



Traffic Safety Facts 2000

Alcohol



The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) defines a fatal traffic crash as being alcohol-related if either a driver or a nonoccupant (e.g., pedestrian) had a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of 0.01 grams per deciliter (g/dl) or greater in a police-reported traffic crash. Persons with a BAC of 0.10 g/dl or greater involved in fatal crashes are considered to be intoxicated. This is the legal limit of intoxication in most states.

Traffic fatalities in alcohol-related crashes rose by 4 percent from 1999 to 2000. The 16,653 alcohol-related fatalities in 2000 (40 percent of total traffic fatalities for the year) represent a 25 percent reduction from the 22,084 alcohol-related fatalities reported in 1990 (50 percent of the total).

NHTSA estimates that alcohol was involved in 40 percent of fatal crashes and in 8 percent of all crashes in 2000.

The 16,653 fatalities in alcohol-related crashes during 2000 represent an average of one alcohol-related fatality every 32 minutes.

An estimated 310,000 persons were injured in crashes where police reported that alcohol was present — an average of one person injured approximately every 2 minutes.

Approximately 1.5 million drivers were arrested in 1999 for driving under the influence of alcohol or narcotics. This is an arrest rate of 1 for every 121 licensed drivers in the United States (2000 data not yet available).

About 3 in every 10 Americans will be involved in an alcohol-related crash at some time in their lives.

In 2000, 31 percent of all traffic fatalities occurred in crashes in which at least one driver or nonoccupant had a BAC of 0.10 g/dl or greater. Sixty-nine percent of the 12,892 people killed in such crashes were themselves intoxicated. The remaining 31 percent were passengers, nonintoxicated drivers, or nonintoxicated nonoccupants.

Table 1. Types of Fatalities in Fatal Crashes Involving at Least One Intoxicated Driver or Nonoccupant, 2000

Type of Fatality	Number	Percent of Total
Intoxicated Drivers	7,326	57
Nonintoxicated Drivers	820	6
Passengers	2,686	21
Intoxicated Nonoccupants (Pedestrians and Pedalcyclists)	1,594	12
Nonintoxicated Nonoccupants	466	4
Total Fatalities	12,892	100

“There were 16,653 alcohol-related fatalities in 2000 — 40 percent of the total traffic fatalities for the year.”

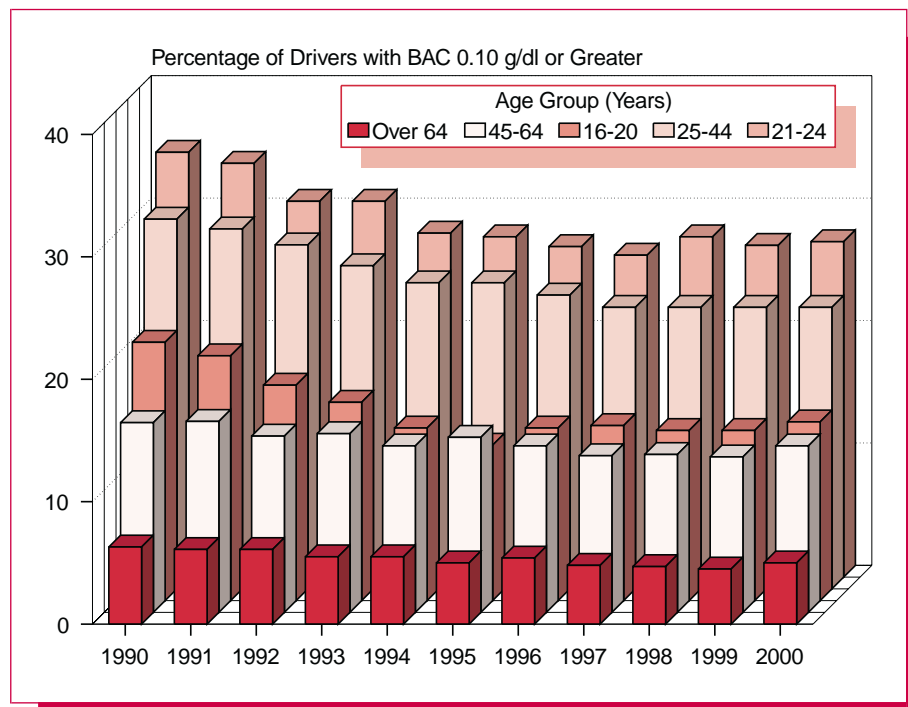
The rate of alcohol involvement in fatal crashes is more than 3 times as high at night as during the day (61 percent vs. 18 percent). For all crashes, the alcohol involvement rate is more than 4 times as high at night (17 percent vs. 4 percent).

