

Traffic Safety Facts

2005 Data

Alcohol

“There were 16,885 alcohol-related fatalities in 2005 – 39 percent of the total traffic fatalities for the year.”

Alcohol-Related Crashes and Fatalities

A motor vehicle crash is considered to be alcohol-related if at least one driver or nonoccupant (such as a pedestrian or pedalcyclist) involved in the crash is determined to have had a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .01 gram per deciliter (g/dL) or higher. Thus, any fatality that occurs in an alcohol-related crash is considered an alcohol-related fatality. The term “alcohol-related” does not indicate that a crash or fatality was caused by the presence of alcohol.

Traffic fatalities in alcohol-related crashes fell by 0.2 percent, from 16,919 in 2004 to 16,885 in 2005. The 16,885 alcohol-related fatalities in 2005 (39% of total traffic fatalities for the year) represent a 5-percent reduction from the 17,732 alcohol-related fatalities reported in 1995 (42% of the total).

The 16,885 fatalities in alcohol-related crashes during 2005 represent an average of one alcohol-related fatality every 31 minutes.

In 2005, all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico had by law created a threshold making it illegal per se to drive with a BAC of .08 g/dL or higher. Of the 16,885 people who died in alcohol-related crashes in 2005, 14,539 (86%) were killed in crashes where at least one driver or nonoccupant had a BAC of .08 g/dL or higher. Of the 14,539 people killed in such crashes, 71 percent were drivers or nonoccupants with BAC levels at or above .08 g/dL. The remaining 29 percent were drivers or nonoccupants with either no BAC or BAC below .08 g/dL, or were passengers.

Table 1

Fatalities by Person Type in Crashes Involving at Least One Driver or Nonoccupant with BAC .08 g/dL or Higher, 2005

Person Type	Number	Percent of Total
Drivers with BAC .08 g/dL or Higher	8,515	59
All Other Drivers	968	7
Nonoccupants (Pedestrians and Pedalcyclists) with BAC .08 g/dL or Higher	1,756	12
All Other Nonoccupants	463	3
Passengers	2,837	20
Total Fatalities	14,539	100

NHTSA estimates that alcohol was involved in 39 percent of fatal crashes and in 7 percent of all crashes in 2005. The national rate of alcohol-related fatalities in motor vehicle crashes in 2005 was 0.57 per 100 million vehicle miles traveled.

“In 2005, 21 percent of the children age 14 and younger who were killed in motor vehicle crashes were killed in alcohol-related crashes.”

Injuries and Arrests

An estimated 254,000 persons were injured in crashes where police reported that alcohol was present — an average of one person injured approximately every 2 minutes.

In 2004, the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Uniform Crime Reporting Program estimated that over 1.4 million drivers were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol or narcotics. This is an arrest rate of 1 for every 139 licensed drivers in the United States. (2005 data not yet available.)

Table 2

Traffic Fatalities by Age and Highest BAC in the Crash, 2005

Age of Person Killed	Highest BAC in Crash								Total Number Killed
	.00 g/dL		.01-.07 g/dL		.08 g/dL or Higher		.01 g/dL or Higher		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
0-3	370	78	18	4	84	18	102	22	472
4-7	367	80	19	4	72	16	91	20	458
8-12	473	80	29	5	87	15	116	20	589
13-15	631	76	51	6	147	18	198	24	829
16-20	3,757	66	348	6	1,594	28	1,942	34	5,699
21-24	2,129	46	311	7	2,182	47	2,493	54	4,622
25-34	3,301	47	433	6	3,349	47	3,783	53	7,084
35-44	3,251	49	390	6	2,930	45	3,320	51	6,570
45-54	3,533	57	333	5	2,301	37	2,634	43	6,167
55-64	2,961	7	213	5	1,009	24	1,223	29	4,184
65-74	2,326	83	89	3	401	14	490	17	2,816
75+	3,307	89	101	3	288	8	389	11	3,696
Unknown	151	59	11	4	95	37	106	41	257
Total	26,558	61	2,346	5	14,539	33	16,885	39	43,443

Table 3

Fatal Crashes Involving at Least One Driver or Nonoccupant with BAC .08 g/dL or Higher and Total Fatalities in Those Crashes, 1995 and 2005

	1995			2005		
	Total	.08 g/dL or Higher*		Total	.08 g/dL or Higher*	
		Number	Percent of Total		Number	Percent of Total
Recorded Crashes	37,241	13,661	37	39,189	13,168	34
DWI Convictions	41,817	15,242	36	43,443	14,539	33

*For any person (occupant or nonoccupant) involved in the fatal crash.

