

Traffic Safety Facts

2006 Data

Large Trucks

“One out of nine traffic fatalities in 2006 resulted from a collision involving a large truck.”

In 2006, 385,000 large trucks (gross vehicle weight rating greater than 10,000 pounds) were involved in traffic crashes in the United States; 4,732 were involved in fatal crashes. A total of 4,995 people died (12 percent of all the traffic fatalities reported in 2005) and an additional 106,000 were injured in those crashes.

In 2006, large trucks accounted for 4 percent of all registered vehicles and 7 percent of total vehicle miles traveled. In 2006, 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 2006 resulted from a collision involving a large truck.

Table 1
Involvement in Fatal and Injury Crashes and Involvement Rates for Large Trucks, 1996-2006

Year	Number of Large Trucks Involved in Fatal Crashes	Number of Large Trucks Registered	Vehicle Involvement Rate*	Vehicle Miles Traveled (millions)	Vehicle Involvement Rate**
1996	4,755	7,012,615	67.81	182,971	2.60
1997	4,917	7,083,326	69.42	191,477	2.57
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	4,732	8,819,007	53.66	223,037	2.12
Year	Number of Large Trucks Involved in Injury Crashes	Number of Large Trucks Registered	Vehicle Involvement Rate*	Vehicle Miles Traveled (millions)	Vehicle Involvement Rate**
1996	94,000	7,012,615	1,339	182,971	51
1997	96,000	7,083,326	1,349	191,477	50
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	223,037	36

*Rate per 100,000 registered vehicles. **Rate per 100 million vehicle miles traveled.
 Source: Vehicle miles traveled and registered vehicles – Federal Highway Administration.

Of the fatalities that resulted from crashes involving large trucks, 75 percent were occupants of another vehicle, 8 percent were non occupants, and 16 percent were occupants of a large truck.

Of the injuries that resulted from crashes involving large trucks, 76 percent were occupants of another vehicle, 2 percent were non occupants, and 22 percent were occupants of a large truck.

Table 2
Fatalities and Injuries in Crashes Involving Large Trucks, 2006

Type of Fatality	Number	Percentage of Total
Occupants of Large Trucks	805	16
– Single-Vehicle Crashes	499	10
– Multiple-Vehicle Crashes	306	6
Occupants of Other Vehicles in Crashes Involving Large Trucks	3,766	75
Non occupants (Pedestrians, Pedalcyclists, etc)	424	8
Total	4,995	100
Type of Injury	Number	Percentage of Total
Occupants of Large Trucks	23,000	22
– Single-Vehicle Crashes	11,000	10
– Multiple-Vehicle Crashes	12,000	11
Occupants of Other Vehicles in Crashes Involving Large Trucks	81,000	76
Non occupants (Pedestrians, Pedalcyclists, etc)	2,000	2
Total	106,000	100

“In 2006, large trucks were 2.7 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 percent of all large trucks involved in fatal crashes, compared with 60 percent of all passenger vehicles).

In 28 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 2.7 times as often as the other vehicle (19 percent and 7 percent, respectively).

Table 3
Percentage of Principal Impact Points in Two-Vehicle Fatal Crashes Involving Large Trucks, 2006

Impact Point on Large Truck	Impact Point on Other Vehicle				
	Front	Left Side	Right Side	Rear	Total
Front	28	17	12	6	64
Left Side	8	1	1	0	10
Right Side	6	0	0	0	7
Rear	18	1	0	0	19
Total	60	19	14	7	100

In half (51%) 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 10 percent, either the truck or the other vehicle was negotiating a curve. In 7 percent, either the truck or the other vehicle was stopped or parked in a traffic lane (5% and 2%, respectively).

Most of the fatal crashes involving large trucks occurred in rural areas (62%), during the daytime (66%), and on weekdays (79%). During the week, 74 percent of the crashes occurred during the daytime (6 a.m. to 5:59 p.m.). On weekends, 65 percent occurred at night (6 p.m. to 5:59 a.m.).

