Traffic Safety Facts 1996

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

Large Trucks

NHTSA
People Saving People
http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov

In 1996, 393,000 large trucks (gross vehicle weight rating greater than 10,000 pounds) were involved in traffic crashes in the United States; 4,740 were involved in fatal crashes. A total of 5,126 people died (12 percent of all the traffic fatalities reported in 1996) and an additional 130,000 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 (1996 registered vehicle and vehicle miles traveled data not available).

One out of eight traffic fatalities in 1996 resulted from a collision involving a large truck.

"One out of eight traffic fatalities in 1996 resulted from a collision involving a large truck."

Table 1. Involvement in Fatal and Injury Crashes and Involvement Rates for Large trucks, 1986-1996

Year	Number of Large Trucks Involved in Fatal Crashes	Number of Large Trucks Registered	Vehicle Involvement Rate *	Vehicle Miles Traveled (millions)	Vehicle Involvement Rate **
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	5,840,466	85.3	148,318	3.4
1990	4,776	5,854,337	81.6	149,810	3.2
1991	4,347	5,854,673	74.2	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	6,303,314	73.7	170,216	2.7
1995	4,472	6,881,074	65.0	178,160	2.5
1996	4,740	--	--	--	--

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	5,840,466	1,887	148,318	74
1990	107,000	5,854,337	1,830	149,810	72
1991	78,000	5,854,673	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	96,000	6,303,314	1,523	170,216	56
1995	84,000	6,881,074	1,221	178,160	47
1996	94,000	--	--	--	--

* Rate per 100,000 registered vehicles.
** Rate per 100 million vehicle miles traveled.
-- = not available.
Note: Injury data for the years 1993-1995 have been revised by NHTSA.
Source: Vehicle miles traveled and registered vehicles — Federal Highway Administration.

SERVING AMERICA IN THE NEW CENTURY
30 YEARS
WITH VISION AND VIGILANCE

Of the fatalities that resulted from crashes involving large trucks, 79 percent were occupants of another vehicle, 8 percent were nonoccupants, and 12 percent were occupants of a large truck.

Of the injuries that resulted from crashes involving large trucks, 73 percent were occupants of another vehicle, 2 percent were nonoccupants, and 25 percent were occupants of a large truck.

Table 2. Fatalities and Injuries in Crashes Involving Large Trucks, 1996

Type of Fatality	Number	Percentage of Total
Occupants of Large Trucks	621	12
Single-Vehicle Crashes	*410*	*8*
Multiple-Vehicle Crashes	*211*	*4*
Occupants of Other Vehicles in Crashes Involving Large Trucks	4,072	79
Nonoccupants (Pedestrians, Pedalcyclists, etc.)	433	8
Total	**5,126**	**100**
Type of Injury	**Number**	**Percentage of Total**
Occupants of Large Trucks	33,000	25
Single-Vehicle Crashes	*15,000*	*12*
Multiple-Vehicle Crashes	*18,000*	*13*
Occupants of Other Vehicles in Crashes Involving Large Trucks	95,000	73
Nonoccupants (Pedestrians, Pedalcyclists, etc.)	3,000	2
Total	**130,000**	**100**

"In 1996, large trucks were 3 times 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 passenger vehicles).

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 3 times as often as the other vehicle (18 percent and 6 percent, respectively).

Table 3. Principal Impact Points in Two-Vehicle Fatal Crashes Involving Large Trucks, 1996

Impact Point on Large Truck	Impact Point on Other Vehicle				
	Front	Left Side	Right Side	Rear	Total
Front	31%	16%	13%	5%	65%
Left Side	9%	<1%	<1%	<1%	10%
Right Side	5%	<1%	<1%	<1%	6%
Rear	17%	<1%	<1%	<1%	18%
Total	62%	18%	14%	6%	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 9 percent of the crashes, the other vehicle was turning. In 9 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).