In 2000, 30 percent of all fatal crashes during the week were alcohol-related, compared to 53 percent on weekends. For all crashes, the alcohol involvement rate was 6 percent during the week and 14 percent during the weekend.

From 1990 to 2000, intoxication rates decreased for drivers of all age groups involved in fatal crashes. Drivers 16 to 20 years old experienced the largest decrease in intoxication rates (29 percent), followed by drivers 25 to 34 years old (27 percent).

“From 1990 to 2000, intoxication rates decreased for drivers of all age groups involved in fatal crashes.”

Figure 1. Intoxicated Drivers in Fatal Crashes by Age Group, 1990-2000



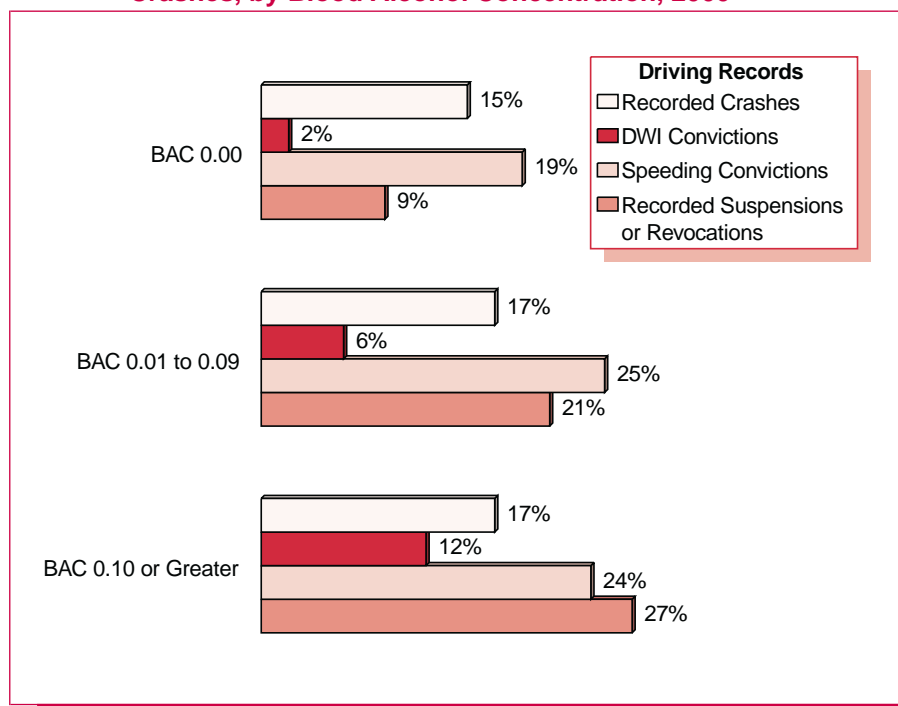
The highest intoxication rates in fatal crashes in 2000 were recorded for drivers 21-24 years old (27 percent), followed by ages 25-34 (24 percent) and 35-44 (22 percent).

Intoxication rates for drivers in fatal crashes in 2000 were highest for motorcycle operators (27 percent) and lowest for drivers of large trucks (1 percent). The intoxication rate for drivers of light trucks was higher than that for passenger car drivers (20 percent and 19 percent, respectively).

