## Overview

> "In 2003, there were an estimated 6,328,000 police-reported traffic crashes, in which 42,643 people were killed and 2,889,000 people were injured; 4,365,000 crashes involved property damage only."

## Introduction

Motor vehicle travel is the primary means of transportation in the United States, providing an unprecedented degree of mobility. Yet for all its advantages, deaths and injuries resulting from motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for persons of every age from 2 through 33 years old (based on 2000 data). Traffic fatalities account for more than 90 percent of transportation-related fatalities. The mission of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is to reduce deaths, injuries, and economic losses from motor vehicle crashes.

Fortunately, much progress has been made in reducing the number of deaths and serious injuries on our nation's highways. In 2003, the fatality rate per 100 million vehicle miles of travel fell to a new historic low of 1.48. The 1993 rate was 1.75 per 100 million vehicle miles traveled. A 79 percent safety belt use rate nationwide and a reduction in the rate of alcohol involvement in fatal crashes - to 40 percent in 2003 from 45 percent in 1993 - were significant contributions to maintaining this consistently low fatality rate. However, much remains to be done. The economic cost alone of motor vehicle crashes in 2000 was $\$ 230.6$ billion.

In 2003, 42,643 people were killed in the estimated 6,328,000 policereported motor vehicle traffic crashes, $2,889,000$ people were injured, and 4,365,000 crashes involved property damage only.

This overview fact sheet contains statistics on motor vehicle fatalities based on data from the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS). FARS is a census of fatal crashes within the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico (although Puerto Rico is not included in U.S. totals). Crash and injury statistics are based on data from the General Estimates System (GES). GES is a probability-based sample of police-reported crashes, from 60 locations across the country, from which estimates of national totals for injury and property-damage-only crashes are derived.

Other fact sheets available from the National Center for Statistics and Analysis are Alcohol, Occupant Protection, Speeding, Children, Young Drivers, Older Population, Pedestrians, Pedalcyclists, Motorcycles, Large Trucks, School Transportation-Related Crashes, State Traffic Data, and State Alcohol Estimates. 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.
> "An average of 117 persons died each day in motor vehicle crashes in 2003 - one every 12 minutes."

## Summary

In 2003, 42,643 people lost their lives in motor vehicle crashes - a decrease of 0.8 percent from $2002(43,005)$.
The fatality rate per 100 million vehicle miles of travel in 2003 was 1.48 . The injury rate per 100 million vehicle miles of travel in 2003 was 100 . The fatality rate per 100,000 population was 14.66 in 2003, a decrease of 2 percent from the 2002 rate of 14.93 .

An average of 117 persons died each day in motor vehicle crashes in 2003 - one every 12 minutes.

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for every age from 2 through 33 years old.
Vehicle occupants accounted for 87 percent of traffic fatalities in 2003. The remaining 13 percent were pedestrians, pedalcyclists, and other nonoccupants.