Children

In 2005, 21 percent of the children age 14 and younger who were killed in motor vehicle crashes were killed in alcohol-related crashes.

In 2005, a total of 414 (21%) of the fatalities among children age 14 and younger occurred in crashes involving alcohol. Of those 414 fatalities, more than half (224) of those killed were passengers in vehicles with drivers who had been drinking, with BAC levels of .01 g/dL or higher. An additional 96 children were killed as passengers in vehicles with drivers who had not been drinking.

Another 48 children age 14 and younger who were killed in traffic crashes in 2005 were pedestrians or pedalcyclists who were struck by drivers with BAC .01 g/dL or higher.

Nonoccupants

More than one-third (34%) of all pedestrians age 16 and older killed in traffic crashes in 2005 had BAC levels .08 g/dL or higher. By age group, the percentages ranged from a low of 9 percent for pedestrians age 65 and older to a high of 46 percent for those age 21 to 24.

Table 4

Nonoccupants With BAC .08 g/dL or Higher Killed in Motor Vehicle Crashes by Age Group, 1995 and 2005

Nonoccupant Fatalities	1995			2005		
	Total Number of Fatalities	BAC .08 g/dL or Higher		Total Number of Fatalities	BAC .08 g/dL or Higher	
		Number	Percent of Total		Number	Percent of Total
Pedestrian Fatalities by Age Group (Years)						
<16	753	11	1	387	12	3
16-20	296	70	26	281	76	27
21-24	292	137	48	296	137	46
25-34	836	459	54	613	295	48
35-44	954	487	54	804	404	50
45-64	1,142	441	41	1,456	527	36
65+	1,263	125	10	981	85	9
Unknown	48	16	35	63	24	39
Total	5,584	1,822	33	4,881	1,560	32
Pedalcyclist Fatalities						
<16	281	4	2	144	4	3
16-20	59	7	12	47	8	17
21-24	44	12	26	41	13	31
25-34	129	53	41	76	26	34
35-44	142	54	38	150	47	31
45-64	115	33	29	237	74	31
65+	55	3	6	81	4	5
Unknown	8	2	30	8	4	48
Total	833	169	20	784	181	23

*Includes pedestrians age 15 and younger and pedestrians of unknown age.

Alcohol involvement — either for the driver or for the pedestrian — was reported in nearly one half (44 percent) of the traffic crashes that resulted in pedestrian fatalities. Of the pedestrians involved, 32 percent had a BAC of .08 g/dL or higher. Of the drivers involved in fatal crashes, only 11 percent had a BAC of .08 g/dL or higher, less than one-half the rate for the pedestrians. In 5 percent of the crashes, both the driver and the pedestrian had a BAC of .08 g/dL or higher.

Time of Day and Day of Week

The rate of alcohol involvement in fatal crashes is more than 3 times higher at night as during the day (59% versus 18%). For all crashes, the alcohol involvement rate is 5 times higher at night (16% versus 3%).

In 2005, 30 percent of all fatal crashes during the week were alcohol-related, compared to 52 percent on weekends. For all crashes, the alcohol involvement rate was 5 percent during the week and 12 percent during the weekend.

For more information:

“More than one-third of all pedestrians age 16 and older killed in traffic crashes in 2005 had BAC levels of .08 g/dL or higher.”