Safety belts were used by only 22 percent of the fatally injured *intoxicated* drivers (BAC of 0.10 g/dl or greater), compared to 32 percent of fatally injured *impaired* drivers (BAC between 0.01 g/dl and 0.09 g/dl) and 51 percent of fatally injured sober drivers.

Fatally injured drivers with BAC levels of 0.10 g/dl or greater were 6 times as likely to have a prior conviction for driving while intoxicated compared to fatally injured sober drivers (12 percent and 2 percent, respectively).

Figure 2. Previous Driving Records of Drivers Killed in Traffic Crashes, by Blood Alcohol Concentration, 2000



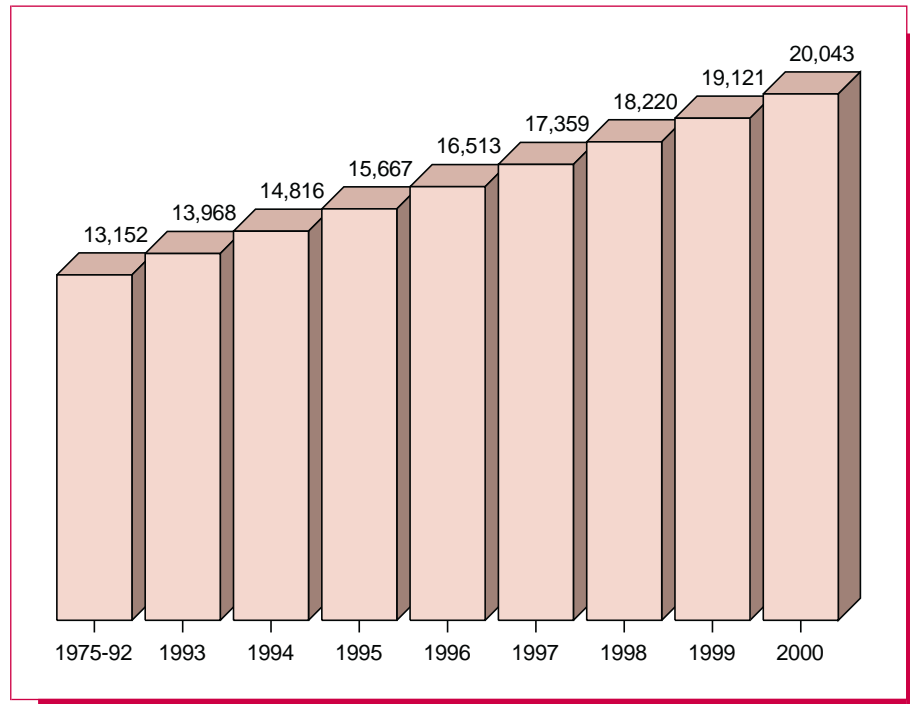
“Almost one-third of all pedestrians 16 years of age or older killed in traffic crashes in 2000 were intoxicated.”

Almost one-third (33 percent) of all pedestrians 16 years of age or older killed in traffic crashes in 2000 were intoxicated. By age group, the percentages ranged from a low of 9 percent for pedestrians 65 and over to a high of 49 percent for those 25 to 34 years old.

The driver, pedestrian, or both were intoxicated in 38 percent of all fatal pedestrian crashes in 2000. In these crashes, the intoxication rate for pedestrians was more than double the rate for drivers — 31 percent and 13 percent, respectively. Both the pedestrian and the driver were intoxicated in 5 percent of the crashes that resulted in a pedestrian fatality.

All states and the District of Columbia now have 21-year-old minimum drinking age laws. NHTSA estimates that these laws have reduced traffic fatalities involving drivers 18 to 20 years old by 13 percent and have saved an estimated 20,043 lives since 1975. In 2000, an estimated 922 lives were saved by minimum drinking age laws.

Figure 3. Cumulative Estimated Number of Lives Saved by Minimum Drinking Age Laws, 1975-2000



“NHTSA estimates that minimum drinking age laws have saved 20,043 lives since 1975.”

On the following pages, Tables 2, 3, 4, and 5 present summary data on alcohol involvement in fatal crashes in 2000, compared with 1990 data. Table 6 shows alcohol involvement in fatal traffic crashes by state.

