

FATALITY FACTS 2004: STATE BY STATE

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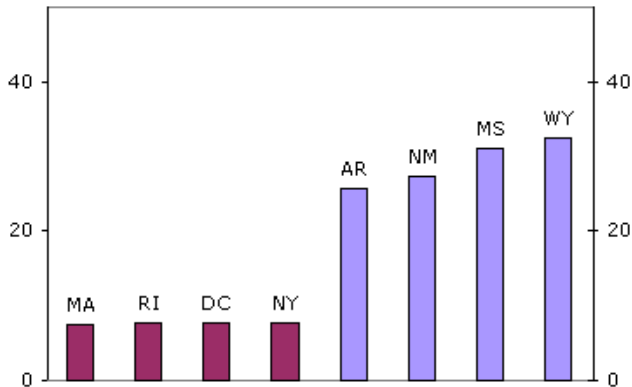
The number and type of motor vehicle crash deaths differ widely among the 50 states and the District of Columbia. A state's population has an obvious effect on the number of motor vehicle deaths. Fatality rates per capita provide a way of examining motor vehicle deaths relative to a state's population, but many factors can affect these rates. Western states with large rural areas typically have high fatality rates because of such factors as higher speed traffic. Other factors include differing degrees of urbanization, amounts and types of travel, types of vehicles driven, rates of licensure, state traffic laws, emergency care capabilities, weather, and topography.

The following facts are based on analysis of data from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS):

OVERVIEW

- There were 38,253 fatal motor vehicle crashes in the United States in 2004 in which 42,636 deaths occurred. This resulted in a national motor vehicle death rate of 15 deaths per 100,000 people. Motor vehicle death rates varied among states, from a low of 7 deaths per 100,000 people in Massachusetts to a high of 32 deaths per 100,000 people in Wyoming.

States with lowest and highest motor vehicle crash deaths per 100,000 people, 2004



Population, fatal motor vehicle crashes, motor vehicle crash deaths, and motor vehicle crash deaths per 100,000 people by state, 2004

State	Population	Fatal motor vehicle crashes	Motor vehicle crash deaths	
		Num	Num	Rate
Alabama	4,530,182	1,032	1,154	25.5
Alaska	655,435	96	101	15.4
Arizona	5,743,834	989	1,150	20.0
Arkansas	2,752,629	605	704	25.6
California	35,893,799	3,727	4,120	11.5
Colorado	4,601,403	594	665	14.5
Connecticut	3,503,604	277	291	8.3
Delaware	830,364	125	134	16.1
District of Columbia	553,523	41	43	7.8
Florida	17,397,161	2,927	3,244	18.6
Georgia	8,829,383	1,463	1,634	18.5
Hawaii	1,262,840	128	142	11.2
Idaho	1,393,262	240	260	18.7
Illinois	12,713,634	1,225	1,356	10.7
Indiana	6,237,569	857	947	15.2
Iowa	2,954,451	356	390	13.2
Kansas	2,735,502	392	461	16.9
Kentucky	4,145,922	854	964	23.3
Louisiana	4,515,770	804	904	20.0
Maine	1,317,253	178	194	14.7
Maryland	5,558,058	576	643	11.6
Massachusetts	6,416,505	447	476	7.4
Michigan	10,112,620	1,055	1,159	11.5
Minnesota	5,100,958	520	567	11.1
Mississippi	2,902,966	786	900	31.0
Missouri	5,754,618	1,006	1,130	19.6
Montana	926,865	209	229	24.7
Nebraska	1,747,214	229	254	14.5
Nevada	2,334,771	360	395	16.9
New Hampshire	1,299,500	158	171	13.2
New Jersey	8,698,879	692	731	8.4
New Mexico	1,903,289	439	521	27.4
New York	19,227,088	1,370	1,493	7.8
North Carolina	8,541,221	1,402	1,557	18.2
North Dakota	634,366	95	100	15.8
Ohio	11,459,011	1,163	1,286	11.2
Oklahoma	3,523,553	664	774	22.0
Oregon	3,594,586	388	456	12.7
Pennsylvania	12,406,292	1,362	1,490	12.0
Rhode Island	1,080,632	78	83	7.7
South Carolina	4,198,068	946	1,046	24.9
South Dakota	770,883	166	197	25.6
Tennessee	5,900,962	1,144	1,288	21.8
Texas	22,490,022	3,155	3,583	15.9
Utah	2,389,039	260	296	12.4
Vermont	621,394	84	98	15.8
Virginia	7,459,827	839	925	12.4
Washington	6,203,788	505	563	9.1
West Virginia	1,815,354	381	411	22.6
Wisconsin	5,509,026	722	792	14.4
Wyoming	506,529	142	164	32.4
U.S. Total	293,655,404	38,253	42,636	14.5

