



Traffic Safety Facts 1998

Large Trucks



In 1998, 412,000 large trucks (gross vehicle weight rating greater than 10,000 pounds) were involved in traffic crashes in the United States; 4,935 were involved in fatal crashes. A total of 5,374 people died (13 percent of all the traffic fatalities reported in 1998) and an additional 127,000 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 1997 (1998 registered vehicle and vehicle miles traveled data not available).

One out of eight traffic fatalities in 1998 resulted from a collision involving a large truck.

Table 1. Involvement in Fatal and Injury Crashes and Involvement Rates for Large Trucks, 1988-1998

Year	Number of Large Trucks Involved in Fatal Crashes	Number of Large Trucks Registered	Vehicle Involvement Rate *	Vehicle Miles Traveled (millions)	Vehicle Involvement Rate **
1988	5,241	6,136,884	85.4	137,985	3.8
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	4,935	--	--	--	--

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	6,136,884	1,562	137,985	69
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	--	--	--	--

* 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 1998 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, 76 percent were occupants of another vehicle, 2 percent were nonoccupants, and 23 percent were occupants of a large truck.

Table 2. Fatalities and Injuries in Crashes Involving Large Trucks, 1998

Type of Fatality	Number	Percentage of Total
Occupants of Large Trucks	728	14
<i>Single-Vehicle Crashes</i>	481	9
<i>Multiple-Vehicle Crashes</i>	247	5
Occupants of Other Vehicles in Crashes Involving Large Trucks	4,212	78
Nonoccupants (Pedestrians, Pedalcyclists, etc.)	434	8
Total	5,374	100

Type of Injury	Number	Percentage of Total
Occupants of Large Trucks	29,000	23
<i>Single-Vehicle Crashes</i>	14,000	11
<i>Multiple-Vehicle Crashes</i>	14,000	11
Occupants of Other Vehicles in Crashes Involving Large Trucks	97,000	76
Nonoccupants (Pedestrians, Pedalcyclists, etc.)	2,000	2
Total	127,000	100

“In 1998, 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 all 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 (17 percent and 6 percent, respectively).

Table 3. Principal Impact Points in Two-Vehicle Fatal Crashes Involving Large Trucks, 1998

Impact Point on Large Truck	Impact Point on Other Vehicle				
	Front	Left Side	Right Side	Rear	Total
Front	31%	17%	13%	6%	67%
Left Side	9%	<1%	<1%	<1%	11%
Right Side	5%	<1%	<1%	<1%	6%
Rear	16%	<1%	<1%	<1%	17%
Total	61%	19%	14%	6%	100%

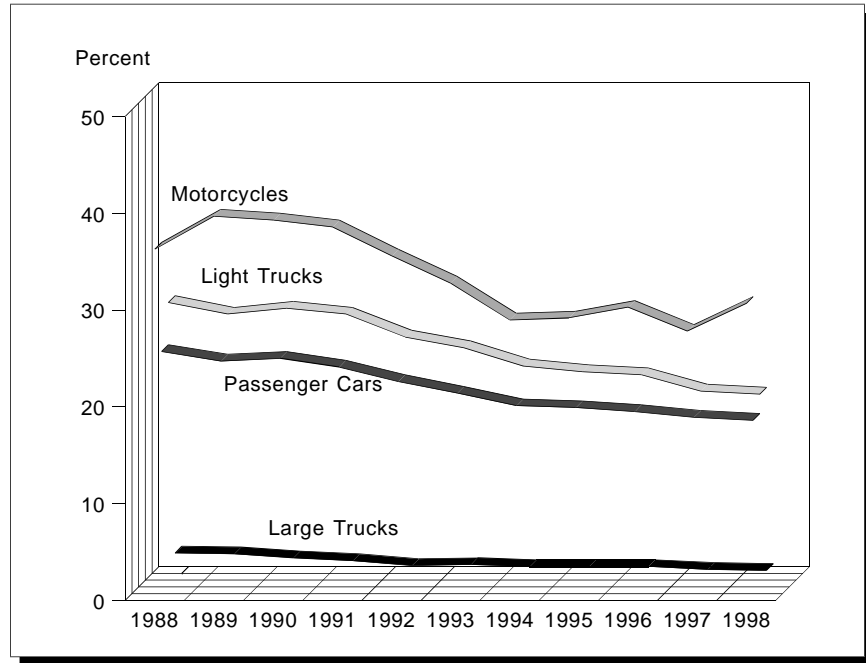
In half of the two-vehicle fatal crashes involving a large truck and another type of vehicle, both vehicles were proceeding straight at the time of the crash. In 10 percent of the crashes, the other vehicle was turning. In 10 percent, either the truck or the other vehicle was negotiating a curve. In 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 (67 percent), during the daytime (68 percent), and on weekdays (80 percent). During the week, 75 percent of the crashes occurred during the daytime (6:00 AM to 5:59 PM). On weekends, 59 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 1998. Intoxication rates for drivers of other types of vehicles involved in fatal crashes in 1998 were 18 percent for passenger cars, 20 percent for light trucks, and 31 percent for motorcycles.