Table 1

## Motor Vehicle Occupants and Nonoccupants Killed and Injured, 1993-2003

| Year | Occupants |  |  |  |  |  |  | Nonoccupants |  |  |  | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{array}{\|c} \hline \text { Passenger } \\ \text { Cars } \end{array}$ | Light Trucks | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Large } \\ & \text { Trucks } \end{aligned}$ | Motorcycles | Buses | Other/ Unknown | Total | $\begin{gathered} \text { Pedes- } \\ \text { trian } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | Pedalcyclist | Other | Total |  |
|  | Killed |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1993 | 21,566 | 8,511 | 605 | 2,449 | 18 | 425 | 33,574 | 5,649 | 816 | 111 | 6,576 | 40,150 |
| 1994 | 21,997 | 8,904 | 670 | 2,320 | 18 | 409 | 34,318 | 5,489 | 802 | 107 | 6,398 | 40,716 |
| 1995 | 22,423 | 9,568 | 648 | 2,227 | 33 | 392 | 35,291 | 5,584 | 833 | 109 | 6,526 | 41,817 |
| 1996 | 22,505 | 9,932 | 621 | 2,161 | 21 | 455 | 35,695 | 5,449 | 765 | 154 | 6,368 | 42,065 |
| 1997 | 22,199 | 10,249 | 723 | 2,116 | 18 | 420 | 35,725 | 5,321 | 814 | 153 | 6,288 | 42,013 |
| 1998 | 21,194 | 10,705 | 742 | 2,294 | 38 | 409 | 35,382 | 5,228 | 760 | 131 | 6,119 | 41,501 |
| 1999 | 20,862 | 11,265 | 759 | 2,483 | 59 | 447 | 35,875 | 4,939 | 754 | 149 | 5,842 | 41,717 |
| 2000 | 20,699 | 11,526 | 754 | 2,897 | 22 | 450 | 36,348 | 4,763 | 693 | 141 | 5,597 | 41,945 |
| 2001 | 20,320 | 11,723 | 708 | 3,197 | 34 | 458 | 36,440 | 4,901 | 732 | 123 | 5,756 | 42,196 |
| 2002 | 20,569 | 12,274 | 689 | 3,270 | 45 | 528 | 37,375 | 4,851 | 665 | 114 | 5,630 | 43,005 |
| 2003 | 19,460 | 12,444 | 723 | 3,661 | 40 | 804 | 37,132 | 4,749 | 622 | 140 | 5,511 | 42,643 |
| Injured |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1993 | 2,265,000 | 601,000 | 32,000 | 59,000 | 17,000 | 4,000 | 2,978,000 | 94,000 | 68,000 | 9,000 | 171,000 | 3,149,000 |
| 1994 | 2,364,000 | 631,000 | 30,000 | 57,000 | 16,000 | 4,000 | 3,102,000 | 92,000 | 62,000 | 9,000 | 164,000 | 3,266,000 |
| 1995 | 2,469,000 | 722,000 | 30,000 | 57,000 | 19,000 | 4,000 | 3,303,000 | 86,000 | 67,000 | 10,000 | 162,000 | 3,465,000 |
| 1996 | 2,458,000 | 761,000 | 33,000 | 55,000 | 20,000 | 4,000 | 3,332,000 | 82,000 | 58,000 | 11,000 | 151,000 | 3,483,000 |
| 1997 | 2,341,000 | 755,000 | 31,000 | 53,000 | 17,000 | 6,000 | 3,201,000 | 77,000 | 58,000 | 11,000 | 146,000 | 3,348,000 |
| 1998 | 2,201,000 | 763,000 | 29,000 | 49,000 | 16,000 | 4,000 | 3,061,000 | 69,000 | 53,000 | 8,000 | 131,000 | 3,192,000 |
| 1999 | 2,138,000 | 847,000 | 33,000 | 50,000 | 22,000 | 7,000 | 3,097,000 | 85,000 | 51,000 | 3,000 | 140,000 | 3,236,000 |
| 2000 | 2,052,000 | 887,000 | 31,000 | 58,000 | 18,000 | 10,000 | 3,055,000 | 78,000 | 51,000 | 5,000 | 134,000 | 3,189,000 |
| 2001 | 1,927,000 | 861,000 | 29,000 | 60,000 | 15,000 | 9,000 | 2,901,000 | 78,000 | 45,000 | 8,000 | 131,000 | 3,033,000 |
| 2002 | 1,805,000 | 879,000 | 26,000 | 65,000 | 19,000 | 6,000 | 2,800,000 | 71,000 | 48,000 | 7,000 | 126,000 | 2,926,000 |
| 2003 | 1,756,000 | 889,000 | 27,000 | 67,000 | 18,000 | 7,000 | 2,764,000 | 70,000 | 46,000 | 8,000 | 124,000 | 2,889,000 |

## For more information:

Information on traffic safety is available from the National Center for Statistics and Analysis, NPO-101, 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) 3667078. General information on highway traffic safety can be accessed by Internet users at http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/ncsa. To report a safetyrelated problem or to inquire about motor vehicle safety information, contact the DOT Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236.