- In 2004, the types of motor vehicle crash deaths varied across states. For example, Wyoming had relatively low percentages of deaths involving passenger car occupants (33 percent) and pedestrians (2 percent) and a relatively high percentage of deaths involving occupants of SUVs and pickups (43 percent). In contrast, New York had relatively high proportions of passenger car occupant deaths (49 percent) and pedestrian deaths (21 percent), and a relatively low percentage of deaths involving SUV or pickup occupants (13 percent).

Motor vehicle deaths by type and state, 2004

State	Passenger car occupants		Pickup and SUV occupants		Large truck occupants		Motorcyclists		Pedestrians		Total motor vehicle deaths*
	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%	Num
Alabama	597	52	343	30	20	2	74	6	81	7	1,154
Alaska	26	26	38	38	4	4	8	8	10	10	101
Arizona	439	38	328	29	16	1	112	10	129	11	1,150
Arkansas	333	47	220	31	15	2	56	8	32	5	704
California	1,869	45	846	21	48	1	416	10	684	17	4,120
Colorado	289	43	187	28	9	1	79	12	69	10	665
Connecticut	139	48	52	18	3	1	55	19	27	9	291
Delaware	80	60	20	15	1	1	7	5	16	12	134
District of Columbia	17	40	4	9	0	0	7	16	9	21	43
Florida	1,325	41	685	21	53	2	414	13	493	15	3,244
Georgia	765	47	480	29	43	3	110	7	153	9	1,634
Hawaii	48	34	30	21	1	1	19	13	30	21	142
Idaho	111	43	88	34	6	2	23	9	17	7	260
Illinois	712	53	238	18	21	2	156	12	156	12	1,356
Indiana	484	51	185	20	26	3	97	10	73	8	947
Iowa	209	54	89	23	8	2	37	9	24	6	390
Kansas	249	54	137	30	11	2	29	6	21	5	461
Kentucky	505	52	274	28	27	3	66	7	48	5	964
Louisiana	405	45	283	31	9	1	72	8	96	11	904
Maine	98	51	51	26	2	1	21	11	10	5	194
Maryland	325	51	114	18	10	2	63	10	97	15	643
Massachusetts	228	48	69	14	7	1	58	12	82	17	476
Michigan	629	54	229	20	8	1	81	7	137	12	1,159
Minnesota	291	51	144	25	7	1	50	9	37	7	567
Mississippi	478	53	283	31	27	3	39	4	44	5	900
Missouri	607	54	317	28	22	2	56	5	81	7	1,130
Montana	88	38	93	41	5	2	21	9	7	3	229
Nebraska	130	51	77	30	2	1	21	8	9	4	254
Nevada	153	39	106	27	3	1	48	12	60	15	395
New Hampshire	84	49	36	21	3	2	28	16	15	9	171
New Jersey	345	47	83	11	10	1	70	10	155	21	731
New Mexico	213	41	168	32	14	3	39	7	56	11	521
New York	739	49	189	13	9	1	149	10	317	21	1,493
North Carolina	800	51	366	24	31	2	120	8	159	10	1,557
North Dakota	41	41	40	40	0	0	9	9	5	5	100
Ohio	728	57	221	17	24	2	133	10	94	7	1,286
Oklahoma	343	44	241	31	25	3	77	10	50	6	774
Oregon	216	47	123	27	7	2	36	8	43	9	456
Pennsylvania	813	55	279	19	26	2	157	11	150	10	1,490
Rhode Island	55	66	10	12	0	0	10	12	7	8	83
South Carolina	505	48	307	29	13	1	86	8	86	8	1,046
South Dakota	96	49	56	28	3	2	24	12	9	5	197
Tennessee	696	54	338	26	18	1	90	7	80	6	1,288
Texas	1,536	43	1,122	31	72	2	280	8	424	12	3,583
Utah	113	38	99	33	12	4	30	10	25	8	296
Vermont	51	52	24	24	1	1	11	11	7	7	98
Virginia	503	54	199	22	18	2	55	6	85	9	925
Washington	267	47	134	24	4	1	69	12	58	10	563
West Virginia	194	47	122	30	11	3	27	7	27	7	411
Wisconsin	422	53	183	23	7	1	80	10	54	7	792
Wyoming	54	33	71	43	16	10	13	8	3	2	164
U.S. Total	20,443	48	10,421	24	738	2	3,888	9	4,641	11	42,636