“The intoxication rate for drivers of large trucks involved in fatal crashes in 1998 was 1 percent.”

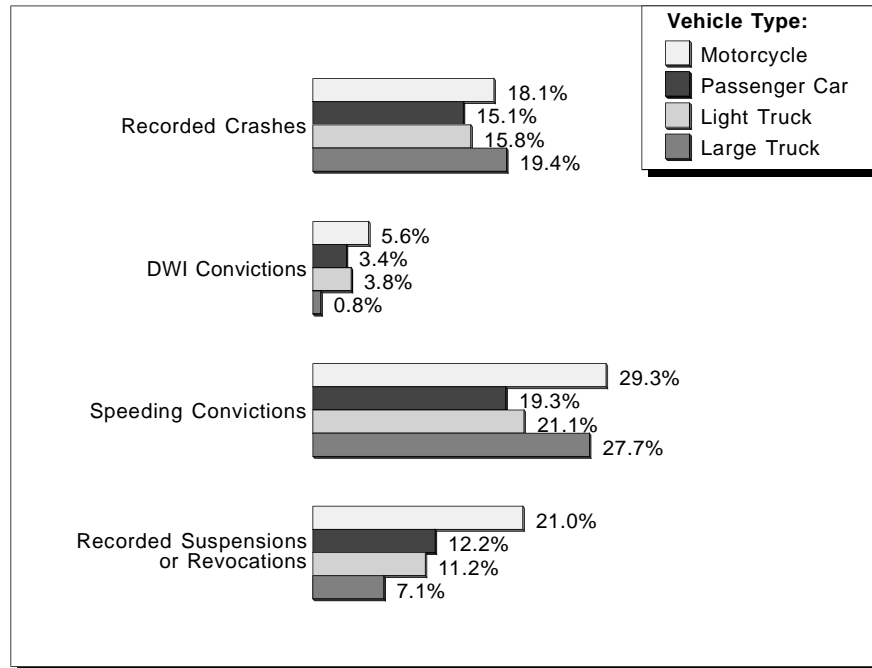
Figure 1. Estimated Proportions of Drivers in Fatal Crashes With BAC 0.10 g/dl or Greater, 1988-1998



Drivers of large trucks were less likely to have a previous license suspension or revocation than were passenger car drivers (7 percent and 12 percent, respectively).

Almost 30 percent of all large truck drivers involved in fatal crashes in 1998 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, 1998



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/nrsa>. 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, 1998

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	1,465	149	10.2	3.0
Alaska	87	1	1.1	0.0
Arizona	1,291	98	7.6	2.0
Arkansas	836	105	12.6	2.1
California	4,762	365	7.7	7.4
Colorado	848	52	6.1	1.1
Connecticut	455	29	6.4	0.6
Delaware	170	18	10.6	0.4
District of Columbia	81	1	1.2	0.0
Florida	4,114	317	7.7	6.4
Georgia	2,192	195	8.9	4.0
Hawaii	178	4	2.2	0.1
Idaho	325	23	7.1	0.5
Illinois	1,945	185	9.5	3.7
Indiana	1,376	179	13.0	3.6
Iowa	649	83	12.8	1.7
Kansas	667	79	11.8	1.6
Kentucky	1,192	97	8.1	2.0
Louisiana	1,263	140	11.1	2.8
Maine	253	21	8.3	0.4
Maryland	877	65	7.4	1.3
Massachusetts	561	37	6.6	0.7
Michigan	2,020	147	7.3	3.0
Minnesota	893	78	8.7	1.6
Mississippi	1,251	104	8.3	2.1
Missouri	1,573	155	9.9	3.1
Montana	277	18	6.5	0.4
Nebraska	402	41	10.2	0.8
Nevada	487	34	7.0	0.7
New Hampshire	171	10	5.8	0.2
New Jersey	1,024	64	6.3	1.3
New Mexico	508	44	8.7	0.9
New York	2,039	134	6.6	2.7
North Carolina	2,211	228	10.3	4.6
North Dakota	109	8	7.3	0.2
Ohio	1,983	189	9.5	3.8
Oklahoma	988	106	10.7	2.1
Oregon	715	68	9.5	1.4
Pennsylvania	2,052	178	8.7	3.6
Rhode Island	98	3	3.1	0.1
South Carolina	1,353	118	8.7	2.4
South Dakota	215	14	6.5	0.3
Tennessee	1,711	136	7.9	2.8
Texas	4,894	422	8.6	8.6
Utah	443	44	9.9	0.9
Vermont	124	10	8.1	0.2
Virginia	1,227	109	8.9	2.2
Washington	904	69	7.6	1.4
West Virginia	468	41	8.8	0.8
Wisconsin	965	90	9.3	1.8
Wyoming	173	30	17.3	0.6
U.S. Total	56,865	4,935	8.7	100.0
Puerto Rico	716	33	4.6	--

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