Table 2
Persons Killed and Injured and Fatality and Injury Rates, 1993-2003

| Killed |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Year | Killed | Resident Population (Thousands) | Fatality Rate per 100,000 Population | Licensed Drivers (Thousands) | Fatality Rate per 100,000 Licensed Drivers | Registered Motor Vehicles (Thousands) | Fatality Rate per 100,000 Registered Vehicles | Vehicle Miles Traveled (Billions) | Fatality Rate per 100 Million VMT |
| 1993 | 40,150 | 257,783 | 15.58 | 173,149 | 23.19 | 188,350 | 21.32 | 2,296 | 1.75 |
| 1994 | 40,716 | 260,327 | 15.64 | 175,403 | 23.21 | 192,497 | 21.15 | 2,358 | 1.73 |
| 1995 | 41,817 | 262,803 | 15.91 | 176,628 | 23.68 | 197,065 | 21.22 | 2,423 | 1.73 |
| 1996 | 42,065 | 265,229 | 15.86 | 179,539 | 23.43 | 201,631 | 20.86 | 2,486 | 1.69 |
| 1997 | 42,013 | 267,784 | 15.69 | 182,709 | 22.99 | 203,568 | 20.64 | 2,562 | 1.64 |
| 1998 | 41,501 | 270,248 | 15.36 | 184,980 | 22.44 | 208,076 | 19.95 | 2,632 | 1.58 |
| 1999 | 41,717 | 272,691 | 15.3 | 187,170 | 22.29 | 212,685 | 19.61 | 2,691 | 1.55 |
| 2000 | 41,945 | 282,224 | 14.86 | 190,625 | 22 | 217,028 | 19.33 | 2,747 | 1.53 |
| 2001 | 42,196 | 285,094 | 14.8 | 191,276 | 22.06 | 221,230 | 19.07 | 2,797 | 1.51 |
| 2002 | 43,005 | 287,974 | 14.93 | 194,296 | 22.13 | 225,685 | 19.06 | 2,856 | 1.51 |
| 2003 | 42,643 | 290,810 | 14.66 | * | * | * | * | 2,880 | 1.48 |
| Injured |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Year | Injured | Resident Population (Thousands) | Injury Rate per 100,000 Population | Licensed Drivers (Thousands) | Injury Rate per 100,000 Licensed Drivers | Registered Motor Vehicles (Thousands) | Injury Rate per 100,000 Registered Vehicles | Vehicle Miles Traveled (Billions) | Fatality Rate per 100 Million VMT |
| 1993 | 3,149,000 | 257,783 | 1,222 | 173,149 | 1,819 | 188,350 | 1,672 | 2,296 | 137 |
| 1994 | 3,266,000 | 260,327 | 1,255 | 175,403 | 1,862 | 192,497 | 1,697 | 2,358 | 139 |
| 1995 | 3,465,000 | 262,803 | 1,319 | 176,628 | 1,962 | 197,065 | 1,758 | 2,423 | 143 |
| 1996 | 3,483,000 | 265,229 | 1,313 | 179,539 | 1,940 | 201,631 | 1,728 | 2,486 | 140 |
| 1997 | 3,348,000 | 267,784 | 1,250 | 182,709 | 1,832 | 203,568 | 1,644 | 2,562 | 131 |
| 1998 | 3,192,000 | 270,248 | 1,181 | 184,980 | 1,726 | 208,076 | 1,534 | 2,632 | 121 |
| 1999 | 3,236,000 | 272,691 | 1,187 | 187,170 | 1,729 | 212,685 | 1,522 | 2,691 | 120 |
| 2000 | 3,189,000 | 282,224 | 1,130 | 190,625 | 1,673 | 217,028 | 1,469 | 2,747 | 116 |
| 2001 | 3,033,000 | 285,094 | 1,064 | 191,276 | 1,585 | 221,230 | 1,371 | 2,797 | 108 |
| 2002 | 2,926,000 | 287,974 | 1,016 | 194,296 | 1,506 | 225,685 | 1,296 | 2,856 | 102 |
| 2003 | 2,889,000 | 290,810 | 993 | * | * | * | * | 2,880 | 100 |

*Data not available.
Sources: Vehicle Miles of Travel and Licensed Drivers - Federal Highway Administration; Registered Vehicles - R.L. Polk \& Co. and Federal Highway Administration; Population - U.S. Bureau of the Census.

## Occupant Protection

In 2003, 49 states and the District of Columbia had safety belt use laws in effect. Use rates vary widely from state to state, reflecting factors such as differences in public attitudes, enforcement practices, legal provisions, and public information and education programs.