For more information:

Information on alcohol involvement in 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/nca>. 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 2. Alcohol Involvement in Fatal Crashes, 1990 and 2000

	1990		2000		Change in Percentage, 1990-2000
	Number	Percentage with BAC 0.10 g/dl or Greater*	Number	Percentage with BAC 0.10 g/dl or Greater*	
Fatal Crashes	39,836	40	37,409	31	-23%
Total Fatalities	44,599	40	41,821	31	-23%

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

Table 3. Alcohol Involvement for Drivers in Fatal Crashes, 1990 and 2000

Drivers Involved in Fatal Crashes	1990		2000		Change in Percentage, 1990-2000
	Number of Drivers	Percentage with BAC 0.10 g/dl or Greater	Number of Drivers	Percentage with BAC 0.10 g/dl or Greater	
<i>Total Drivers</i>					
Total*	58,893	25	57,090	18	-28%
<i>Drivers by Age Group (Years)</i>					
16–20	8,821	21	7,956	15	-29%
21–24	7,195	35	5,895	27	-23%
25–34	15,764	33	11,630	24	-27%
35–44	10,177	26	11,039	22	-15%
45–64	9,935	16	12,857	14	-13%
Over 64	5,501	6	6,226	5	-17%
<i>Drivers by Sex</i>					
Male	44,281	28	41,407	20	-29%
Female	13,726	14	14,654	11	-21%
<i>Drivers by Vehicle Type</i>					
Passenger Cars	33,893	24	27,356	19	-21%
Light Trucks	15,501	29	20,192	20	-31%
Large Trucks	4,709	2	4,883	1	-50%
Motorcycles	3,269	39	2,936	27	-31%

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

Table 4. Alcohol Involvement for Drivers Killed in Fatal Crashes, 1990 and 2000

Driver Fatalities	1990		2000		Change in Percentage, 1990-2000
	Number of Driver Fatalities	Percentage with BAC 0.10 g/dl or Greater	Number of Driver Fatalities	Percentage with BAC 0.10 g/dl or Greater	
<i>Total Driver Fatalities</i>					
Total	25,750	38	25,492	29	-24%
<i>Driver Fatalities by Crash Type and Time of Day</i>					
Single-Vehicle	12,709	54	12,369	43	-20%
Daytime*	4,254	27	4,897	20	-26%
Nighttime**	8,191	68	7,199	59	-13%
Multiple-Vehicle	13,041	22	13,123	15	-32%
Daytime*	7,485	9	8,327	6	-33%
Nighttime**	5,553	40	4,792	30	-25%
<i>Driver Fatalities by Day of Week</i>					
Weekday***	14,476	29	15,100	21	-28%
Weekend****	11,195	50	10,305	40	-20%
<i>Driver Fatalities by Time of Day</i>					
Daytime*	11,739	15	13,223	11	-27%
Nighttime**	13,744	57	11,991	48	-16%
<i>Driver Fatalities by Day of Week and Time of Day</i>					
Weekday***					
Daytime*	8,529	12	9,598	9	-25%
Nighttime**	5,868	52	5,435	41	-21%
Weekend****					
Daytime*	3,210	24	3,625	18	-25%
Nighttime**	7,876	60	6,556	53	-12%

*6:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

**6:00 PM to 6:00 AM.

***Monday 6:00 AM to Friday 6:00 PM.

****Friday 6:00 PM to Monday 6:00 AM.

Table 5. Alcohol Involvement for Nonoccupants Killed in Fatal Crashes, 1990 and 2000

Nonoccupant Fatalities	1990		2000		Change in Percentage, 1990-2000
	Number of Nonoccupant Fatalities	Percentage with BAC 0.10 g/dl or Greater	Number of Nonoccupant Fatalities	Percentage with BAC 0.10 g/dl or Greater	
<i>Pedestrian Fatalities by Age Group (Years)</i>					
16-20	362	36	260	30	-17%
21-24	375	52	226	46	-12%
25-34	1,121	57	609	49	-14%
35-44	922	50	872	46	-8%
45-64	1,205	36	1,197	34	-6%
Over 64	1,503	9	989	9	0%
Total*	6,482	32	4,739	30	-6%
<i>Pedalcyclist Fatalities</i>					
Total	859	16	690	21	31%

*Includes pedestrians under 16 years old and pedestrians of unknown age.

