Traffic Safety Facts 1995

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

Large Trucks

People Saving People
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In 1995, 376,000 large trucks (gross vehicle weight rating greater than 10,000 pounds) were involved in traffic crashes in the United States; 4,453 were involved in fatal crashes. A total of 4,903 people died (12 percent of all the traffic fatalities reported in 1995) and an additional 116,000 were injured in those crashes.

Large trucks accounted for 3 percent of all registered vehicles, 7 percent of total vehicle miles traveled, 8 percent of all vehicles involved in fatal crashes, and 3 percent of all vehicles involved in injury and property-damage-only crashes in 1995.

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Table 1. Involvement in Fatal and Injury Crashes and Involvement Rates for Large trucks, 1985-1995

Year	Number of Large Trucks Involved in Fatal Crashes	Number of Large Trucks Registered	Vehicle Involvement Rate *	Vehicle Miles Traveled (millions)	Vehicle Involvement Rate **
1985	5,153	5,330,678	96.7	126,580	4.1
1986	5,097	5,249,102	97.1	130,141	3.9
1987	5,108	5,303,094	96.3	135,601	3.8
1988	5,241	5,433,560	96.5	141,397	3.7
1989	4,984	5,692,148	87.6	148,318	3.4
1990	4,776	5,854,337	81.6	149,810	3.2
1991	4,347	5,868,817	74.1	150,729	2.9
1992	4,035	5,970,925	67.6	152,803	2.6
1993	4,328	6,191,889	69.9	159,402	2.7
1994	4,644	6,303,313	73.7	170,415	2.7
1995	4,453	6,435,965	69.2	NA	--

Year	Number of Large Trucks Involved in Injury Crashes	Number of Large Trucks Registered	Vehicle Involvement Rate *	Vehicle Miles Traveled (millions)	Vehicle Involvement Rate **
1988	96,000	5,433,560	1,764	141,397	68
1989	110,000	5,692,148	1,887	148,318	74
1990	107,000	5,854,337	1,830	149,810	72
1991	78,000	5,868,817	1,332	150,729	52
1992	95,000	5,970,925	1,586	152,803	62
1993	97,000	6,191,889	1,564	159,402	61
1994	95,000	6,303,313	1,507	170,415	56
1995	83,000	6,435,965	1,287	NA	--

* Rate per 100,000 registered vehicles.
** Rate per 100 million vehicle miles traveled.
NA = not available.
Source: Vehicle miles traveled and registered vehicles—Federal Highway Administration.

Of the fatalities that resulted from crashes involving large trucks, 78 percent were occupants of another vehicle, 9 percent were nonoccupants, and 13 percent were occupants of a large truck.

Of the injuries that resulted from crashes involving large trucks, 72 percent were occupants of another vehicle, 2 percent were nonoccupants, and 26 percent were occupants of a large truck.

"In 1995, large trucks were 3 times as likely as other vehicles to be struck in the rear in two-vehicle fatal crashes."

Table 2. Fatalities and Injuries in Crashes Involving Large Trucks, 1995

Type of Fatality	Number	Percentage of Total
Occupants of Large Trucks	644	13
Single-Vehicle Crashes	*421*	*9*
Multiple-Vehicle Crashes	*223*	*5*
Occupants of Other Vehicles in Crashes Involving Large Trucks	3,835	78
Nonoccupants (Pedestrians, Pedalcyclists, etc.)	424	9
Total	**4,903**	**100**
Type of Injury	**Number**	**Percentage of Total**
Occupants of Large Trucks	30,000	26
Single-Vehicle Crashes	*15,000*	*13*
Multiple-Vehicle Crashes	*15,000*	*13*
Occupants of Other Vehicles in Crashes Involving Large Trucks	83,000	72
Nonoccupants (Pedestrians, Pedalcyclists, etc.)	2,000	2
Total	**116,000**	**100**

Large trucks were much more likely to be involved in a fatal multiple-vehicle crash than were passenger vehicles (83 percent and 61 percent, respectively).

In 31 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 almost 4 times as often as the other vehicle (19 percent and 5 percent, respectively).

Table 3. Principal Impact Points in Two-Vehicle Fatal Crashes Involving Large Trucks, 1995

Impact Point on Large Truck	Impact Point on Other Vehicle				
	Front	Left Side	Right Side	Rear	Total
Front	31%	17%	13%	5%	66%
Left Side	8%	<1%	<1%	<1%	10%
Right Side	4%	<1%	<1%	<1%	6%
Rear	17%	<1%	<1%	<1%	19%
Total	61%	19%	14%	5%	100%

In half 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 9 percent, either the truck or the other vehicle was negotiating a curve. In 8 percent, either the truck or the other vehicle was stopped or parked in a traffic lane (6 percent and 2 percent, respectively).

Most of the fatal crashes involving large trucks occurred in rural areas (63 percent), during the daytime (66 percent), and on weekdays (80 percent). During the week, 74 percent of the crashes occurred during the daytime (6:00 AM to 5:59 PM). On weekends, 65 percent occurred at night (6:00 PM to 5:59 AM).

For 35 percent of the drivers of large trucks involved in fatal crashes in 1995, police reported one or more errors or other factors related to the driver's behavior associated with the crash. The factors most often noted in multiple-vehicle crashes were "driving too fast for conditions or exceeding the speed limit," "failure to keep in lane or running off the road," and "failure to yield right of way."

"The intoxication rate for drivers of large trucks involved in fatal crashes in 1995 was 1.3 percent."