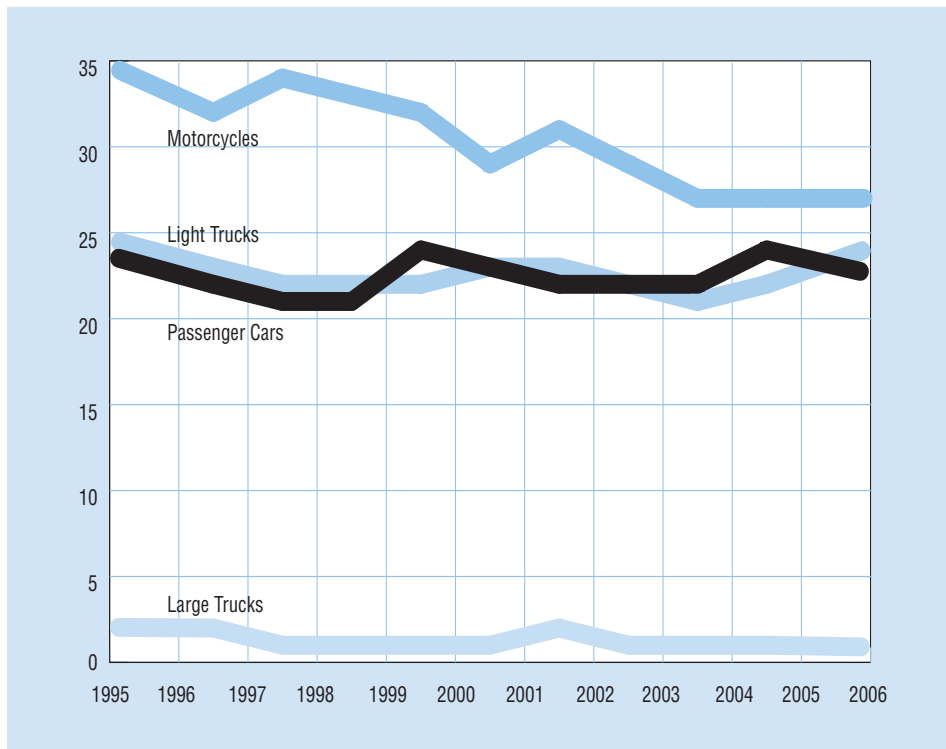
The percentage of large-truck drivers involved in fatal crashes who had a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 grams per deciliter (g/dL) or higher was 1 percent in 2006. For drivers of other types of vehicles involved in fatal crashes in 2006, the percentages of drivers with BAC levels .08 g/dL or higher were 23 percent for passenger cars, 24 percent for light trucks, and 27 percent for motorcycles.

Drivers of large trucks were less likely to have a previous license suspension or revocation than were passenger car drivers (8% and 14%, respectively).

“In 2006, 1 percent of the drivers of large trucks involved in fatal crashes had BAC levels above .08.”

Figure 1

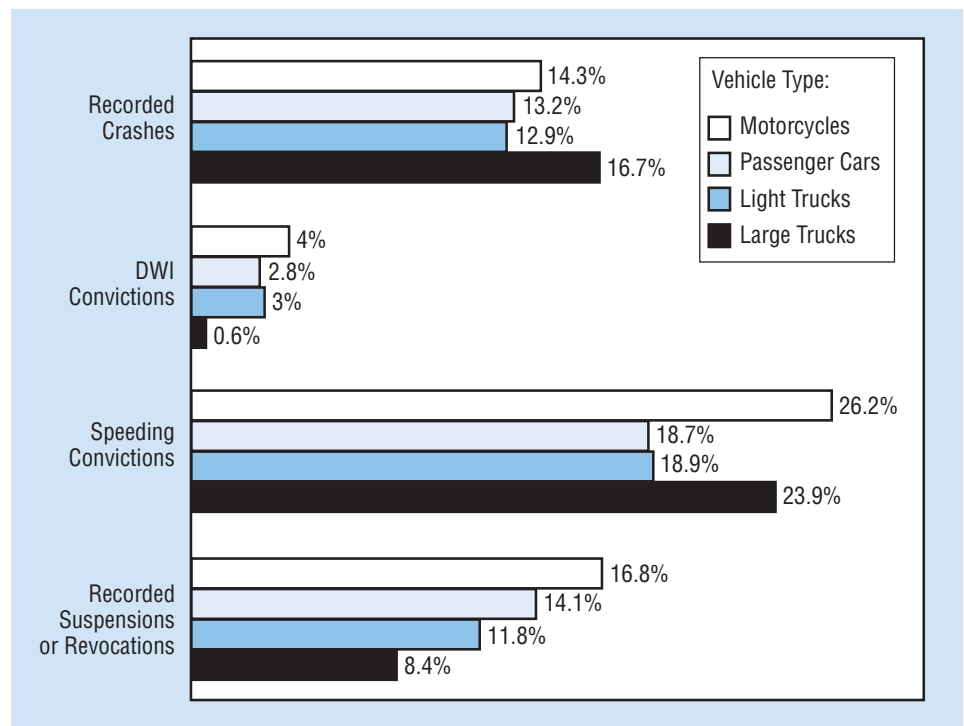
Estimated Proportions of Drivers in Fatal Crashes with BAC .08 g/dL or Greater, 1996-2006