Table 6. Traffic Fatalities by State and Highest Blood Alcohol Concentration in the Crash, 2000

State	Total Fatalities	No Alcohol (BAC = 0.00 g/dl)		Low Alcohol (BAC = 0.01-0.09 g/dl)		High Alcohol (BAC ≥ 0.10 g/dl)		Any Alcohol (BAC ≥ 0.01 g/dl)	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Alabama	995	596	60	74	7	326	33	399	40
Alaska	103	50	48	9	9	44	43	53	52
Arizona	1,036	580	56	102	10	354	34	456	44
Arkansas	652	452	69	61	9	139	21	200	31
California	3,753	2,352	63	340	9	1,061	28	1,401	37
Colorado	681	425	62	58	8	198	29	256	38
Connecticut	342	184	54	40	12	119	35	158	46
Delaware	123	63	51	11	9	49	40	60	49
District of Columbia	49	30	61	5	10	14	29	19	39
Florida	2,999	1,808	60	261	9	930	31	1,191	40
Georgia	1,541	971	63	132	9	438	28	570	37
Hawaii	131	77	59	17	13	37	28	54	41
Idaho	276	162	59	33	12	81	29	114	41
Illinois	1,418	804	57	126	9	489	34	614	43
Indiana	875	605	69	56	6	214	24	270	31
Iowa	445	321	72	24	6	100	22	124	28
Kansas	461	307	67	36	8	118	26	154	33
Kentucky	820	564	69	53	6	203	25	256	31
Louisiana	937	490	52	95	10	352	38	447	48
Maine	169	118	70	13	7	38	22	51	30
Maryland	588	363	62	64	11	161	27	225	38
Massachusetts	433	215	50	65	15	153	35	218	50
Michigan	1,382	876	63	109	8	397	29	506	37
Minnesota	625	370	59	48	8	207	33	255	41
Mississippi	949	570	60	89	9	289	30	379	40
Missouri	1,157	646	56	124	11	387	33	511	44
Montana	237	127	54	18	8	92	39	110	46
Nebraska	276	173	63	33	12	70	25	103	37
Nevada	323	178	55	32	10	112	35	145	45
New Hampshire	126	77	61	9	7	40	31	49	39
New Jersey	731	412	56	88	12	231	32	319	44
New Mexico	430	225	52	46	11	159	37	205	48
New York	1,458	1,039	71	126	9	293	20	419	29
North Carolina	1,472	949	64	103	7	419	28	523	36
North Dakota	86	45	52	5	6	36	42	41	48
Ohio	1,351	835	62	105	8	411	30	516	38
Oklahoma	652	431	66	53	8	169	26	221	34
Oregon	451	263	58	56	12	132	29	188	42
Pennsylvania	1,520	902	59	107	7	511	34	618	41
Rhode Island	80	39	49	10	12	31	38	41	51
South Carolina	1,065	643	60	94	9	329	31	422	40
South Dakota	173	92	53	15	9	66	38	81	47
Tennessee	1,306	795	61	112	9	399	31	511	39
Texas	3,769	1,871	50	448	12	1,450	38	1,898	50
Utah	373	284	76	21	6	68	18	89	24
Vermont	79	48	61	4	5	27	34	31	39
Virginia	930	589	63	85	9	257	28	341	37
Washington	632	357	56	59	9	217	34	275	44
West Virginia	410	235	57	26	6	149	36	175	43
Wisconsin	799	454	57	57	7	288	36	345	43
Wyoming	152	107	70	6	4	40	26	45	30
U.S. Total	41,821	25,168	60	3,761	9	12,892	31	16,653	40
Puerto Rico	566	289	51	73	13	203	36	277	49

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