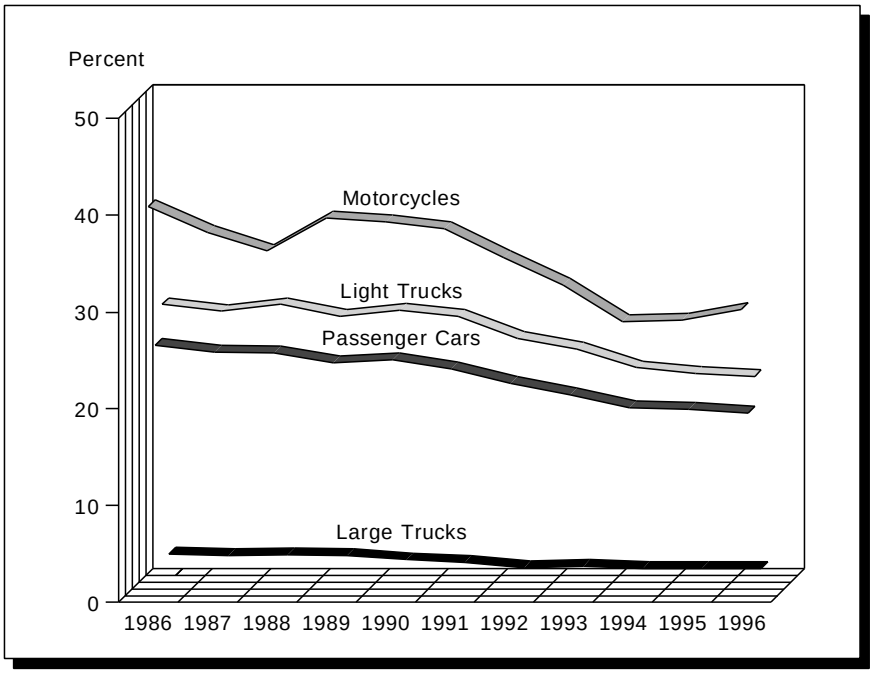
Most of the fatal crashes involving large trucks occurred in rural areas (66 percent), during the daytime (67 percent), and on weekdays (80 percent). During the week, 74 percent of the crashes occurred during the daytime (6:00 AM to 5:59 PM). On weekends, 60 percent occurred at night (6:00 PM to 5:59 AM).

In almost three-fourths (71 percent) of the two-vehicle fatal crashes involving a large truck and another type of vehicle, police reported one or more errors or other factors related to the driver's behavior associated with the crash for the other driver and none for the truck driver. In 16 percent, one or more factors were reported for the truck driver and none for the other driver. In 11 percent, factors were reported for both drivers, and in 2 percent no factors were reported for either driver.

"The intoxication rate for drivers of large trucks involved in fatal crashes in 1996 was 1.4 percent."

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 1.4 percent in 1996. These drivers have also shown the largest decrease in intoxication rates since 1986 (52 percent). Intoxication rates for drivers of other types of vehicles involved in fatal crashes in 1996 were 18.8 percent for passenger cars, 21.9 percent for light trucks, and 30.3 percent for motorcycles.