From 1975 through 2003, it is estimated that safety belts saved 179,756 lives, including 14,903 lives saved in 2003. If ALL passenger vehicle occupants over age 4 wore safety belts, 20,984 lives (that is, an additional $6,081)$ could have been saved in 2003.

In 2003, it is estimated that 446 children under age 5 were saved as a result of child restraint use. An estimated 7,020 lives were saved by child restraints from 1975 through 2003.

Children in rear-facing child seats should not be placed in the front seat of cars equipped with passenger-side air bags. The impact of a deploying

## "NHTSA estimates

that 14,903 lives were saved in 2003 by the use of safety belts."
> "Alcohol-related traffic fatalities rose to 17,013 in 2003 - 40 percent of all traffic fatalities for the year."
air bag striking a rear-facing child seat could result in injury to the child. NHTSA also recommends that children 12 and under sit in the rear seat away from the force of a deploying air bag.

In 2003, 36 percent of passenger car occupants and 40 percent of light truck occupants involved in fatal crashes were unrestrained.

In fatal crashes, 74 percent of passenger vehicle occupants who were totally ejected from the vehicle were killed. Safety belts are effective in preventing total ejections: only 1 percent of the occupants reported to have been using restraints were totally ejected, compared with 29 percent of the unrestrained occupants.

Table 3
Restraint Use Rates for Passenger Vehicle Occupants in Fatal Crashes, 1993 and 2003

| Type of Occupant | Restraint Use Rate (Percent) |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\mathbf{1 9 9 3}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 0 3}$ |
| Drivers | 52 | 65 |
| Passengers | 49 |  |
| Front Seat | 35 | 65 |
| Rear Seat | 40 | 55 |
| 5 Years Old and Over | 57 | 56 |
| 4 Years Old and Under | 42 | 81 |
| All Passengers | $\mathbf{4 8}$ | 58 |
| All Occupants | $\mathbf{6 2}$ |  |

## Alcohol

In 2003 there were 17,013 fatalities in alcohol-related crashes. This is a decrease of 2.9 percent compared to 2002 ( 17,524 fatalities), and it represents an average of one alcohol-related fatality every 31 minutes.

The 17,013 alcohol-related fatalities in 2003 ( 40 percent of total traffic fatalities for the year) represent a 5 percent reduction from the 17,908 alcohol-related fatalities reported in 1993 ( 45 percent of the total).

NHTSA estimates that alcohol was involved in 40 percent of fatal crashes and in 7 percent of all crashes in 2003.

In 2003, 34 percent of all traffic fatalities occurred in crashes in which at least one driver or nonoccupant had a BAC of $0.08 \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{dl}$ or higher.

Approximately 1.5 million drivers were arrested in 2002 for driving under the influence of alcohol or narcotics. This is an arrest rate of 1 for every 130 licensed drivers in the United States (2003 data not yet available).

In fatal crashes in 2003, 29 percent of motorcycle operators had BAC levels $0.08 \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{dl}$ or higher, as compared with 22 percent for drivers of light trucks, 22 percent for passenger car drivers, and 1 percent for drivers of large trucks.

In fatal crashes in 2003, the highest percentages of drivers with BAC levels $0.08 \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{dl}$ or higher were recorded for drivers 21-24 years old ( 32 percent), followed by ages 25-34 (27 percent) and 35-44 (24 percent).

Figure 1
Drivers with BAC Levels $0.08 \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{dl}$ or Higher Involved in Fatal Crashes by Age Group, 2003

"The highest percentage of drivers in fatal crashes who had BAC levels $0.08 \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{dl}$ or higher was for drivers 21 to 24 years old."
"The economic cost of speeding-related crashes is estimated to be $\$ 40.4$ billion each year."

Figure 2
Previous Driving Records of Drivers Killed in Traffic Crashes, by Blood Alcohol Concentration, 2003


## Speeding

NHTSA has revised the definition of a speeding-related crash. A crash is considered speeding-related if the driver was charged with a speeding-related offense or if an officer indicated that racing, driving too fast for conditions, or exceeding the posted speed limit was a contributing factor in the crash.

