Traffic Safety Facts

2014 Data

May 2016

DOT HS 812 263

NHTSA

Summary of Motor Vehicle Crashes

Key Findings

- In 2014 there were an estimated 6,064,000 police-reported traffic crashes in which 32,675 people were killed and an estimated 2,338,000 people were injured.
- An average of 90 people died each day in motor vehicle crashes in 2014, one fatality every 16 minutes.
- Fatality rates per 100,000 population (10.25) and per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT, 1.08) are at historic lows since NHTSA began collecting data on traffic fatalities in 1975.
- In 2014 there were 9,967 alcohol-impaired-driving fatalities, representing an average of one alcohol-impaired-driving fatality every 53 minutes.
- Thirty-three percent of all motorcycle riders involved in fatal crashes were speeding in 2014, the highest percentage of any vehicle type.
- NHTSA estimates that 12,802 lives were saved in 2014 by the use of seat belts.
- On average, a pedestrian is killed in a motor vehicle crash every 108 minutes, and one is injured about every 8 minutes.
- Drivers 15 to 20 years old made up 9 percent of drivers in fatal crashes, and 12 percent of those in all police-reported crashes. Nine percent of the U.S. population is in this age group.
- Of the 209 children 14 and younger who died in alcohol-impaired-driving crashes, 56 percent were occupants of vehicles where the drivers had blood alcohol concentrations (BACs) of .08 g/dL or higher.
- In 2014, 15 percent of the U.S. population was 65 or older. They accounted for 17 percent of all those killed and 9 percent of all those injured in traffic crashes.

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In this fact sheet, the overview of 2014 data is presented as follows:

- Overview
- Trends: 2005 to 2014
- Economic Cost

Overview

Motor vehicle travel is a major means of transportation in the United States, providing an unparalleled degree of mobility. Yet for all its advantages, motor vehicle crashes were the leading cause of death for age 11 and every age 16 to 24 in 2014.[1] The mission of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is to reduce deaths, injuries, and economic losses from motor vehicle crashes.

Trends: 2005 to 2014

The number of police-reported motor vehicle crashes, by crash severity, is presented in Table 1 for the last 10 years. A downward trend is most pronounced with respect to crashes of the highest severity – fatal crashes declined by 24 percent over the past decade. However, the total number of police-reported traffic crashes increased from 2011 to 2012, from 2012 to 2013, and by 6.6 percent from 2013 to 2014. This latest increase is driven by the 7.9-percent increase in property-damage-only crashes – crashes in which there were no injuries to occupants or nonoccupants during the crash. The number of non-fatal-injury crashes increased from 2013 to 2014, by 3.6 percent.

Table 1
Police-Reported Crashes by Crash Severity and Year, 2005–2014

	Crash Severity							
	Fatal		Injury		Property Damage Only		Total	
Year	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
2005	39,252	0.6%	1,816,000	29.5%	4,304,000	69.9%	6,159,000	100%
2006	38,648	0.6%	1,746,000	29.2%	4,189,000	70.1%	5,973,000	100%
2007	37,435	0.6%	1,711,000	28.4%	4,275,000	71.0%	6,024,000	100%
2008	34,172	0.6%	1,630,000	28.1%	4,146,000	71.4%	5,811,000	100%
2009	30,862	0.6%	1,517,000	27.6%	3,957,000	71.9%	5,505,000	100%
2010	30,296	0.6%	1,542,000	28.5%	3,847,000	71.0%	5,419,000	100%
2011	29,867	0.6%	1,530,000	28.7%	3,778,000	70.8%	5,338,000	100%
2012	31,006	0.6%	1,634,000	29.1%	3,950,000	70.3%	5,615,000	100%
2013	30,203	0.5%	1,591,000	28.0%	4,066,000	71.5%	5,687,000	100%
2014	29,989	0.5%	1,648,000	27.2%	4,387,000	72.3%	6,064,000	100%

Source: Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) 2005–2013 (Final File) and 2014 Annual Report File (ARF); National Automotive Sampling System (NASS) General Estimates System (GES) 2005-2014

While Table 1 presented data on crashes, Table 2 presents data on people killed and injured in motor vehicle crashes for the past 10 years. Also presented are the fatality and injury rates based on population, licensed drivers, registered vehicles, and VMT.

In 2014, there were 32,675 people killed and an estimated 2,338,000 people injured in police-reported motor vehicle traffic crashes. Compared to 2013, this is a 0.7-percent decrease in the number of fatalities and a 1.1-percent increase in the number of people injured. Over the decade, there has been a 25-percent decrease in the number of those killed in motor vehicle crashes, and a 13-percent decrease in those injured. On average, 90 people died each day and one person was killed every 16 minutes in motor vehicle crashes in 2014.

