

Traffic Safety Facts

2005 Data

Large Trucks

“One out of eight traffic fatalities in 2005 resulted from a collision involving a large truck.”

In 2005, 442,000 large trucks (gross vehicle weight rating greater than 10,000 pounds) were involved in traffic crashes in the United States; 4,932 were involved in fatal crashes. A total of 5,212 people died (12 percent of all the traffic fatalities reported in 2005) and an additional 114,000 were injured in those crashes.

In 2004, large trucks accounted for 3 percent of all registered vehicles and 8 percent of total vehicle miles traveled (2005 registered vehicle and vehicle miles traveled data not available). In 2005, large trucks accounted for 8 percent of all vehicles involved in fatal crashes and 4 percent of all vehicles involved in injury and property-damage-only crashes.

One out of eight traffic fatalities in 2005 resulted from a collision involving a large truck.

Table 1
Involvement in Fatal and Injury Crashes and Involvement Rates for Large Trucks, 1995-2005

Year	Number of Large Trucks Involved in Fatal Crashes	Number of Large Trucks Registered	Vehicle Involvement Rate*	Vehicle Miles Traveled (millions)	Vehicle Involvement Rate**
1995	4,472	6,719,421	66.55	178,156	2.51
1996	4,755	7,012,615	67.81	182,971	2.6
1997	4,917	7,083,326	69.42	191,477	2.57
1998	4,955	7,732,270	64.08	196,380	2.52
1999	4,920	7,791,426	63.15	202,688	2.43
2000	4,995	8,022,649	62.26	205,520	2.43
2001	4,823	7,857,675	61.38	209,032	2.31
2002	4,587	7,927,280	57.86	214,603	2.14
2003	4,721	7,756,888	60.86	217,917	2.17
2004	4,902	8,171,363	59.99	226,505	2.16
2005	4,932	-	-	-	-
Year	Number of Large Trucks Involved in Injury Crashes	Number of Large Trucks Registered	Vehicle Involvement Rate*	Vehicle Miles Traveled (millions)	Vehicle Involvement Rate**
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	191,477	50
1998	89,000	7,732,270	1,146	196,380	45
1999	101,000	7,791,426	1,292	202,688	50
2000	101,000	8,022,649	1,253	205,520	49
2001	90,000	7,857,675	1,143	209,032	43
2002	94,000	7,927,280	1,189	214,603	44
2003	89,000	7,756,888	1,145	217,917	41
2004	87,000	8,171,363	1,062	226,505	38
2005	82,000	-	-	-	-

*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.

Of the fatalities that resulted from crashes involving large trucks, 76 percent were occupants of another vehicle, 9 percent were nonoccupants, and 15 percent were occupants of a large truck.

Of the injuries that resulted from crashes involving large trucks, 74 percent were occupants of another vehicle, 2 percent were nonoccupants, and 24 percent were occupants of a large truck.

Table 2
Fatalities and Injuries in Crashes Involving Large Trucks, 2005

Type of Fatality	Number	Percentage of Total
Occupants of Large Trucks	803	15
Single-Vehicle Crashes	480	9
Multiple-Vehicle Crashes	323	6
Occupants of Other Vehicles in Crashes Involving Large Trucks	3,944	76
Nonoccupants (Pedestrians, Pedalcyclists, etc.)	465	9
Total	5,212	100
Type of Injury	Number	Percentage of Total
Occupants of Large Trucks	27,000	24
Single-Vehicle Crashes	10,000	9
Multiple-Vehicle Crashes	17,000	15
Occupants of Other Vehicles in Crashes Involving Large Trucks	84,000	74
Nonoccupants (Pedestrians, Pedalcyclists, etc.)	2,000	2
Total	113,000	100

“In 2005, large trucks were 2.6 times more likely than 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 (83 percent of all large trucks involved in fatal crashes, compared with 61 percent of all passenger vehicles).

In 30 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 2.6 times as often as the other vehicle (18 percent and 7 percent, respectively).

