

# Traffic Safety Facts

## Crash Stats

DOT HS 810 791

A Brief Statistical Summary

July 2007

## 2006 Traffic Safety Annual Assessment – A Preview

A preview of results from the 2006 Annual Assessment of Motor Vehicle Traffic Crash Fatalities and Injuries shows that the number of people killed in the United States in motor vehicle traffic crashes declined from 43,510 in 2005 to 42,642, the lowest level in five years. This decline is the largest in terms of both number and percentage since 1992. The preview data (see Table 1) shows the decline in fatalities occurred for passenger car occupants, light-truck occupants, and nonmotorists (pedestrian and pedalcyclists). However, motorcycle rider fatalities continued their nine-year increase, reaching 4,810 in 2006. Motorcycle rider fatalities now account for 11 percent of total fatalities, exceeding the number of pedestrian fatalities for the first time since NHTSA began collecting fatal motor vehicle crash data in 1975. The drop in passenger car occupant fatalities was for the fourth year in a row, while the drop in light-truck occupant fatalities was the first since 1992.

The preview also shows that the estimate of the number of people injured in motor vehicle traffic crashes declined for the seventh year in a row (see Chart 2, overleaf). In 2006 just under 2.6 million people were injured compared to nearly 2.7 million in 2005 (see Table 2). The preview data shows that the number of people injured declined in all categories except motorcycle riders and that the decline was highest for large-truck occupants and passenger car occupants.

In other important results, the preview shows that the Motor Vehicle Traffic Crash Fatality Rate per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT) dropped to 1.42 (Table 3). This is the lowest rate recorded by the Department of Transportation (Chart 1, overleaf). The overall injury rate also declined. The 2006 rates are based on the latest (March 2007) Traffic Volume Trend estimates from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), which showed that 2006 VMT increased by 0.2 percent over 2005 VMT – from 2.989 trillion to 2.996 trillion FHWA will update the VMT data later during the year with its official release of the Annual Highway Statistics for 2006.

Also, fatalities in alcohol-related crashes in 2006 remained essentially the same as in 2005 (Table 4). Alcohol-related fatalities increased by 19 (0.1%) in crashes where the highest blood alcohol concentration (BAC) was .08 grams per deciliter (g/dL) or greater. The data indicates that declines in fatalities between 2005 and 2006 were essentially in crashes where there was no alcohol involvement.

**Table 1: Motorists and Nonmotorists Killed in Traffic Crashes**

Description	2005	2006	Change	% Change
Total*	43,510	42,642	-868	-2.0%
<i>Motorists Killed in</i>				
Passenger Vehicles	31,549	30,521	-1,028	-3.3%
Passenger Cars	18,512	17,800	-712	-3.8%
Light Trucks	13,037	12,721	-316	-2.4%
Large Trucks	804	805	+1	+0.1%
Motorcycles	4,576	4,810	+234	+5.1%
<i>Nonmotorists Killed</i>				
Pedestrians	4,892	4,784	-108	-2.2%
Pedalcyclists	786	773	-13	-1.7%
Other/Unknown	186	183	-3	-1.6%

Source: FARS 2005 [Final], 2006 Annual Report File [ARF]  
\* Total includes other/unknown occupants not shown in table

**Table 2: Motorists and Nonmotorists Injured in Traffic Crashes**

Description	2005	2006	Change	% Change
Total *	2,699,000	2,575,000	-124,000	-4.6%
<i>Motorists Injured in</i>				
Passenger Vehicles	2,446,000	2,331,000	-115,000	-4.7%
Passenger Cars	1,573,000	1,475,000	-98,000	-6.2%
Light Trucks	872,000	857,000	-15,000	-1.7%
Large Trucks	27,000	23,000	-4,000	-15%
Motorcycles	87,000	88,000	+1,000	+1.1%
<i>Nonmotorists Injured</i>				
Pedestrians	64,000	61,000	-3,000	-4.7%
Pedalcyclists	45,000	44,000	-1,000	-2.2%
Other/Unknown	8,000	7,000	-1,000	-13%

Source: NASS GES 2005, 2006 Annual Files  
\* Total includes other/unknown occupants not shown in table  
Numbers in bold are statistically significant.

**Table 3: Fatality and Injury Rates per 100M VMT**

Measure	2005	2006	Change	% Change
Fatality Rate	1.46	1.42	-0.04	-2.7%
Injury Rate	90	86	-4	-4.4%

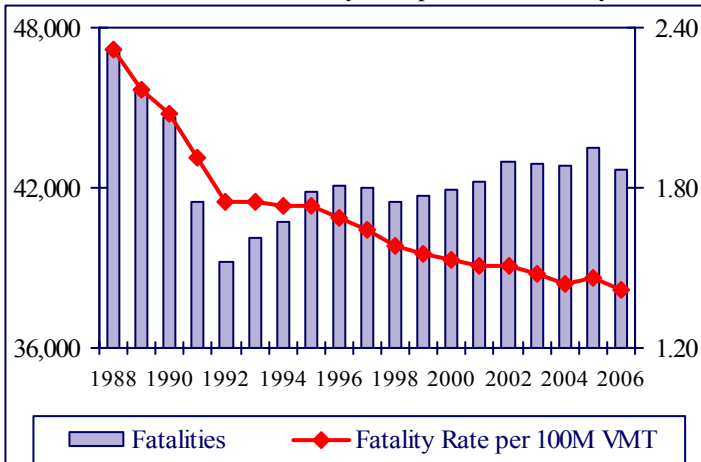
Source: FARS, GES, and FHWA VMT (March 2007 TVT)