Fortunately, much progress has been made in reducing the number of deaths and injuries on our Nation's highways. In 2014, the fatality rate per 100 million VMT decreased to 1.08, a 25.8-percent decline from 2005 (based on unrounded rates), when the rate was 1.46 per 100 million VMT. The fatality rates based on population, licensed drivers, registered vehicles and VMT are all at historic lows since NHTSA began collecting data on traffic fatalities in 1975.

The injury rate per 100 million VMT remained at 77 in 2014, the same as 2013. The injury rate based on population increased slightly, from 731 in 2013 to 733 in 2014 as did the injury rate based on licensed drivers. The injury rate for registered vehicles declined from 2013.

Table 2

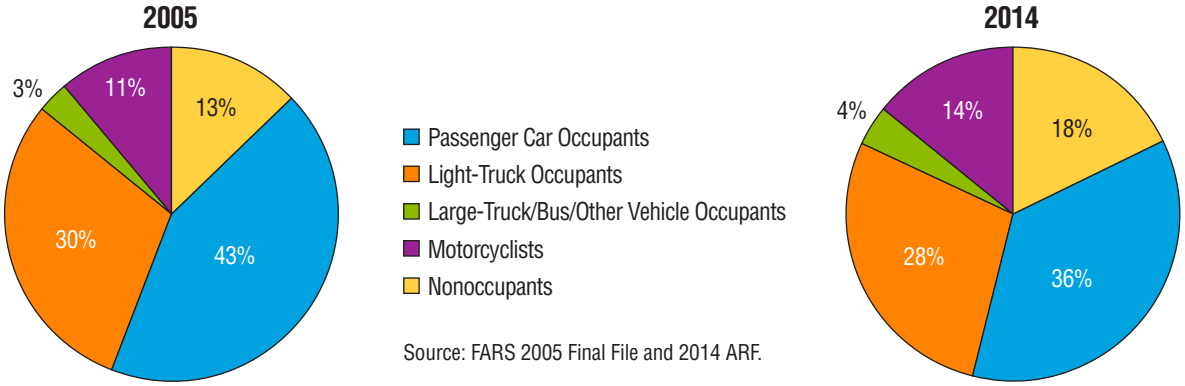
People Killed and Injured, and Fatality and Injury Rates, 2005–2014

Year	Killed	Resident Population (Thousands)	Fatality Rate per 100,000 Population	Licensed Drivers (Thousands)	Fatality Rate per 100,000 Licensed Drivers	Registered Motor Vehicles (Thousands)	Fatality Rate per 100,000 Registered Vehicles	Vehicle Miles Traveled (Billions)	Fatality Rate per 100 Million VMT
				Killed					
2005	43,510	295,517	14.72	200,549	21.70	245,628	17.71	2,989	1.46
2006	42,708	298,380	14.31	202,810	21.06	251,415	16.99	3,014	1.42
2007	41,259	301,231	13.70	205,742	20.05	257,472	16.02	3,031	1.36
2008	37,423	304,094	12.31	208,321	17.96	259,360	14.43	2,977	1.26
2009	33,883	306,772	11.05	209,618	16.16	258,958	13.08	2,957	1.15
2010	32,999	309,347	10.67	210,115	15.71	257,312	12.82	2,967	1.11
2011	32,479	311,722	10.42	211,875	15.33	265,043	12.25	2,950	1.10
2012	33,782	314,112	10.75	211,815	15.95	265,647	12.72	2,969	1.14
2013	32,894	316,498	10.39	212,160	15.50	269,294	12.21	2,988	1.10
2014	32,675	318,857	10.25	214,092	15.26	274,805	11.89	3,026	1.08

Year	Injured	Resident Population (Thousands)	Injury Rate per 100,000 population	Licensed Drivers (Thousands)	Injury Rate per 100,000 Licensed Drivers	Registered Motor Vehicles (Thousands)	Injury Rate per 100,000 Registered Vehicles	Vehicle Miles Traveled (Billions)	Injury Rate per 100 Million VMT
				Injured					
2005	2,699,000	295,517	913	200,549	1,346	245,628	1,099	2,989	90
2006	2,575,000	298,380	863	202,810	1,269	251,415	1,024	3,014	85
2007	2,491,000	301,231	827	205,742	1,211	257,472	967	3,031	82
2008	2,346,000	304,094	771	208,321	1,126	259,360	904	2,977	79
2009	2,217,000	306,772	723	209,618	1,058	258,958	856	2,957	75
2010	2,239,000	309,347	724	210,115	1,066	257,312	870	2,967	75
2011	2,217,000	311,722	711	211,875	1,046	265,043	836	2,950	75
2012	2,362,000	314,112	752	211,815	1,115	265,647	889	2,969	80
2013	2,313,000	316,498	731	212,160	1,090	269,294	859	2,988	77
2014	2,338,000	318,857	733	214,092	1,092	274,805	851	3,026	77

