

# Traffic Safety Facts 1994

U.S. Department of Transportation  
National Highway Traffic  
Safety Administration



## Large Trucks



In 1994, 4,615 large trucks (gross vehicle weight rating greater than 10,000 pounds) were involved in fatal traffic crashes in the United States. A total of 5,112 people died in those crashes—13 percent of the 40,676 traffic fatalities reported in 1994.

**Table 1. Involvement in Fatal Crashes and Involvement Rates for Large trucks, 1984-1994**

Year	Number of Large Trucks Involved in Fatal Crashes	Number of Large Trucks Registered	Vehicle Involvement Rate *	Vehicle Miles Traveled (millions)	Vehicle Involvement Rate **
1984	5,124	5,401,075	94.9	123,927	4.1
1985	5,153	5,330,678	96.7	126,580	4.1
1986	5,097	5,249,102	97.1	130,141	3.9
1987	5,108	5,303,094	96.3	135,601	3.8
1988	5,241	5,433,560	96.5	141,397	3.7
1989	4,984	5,692,148	87.6	148,318	3.4
1990	4,776	5,854,337	81.6	149,810	3.2
1991	4,347	5,868,817	74.1	150,729	2.9
1992	4,035	5,970,925	67.6	152,803	2.6
1993	4,328	6,191,889	69.9	159,402	2.7
1994	4,615	NA	--	NA	--

\* Rate per 100,000 registered vehicles.

\*\* Rate per 100 million vehicle miles traveled.

NA = not available.

Source: Vehicle miles traveled and registered vehicles—Federal Highway Administration.

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One out of eight traffic fatalities in 1994 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, 9 percent were nonoccupants, and 13 percent were occupants of a large truck.

**Table 2. Fatalities in Crashes Involving Large Trucks, 1994**

Type of Fatality	Number	Percentage of Total
Occupants of Large Trucks	663	13
Single-Vehicle Crashes	447	9
Multiple-Vehicle Crashes	216	4
Occupants of Other Vehicles in Crashes Involving Large Trucks	3,988	78
Nonoccupants (Pedestrians, Pedalcyclists, etc.)	461	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,112</b>	<b>100</b>

Large trucks account for 3 percent of all registered vehicles, 7 percent of total vehicle miles traveled, and 8 percent of all vehicles involved in fatal crashes.

Large trucks were much more likely to be involved in a fatal multiple-vehicle crash than were passenger vehicles (83 percent and 61 percent, respectively).

In 32 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 (19 percent and 6 percent, respectively).

**Table 3. Principal Impact Points in Two-Vehicle Fatal Crashes Involving Large Trucks, 1994**

Impact Point on Large Truck	Impact Point on Other Vehicle				
	Front	Left Side	Right Side	Rear	Total
Front	32%	17%	13%	5%	67%
Left Side	7%	<1%	<1%	<1%	8%
Right Side	5%	<1%	<1%	<1%	6%
Rear	18%	<1%	<1%	<1%	19%
Total	62%	19%	13%	6%	100%

***“In 1994, large trucks were 3 times as likely as other vehicles to be struck in the rear in two-vehicle fatal crashes.”***

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 7.4 percent, either the truck or the other vehicle was stopped or parked in a traffic lane (5.9 percent and 1.5 percent, respectively).

Most of the fatal crashes involving large trucks occurred in rural areas (66 percent), during the daytime (66 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, 63 percent occurred at night (6:00 PM to 5:59 AM).

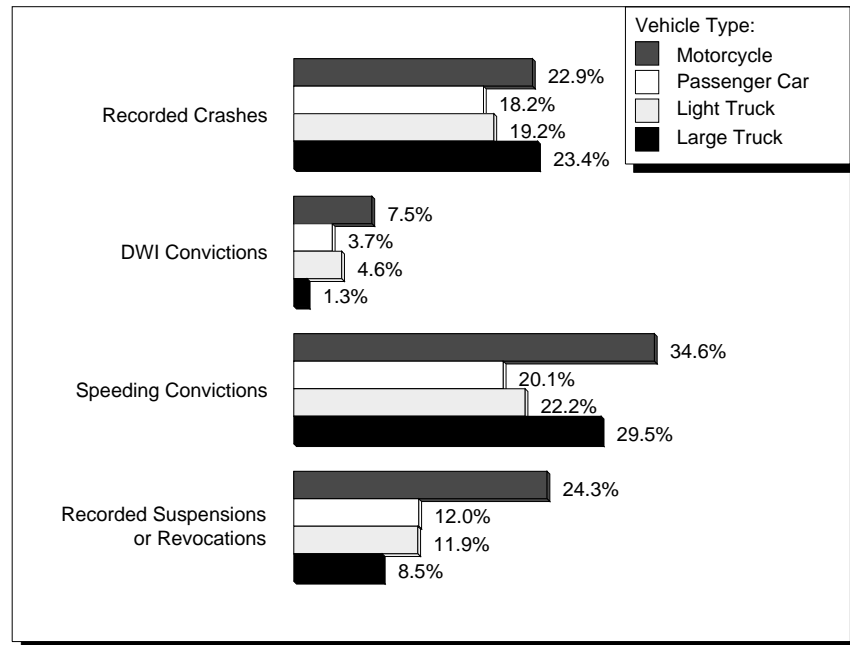
For 37 percent of the drivers of large trucks involved in fatal crashes in 1994, police reported one or more errors or other factors related to the driver's behavior associated with the crash. The factors most often noted in multiple-vehicle crashes were “failure to keep in lane or running off the road,” “driving too fast for conditions or exceeding the speed limit,” and “failure to yield right of way.”