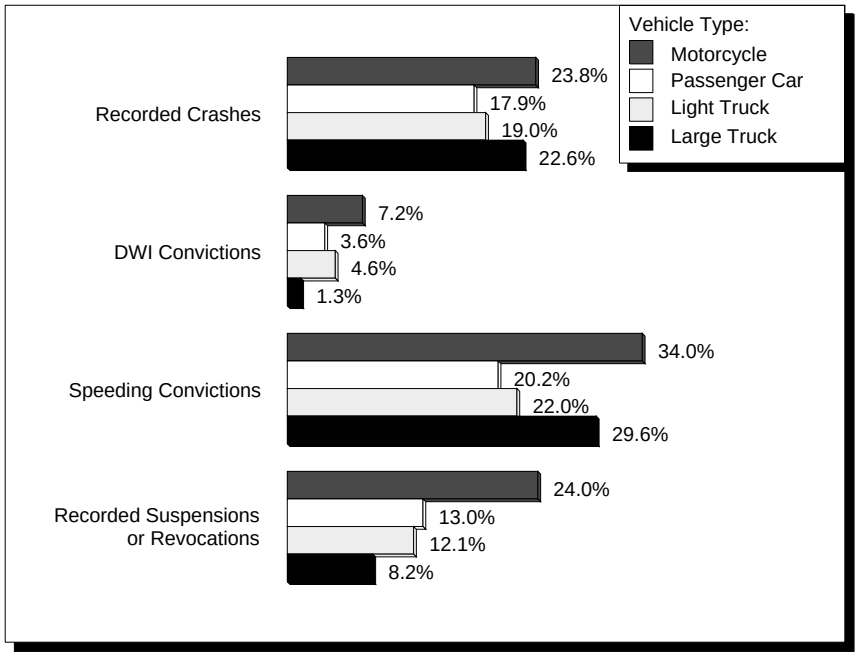
In almost three-fourths (72 percent) of the two-vehicle fatal crashes involving a large truck and another type of vehicle, police reported one or more factors for the other driver and none for the truck driver. In 17 percent, one or more factors were reported for the truck driver and none for the other driver. In 9 percent, factors were reported for both drivers, and in 2 percent no factors were reported for either driver.

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 1.3 percent in 1995. These drivers have also shown the largest decrease in intoxication rates since 1985 (62 percent). Intoxication rates for drivers of other types of vehicles involved in fatal crashes in 1995 were 19.2 percent for passenger cars, 22.4 percent for light trucks, and 29.1 percent for motorcycles.

Drivers of large trucks were less likely to have a previous license suspension or revocation than were passenger car drivers (8 percent and 13 percent, respectively).

Almost 30 percent of all large truck drivers involved in fatal crashes in 1995 had at least one prior speeding conviction, compared to just over 20 percent of the passenger car drivers involved in fatal crashes.

Figure 1. Previous Driving Records of Drivers Involved in Fatal Traffic Crashes, by Type of Vehicle, 1995



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. Telephone inquiries should be addressed to Ms. Louann Hall at (202) 366-4198. 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, 1995

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	1,528	144	9.4	3.2
Alaska	109	8	7.3	0.2
Arizona	1,410	78	5.5	1.8
Arkansas	802	96	12.0	2.2
California	5,508	364	6.6	8.2
Colorado	849	51	6.0	1.1
Connecticut	406	25	6.2	0.6
Delaware	172	9	5.2	0.2
District of Columbia	82	1	1.2	0.0
Florida	4,002	282	7.0	6.3
Georgia	2,108	189	9.0	4.2
Hawaii	159	3	1.9	0.1
Idaho	330	29	8.8	0.7
Illinois	2,170	159	7.3	3.6
Indiana	1,383	160	11.6	3.6
Iowa	714	68	9.5	1.5
Kansas	577	59	10.2	1.3
Kentucky	1,122	101	9.0	2.3
Louisiana	1,096	85	7.8	1.9
Maine	259	22	8.5	0.5
Maryland	942	49	5.2	1.1
Massachusetts	605	33	5.5	0.7
Michigan	2,258	163	7.2	3.7
Minnesota	823	76	9.2	1.7
Mississippi	1,155	103	8.9	2.3
Missouri	1,432	93	6.5	2.1
Montana	253	26	10.3	0.6
Nebraska	346	41	11.8	0.9
Nevada	397	32	8.1	0.7
New Hampshire	170	8	4.7	0.2
New Jersey	1,075	84	7.8	1.9
New Mexico	577	40	6.9	0.9
New York	2,276	148	6.5	3.3
North Carolina	1,982	178	9.0	4.0
North Dakota	98	8	8.2	0.2
Ohio	1,896	201	10.6	4.5
Oklahoma	904	83	9.2	1.9
Oregon	741	66	8.9	1.5
Pennsylvania	2,042	184	9.0	4.1
Rhode Island	89	3	3.4	0.1
South Carolina	1,171	89	7.6	2.0
South Dakota	194	15	7.7	0.3
Tennessee	1,701	115	6.8	2.6
Texas	4,268	333	7.8	7.5
Utah	437	29	6.6	0.7
Vermont	134	12	9.0	0.3
Virginia	1,201	93	7.7	2.1
Washington	847	65	7.7	1.5
West Virginia	493	50	10.1	1.1
Wisconsin	1,020	85	8.3	1.9
Wyoming	172	15	8.7	0.3
U.S. Total	**56,485**	**4,453**	**7.9**	**100.0**
Puerto Rico	764	34	4.5	--

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