*Total includes other and/or unknowns

CRASH TYPES

- Nationwide, 48 percent of passenger vehicle occupant deaths in 2004 occurred in single-vehicle crashes. The highest proportions of single-vehicle crashes occurred in Montana (67 percent), Wyoming (67 percent), and Rhode Island (65 percent).

Passenger vehicle occupant deaths by crash type and state, 2004

State	Single-vehicle		Multiple-vehicle		All crashes*
	Num	%	Num	%	Num
Alabama	498	52	453	48	951
Alaska	32	46	37	54	69
Arizona	400	50	396	50	796
Arkansas	261	46	301	54	562
California	1,340	48	1,443	52	2,783
Colorado	227	47	260	53	487
Connecticut	110	57	83	43	193
Delaware	46	44	58	56	104
District of Columbia	9	43	12	57	21
Florida	882	43	1,190	57	2,072
Georgia	545	43	728	57	1,273
Hawaii	33	41	48	59	81
Idaho	119	58	85	42	204
Illinois	443	45	541	55	984
Indiana	347	49	366	51	713
Iowa	126	41	179	59	305
Kansas	171	44	217	56	388
Kentucky	389	49	398	51	787
Louisiana	345	49	357	51	702
Maine	81	53	71	47	152
Maryland	208	47	237	53	445
Massachusetts	180	58	129	42	309
Michigan	358	41	513	59	871
Minnesota	199	44	253	56	452
Mississippi	422	54	354	46	776
Missouri	489	52	454	48	943
Montana	125	67	61	33	186
Nebraska	97	46	116	54	213
Nevada	133	51	129	49	262
New Hampshire	59	48	63	52	122
New Jersey	197	44	249	56	446
New Mexico	198	50	196	50	394
New York	436	46	511	54	947
North Carolina	561	47	623	53	1,184
North Dakota	40	49	41	51	81
Ohio	455	46	525	54	980
Oklahoma	278	47	315	53	593
Oregon	172	50	170	50	342
Pennsylvania	519	47	586	53	1,105
Rhode Island	42	65	23	35	65
South Carolina	460	56	362	44	822
South Dakota	90	58	65	42	155
Tennessee	579	54	484	46	1,063
Texas	1,209	45	1,483	55	2,692
Utah	122	56	95	44	217
Vermont	35	46	41	54	76
Virginia	383	53	345	47	728
Washington	214	51	202	49	416
West Virginia	172	53	150	47	322
Wisconsin	299	48	320	52	619
Wyoming	86	67	42	33	128
U.S. Total	15,221	48	16,360	52	31,581

*Total includes other and/or unknowns

ALCOHOL INVOLVEMENT

Some states report blood alcohol concentration (BAC) for only a small percentage of fatally injured passenger vehicle drivers. If BAC is missing for a driver, it is imputed by the U.S. Department of Transportation's multiple imputation model.¹ However, state BAC information is most precise in states that report a high percentage of BACs. In the following table, estimated percentages of fatally injured drivers with BACs at or above 0.08 percent are shown only for states in which BAC reporting was 70 percent or higher. Estimated percentages are based on known BAC when available and imputed BAC for the remaining drivers.

- For the nation in 2004, BAC was reported for 64 percent of fatally injured passenger vehicle drivers. Reporting rates varied by state. New Hampshire and Vermont reported BACs for 98 percent of fatally injured passenger vehicle drivers, while Alabama reported BACs for 6 percent. Among states with reporting rates of at least 70 percent, Montana (49 percent) had the highest estimated percentage of fatally injured drivers with BACs of 0.08 percent or higher, and Vermont (22 percent) had the lowest

Estimated number and percent of fatally-injured passenger vehicle drivers with BACs≥0.08 percent by state, 2004