Figure 3
Fatal Crashes by Speeding Status, 1993-2003


Speeding is one of the most prevalent factors contributing to traffic crashes. The economic cost to society of speeding-related crashes is estimated by NHTSA to be $\$ 40.4$ billion per year. In 2003, speeding was a contributing factor in 31 percent of all fatal crashes, and 13,380 lives were lost in speeding-related crashes.

For drivers involved in fatal crashes, young males are the most likely to be speeding. The proportion of all crashes that are speeding-related decreases with increasing driver age. In 2003, 39 percent of the male drivers 15 to 20 years old who were involved in fatal crashes were speeding at the time of the crash.

In 2003, 86 percent of speeding-related fatalities occurred on roads that were not Interstate highways.

Alcohol and speeding are clearly a deadly combination. Speeding involvement is prevalent for drivers involved in alcohol-related crashes. In 2003, 41 percent of the drivers with $\mathrm{BAC}=0.08$ or higher who were involved in fatal crashes were speeding, compared with only 14 percent of the drivers with $\mathrm{BAC}=0.00$ involved in fatal crashes.

Figure 4
Speeding Drivers in Fatal Crashes by Age and Sex, 2003


## Motorcycles

The 3,661 motorcyclist fatalities in 2003 accounted for 9 percent of all traffic fatalities for the year. An additional 67,000 motorcycle occupants were injured.

Per vehicle mile traveled in 2002, motorcyclists were 27 times as likely as passenger car occupants to die in a motor vehicle traffic crash and 6 times as likely to be injured.
"In 2003, 39 percent of male drivers 15 to 20 years old involved in fatal crashes were speeding."
"Per vehicle mile, motorcyclists were 27 times as likely as passenger car occupants to die in a traffic crash."

Figure 5
Speeding, Alcohol Involvement, and Failure To Use Restraints Among Drivers Involved in Fatal Crashes by Vehicle Type, 2003
"Speeding involvement for motorcyclists in fatal crashes was about twice as high as for car and light truck drivers."


In 2003, 36 percent of all motorcycle drivers involved in fatal crashes were speeding. The percentage of speeding involvement in fatal crashes was approximately twice as high for motorcyclists as for drivers of passenger cars or light trucks, and the percentage of alcohol involvement was 40 percent higher for motorcyclists.

Figure 6
Percentage of All Drivers Involved in Fatal Crashes That Were Speeding, by BAC Level, 2003


In 2003, 47 percent of fatally injured motorcycle operators and 50 percent of fatally injured passengers were not wearing helmets at the time of the crash.

Nearly one out of four motorcycle operators (24 percent) involved in fatal crashes in 2003 was operating the vehicle with an invalid license at the time of the collision.

The percentage of motorcycle operators involved in fatal crashes in 2003 who had BAC levels $0.08 \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{dl}$ or higher - 29 percent - was higher than for any other type of motor vehicle driver.

NHTSA estimates that helmets saved the lives of 1,158 motorcyclists in 2003. If all motorcyclists had worn helmets, an additional 640 lives could have been saved.

## Large Trucks

In 2003, 12 percent $(4,986)$ of all the motor vehicle traffic fatalities reported involved large trucks (gross vehicle weight rating greater than 10,000 pounds).

Of the fatalities that resulted from crashes involving large trucks, 78 percent were occupants of another vehicle, 8 percent were nonoccupants, and 15 percent were occupants of a large truck.

Table 4
Fatalities and Injuries in Crashes Involving Large Trucks, 2003

| Type of Fatality | Number | Percentage of Total |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Occupants of Large Trucks | 723 | 15 |
| $\quad$ Single-Vehicle Crashes | 456 | 9 |
| Multiple-Vehicle Crashes | 267 | 5 |
| Occupants of Other Vehicles <br> in Crashes Involving Large Trucks <br> Nonoccupants (Pedestrians, | 3,879 | 78 |
| Pedalcyclists, etc.) | 384 | 8 |
| Total | $\mathbf{4 , 9 8 6}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0}$ |
| Type of Injury | $\mathbf{N u m b e r}$ | Percentage of Total |
| Occupants of Large Trucks | 11,000 | 22 |
| Single-Vehicle Crashes | 16,000 | 9 |
| Multiple-Vehicle Crashes | 92,000 | 13 |
| Occupants of Other Vehicles | 3,000 | 3 |
| in Crashes Involving Large Trucks | $\mathbf{1 2 2 , 0 0 0}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0}$ |
| Nonoccupants (Pedestrians, | Pedalcyclists, etc.) |  |
| Total |  |  |

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 in 2003.
More than three-quarters ( 79 percent) of the large trucks involved in fatal crashes in 2003 collided with another motor vehicle in transport.
> "One out of nine traffic fatalities in 2003 resulted from a collision involving a large truck."