Percentage of Drivers with BAC .08 g/dL or Higher Killed in Motor Vehicle Crashes by Time of Day and Day of Week, 1995 and 2005

Total Driver Fatalities							
Driver Fatalities	1995			2005			Change in Percentage with BAC .08 g/dL or Higher 1995-2004
	Total Number of Fatalities	BAC .08 g/dL or Higher		Total Number of Fatalities	BAC .08 g/dL or Higher		
		Number	Percent of Total		Number	Percent of Total	
Total	24,390	8,307	34	27,472	8,515	31	+9
Driver Fatalities by Crash Type and Time of Day							
Single-Vehicle Crash							
Total	11,708	5,915	51	13,816	6,268	45	-12
Daytime*	4,349	1,044	24	5,480	1,190	22	-8
Nighttime**	7,076	4,689	66	8,095	4,931	61	-8
Multiple Vehicle Crash							
Total	12,682	2,392	19	13,656	2,248	16	-16
Daytime*	7,980	695	9	8,612	637	7	-22
Nighttime**	4,694	1,694	36	5,036	1,610	32	-11
Driver Fatalities by Day of Week							
Weekday***	14,373	3,634	25	16,262	3,765	23	-8
Weekend****	9,936	4,620	46	11,138	4,710	42	-9
Driver Fatalities by Time of Day							
Daytime *	12,329	1,739	14	14,092	1,827	13	-7
Nighttime**	11,770	6,383	54	13,131	6,541	50	-7
Driver Fatalities by Day of Week and Time of Day							
Weekday***							
Daytime*	9,019	1,029	11	10,087	1,017	10	-9
Nighttime**	5,270	2,555	48	6,102	2,708	44	-8
Weekend****							
Daytime*	3,310	710	21	4,005	810	20	-5
Nighttime**	6,499	3,826	59	7,029	3,832	55	-7

*6 a.m. to 6 p.m. **6 p.m. to 6 a.m. ***Monday 6 a.m. to Friday 6 p.m.
 ****Friday 6 p.m. to Monday 6 a.m.

“The highest percentage of drivers in fatal crashes who had BAC levels of .08 g/dL or higher was for drivers ages 21 to 24.”

Figure 1
Drivers Involved in Fatal Crashes with BAC Levels .08 g/dL or Higher by Age Group, 2005

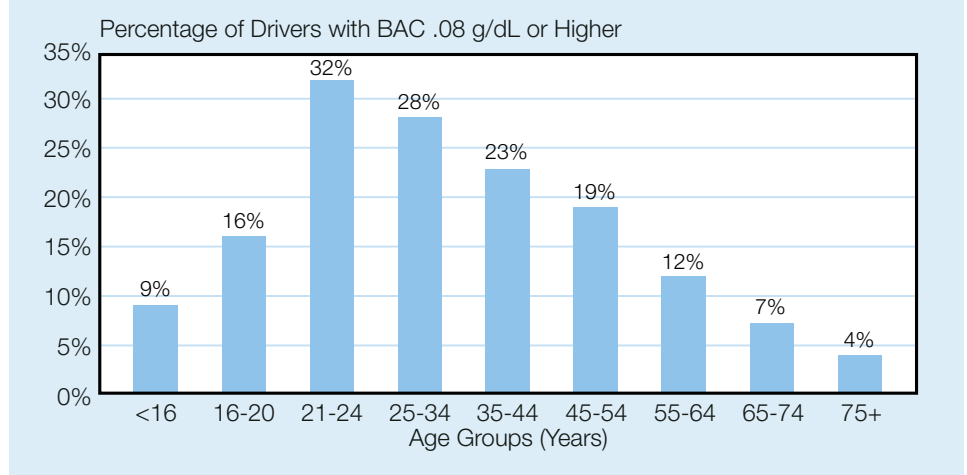


Table 6

Drivers in Fatal Crashes with BAC .08 g/dL or Higher by Age, Gender, and Vehicle Type, 1994 and 2004