Nearly one-fourth (24%) of all large truck drivers involved in fatal crashes in 2006 had at least one prior speeding conviction, compared to 19 percent of the passenger car drivers involved in fatal crashes.

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

Figure 2
Previous Driving Records of Drivers Involved in Fatal Traffic Crashes, by Type of Vehicle, 2006



For more information:

Information on traffic fatalities is available from the National Center for Statistics and Analysis, NVS-421, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590. NCSA can be contacted on 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/ncsa. 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 (formerly titled Pedalcyclists), 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/CMSWeb/index.aspx.

Table 4
Large-Truck Involvement in Fatal Crashes by State, 2006

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	1,585	126	7.9	2.7
Alaska	111	4	3.6	0.1
Arizona	1,719	128	7.4	2.7
Arkansas	886	97	10.9	2.0
California	5,822	384	6.6	8.1
Colorado	724	73	10.1	1.5
Connecticut	435	29	6.7	0.6
Delaware	206	17	8.3	0.4
Dist of Columbia	49	2	4.1	0.0
Florida	4,847	336	6.9	7.1
Georgia	2,430	228	9.4	4.8
Hawaii	204	7	3.4	0.1
Idaho	332	24	7.2	0.5
Illinois	1,730	157	9.1	3.3
Indiana	1,250	136	10.9	2.9
Iowa	582	72	12.4	1.5
Kansas	628	64	10.2	1.4
Kentucky	1,263	104	8.2	2.2
Louisiana	1,332	97	7.3	2.0
Maine	246	18	7.3	0.4
Maryland	936	59	6.3	1.2
Massachusetts	572	33	5.8	0.7
Michigan	1,525	113	7.4	2.4
Minnesota	688	61	8.9	1.3
Mississippi	1,156	81	7.0	1.7
Missouri	1,470	130	8.8	2.7
Montana	298	26	8.7	0.5
Nebraska	333	28	8.4	0.6
Nevada	619	43	6.9	0.9
New Hampshire	179	7	3.9	0.1
New Jersey	1,063	60	5.6	1.3
New Mexico	572	67	11.7	1.4
New York	1,970	163	8.3	3.4
North Carolina	2,121	148	7.0	3.1
North Dakota	134	17	12.7	0.4
Ohio	1,741	152	8.7	3.2
Oklahoma	1,025	134	13.1	2.8
Oregon	597	50	8.4	1.1
Pennsylvania	2,087	183	8.8	3.9
Rhode Island	100	9	9.0	0.2
South Carolina	1,389	88	6.3	1.9
South Dakota	237	17	7.2	0.4
Tennessee	1,729	140	8.1	3.0
Texas	4,674	446	9.5	9.4
Utah	365	31	8.5	0.7
Vermont	106	10	9.4	0.2
Virginia	1,246	102	8.2	2.2
Washington	858	66	7.7	1.4
West Virginia	552	45	8.2	1.0
Wisconsin	965	72	7.5	1.5
Wyoming	255	48	18.8	1.0
U.S. Total	57,943	4,732	8.2	100
Puerto Rico	660	30	4.5	100

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