Table 3
Principal Impact Points in Two-Vehicle Fatal Crashes Involving Large Trucks, 2005

Impact Point on Large Truck	Impact Point on Other Vehicle				Total
	Front	Left Side	Right Side	Rear	
Front	30	16	12	6	64
Left Side	8	1	1	0	11
Right Side	5	1	0	0	6
Rear	17	0	0	0	18
Total	61	18	14	7	100

In half (50%) 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 8 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% and 2%, respectively).

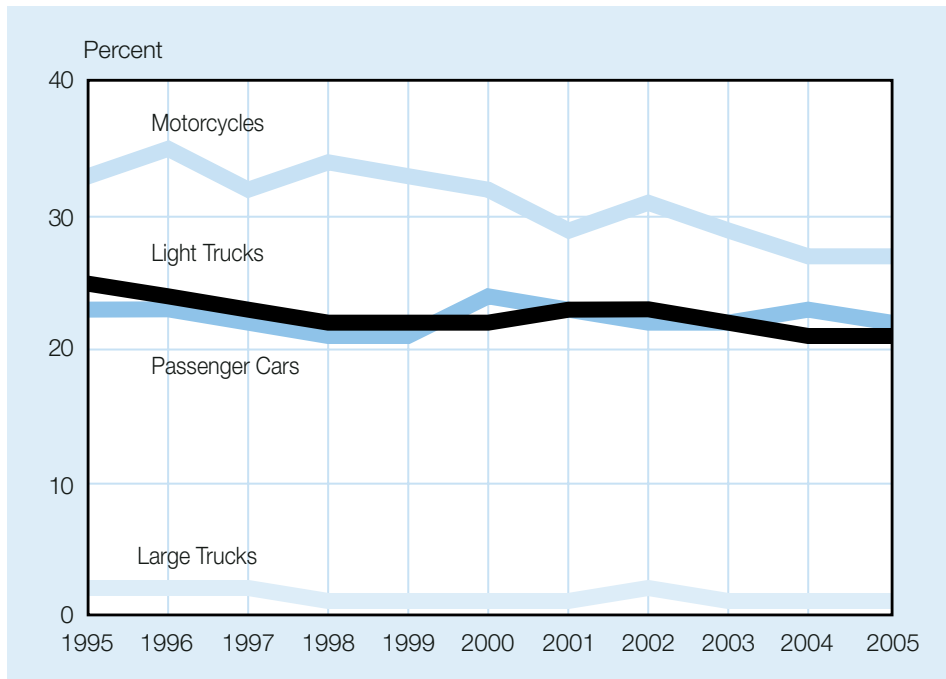
Most of the fatal crashes involving large trucks occurred in rural areas (61%), during the daytime (67%), and on weekdays (81%). During the week, 74 percent of the crashes occurred during the daytime (6 a.m. to 5:59 p.m.). On weekends, 60 percent occurred at night (6 p.m. to 5:59 a.m.).

The percentage of large-truck drivers involved in fatal crashes who had a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 grams per deciliter (g/dL) or higher was 1 percent in 2005. For drivers of other types of vehicles involved in fatal crashes in 2005, the percentages of drivers with BAC levels .08 g/dL or higher were 22 percent for passenger cars, 21 percent for light trucks, and 27 percent for motorcycles.

Drivers of large trucks were less likely to have a previous license suspension or revocation than were passenger car drivers (7% and 14%, respectively).

“In 2005, 1 percent of the drivers of large trucks involved in fatal crashes had BAC levels above .08.”

Figure 1
Estimated Proportions of Drivers in Fatal Crashes with BAC .08 g/dL or Greater, 1995-2005



“Drivers of large trucks were less likely to have a previous license suspension or revocation than were passenger car drivers.”