## "Ejection from the

 vehicle accounted for 27 percent of all passenger vehicle occupant fatalities.""More than one-half of the passenger vehicle occupants killed in traffic crashes in 2003 were unrestrained."

Only 1 percent of the drivers of large trucks involved in fatal crashes in 2003 had BAC levels $0.08 \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{dl}$ or higher, compared with 22 percent for passenger cars, 22 percent for light trucks, and 29 percent for motorcycles.

## Cars, Light Trucks, and Vans

In 2003, 31,904 occupants of passenger vehicles were killed in traffic crashes and an additional 2,646,000 were injured, accounting for 86 percent of all occupant fatalities (passenger cars 52 percent, light trucks and vans 34 percent) and 96 percent of all occupants injured (passenger cars 64 percent, light trucks and vans 32 percent).
Occupant fatalities in single-vehicle crashes accounted for 43 percent of all motor vehicle fatalities in 2003. Occupant fatalities in multiple-vehicle crashes accounted for 44 percent of all fatalities, and the remaining 13 percent were nonoccupant fatalities (pedestrians, pedalcyclists, etc.).

Figure 7
Fatalities in Traffic Crashes, 1993 and 2003


In 2003, 59 percent of passenger vehicle occupant fatalities occurred in vehicles that sustained frontal damage.
Ejection from the vehicle accounted for 27 percent of all passenger vehicle occupant fatalities. The ejection rate for occupants of light trucks in fatal crashes was nearly twice the rate for passenger car occupants.
More than one-half (56 percent) of the passenger vehicle occupants killed in traffic crashes in 2003 were unrestrained.
Utility vehicles had the highest rollover involvement rate of any vehicle type in fatal crashes - 36 percent, as compared with 24 percent for pickups, 19 percent for vans, and 16 percent for passenger cars.
Utility vehicles also had the highest rollover rate for passenger vehicles in injury crashes - 10 percent, compared with 6 percent for pickups, 4 percent for vans, and 3 percent for passenger cars.

## Driver Age

There are 26 million people age 70 years and older in the United States. In 2003, this age group made up 9.0 percent of the total U.S. resident population, compared with 8.8 percent in 1993. From 1993 to 2003, the growth rate for this older segment of the population was 15 percent higher than the growth rate of the total population.

In 2003, 145,000 older individuals were injured in traffic crashes, accounting for 5 percent of all the people injured in traffic crashes during the year. These older individuals made up 12 percent of all traffic fatalities, 12 percent of all vehicle occupant fatalities, and 16 percent of all pedestrian fatalities.

The percentage of older drivers involved in fatal crashes in 2003 who had BAC levels of $0.08 \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{dl}$ or higher ( 5 percent) was lower than for any other group of adult drivers.

In two-vehicle fatal crashes involving an older driver and a younger driver, the vehicle driven by the older person was twice as likely to be the one that was struck ( 63 percent and 31 percent, respectively). In 44 percent of these crashes, both vehicles were proceeding straight at the time of the collision. In 27 percent, the older driver was turning left - 7 times as often as the younger driver.

## Youth

In 2003, 16- to 24 -year-olds represented 24 percent of all traffic fatalities, compared with 6 percent for ages 0 to 15 , 45 percent for ages 25 to 54 , and 24 percent for ages 55 and over.

On a per population basis, drivers under the age of 25 had the highest rate of involvement in fatal crashes of any age group.

In 2003, 19 percent of 16- to 20-year-old drivers involved in fatal crashes had BAC levels of $0.08 \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{dl}$ or higher. The highest percentages were for drivers 21 to 24 and 25 to 34 years old ( 32 percent and 27 percent, respectively).

