



# Traffic Safety Facts 2000

## Large Trucks



In 2000, 457,000 large trucks (gross vehicle weight rating greater than 10,000 pounds) were involved in traffic crashes in the United States; 4,930 were involved in fatal crashes. A total of 5,211 people died (12 percent of all the traffic fatalities reported in 2000) and an additional 140,000 were injured in those crashes.

In 1999, large trucks accounted for 4 percent of all registered vehicles and 8 percent of total vehicle miles traveled (2000 registered vehicle and vehicle miles traveled data not available). In 2000, large trucks accounted for 9 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 eight traffic fatalities in 2000 resulted from a collision involving a large truck.

**Table 1. Involvement in Fatal and Injury Crashes and Involvement Rates for Large Trucks, 1990-2000**

Year	Number of Large Trucks Involved in Fatal Crashes	Number of Large Trucks Registered	Vehicle Involvement Rate*	Vehicle Miles Traveled (millions)	Vehicle Involvement Rate**
1990	4,776	6,195,876	77.1	146,242	3.3
1991	4,347	6,172,146	70.4	149,543	2.9
1992	4,035	6,045,205	66.7	153,384	2.6
1993	4,328	6,088,155	71.1	159,888	2.7
1994	4,644	6,587,885	70.5	170,216	2.7
1995	4,472	6,719,421	66.6	178,156	2.5
1996	4,755	7,012,615	67.8	182,971	2.6
1997	4,917	7,083,326	69.4	191,477	2.6
1998	4,955	7,732,270	64.1	196,380	2.5
1999	4,920	7,791,426	63.1	202,697	2.4
2000	4,930	—	—	—	—

Year	Number of Large Trucks Involved in Injury Crashes	Number of Large Trucks Registered	Vehicle Involvement Rate*	Vehicle Miles Traveled (millions)	Vehicle Involvement Rate**
1990	107,000	6,195,876	1,730	146,242	73
1991	78,000	6,172,146	1,264	149,543	52
1992	95,000	6,045,205	1,567	153,384	62
1993	97,000	6,088,155	1,585	159,888	60
1994	96,000	6,587,885	1,452	170,216	56
1995	84,000	6,719,421	1,244	178,156	47
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	1,296	202,697	50
2000	101,000	—	—	—	—

\*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.

**“One out of eight traffic fatalities in 2000 resulted from a collision involving a large truck.”**

Of the fatalities that resulted from crashes involving large trucks, 78 percent were occupants of another vehicle, 8 percent were nonoccupants, and 14 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 nonoccupants, and 22 percent were occupants of a large truck.

**Table 2. Fatalities and Injuries in Crashes Involving Large Trucks, 2000**

Type of Fatality	Number	Percentage of Total
Occupants of Large Trucks	741	14
<i>Single-Vehicle Crashes</i>	480	9
<i>Multiple-Vehicle Crashes</i>	261	5
Occupants of Other Vehicles in Crashes Involving Large Trucks	4,060	78
Nonoccupants (Pedestrians, Pedalcyclists, etc.)	410	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,211</b>	<b>100</b>
Type of Injury	Number	Percentage of Total
Occupants of Large Trucks	31,000	22
<i>Single-Vehicle Crashes</i>	16,000	12
<i>Multiple-Vehicle Crashes</i>	14,000	10
Occupants of Other Vehicles in Crashes Involving Large Trucks	106,000	76
Nonoccupants (Pedestrians, Pedalcyclists, etc.)	3,000	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>140,000</b>	<b>100</b>

***“In 2000, large trucks were more than twice as likely as 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 (84 percent of all large trucks involved in fatal crashes, compared with 62 percent of all passenger vehicles).

In 29 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 more than twice as often as the other vehicle (18 percent and 7 percent, respectively).

**Table 3. Principal Impact Points in Two-Vehicle Fatal Crashes Involving Large Trucks, 2000**

Impact Point on Large Truck	Impact Point on Other Vehicle				Total
	Front	Left Side	Right Side	Rear	
Front	29%	17%	13%	7%	66%
Left Side	9%	1%	<1%	<1%	11%
Right Side	4%	<1%	<1%	<1%	5%
Rear	16%	<1%	<1%	<1%	18%
<b>Total</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>100%</b>

