



# Traffic Safety Facts 1999

## Large Trucks



In 1999, 475,000 large trucks (gross vehicle weight rating greater than 10,000 pounds) were involved in traffic crashes in the United States; 4,898 were involved in fatal crashes. A total of 5,362 people died (13 percent of all the traffic fatalities reported in 1999) and an additional 142,000 were injured in those crashes.

Large trucks accounted for 3 percent of all registered vehicles, 7 percent of total vehicle miles traveled, 9 percent of all vehicles involved in fatal crashes, and 4 percent of all vehicles involved in injury and property-damage-only crashes in 1998 (1999 registered vehicle and vehicle miles traveled data not available).

One out of eight traffic fatalities in 1999 resulted from a collision involving a large truck.

**Table 1. Involvement in Fatal and Injury Crashes and Involvement Rates for Large Trucks, 1989-1999**

Year	Number of Large Trucks Involved in Fatal Crashes	Number of Large Trucks Registered	Vehicle Involvement Rate*	Vehicle Miles Traveled (millions)	Vehicle Involvement Rate**
1989	4,984	6,226,482	80.0	142,749	3.5
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	191,345	2.6
1998	4,955	7,244,135	68.4	196,053	2.5
1999	4,898	—	—	—	—

Year	Number of Large Trucks Involved in Injury Crashes	Number of Large Trucks Registered	Vehicle Involvement Rate*	Vehicle Miles Traveled (millions)	Vehicle Involvement Rate**
1989	110,000	6,226,482	1,770	142,749	77
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	191,345	50
1998	89,000	7,244,135	1,229	196,053	45
1999	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 1999 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, 74 percent were occupants of another vehicle, 3 percent were nonoccupants, and 23 percent were occupants of a large truck.

**Table 2. Fatalities and Injuries in Crashes Involving Large Trucks, 1999**

Type of Fatality	Number	Percentage of Total
Occupants of Large Trucks	758	14
<i>Single-Vehicle Crashes</i>	479	9
<i>Multiple-Vehicle Crashes</i>	279	5
Occupants of Other Vehicles in Crashes Involving Large Trucks	4,170	78
Nonoccupants (Pedestrians, Pedalcyclists, etc.)	434	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,362</b>	<b>100</b>
Type of Injury	Number	Percentage of Total
Occupants of Large Trucks	33,000	23
<i>Single-Vehicle Crashes</i>	15,000	11
<i>Multiple-Vehicle Crashes</i>	18,000	12
Occupants of Other Vehicles in Crashes Involving Large Trucks	105,000	74
Nonoccupants (Pedestrians, Pedalcyclists, etc.)	4,000	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>142,000</b>	<b>100</b>

***“In 1999, 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 (17 percent and 7 percent, respectively).

**Table 3. Principal Impact Points in Two-Vehicle Fatal Crashes Involving Large Trucks, 1999**

Impact Point on Large Truck	Impact Point on Other Vehicle				
	Front	Left Side	Right Side	Rear	Total
Front	29%	17%	14%	6%	66%
Left Side	9%	<1%	<1%	<1%	11%
Right Side	5%	<1%	<1%	<1%	6%
Rear	15%	<1%	<1%	<1%	17%
<b>Total</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>100%</b>

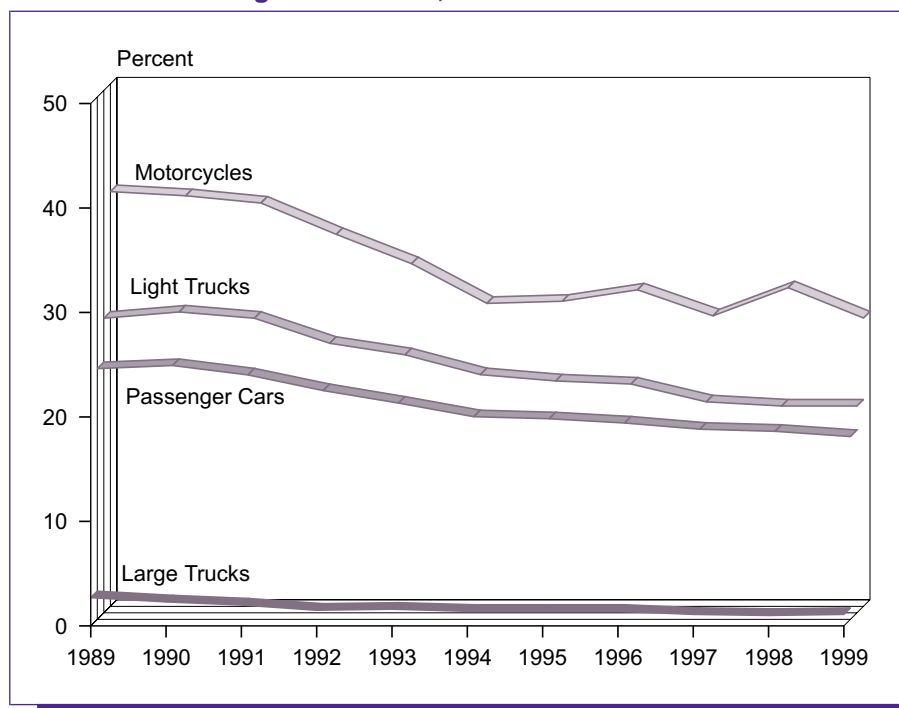
In almost half (48 percent) of the two-vehicle fatal crashes involving a large truck and another type of vehicle, both vehicles were proceeding straight at the time of the crash. In 10 percent of the crashes, the other vehicle was turning. In 9 percent, either the truck or the other vehicle was negotiating 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 (68 percent), during the daytime (67 percent), and on weekdays (79 percent). During the week, 74 percent of the crashes occurred during the daytime (6:00 AM to 5:59 PM). On weekends, 62 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 1999. Intoxication rates for drivers of other types of vehicles involved in fatal crashes in 1999 were 17 percent for passenger cars, 20 percent for light trucks, and 28 percent for motorcycles.