	Total Drivers						Change in Percentage with BAC .08 g/dL or Higher, 1995-2005
	1995			2005			
	Total Number of Drivers	BAC .08 g/dL or Higher		Total Number of Drivers	BAC .08 g/dL or Higher		
Number		Percent of Total	Number		Percent of Total		
Total	56,164	12,366	22	59,104	11,921	20	-9
Drivers by Age Group (Years)							
16-20	7,725	1,203	16	7,293	1,198	16	0
21-24	6,263	1,994	32	6,548	2,086	32	0
25-34	13,048	3,953	30	11,378	3,162	28	-7
35-44	10,677	2,784	26	10,733	2,490	23	-12
45-54	6,815	1,206	18	9,403	1,752	19	6
55-64	4,079	555	14	6,041	714	12	-14
65-74	3,251	246	8	3,212	210	7	-13
75+	2,989	118	4	3,003	116	4	0
Drivers by Sex							
Male	41,235	10,302	25	43,060	9,906	23	-8
Female	14,184	1,835	13	14,974	1,878	13	0
Drivers by Vehicle Type							
Passenger Cars	30,773	6,957	23	24,908	5,486	22	-4
Light Trucks	17,483	4,300	25	22,757	4,842	21	-16
Large Trucks	4,410	100	2	4,881	61	1	-50
Motorcycles	2,262	747	33	4,652	1,246	27	-18

*Numbers shown for groups of drivers do not add to the total number of drivers due to unknown or other data not included.

Drivers

In fatal crashes in 2005, the highest percentage of drivers with BAC levels .08 g/dL or higher was for drivers ages 21-24 (32%), followed by ages 25-34 (28%) and 35-44 (23%).

The percentages of drivers with BAC levels .08 g/dL or higher in fatal crashes in 2005 were 27 percent for motorcycle operators, 22 percent for passenger cars, and 21 percent for light trucks. The percentage of drivers with BAC levels .08 g/dL or higher in fatal crashes was the lowest for large trucks (1%).

Safety belts were used by only 28 percent of fatally injured drivers with BAC levels .08 g/dL or higher, compared to 44 percent of fatally injured with BAC levels between .01 g/dL and .07 g/dL and 56 percent of fatally injured drivers with no alcohol (BAC = .00 g/dL).

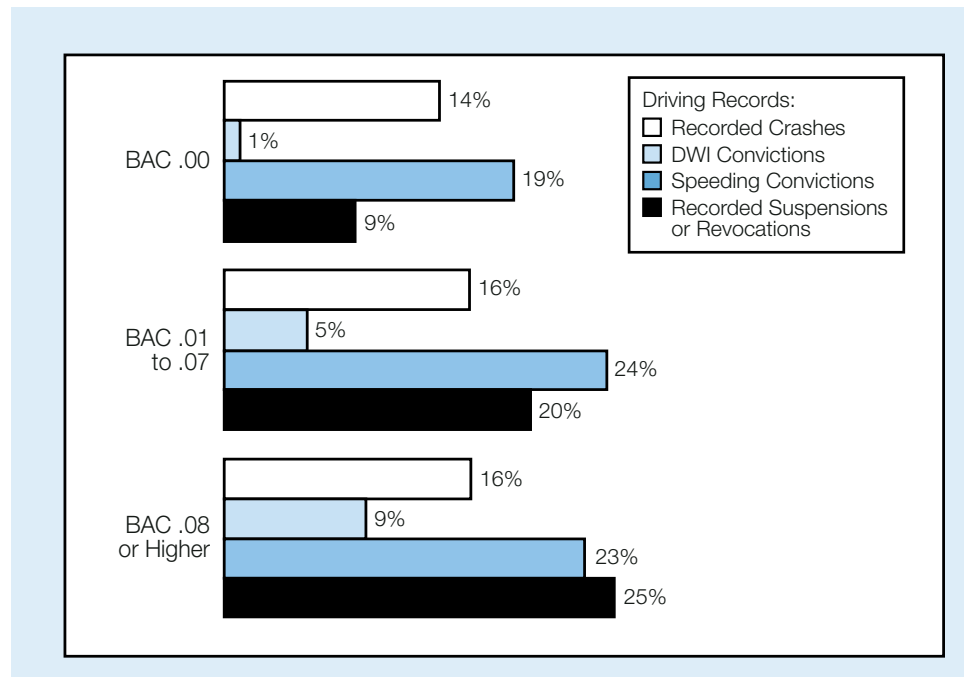
Drivers with BAC levels .08 g/dL or higher involved in fatal crashes were 9 times more likely to have a prior conviction for driving while impaired (DWI) than were drivers with no alcohol (BAC = .00 g/dL) (9% and 1%, respectively).