**Table 4: Fatalities by Highest BAC in the Crash**

BAC Level	2005	2006	Change	% Change
BAC .01+	17,590	17,602	+12	+0.1%
BAC .08+	15,102	15,121	+19	+0.1%

Source: FARS 2005 [Final], 2006 Annual Report File [ARF]

**Chart 1: Fatalities and Fatality Rate per 100M VMT by Year**



**Chart 2: People Injured and Injury Rate per 100M VMT by Year**

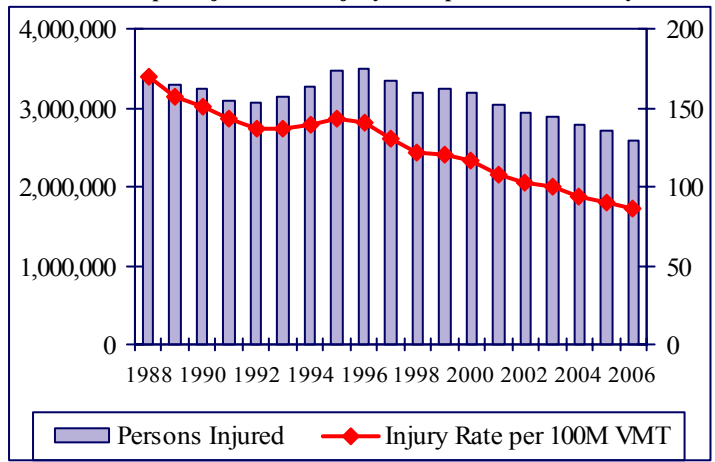


Table 5 (below) compares the total number of fatalities for 2005 and 2006, the change in the number of fatalities, and the percent change for each State, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Twenty-seven States and the District of Columbia had reductions in the number of fatalities.

**Table 5: People Killed in Motor Vehicle Crashes, by State, 2005-2006**

State	2005	2006	Change	% Change	State	2005	2006	Change	% Change
Alabama	1,148	1,208	+60	+5.2%	Montana	251	263	+12	+4.8%
Alaska	73	74	+1	+1.4%	Nebraska	276	269	-7	-2.5%
Arizona	1,179	1,288	+109	+9.2%	Nevada	427	432	+5	+1.2%
Arkansas	654	665	+11	+1.7%	New Hampshire	166	127	-39	-23%
California	4,333	4,236	-97	-2.2%	New Jersey	747	772	+25	+3.3%
Colorado	606	535	-71	-12%	New Mexico	488	484	-4	-0.8%
Connecticut	278	301	+23	+8.3%	New York	1,434	1,456	+22	+1.5%
Delaware	133	148	+15	+11%	North Carolina	1,547	1,559	+12	+0.8%
District of Columbia	48	37	-11	-23%	North Dakota	123	111	-12	-9.8%
Florida	3,518	3,374	-144	-4.1%	Ohio	1,321	1,238	-83	-6.3%
Georgia	1,729	1,693	-36	-2.1%	Oklahoma	803	765	-38	-4.7%
Hawaii	140	161	+21	+15%	Oregon	487	477	-10	-2.1%
Idaho	275	267	-8	-2.9%	Pennsylvania	1,616	1,525	-91	-5.6%
Illinois	1,363	1,254	-109	-8.0%	Rhode Island	87	81	-6	-6.9%
Indiana	938	899	-39	-4.2%	South Carolina	1,094	1,037	-57	-5.2%
Iowa	450	439	-11	-2.4%	South Dakota	186	191	+5	+2.7%
Kansas	428	468	+40	+9.3%	Tennessee	1,270	1,287	+17	+1.3%
Kentucky	985	913	-72	-7.3%	Texas	3,536	3,475	-61	-1.7%
Louisiana	963	982	+19	+2.0%	Utah	282	287	+5	+1.8%
Maine	169	188	+19	+11%	Vermont	73	87	+14	+19%
Maryland	614	651	+37	+6.0%	Virginia	947	963	+16	+1.7%
Massachusetts	441	430	-11	-2.5%	Washington	649	630	-19	-2.9%
Michigan	1,129	1,085	-44	-3.9%	West Virginia	374	410	+36	+9.6%
Minnesota	559	494	-65	-12%	Wisconsin	815	724	-91	-11%
Mississippi	931	911	-20	-2.1%	Wyoming	170	195	+25	+15%
Missouri	1,257	1,096	-161	-13%	US (excluding PR)	43,510	42,642	-868	-2.0%
					Puerto Rico	457	507	+50	+11%

Source: FARS 2005 [Final], 2006 Annual Report File [ARF]  
States in green indicate decline in fatalities and States in red indicate increase in fatalities.

NHTSA's Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) is a census of all crashes of motor vehicles traveling on public roadways in which a person died within 30 days of the crash. Data for the National Automotive Sampling System (NASS) General Estimates System (GES) comes from a nationally representative sample of police-reported motor vehicle crashes of all types, from property-damage-only to fatal.

The information in this Crash•Stats represents only major findings from the 2006 Annual Assessment of Motor Vehicle Traffic Crash Fatalities and Injuries. Additional information and details will be available at a later date. Internet users may access this Crash •Stats and other general information on traffic safety at:

<http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/CMSWeb/index.aspx>