State	Passenger vehicle drivers				
	Known BAC results		Deaths	Estimated deaths with BACs≥0.08	
	Num	%		Num	%
Alabama	38	6	687	*	*
Alaska	17	33	52	*	*
Arizona	224	48	462	*	*
Arkansas	219	55	396	*	*
California	1,632	90	1,818	574	32
Colorado	146	46	314	*	*
Connecticut	84	59	143	*	*
Delaware	51	69	74	*	*
District of Columbia	12	80	15	4	30
Florida	856	60	1,420	*	*
Georgia	423	47	909	*	*
Hawaii	51	94	54	18	34
Idaho	101	77	131	43	33
Illinois	593	88	671	244	36
Indiana	370	72	513	137	27
Iowa	73	35	210	*	*
Kansas	119	45	265	*	*
Kentucky	324	57	569	*	*
Louisiana	193	40	487	*	*
Maine	96	88	109	29	27
Maryland	241	78	309	113	37
Massachusetts	57	26	222	*	*
Michigan	400	67	596	*	*
Minnesota	200	61	328	*	*
Mississippi	254	43	584	*	*
Missouri	546	82	668	223	33
Montana	119	88	135	66	49
Nebraska	131	90	146	52	36
Nevada	141	80	177	55	31
New Hampshire	85	98	87	25	29
New Jersey	227	68	335	*	*
New Mexico	191	87	220	65	29
New York	350	53	662	*	*
North Carolina	618	74	834	238	29
North Dakota	53	82	65	22	33
Ohio	615	88	696	223	32
Oklahoma	334	86	389	112	29
Oregon	198	85	233	83	36
Pennsylvania	647	80	812	288	35
Rhode Island	37	84	44	20	44
South Carolina	477	80	595	234	39
South Dakota	75	75	100	37	37
Tennessee	247	32	768	*	*
Texas	790	44	1,784	*	*
Utah	88	66	133	*	*
Vermont	54	98	55	12	22
Virginia	250	48	524	*	*
Washington	238	87	275	100	36
West Virginia	196	87	226	63	28
Wisconsin	419	91	458	182	40
Wyoming	62	78	79	32	40
U.S. Total	13,962	64	21,838	7,037	32

*Cells with missing data have insufficient reporting of BAC results by state for reliably estimating percent of fatally injured drivers with BACs≥0.08

BELT USE

When examining belt use among fatally injured motor vehicle occupants, it is important to note that percentages will be lower than observed belt use because unbelted occupants are more likely than belted occupants to be fatally injured.

- The percentage of fatally injured passenger vehicle occupants who were belted in 2004 varied by state. Mississippi (23 percent) had the lowest percentage of fatally injured belted occupants, and Oregon had the highest (64 percent). For the nation, 42 percent of fatally injured occupants were belted.

Number and percent of fatally-injured passenger vehicle occupants by belt use and state, 2004

State	Unbelted		Belted		Unknown		Total
	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%	Num
Alabama	518	54	402	42	31	3	951
Alaska	33	48	27	39	9	13	69
Arizona	423	53	276	35	97	12	796
Arkansas	346	62	163	29	53	9	562
California	1,008	36	1,468	53	307	11	2,783
Colorado	273	56	206	42	8	2	487
Connecticut	94	49	79	41	20	10	193
Delaware	47	45	55	53	2	2	104
District of Columbia	6	29	7	33	8	38	21
Florida	1,242	60	792	38	38	2	2,072
Georgia	616	48	510	40	147	12	1,273
Hawaii	39	48	32	40	10	12	81
Idaho	105	51	93	46	6	3	204
Illinois	469	48	423	43	92	9	984
Indiana	325	46	290	41	98	14	713
Iowa	138	45	128	42	39	13	305
Kansas	225	58	137	35	26	7	388
Kentucky	522	66	264	34	1	0	787
Louisiana	406	58	241	34	55	8	702
Maine	74	49	56	37	22	14	152
Maryland	191	43	233	52	21	5	445
Massachusetts	165	53	89	29	55	18	309
Michigan	299	34	449	52	123	14	871
Minnesota	232	51	188	42	32	7	452
Mississippi	601	77	175	23	.	.	776
Missouri	600	64	268	28	75	8	943
Montana	128	69	50	27	8	4	186
Nebraska	117	55	72	34	24	11	213
Nevada	123	47	126	48	13	5	262
New Hampshire	85	70	36	30	1	1	122
New Jersey	217	49	214	48	15	3	446
New Mexico	223	57	160	41	11	3	394
New York	343	36	495	52	109	12	947
North Carolina	510	43	567	48	107	9	1,184
North Dakota	54	67	23	28	4	5	81
Ohio	589	60	387	39	4	0	980
Oklahoma	352	59	239	40	2	0	593
Oregon	101	30	218	64	23	7	342
Pennsylvania	563	51	378	34	164	15	1,105
Rhode Island	47	72	18	28	.	.	65
South Carolina	576	70	215	26	31	4	822
South Dakota	100	65	42	27	13	8	155
Tennessee	638	60	353	33	72	7	1,063
Texas	1,189	44	1,435	53	68	3	2,692
Utah	126	58	85	39	6	3	217
Vermont	36	47	38	50	2	3	76
Virginia	413	57	285	39	30	4	728
Washington	162	39	227	55	27	6	416
West Virginia	188	58	121	38	13	4	322
Wisconsin	349	56	226	37	44	7	619
Wyoming	76	59	49	38	3	2	128
U.S. Total	16,302	52	13,110	42	2,169	7	31,581