In 2005, 85 percent (11,921) of the 14,068 drivers with BAC .01 g/dL or higher who were involved in fatal crashes had BAC levels at or above .08 g/dL, and 52 percent (7,330) had BAC levels at or above .16 g/dL. The most frequently recorded BAC level among drinking drivers involved in fatal crashes was .17 g/dL.

“The percentage of drivers with BAC .08 g/dL or above in fatal crashes was highest for motorcycle operators.”

“In 2005, more than half (52%) of the drivers involved in fatal crashes who had been drinking had BAC .16 or above.”

Figure 2
Previous Driving Records of Drivers Involved in Fatal Crashes, by Blood Alcohol Concentration, 2005



Information on speeding involvement in traffic fatalities is available from the National Center for Statistics and Analysis, NPO-121, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC 20590. NCSA information can also be obtained by telephone or by fax-on-demand at 800-934-8517. Fax messages should be sent to 202-366-7078. General information on highway traffic safety can be accessed by Internet users www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/nca. 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, Bicyclists and Other Cyclists (formerly titled Pedalcyclists), Children, Large Trucks, Motorcycles, Occupant Protection, Older Population, Pedestrians, 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.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/nca.

Table 5

Figure 3
Distribution of BAC Levels for Drivers Involved in Fatal Crashes with BAC .01 or Higher

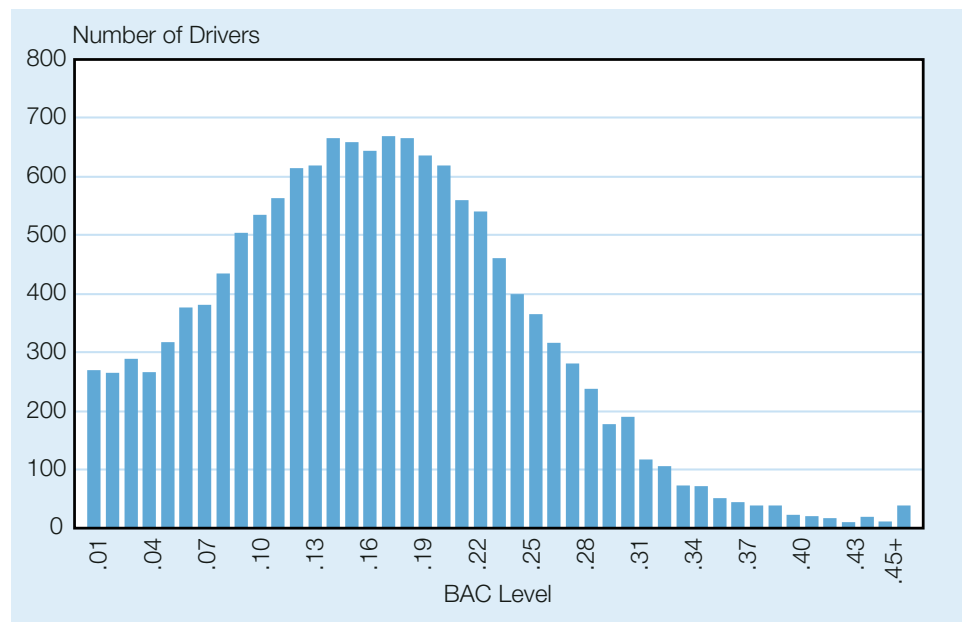


Table 7

Traffic Fatalities by State and Highest Blood Alcohol Concentration in the Crash, 2005