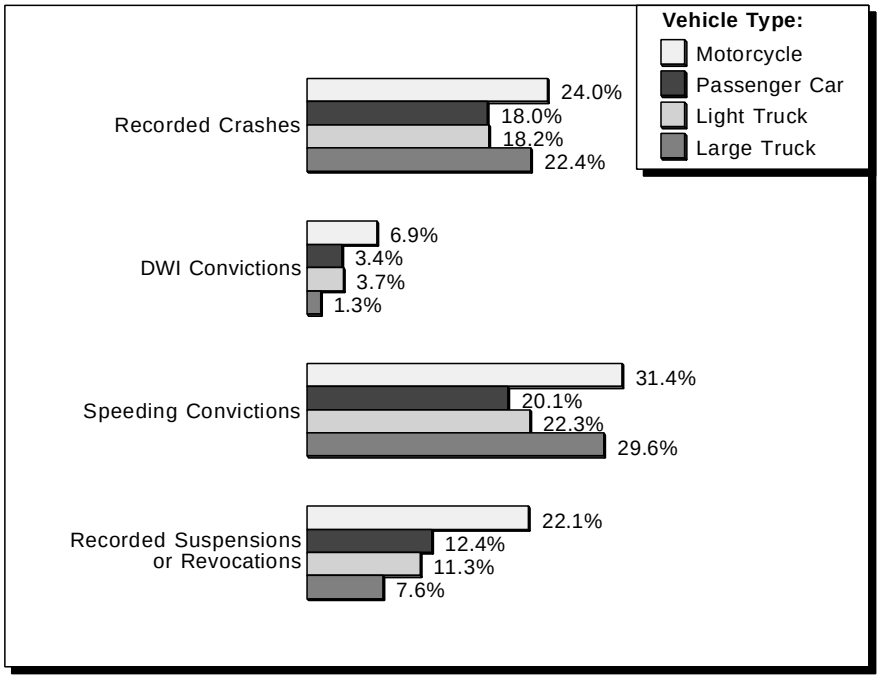
Figure 1. Estimated Proportions of Drivers in Fatal Crashes With BAC 0.10 g/dl or Greater, 1986-1996



Drivers of large trucks were less likely to have a previous license suspension or revocation than were passenger car drivers (8 percent and 12 percent, respectively).

Almost 30 percent of all large truck drivers involved in fatal crashes in 1996 had at least one prior speeding conviction, compared to just over 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, 1996



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 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, 1996

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	1,552	140	9.0	3.0
Alaska	104	7	6.7	0.1
Arizona	1,313	79	6.0	1.7
Arkansas	793	98	12.4	2.1
California	5,401	366	6.8	7.7
Colorado	805	55	6.8	1.2
Connecticut	426	32	7.5	0.7
Delaware	189	16	8.5	0.3
District of Columbia	93	4	4.3	0.1
Florida	3,957	279	7.1	5.9
Georgia	2,152	213	9.9	4.5
Hawaii	203	11	5.4	0.2
Idaho	338	37	10.9	0.8
Illinois	2,035	147	7.2	3.1
Indiana	1,407	160	11.4	3.4
Iowa	677	85	12.6	1.8
Kansas	677	62	9.2	1.3
Kentucky	1,125	92	8.2	1.9
Louisiana	1,025	77	7.5	1.6
Maine	218	13	6.0	0.3
Maryland	859	66	7.7	1.4
Massachusetts	547	34	6.2	0.7
Michigan	2,235	159	7.1	3.4
Minnesota	829	65	7.8	1.4
Mississippi	1,046	89	8.5	1.9
Missouri	1,536	150	9.8	3.2
Montana	249	19	7.6	0.4
Nebraska	361	48	13.3	1.0
Nevada	443	40	9.0	0.8
New Hampshire	191	12	6.3	0.3
New Jersey	1,156	81	7.0	1.7
New Mexico	602	53	8.8	1.1
New York	2,114	150	7.1	3.2
North Carolina	2,073	166	8.0	3.5
North Dakota	118	10	8.5	0.2
Ohio	1,981	206	10.4	4.3
Oklahoma	1,009	89	8.8	1.9
Oregon	680	58	8.5	1.2
Pennsylvania	2,086	184	8.8	3.9
Rhode Island	86	6	7.0	0.1
South Carolina	1,218	98	8.0	2.1
South Dakota	202	18	8.9	0.4
Tennessee	1,707	165	9.7	3.5
Texas	4,905	411	8.4	8.7
Utah	413	32	7.7	0.7
Vermont	107	9	8.4	0.2
Virginia	1,219	117	9.6	2.5
Washington	978	69	7.1	1.5
West Virginia	465	58	12.5	1.2
Wisconsin	1,072	94	8.8	2.0
Wyoming	159	11	6.9	0.2
U.S. Total	**57,136**	**4,740**	**8.3**	**100.0**
Puerto Rico	1,119	50	4.5	--

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