

# Traffic Safety Facts

## Crash • Stats

DOT HS 811 017

A Brief Statistical Summary

August 2008

## 2007 Traffic Safety Annual Assessment – Highlights

The overall number of traffic fatalities in 2007 reached its lowest level since 1994. The 2007 Annual Assessment of Motor Vehicle Traffic Crash Fatalities and People Injured shows a 3.9-percent decline in people killed in the United States, from 42,708 in 2006 to 41,059. This reduction in fatalities is the largest in terms of both number and percentage since 1992. Passenger car occupant fatalities declined for the fifth consecutive year, while light-truck occupant fatalities dropped for the second consecutive year. However, motorcyclist fatalities continued their 10-year increase, reaching 5,154 in 2007, the highest number since NHTSA started collecting fatality crash data in 1975. Motorcyclist fatalities now account for 13 percent of total fatalities. The data (see Table 1) shows a decrease in fatalities for all person types except motorcyclists.

The number of people injured in crashes was estimated to be below 2.5 million for the first time since NHTSA began col-

lecting injury data in 1988. In 2007, about 2.49 million people were injured in motor vehicle traffic crashes, compared to 2.58 million in 2006 (see Table 1). This constitutes the eighth consecutive yearly reduction in people injured (see Chart 2, overleaf). The number of people injured declined in all categories except motorcyclists and pedestrians.

The fatality rate per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT) fell to a historic low of 1.37 (Table 2). The overall injury rate also declined. The 2007 rates are based on the latest (May 2008) traffic volume trend estimates from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Overall VMT decreased by 0.6 percent over 2006 VMT – from 3,014,116 million to 2,996,232 million. VMT data will be updated when FHWA officially releases the 2007 Annual Highway Statistics. Alcohol-impaired driving fatalities (fatalities in crashes involving a driver or motorcycle rider with a blood alcohol concentration [BAC]

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

Description	Killed				Injured			
	2006	2007	Change	% Change	2006	2007	Change	% Change
Total*	42,708	41,059	-1,649	-3.9%	2,575,000	2,491,000	-84,000	-3.3%
<b>Motorists</b>								
Passenger Vehicles	30,686	28,933	-1,753	-5.7%	2,331,000	2,221,000	-110,000	-4.7%
Passenger Cars	17,925	16,520	-1,405	-7.8%	<b>1,475,000</b>	<b>1,379,000</b>	<b>-96,000</b>	-6.5%
Light Trucks	12,761	12,413	-348	-2.7%	857,000	841,000	-16,000	-1.9%
Large Trucks	805	802	-3	-0.4%	23,000	23,000	0	0.0%
Motorcycles	4,837	5,154	+317	+6.6%	<b>88,000</b>	<b>103,000</b>	<b>+15,000</b>	+17%
<b>Nonmotorists</b>								
Pedestrians	4,795	4,654	-141	-2.9%	<b>61,000</b>	<b>70,000</b>	<b>+9,000</b>	+15%
Pedalcyclists	772	698	-74	-9.6%	44,000	43,000	-1,000	-2.3%
Other/Unknown	185	152	-33	---	7,000	10,000	+3,000	---

Source: Fatalities - FARS 2006 [Final], 2007 Annual Report File [ARF], Injured - NASS GES 2006, 2007 Annual Files

\* Total includes occupants of buses and other/unknown occupants not shown in table. Changes in numbers shown in bold are statistically significant.

**Table 2: Fatality and Injury Rates per 100 Million (M) VMT**

Measure	2006	2007	Change	% Change
Fatality Rate	1.42	1.37	-0.05	-3.5%
Injury Rate	85	83	-2	-2.4%

Source: FARS, GES, and FHWA VMT (May 2008 TVT)

**Table 3: Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatalities\***

	2006	2007	Change	% Change
Fatalities	13,491	12,998	-493	-3.7%

Source: FARS 2006 [Final], 2007 Annual Report File [ARF]