State	Total Fatalities	No Alcohol (BAC .00 g/dL)		Low Alcohol (BAC .01-.07 g/dL)		High Alcohol (BAC >= .08+ g/dL)		Very High Alcohol (BAC >= .16 g/dL)		Any Alcohol (BAC >= .01+ g/dL)	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Alabama	1,131	708	63	42	4	382	34	233	21	423	37
Alaska	72	37	52	4	6	31	43	23	31	35	48
Arizona	1,177	685	58	58	5	434	37	286	24	492	42
Arkansas	648	415	64	25	4	208	32	130	20	233	36
California	4,329	2,610	60	254	6	1,466	34	930	21	1,719	40
Colorado	606	362	60	31	5	213	35	131	22	244	40
Connecticut	274	154	56	19	7	101	37	64	23	120	44
Delaware	134	68	51	6	5	59	44	43	32	66	49
Dist of Columbia	48	22	45	5	11	21	44	13	28	26	55
Florida	3,543	2,072	58	201	6	1,271	36	820	23	1,471	42
Georgia	1,729	1,184	68	82	5	463	27	285	16	545	32
Hawaii	140	69	49	13	9	58	42	40	28	71	51
Idaho	275	186	68	5	2	85	31	41	15	89	32
Illinois	1,361	781	57	103	8	477	35	295	22	580	43
Indiana	938	618	66	47	5	273	29	170	18	320	34
Iowa	450	332	74	16	4	102	23	57	13	118	26
Kansas	428	277	65	30	7	122	28	77	18	151	35
Kentucky	985	672	68	47	5	267	27	182	18	313	32
Louisiana	955	561	59	47	5	347	36	224	23	394	41
Maine	169	110	65	8	5	50	30	24	14	59	35
Maryland	614	379	62	44	7	191	31	112	18	235	38
Massachusetts	442	271	61	21	5	150	34	97	22	171	39
Michigan	1,129	708	63	58	5	363	32	224	20	421	37
Minnesota	559	358	64	26	5	176	31	118	21	201	36
Mississippi	931	560	60	40	4	331	36	211	23	371	40
Missouri	1,257	742	59	81	6	434	35	277	22	515	41
Montana	251	127	51	12	5	112	45	70	28	124	49
Nebraska	276	185	67	13	5	78	28	48	17	91	33
Nevada	427	268	63	16	4	143	33	81	19	159	37
New Hampshire	166	106	64	5	3	55	33	33	20	60	36
New Jersey	748	485	65	46	6	217	29	134	18	263	35
New Mexico	488	299	61	17	3	172	35	114	23	189	39
New York	1,429	905	63	91	6	434	30	270	19	524	37
North Carolina	1,534	985	64	65	4	484	32	325	21	549	36
North Dakota	123	65	53	13	10	46	37	35	28	58	47
Ohio	1,323	818	62	96	7	409	31	298	23	505	38
Oklahoma	802	519	65	34	4	249	31	173	22	283	35
Oregon	488	311	64	38	8	139	29	89	18	177	36
Pennsylvania	1,616	980	61	77	5	559	35	369	23	636	39
Rhode Island	87	44	50	10	11	34	39	23	26	43	50
South Carolina	1,093	629	58	68	6	396	36	276	25	464	42
South Dakota	186	106	57	4	2	76	41	47	25	80	43
Tennessee	1,270	806	63	67	5	397	31	247	19	464	37
Texas	3,504	1,935	55	198	6	1,371	39	857	24	1,569	45
Utah	282	245	87	2	1	35	12	25	9	37	13
Vermont	73	44	60	1	2	28	38	12	16	29	40
Virginia	947	600	63	63	7	284	30	179	19	347	37
Washington	647	353	55	41	6	253	39	167	26	294	45
West Virginia	374	248	66	11	3	116	31	69	18	126	34
Wisconsin	815	446	55	41	5	328	40	236	29	369	45
Wyoming	170	105	62	9	5	56	33	36	21	65	38
U.S. Total	43,443	26,558	61	2,346	5	14,539	33	9,316	21	16,885	39
Puerto Rico	453	237	52	33	7	184	41	102	23	217	48

Note: Percentages are calculated from unrounded data. Totals may not equal sum of components due to independent rounding.