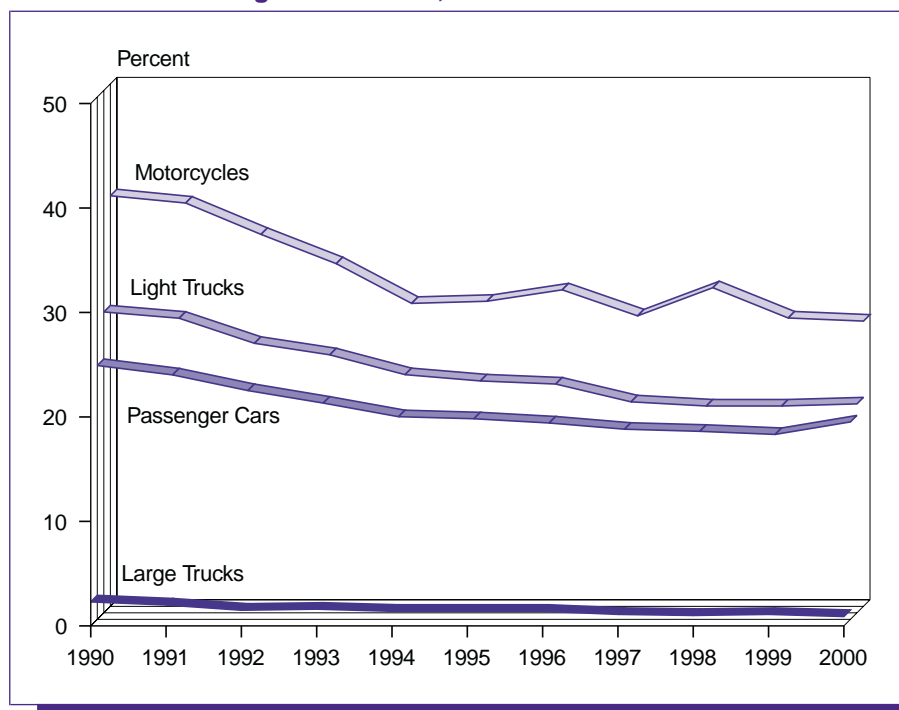
In almost half (49 percent) of the two-vehicle fatal crashes involving a large truck and another type of vehicle, both vehicles were proceeding straight at the time of the crash. In 10 percent of the crashes, the other vehicle was turning. In 10 percent, either the truck or the other vehicle was negotiating a curve. In 7 percent, either the truck or the other vehicle was stopped or parked in a traffic lane (5 percent and 2 percent, respectively).

Most of the fatal crashes involving large trucks occurred in rural areas (67 percent), during the daytime (68 percent), and on weekdays (80 percent). During the week, 75 percent of the crashes occurred during the daytime (6:00 AM to 5:59 PM). On weekends, 60 percent occurred at night (6:00 PM to 5:59 AM).

The percentage of large truck drivers involved in fatal crashes who were intoxicated — with blood alcohol concentrations (BAC) of 0.10 grams per deciliter (g/dl) or greater — was 1 percent in 2000. Intoxication rates for drivers of other types of vehicles involved in fatal crashes in 2000 were 19 percent for passenger cars, 20 percent for light trucks, and 27 percent for motorcycles.

***“The intoxication rate for drivers of large trucks involved in fatal crashes in 2000 was 1 percent.”***

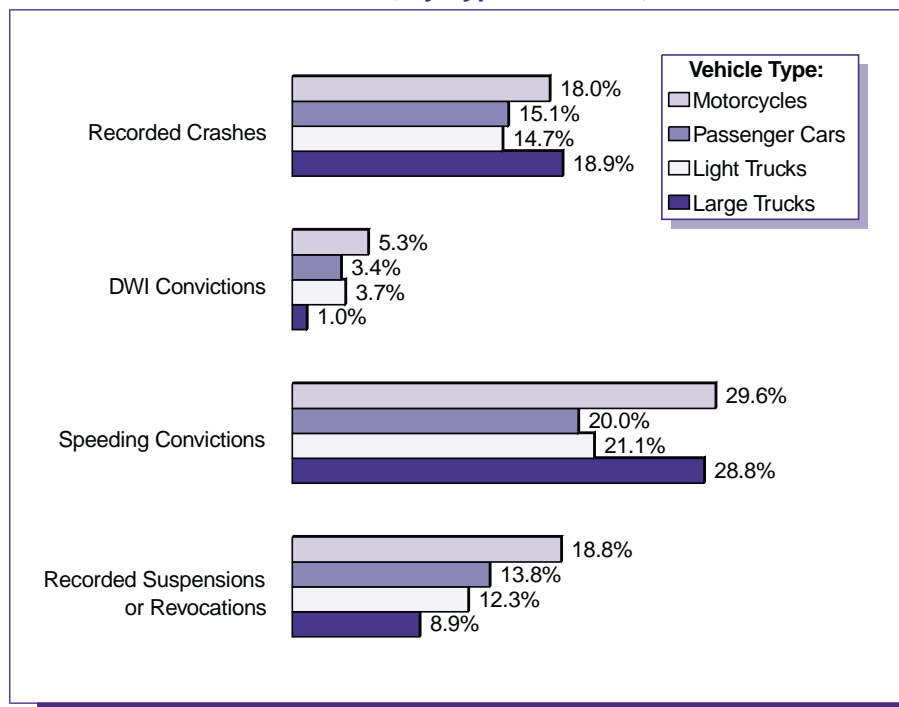
**Figure 1. Estimated Proportions of Drivers in Fatal Crashes with BAC 0.10 g/dl or Greater, 1990-2000**



