

Glossary

Alcohol-Related

NHTSA defines a crash as alcohol-related if either a driver or a non-motorist (usually a pedestrian) had a measurable or estimated blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .01 grams per deciliter (g/dl) or above. Some states in the State Data System also report a crash as alcohol-related if the PAR indicates evidence of alcohol being present, even though the crash participant may not have been tested for alcohol.

BAC

Blood Alcohol Concentration. BAC is measured as a percentage by weight of alcohol in the blood (grams/deciliter). A positive BAC level (.01 g/dl and higher) indicates that alcohol was consumed by the person tested.

Bus

Large motor vehicles generally used to carry more than 10 passengers, including school buses, inter-city buses, and transit buses.

Crash

An event that produces injury and/or property damage, involves a motor vehicle in transport, and occurs on a trafficway or while the vehicle is still in motion after running off the trafficway.

Crash Severity

- **Fatal Crash:** A police-reported crash involving a motor vehicle in transport on a trafficway in which at least one person dies.
- **Injury Crash:** A police-reported crash involving a motor vehicle in transport on a trafficway in which no one died but at least one person was reported to have either an incapacitating injury, a visible but not incapacitating injury, or a possible injury with no visible evidence.

- **Property-Damage-Only (PDO) Crash:**

A police-reported crash involving a motor vehicle in transport on a trafficway in which no one involved in the crash was killed or injured, but enough damage occurred to one or more vehicles to meet the state's minimum inclusion criteria (see Appendix B).

Crash Type

Single-vehicle or multiple-vehicle crash as based on a given state's Number of Vehicles variable.

Day

From 6:00 a.m. to 5:59 p.m.

Driver

An occupant of a vehicle who is in physical control of a motor vehicle in transport, or for an out-of-control vehicle, an occupant who was in control until control was lost.

Injury Severity

The police-reported injury severity of a person involved in a crash:

- Killed (Fatal)
- Injured (Incapacitating injury, evident injury but not incapacitating, and possible injury with no visible evidence)
- No injury

Intersection

An area that contains a crossing or connection of two or more roadways not classified as driveway access, either along a roadway within an intersection proper or within 50 feet of an intersection.

Large Truck

Trucks over 10,000 pounds gross vehicle weight rating, including single unit trucks and truck tractors.

Light Truck

Trucks of 10,000 pounds gross vehicle weight rating or less, including pickups, vans, and sport utility vehicles.

Motorcycle

A two- or three-wheeled motor vehicle designed to transport one or two people, including motor-scooters, minibikes, and mopeds.

Night

From 6:00 p.m. to 5:59 a.m.

Non-intersection

An area along the roadway (including the shoulder) that does not contain a crossing or connection of two or more roadways, and is greater than 50 feet from an intersection.

Occupant

Any person who is in or upon a motor vehicle in transport. Includes drivers, passengers, and persons riding on the exterior of the motor vehicle.

PAR

Police Accident Report. A report completed by police officers at a motor vehicle traffic crash scene. It contains information describing characteristics of the crash, the vehicles, and people involved. The report also includes the results of the officer's investigation about the crash itself.

Passenger

Any occupant of a motor vehicle who is not a driver.

Passenger Car

Motor vehicles used primarily for carrying passengers. Does not include vans or sport utility vehicles (see Light Truck).

Pedalcyclist

A person on a vehicle that is powered solely by pedals.

Pedestrian

Any person not in or upon a vehicle.

Restraint Use

An occupant's use of available vehicle restraints, including lap belt, shoulder belt, or automatic belt.

Roadway

A roadway is that part of a trafficway designed and ordinarily used for motor vehicle travel.

Rollover

Any crash in which a vehicle rotates 90 degrees or more about any true longitudinal or lateral axis.

Speeding-Related

Any crash in which one or more vehicles was reported as exceeding the legal speed limit for the trafficway on which the crash occurred, or in which one or more vehicles was reported as traveling too fast for conditions existing at the time of the crash.

State Data System

An integral part of NCSA's State Data Program that consists of crash data from 17 states: California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, Virginia, and Washington.

Trafficway

Any land open to the public as a matter of right or custom for transporting people or property. Trafficways may include roadways, medians, shoulders, and roadsides.

Weekday

From 6:00 a.m. Monday to 5:59 p.m. Friday.

Weekend

From 6:00 p.m. Friday to 5:59 a.m. Monday.

DOT HS 809 301
July 2002



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