More than one-fifth ( 22 percent) of all children between the ages of 5 and 9 years who were killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes were pedestrians. Nearly one-fifth ( 17 percent) of the traffic fatalities under age 16 were pedestrians.

Passenger vehicle occupants 10 to 24 years old involved in fatal crashes had the lowest restraint use rate ( 53 percent), and those over age 65 had the highest rate ( 74 percent).

## Male/Female Fatal Crash Involvement

In 2002, the fatal crash involvement rate per 100,000 population was almost 3 times as high for male drivers as for females.

Males accounted for 68 percent of all traffic fatalities, 69 percent of all pedestrian fatalities, and 88 percent of all pedalcyclist fatalities in 2003.
"In 2003, older people made up 12 percent of all traffic fatalities and 16 percent of all pedestrian fatalities."
> "Males accounted for 68 percent of all traffic fatalities, 69 percent of all pedestrian fatalities, and 88 percent of all pedalcyclist fatalities in 2003."

## "Pedestrian fatalities in 2003 were 16 percent lower than in 1993."

"More than one-fifth of the pedalcyclists killed in traffic crashes in 2003 were between 5 and 15 years old."

Among male drivers involved in fatal crashes in 2003, 24 percent had BAC levels of $0.08 \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{dl}$ or higher, compared with 12 percent of the female drivers involved in fatal crashes.

Among female drivers of passenger vehicles involved in fatal crashes in 2003, 26 percent were unrestrained at the time of the collision, compared with 39 percent of male drivers in fatal crashes.

## Pedestrians

In 2003, 70,000 pedestrians were injured and 4,749 were killed in traffic crashes in the United States, representing 2 percent of all the people injured in traffic crashes and 11 percent of all traffic fatalities.

On average, a pedestrian is killed in a motor vehicle crash every 111 minutes, and one is injured every 8 minutes.

Alcohol involvement - either for the driver or the pedestrian - was reported in 46 percent of the traffic crashes that resulted in pedestrian fatalities. Of the pedestrians involved, 34 percent had BAC levels $0.08 \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{dl}$ or higher. Of the drivers involved, only 13 percent had BAC levels $0.08 \mathrm{~g} /$ dl or higher. In 6 percent of the crashes, both the driver and the pedestrian had BAC levels $0.08 \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{dl}$ or higher.

## Pedalcyclists

In 2003, 622 pedalcyclists were killed and an additional 46,000 were injured in traffic crashes. Pedalcyclists made up 1 percent of all traffic fatalities and 2 percent of all the people injured in traffic crashes during the year.

Most of the pedalcyclists injured or killed in 2003 were males ( 78 percent and 88 percent, respectively), and most were between the ages of 5 and 44 years ( 84 percent and 62 percent, respectively).

More than one-fifth ( 23 percent) of the pedalcyclists killed in traffic crashes in 2003 were between 5 and 15 years old.

Table 5
Nonoccupant Traffic Fatalities, 1993-2003

| Year | Pedestrian | Pedalcyclist | Other | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1993 | 5,649 | 816 | 111 | $\mathbf{6 , 5 7 6}$ |
| 1994 | 5,489 | 802 | 107 | $\mathbf{6 , 3 9 8}$ |
| 1995 | 5,584 | 833 | 109 | $\mathbf{6 , 5 2 6}$ |
| 1996 | 5,449 | 765 | 154 | $\mathbf{6 , 3 6 8}$ |
| 1997 | 5,321 | 814 | 153 | $\mathbf{6 , 2 8 8}$ |
| 1998 | 5,228 | 760 | 131 | $\mathbf{6 , 1 1 9}$ |
| 1999 | 4,939 | 754 | 149 | $\mathbf{5 , 8 4 2}$ |
| 2000 | 4,763 | 693 | 141 | $\mathbf{5 , 5 9 7}$ |
| 2001 | 4,901 | 732 | 123 | $\mathbf{5 , 7 5 6}$ |
| 2002 | 4,851 | 665 | 114 | $\mathbf{5 , 6 3 0}$ |
| 2003 | 4,749 | 622 | 140 | $\mathbf{5 , 5 1 1}$ |