Drivers of large trucks were less likely to have a previous license suspension or revocation than were passenger car drivers (9 percent and 14 percent, respectively).

Almost 30 percent of all large truck drivers involved in fatal crashes in 2000 had at least one prior speeding conviction, compared to 20 percent of the passenger car drivers involved in fatal crashes.

**Figure 2. Previous Driving Records of Drivers Involved in Fatal Traffic Crashes, by Type of Vehicle, 2000**



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

**For more information:**

Information on large truck traffic fatalities is available from the National Center for Statistics and Analysis, NRD-31, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590. NCSA information can also be obtained by telephone or by fax-on-demand at 1-800-934-8517. FAX messages should be sent to (202) 366-7078. General information on highway traffic safety can be accessed by Internet users at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/ncsa>. To report a safety-related problem or to inquire about motor vehicle safety information, contact the Auto Safety Hotline at 1-800-424-9393.

Table 4. Large Truck Involvement in Fatal Crashes by State, 2000

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	1,367	153	11.2	3.1
Alaska	121	4	3.3	0.1
Arizona	1,367	100	7.3	2.0
Arkansas	853	109	12.8	2.2
California	5,123	364	7.1	7.4
Colorado	933	65	7.0	1.3
Connecticut	470	36	7.7	0.7
Delaware	182	21	11.5	0.4
District of Columbia	67	3	4.5	0.1
Florida	4,276	302	7.1	6.1
Georgia	2,158	208	9.6	4.2
Hawaii	172	1	0.6	0.0
Idaho	338	26	7.7	0.5
Illinois	1,977	163	8.2	3.3
Indiana	1,274	166	13.0	3.4
Iowa	635	84	13.2	1.7
Kansas	642	79	12.3	1.6
Kentucky	1,084	97	8.9	2.0
Louisiana	1,235	113	9.1	2.3
Maine	231	24	10.4	0.5
Maryland	882	67	7.6	1.4
Massachusetts	608	46	7.6	0.9
Michigan	2,016	147	7.3	3.0
Minnesota	884	75	8.5	1.5
Mississippi	1,237	118	9.5	2.4
Missouri	1,584	165	10.4	3.3
Montana	288	24	8.3	0.5
Nebraska	372	52	14.0	1.1
Nevada	402	36	9.0	0.7
New Hampshire	170	10	5.9	0.2
New Jersey	1,056	88	8.3	1.8
New Mexico	557	43	7.7	0.9
New York	2,020	153	7.6	3.1
North Carolina	2,043	170	8.3	3.4
North Dakota	106	11	10.4	0.2
Ohio	1,912	182	9.5	3.7
Oklahoma	895	107	12.0	2.2
Oregon	633	60	9.5	1.2
Pennsylvania	2,126	177	8.3	3.6
Rhode Island	96	1	1.0	0.0
South Carolina	1,417	86	6.1	1.7
South Dakota	219	22	10.0	0.4
Tennessee	1,754	157	9.0	3.2
Texas	5,083	444	8.7	9.0
Utah	467	39	8.4	0.8
Vermont	95	8	8.4	0.2
Virginia	1,288	96	7.5	1.9
Washington	868	64	7.4	1.3
West Virginia	523	48	9.2	1.0
Wisconsin	1,115	98	8.8	2.0
Wyoming	182	18	9.9	0.4
<b>U.S. Total</b>	<b>57,403</b>	<b>4,930</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Puerto Rico	724	47	6.5	—

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