***“The intoxication rate for drivers of large trucks involved in fatal crashes in 1999 was 1 percent.”***

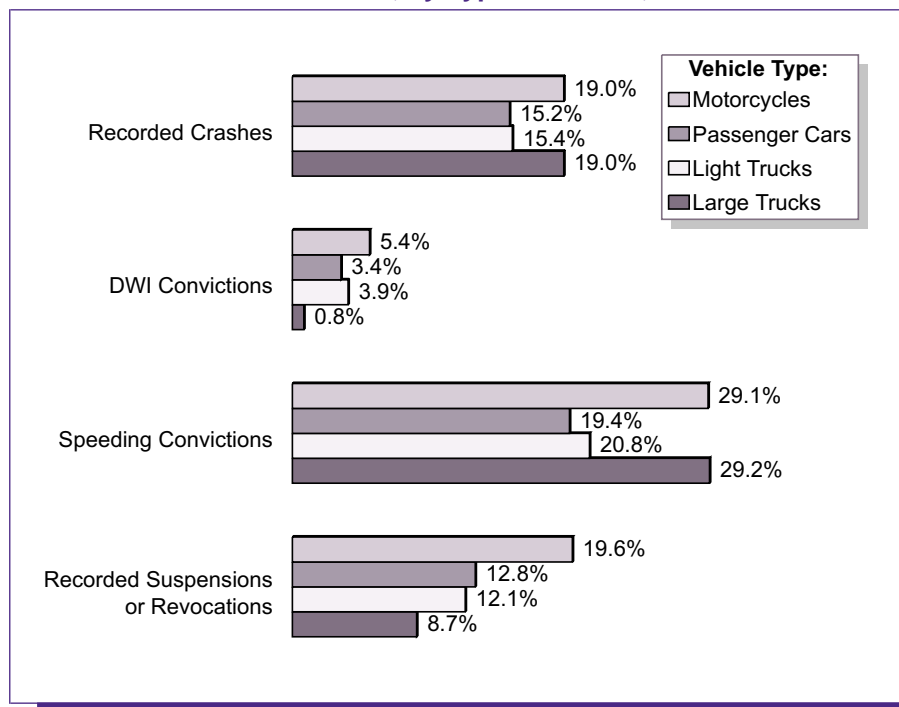
**Figure 1. Estimated Proportions of Drivers in Fatal Crashes with BAC 0.10 g/dl or Greater, 1989-1999**



Drivers of large trucks were less likely to have a previous license suspension or revocation than were passenger car drivers (9 percent and 13 percent, respectively).

Almost 30 percent of all large truck drivers involved in fatal crashes in 1999 had at least one prior speeding conviction, compared to just under 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, 1999**



***“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, 1999

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	1,520	143	9.4	2.9
Alaska	101	5	5.0	0.1
Arizona	1,410	108	7.7	2.2
Arkansas	784	92	11.7	1.9
California	4,626	319	6.9	6.5
Colorado	843	60	7.1	1.2
Connecticut	400	22	5.5	0.4
Delaware	153	10	6.5	0.2
District of Columbia	60	2	3.3	0.0
Florida	4,219	327	7.8	6.7
Georgia	2,092	220	10.5	4.5
Hawaii	141	3	2.1	0.1
Idaho	348	25	7.2	0.5
Illinois	2,034	193	9.5	3.9
Indiana	1,397	191	13.7	3.9
Iowa	701	99	14.1	2.0
Kansas	708	82	11.6	1.7
Kentucky	1,064	94	8.8	1.9
Louisiana	1,222	118	9.7	2.4
Maine	257	25	9.7	0.5
Maryland	864	57	6.6	1.2
Massachusetts	574	35	6.1	0.7
Michigan	2,012	131	6.5	2.7
Minnesota	915	86	9.4	1.8
Mississippi	1,214	110	9.1	2.2
Missouri	1,504	155	10.3	3.2
Montana	256	15	5.9	0.3
Nebraska	401	58	14.5	1.2
Nevada	461	41	8.9	0.8
New Hampshire	188	9	4.8	0.2
New Jersey	1,002	59	5.9	1.2
New Mexico	560	48	8.6	1.0
New York	2,083	149	7.2	3.0
North Carolina	2,119	189	8.9	3.9
North Dakota	144	18	12.5	0.4
Ohio	2,022	200	9.9	4.1
Oklahoma	967	82	8.5	1.7
Oregon	572	48	8.4	1.0
Pennsylvania	2,132	207	9.7	4.2
Rhode Island	119	9	7.6	0.2
South Carolina	1,411	123	8.7	2.5
South Dakota	197	18	9.1	0.4
Tennessee	1,753	165	9.4	3.4
Texas	4,816	384	8.0	7.8
Utah	435	41	9.4	0.8
Vermont	113	8	7.1	0.2
Virginia	1,166	107	9.2	2.2
Washington	844	59	7.0	1.2
West Virginia	515	50	9.7	1.0
Wisconsin	1,017	74	7.3	1.5
Wyoming	212	25	11.8	0.5
<b>U.S. Total</b>	<b>56,668</b>	<b>4,898</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Puerto Rico	725	30	4.1	—

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