Table 8

Traffic Fatalities by State and Highest Driver Blood Alcohol Concentration in the Crash, 2005

State	Total Fatalities	No Alcohol (BAC .00 g/dL)		Low Alcohol (BAC .01-.07 g/dL)		High Alcohol (BAC >= .08+ g/dL)		Very High Alcohol (BAC >= .16 g/dL)		Any Alcohol (BAC >= .01+ g/dL)	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Alabama	1,131	733	65	41	4	358	32	216	19	399	35
Alaska	72	41	56	4	6	27	38	19	26	32	44
Arizona	1,170	753	64	55	5	362	31	225	19	417	36
Arkansas	647	428	66	24	4	195	30	121	19	219	34
California	4,322	2,844	66	228	5	1,250	29	756	17	1,478	34
Colorado	605	376	62	31	5	198	33	119	20	229	38
Connecticut	274	165	60	18	7	91	33	56	21	109	40
Delaware	134	75	56	6	4	53	39	37	27	59	44
Dist of Columbia	48	26	53	5	11	17	35	9	19	22	47
Florida	3,535	2,328	66	184	5	1,023	29	615	17	1,207	34
Georgia	1,728	1,239	72	76	4	413	24	247	14	489	28
Hawaii	139	74	53	13	9	53	38	32	23	65	47
Idaho	274	188	68	4	2	82	30	41	15	86	32
Illinois	1,359	824	61	95	7	440	32	265	20	535	39
Indiana	935	633	68	48	5	253	27	155	17	302	32
Iowa	448	336	75	16	3	96	21	52	12	112	25
Kansas	428	283	66	29	7	115	27	70	16	145	34
Kentucky	983	690	70	47	5	246	25	165	17	293	30
Louisiana	955	598	63	48	5	309	32	197	21	357	37
Maine	169	112	66	8	5	49	29	23	13	58	34
Maryland	613	410	67	43	7	161	26	87	14	203	33
Massachusetts	442	289	65	20	4	134	30	85	19	153	35
Michigan	1,125	752	67	61	5	312	28	185	16	373	33
Minnesota	555	368	66	25	4	163	29	108	19	187	34
Mississippi	931	589	63	40	4	302	32	190	20	342	37
Missouri	1,256	777	62	81	6	398	32	250	20	479	38
Montana	246	130	53	11	4	105	43	64	26	116	47
Nebraska	271	183	67	12	5	76	28	46	17	88	33
Nevada	427	284	67	17	4	126	30	65	15	143	33
New Hampshire	165	107	65	5	3	54	32	32	20	58	35
New Jersey	748	526	70	42	6	180	24	105	14	222	30
New Mexico	487	327	67	17	4	143	29	89	18	160	33
New York	1,424	981	69	86	6	358	25	207	15	443	31
North Carolina	1,529	1,054	69	61	4	414	27	264	17	475	31
North Dakota	122	66	54	11	9	45	37	34	28	57	46
Ohio	1,321	842	64	95	7	385	29	277	21	480	36
Oklahoma	802	539	67	32	4	231	29	155	19	263	33
Oregon	485	333	69	32	7	121	25	78	16	153	31
Pennsylvania	1,613	1,018	63	73	4	523	32	341	21	595	37
Rhode Island	87	49	56	9	10	29	34	19	22	38	44
South Carolina	1,092	667	61	66	6	359	33	242	22	425	39
South Dakota	186	113	61	4	2	69	37	42	22	73	39
Tennessee	1,268	834	66	63	5	371	29	227	18	434	34
Texas	3,498	2,090	60	184	5	1,224	35	746	21	1,408	40
Utah	282	247	87	2	1	33	12	24	9	35	13
Vermont	73	44	60	1	2	28	38	11	16	29	40
Virginia	945	622	66	60	6	263	28	164	17	323	34
Washington	645	373	58	37	6	235	36	150	23	272	42
West Virginia	371	253	68	10	3	108	29	62	17	118	32
Wisconsin	808	456	56	40	5	313	39	221	27	353	44
Wyoming	168	105	63	9	5	54	32	34	20	63	37
U.S. Total	43,341	28,169	65	2,227	5	12,945	30	8,024	19	15,172	35
Puerto Rico	452	273	60	34	8	145	32	71	16	179	40

Note: Percentages are calculated from unrounded data. Totals may not equal sum of components due to independent rounding.