771

Sources: FARS/CRSS

## Pedalcyclists

Pedalcyclist Fatalities	
2021	966
2020	948

Source: FARS

Pedalcyclists Injured	
2021	41,615
2020	38,886

Sources: FARS/CRSS

## Leading Cause of Death

Motor vehicle traffic crashes are the leading cause of death for people 4 to 7 and 16 to 20 years old. For each individual age, MV traffic crashes were the leading cause of death for ages 4 through 8, 17 through 19, and 21 in 2021.

Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2021), Mortality Multiple Cause-of-Death, FARS

## Economic and Comprehensive Costs to Society by Type of Crash 2019 Costs in Billions

Crash Type	Economic Cost	Comprehensive Cost*
All	\$340	\$1,365
Alcohol-Impaired	\$58	\$296
Speeding	\$46	\$225

Source: [The Economic and Societal Impact of Motor Vehicle Crashes, 2019 \(Revised\) DOT HS 813 403](#)

\*Previous issues of Quick Facts contained only the economic costs. The total value of societal harm includes economic costs as well as quality of life lost, such as lost market and household productivity. These costs are for reported and unreported crashes.



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

DOT HS 813 454  
July 2023 (Revised)