In almost three-fourths (71 percent) of the two-vehicle fatal crashes involving a large truck and another type of vehicle, police reported one or more factors for the other driver and none for the truck driver. In 17 percent, one or more factors were reported for the truck driver and none for the other driver. In 10 percent, factors were reported for both drivers, and in 2 percent no factors were reported for either driver.

Drivers of large trucks were less likely to have a previous license suspension or revocation than were passenger car drivers (9 percent and 12 percent, respectively).

Almost 30 percent of all large truck drivers involved in fatal crashes in 1994 had at least one prior speeding conviction, compared to just over 20 percent of the passenger car drivers involved in fatal crashes.

**Figure 1. Previous Driving Records of Drivers Involved in Fatal Traffic Crashes, by Type of Vehicle, 1994**



***“The intoxication rate for drivers of large trucks involved in fatal crashes in 1994 was 1.4 percent.”***

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 1.4 percent in 1994. These drivers have also shown the largest decrease in intoxication rates since 1984 (67 percent). Intoxication rates for drivers of other types of vehicles involved in fatal crashes in 1994 were 19.4 percent for passenger cars, 22.9 percent for light trucks, and 28.9 percent for motorcycles.

**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. Telephone inquiries should be addressed to Ms. Louann Hall at (202) 366-4198. FAX messages should be sent to (202) 366-7078. To report a safety-related problem or to inquire about motor vehicle safety information, contact the Auto Safety Hotline at 1-800-424-9393.

***“Serving the Highway Safety Community by the Numbers”***

Table 4. Large Truck Involvement in Fatal Crashes by State, 1994

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	1,457	151	10.4	3.3
Alaska	94	5	5.3	0.1
Arizona	1,198	79	6.6	1.7
Arkansas	818	85	10.4	1.8
California	5,724	350	6.1	7.6
Colorado	793	55	6.9	1.2
Connecticut	407	26	6.4	0.6
Delaware	165	12	7.3	0.3
District of Columbia	84	2	2.4	0.0
Florida	3,786	287	7.6	6.2
Georgia	2,025	193	9.5	4.2
Hawaii	147	4	2.7	0.1
Idaho	313	37	11.8	0.8
Illinois	2,133	168	7.9	3.6
Indiana	1,347	141	10.5	3.1
Iowa	679	75	11.0	1.6
Kansas	563	51	9.1	1.1
Kentucky	1,064	93	8.7	2.0
Louisiana	1,087	109	10.0	2.4
Maine	246	20	8.1	0.4
Maryland	931	74	7.9	1.6
Massachusetts	592	41	6.9	0.9
Michigan	2,036	173	8.5	3.7
Minnesota	858	75	8.7	1.6
Mississippi	1,035	85	8.2	1.8
Missouri	1,448	128	8.8	2.8
Montana	247	17	6.9	0.4
Nebraska	353	44	12.5	1.0
Nevada	371	28	7.5	0.6
New Hampshire	148	8	5.4	0.2
New Jersey	1,009	72	7.1	1.6
New Mexico	534	37	6.9	0.8
New York	2,280	191	8.4	4.1
North Carolina	1,901	185	9.7	4.0
North Dakota	109	9	8.3	0.2
Ohio	1,917	195	10.2	4.2
Oklahoma	891	72	8.1	1.6
Oregon	620	63	10.2	1.4
Pennsylvania	2,051	203	9.9	4.4
Rhode Island	89	6	6.7	0.1
South Carolina	1,118	88	7.9	1.9
South Dakota	191	15	7.9	0.3
Tennessee	1,649	136	8.2	2.9
Texas	4,128	332	8.0	7.2
Utah	429	27	6.3	0.6
Vermont	105	10	9.5	0.2
Virginia	1,191	125	10.5	2.7
Washington	861	53	6.2	1.1
West Virginia	494	57	11.5	1.2
Wisconsin	986	103	10.4	2.2
Wyoming	165	20	12.1	0.4
<b>U.S. Total</b>	<b>54,867</b>	<b>4,615</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Puerto Rico	781	40	5.1	--

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