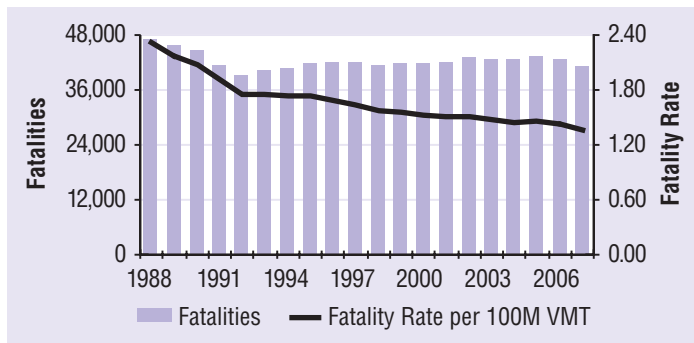
\* See definition in text above

**Table 4: People Killed in Large-Truck Crashes**

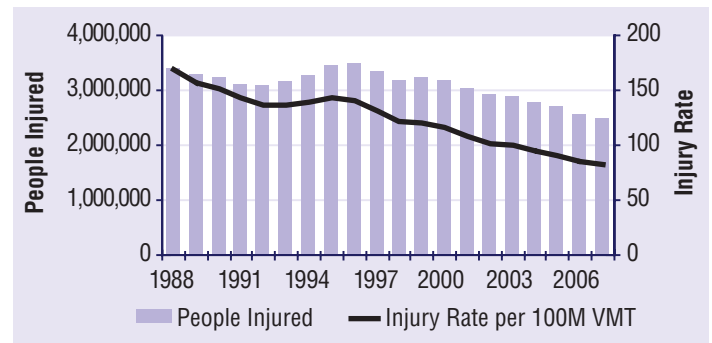
Type	2006	2007	Change	% Change
Truck Occupants	805	802	-3	-0.4%
Single-vehicle	500	502	+2	+0.4%
Multivehicle	305	300	-5	-1.6%
Other Vehicle Occupants	3,797	3,601	-196	-5.2%
Nonoccupants	425	405	-20	-4.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,027</b>	<b>4,808</b>	<b>-219</b>	<b>-4.4%</b>

Source: FARS 2006 [Final], 2007 Annual Report File [ARF]

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



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



of .08 grams per deciliter [g/dL] or greater) declined by 3.7 percent in 2007 (Table 3).

Table 5 (below) compares the total number of fatalities for 2006 and 2007, the change in the number of fatalities, and the percentage change for each State, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Thirty-five States and Puerto Rico had reductions in the number of fatalities. States with the largest reduction (100 or more) in the number of fatalities were

California (-266), Arizona (-227), Texas (-168), Florida (-143), New York (-121), and Missouri (-104). South Dakota (-24%), Vermont (-24%), Wyoming (-23%), followed by Delaware (-21%) had the greatest percentage reductions. The largest increases (50 or more) were in North Carolina (+121) and Virginia (+65). The largest percentage increases were found in the District of Columbia (+19%), Alaska (+14%), and North Carolina (+7.8%).

**Table 5: People Killed in Motor Vehicle Crashes, by State, 2006-2007**

State	2006	2007	Change	% Change	State	2006	2007	Change	% Change
Alabama	1,207	1,110	-97	-8.0%	Montana	264	277	+13	+4.9%
<b>Alaska</b>	74	84	+10	+14%	Nebraska	269	256	-13	-4.8%
Arizona	1,293	1,066	-227	-18%	Nevada	431	373	-58	-13%
Arkansas	665	650	-15	-2.3%	<b>New Hampshire</b>	127	129	+2	+1.6%
California	4,240	3,974	-266	-6.3%	New Jersey	771	724	-47	-6.1%
<b>Colorado</b>	535	554	+19	+3.6%	New Mexico	484	413	-71	-15%
Connecticut	311	277	-34	-11%	New York	1,454	1,333	-121	-8.3%
Delaware	148	117	-31	-21%	<b>North Carolina</b>	1,554	1,675	+121	+7.8%
<b>District of Columbia</b>	37	44	+7	+19%	North Dakota	111	111	0	0.0%
Florida	3,357	3,214	-143	-4.3%	Ohio	1,238	1,257	+19	+1.5%
Georgia	1,693	1,641	-52	-3.1%	Oklahoma	765	754	-11	-1.4%
Hawaii	161	138	-23	-14%	Oregon	478	455	-23	-4.8%
Idaho	267	252	-15	-5.6%	Pennsylvania	1,525	1,491	-34	-2.2%
Illinois	1,254	1,249	-5	-0.4%	Rhode Island	81	69	-12	-15%
Indiana	902	898	-4	-0.4%	<b>South Carolina</b>	1,045	1,066	+21	+2.0%
<b>Iowa</b>	439	445	+6	+1.4%	South Dakota	191	146	-45	-24%
Kansas	468	416	-52	-11%	Tennessee	1,284	1,210	-74	-5.8%
Kentucky	913	864	-49	-5.4%	Texas	3,531	3,363	-168	-4.8%
Louisiana	987	985	-2	-0.2%	<b>Utah</b>	287	299	+12	+4.2%
Maine	188	183	-5	-2.7%	Vermont	87	66	-21	-24%
Maryland	652	614	-38	-5.8%	<b>Virginia</b>	962	1,027	+65	+6.8%
Massachusetts	429	417	-12	-2.8%	Washington	633	568	-65	-10%
<b>Michigan</b>	1,086	1,088	+2	+0.2%	<b>West Virginia</b>	410	431	+21	+5.1%
<b>Minnesota</b>	494	504	+10	+2.0%	<b>Wisconsin</b>	724	756	+32	+4.4%
Mississippi	911	884	-27	-3.0%	Wyoming	195	150	-45	-23%
Missouri	1,096	992	-104	-9.5%	US (excluding PR)	42,708	41,059	-1,649	-3.9%
					Puerto Rico	509	452	-57	-11%

Source: FARS 2006 [Final], 2007 Annual Report File [ARF]

States in black indicate decline in fatalities and States in bold 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 2007 Annual Assessment of Motor Vehicle Traffic Crash Fatalities and People Injured. 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: [www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/CATS/index.aspx](http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/CATS/index.aspx)