Source: Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) 2005–2013 (Final File) and 2014 Annual Report File (ARF); National Automotive Sampling System (NASS) General Estimates System (GES) 2005-2014; Vehicle Miles of Travel and Licensed Drivers — Federal Highway Administration; Registered Vehicles — R. L. Polk & Co. and Federal Highway Administration; Population — U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Figure 1
Fatalities by Person Type, 2005 and 2014



Source: FARS 2005 Final File and 2014 ARF.

Fatalities by person type in 2005 and 2014 are shown in Figure 1. The most obvious shift is in the percentage of passenger car occupant fatalities – changing from 43 percent of the fatalities to 36 percent. This percentage change is the result of 6,586 fewer passenger car occupant fatalities in the 10-year period. A reduction of 3,941 light-truck occupant fatalities led to a slight decrease in that portion of the fatalities (30% to 28%). Motorcyclist fatalities now make up 14 percent of total fatalities compared to 11 percent 10 years ago. Finally, the portion of nonoccupant (pedestrian, bicyclists, and other cyclists) fatalities has increased from 13 percent to 18 percent over the 10-year period.

Economic Cost

The estimated economic cost of all motor vehicle traffic crashes in the United States in 2010 (the most recent year for which cost data is available) was $242 billion. Included in the economic costs are:

- lost productivity,
- workplace losses,
- legal and court expenses,
- medical costs,
- emergency medical services (EMS),
- insurance administration costs,
- congestion costs, and
- property damage costs.

These costs represent the tangible losses that result from motor vehicle crashes. However, in cases of serious injury or death, such costs fail to capture the rather intangible value of lost quality-of-life that results from these injuries. When quality of life valuations are considered, the total value of societal harm from motor vehicle crashes in the United States in 2010 was an estimated $836 billion.

The costs related to specific types of crashes have also been estimated. Table 3 presents the economic and comprehensive costs of crash topics discussed in this fact sheet.

Table 3
Economic and Comprehensive Cost Estimates in Billions, 2010

Type of Crashes	Economic Cost	Comprehensive Cost
Total	$242.0	$835.8
Alcohol Impaired	$44.0	$201.1
Speeding	$52.0	$203.2
Motorcycle Crashes	$12.9	$65.7
Helmet nonuse	$1.2	$7.6
Seat Belt nonuse	$10.4	$68.6
Pedestrian Crashes	$11.5	$65.0
Pedalcyclist Crashes	$4.4	$21.7

Source: Blincoe, L. J., Miller, T. R., Zaloshnja, E., & Lawrence, B. A. (2015, May). *The economic and societal impact of motor vehicle crashes, 2010* (Revised) (Report No. DOT HS 812 013). Washington, DC: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Each fatality resulted in an average discounted lifetime economic cost of $1.4 million, and an average comprehensive cost of $9.1 million. For further information on cost estimates, see *The Economic and Societal Impact of Motor Vehicle Crashes, 2010 (Revised)* at www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/pubs/812013.pdf.

This fact sheet contains information on motor vehicle fatalities and fatal crashes, based on data from the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS). FARS is a census of fatal crashes within the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico (although Puerto Rico is not included in U.S. totals). Crash and injury statistics are based on data from the National Automotive Sampling System (NASS) General Estimates System (GES). The NASS GES is a probability-based sample of police-reported crashes, from 60 locations across the country, from which estimates of national totals for injury and property-damage-only crashes are derived.

References

[1] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) database, available at www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/leading_causes_death.html

The suggested APA format citation for this document is:

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. (2016, April). Summary of Motor Vehicle Crashes: 2014 data. (Traffic Safety Facts. Report No. DOT HS 812 263). Washington, DC: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

For more information:

Information on traffic fatalities is available from the National Center for Statistics and Analysis (NCSA), NVS-424, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590. NCSA can be contacted at 800-934-8517 or by e-mail at ncsaweb@dot.gov. General information on highway traffic safety can be found at www.nhtsa.gov/NCSA. To report a safety-related problem or to inquire about motor vehicle safety infor-mation, contact the Vehicle Safety Hotline at 888-327-4236.

Other fact sheets available from the National Center for Statistics and Analysis are *Alcohol-Impaired Driving, Bicyclists and Other Cyclists, Children, Large Trucks, Motorcycles, Occupant Protection, Older Population, Passenger Vehicles, Pedestrians, 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 found at www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/cats/index.aspx.

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