Less than one-fourth (24%) of all large truck drivers involved in fatal crashes in 2005 had at least one prior speeding conviction, compared to 19 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, 2005

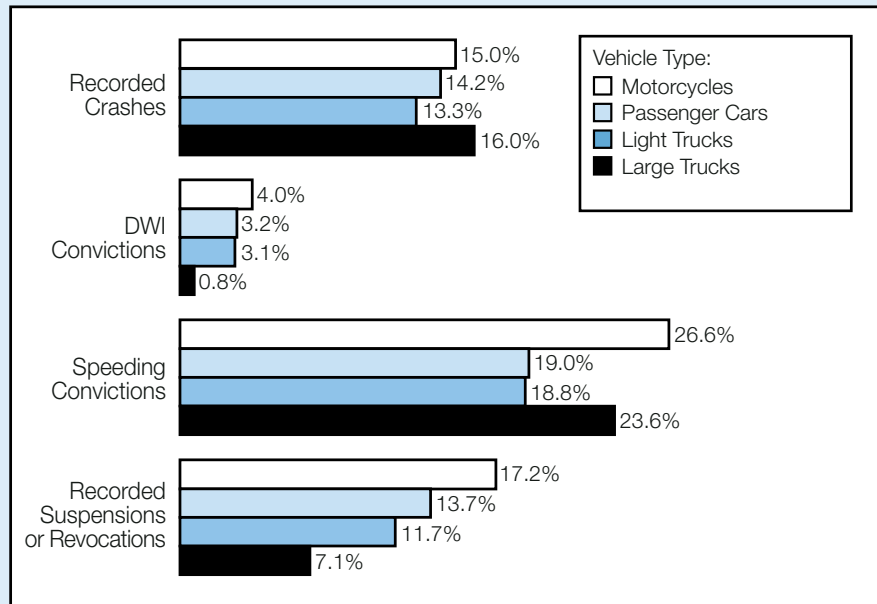


Table 4
Large Truck Involvement in Fatal Crashes by State, 2005

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	1,539	119	7.7	2.4
Alaska	102	4	3.9	0.1
Arizona	1,586	88	5.5	1.8
Arkansas	890	132	14.8	2.7
California	5,814	376	6.5	7.6
Colorado	851	65	7.6	1.3
Connecticut	388	18	4.6	0.4
Delaware	196	8	4.1	0.2
Dist of Columbia	57	3	5.3	0.1
Florida	5,014	389	7.8	7.9
Georgia	2,510	240	9.6	4.9
Hawaii	177	4	2.3	0.1
Idaho	338	31	9.2	0.6
Illinois	1,938	195	10.1	4
Indiana	1,319	137	10.4	2.8
Iowa	599	65	10.9	1.3
Kansas	578	72	12.5	1.5
Kentucky	1,323	117	8.8	2.4
Louisiana	1,331	121	9.1	2.5
Maine	225	18	8	0.4
Maryland	904	57	6.3	1.2
Massachusetts	600	24	4	0.5
Michigan	1,634	106	6.5	2.1
Minnesota	771	60	7.8	1.2
Mississippi	1,163	80	6.9	1.6
Missouri	1,670	152	9.1	3.1
Montana	287	22	7.7	0.4
Nebraska	369	46	12.5	0.9
Nevada	586	49	8.4	1
New Hampshire	227	11	4.8	0.2
New Jersey	1,059	106	10	2.1
New Mexico	583	57	9.8	1.2
New York	1,895	139	7.3	2.8
North Carolina	2,119	193	9.1	3.9
North Dakota	133	10	7.5	0.2
Ohio	1,943	174	9	3.5
Oklahoma	1,069	111	10.4	2.3
Oregon	689	60	8.7	1.2
Pennsylvania	2,285	188	8.2	3.8
Rhode Island	113	1	0.9	0
South Carolina	1,424	119	8.4	2.4
South Dakota	226	15	6.6	0.3
Tennessee	1,752	143	8.2	2.9
Texas	4,767	455	9.5	9.2
Utah	363	28	7.7	0.6
Vermont	102	10	9.8	0.2
Virginia	1,247	106	8.5	2.1
Washington	858	57	6.6	1.2
West Virginia	502	49	9.8	1
Wisconsin	1,063	78	7.3	1.6
Wyoming	195	24	12.3	0.5
U.S. Total	59,373	4,932	8.3	100
Puerto Rico	595	37	6.2	100

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

For more information:

Information on large truck traffic fatalities is available from the National Center for Statistics and Analysis, NPO-101, 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 at 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, Alcohol, Bicyclists and Other Cyclists* (formerly titled *Pedalcyclists*), *Children, 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.