RURAL VERSUS URBAN

- Sixty-four percent of passenger vehicle occupant deaths in 2004 occurred in rural areas. States with the greatest proportions of passenger vehicle occupant deaths on rural roads were Maine and Montana (both 97 percent).

Number and percent of fatally-injured passenger vehicle occupants by land use and state, 2004

State	Urban		Rural		Unknown		Total
	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%	Num
Alabama	313	33	633	67	5	1	951
Alaska	20	29	49	71	0	0	69
Arizona	330	41	459	58	7	1	796
Arkansas	115	20	447	80	0	0	562
California	1,421	51	1,362	49	0	0	2,783
Colorado	163	33	324	67	0	0	487
Connecticut	146	76	47	24	0	0	193
Delaware	34	33	61	59	9	9	104
District of Columbia	21	100	0	0	0	0	21
Florida	896	43	1,176	57	0	0	2,072
Georgia	537	42	711	56	25	2	1,273
Hawaii	31	38	50	62	0	0	81
Idaho	31	15	173	85	0	0	204
Illinois	497	51	487	49	0	0	984
Indiana	227	32	486	68	0	0	713
Iowa	33	11	272	89	0	0	305
Kansas	68	18	320	82	0	0	388
Kentucky	171	22	616	78	0	0	787
Louisiana	157	22	540	77	5	1	702
Maine	5	3	147	97	0	0	152
Maryland	244	55	201	45	0	0	445
Massachusetts	235	76	74	24	0	0	309
Michigan	323	37	468	54	80	9	871
Minnesota	109	24	343	76	0	0	452
Mississippi	169	22	596	77	11	1	776
Missouri	232	25	711	75	0	0	943
Montana	5	3	181	97	0	0	186
Nebraska	29	14	184	86	0	0	213
Nevada	146	56	116	44	0	0	262
New Hampshire	34	28	88	72	0	0	122
New Jersey	338	76	108	24	0	0	446
New Mexico	66	17	327	83	1	<1	394
New York	501	53	445	47	1	<1	947
North Carolina	260	22	906	77	18	2	1,184
North Dakota	10	12	71	88	0	0	81
Ohio	337	34	643	66	0	0	980
Oklahoma	136	23	457	77	0	0	593
Oregon	62	18	280	82	0	0	342
Pennsylvania	479	43	621	56	5	<1	1,105
Rhode Island	52	80	13	20	0	0	65
South Carolina	69	8	753	92	0	0	822
South Dakota	15	10	140	90	0	0	155
Tennessee	397	37	665	63	1	<1	1,063
Texas	1,055	39	1,637	61	0	0	2,692
Utah	50	23	167	77	0	0	217
Vermont	9	12	67	88	0	0	76
Virginia	274	38	435	60	19	3	728
Washington	120	29	292	70	4	1	416
West Virginia	34	11	288	89	0	0	322
Wisconsin	145	23	474	77	0	0	619
Wyoming	17	13	111	87	0	0	128
U.S. Total	11,168	35	20,222	64	191	1	31,581

REFERENCES

¹Subramanian, R. 2002. Transitioning to multiple imputation — a new method to impute missing blood alcohol concentration (BAC) values in FARS. Report no. DOT HS-809-403. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Transportation.