

Traffic Safety Facts

Crash•Stats

November 2004

A Brief Statistical Summary

DOT HS 809 816

Fatalities in Crashes Involving Young (15-20) Drivers by State

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for 15 to 20 year olds (based on 2001 figures, which are the latest mortality data currently available from the National Center for Health Statistics). The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) National Center for Statistics and Analysis (NCSA) recently released the annual crash statistics for the year 2003. A total of 42,643 people died on the Nation's highways. The numbers were made available from NHTSA's Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS), which annually collects crash statistics from 50 States, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

In 2003, there were 8,666 persons killed in crashes involving a young driver. Young drivers are drivers between the ages of 15-20. Out of the 8,666 persons killed, 3,657 persons (42 percent) were young drivers, 2,384 persons (28 percent) were passengers of vehicles with young drivers, 1,979 persons (23 percent) were occupants of other vehicles and 646 persons (7 percent) were non-occupants like pedestrians, bicyclists and occupants of vehicles not in transport. The data show that a majority (58 percent) of the people killed were not the young drivers in the crash. Table 1 shows 5-year trend data of fatalities in crashes involving young drivers. Table 2 (overleaf) shows the fatalities in crashes involving a young driver by state and fatality type from the 2003 FARS Annual Report file (ARF).

Table 1

Fatalities in Crashes Involving a Young Driver (Ages 15-20) by Year and Fatality Type

Year	Young Drivers	Passengers of Young Drivers	Occupants of Other Vehicles	Non-Occupants	Total
1999	3,564	2,578	2,245	752	9,139
2000	3,621	2,535	2,185	756	9,097
2001	3,617	2,529	2,172	746	9,064
2002	3,838	2,565	2,153	695	9,251
2003	3,657	2,384	1,979	646	8,666

Source: NCSA, FARS 1999-2002 (Final) and 2003 (ARF)

Definitions

Passengers of young drivers are the people who were traveling in the vehicle with the young driver at the time of the crash; occupants of other vehicles are the persons who were not in the same vehicle as the young driver but were in other vehicles which were involved in the young driver crash, and non-occupants are pedestrians, bicyclists or other persons who were involved in the young driver crash but were not in any of the vehicles that were involved.

For questions regarding the data reported in this note, contact Umesh G. Shankar [202-366-5558] or Cherian Varghese [202-366-1114]. Some of the findings in this note were obtained from the following NCSA publication: DOT HS 809 774. This crash stats and other general information on highway traffic safety may be accessed by internet users at: <http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/deparments/nrd-30/ncsa/AvailInf.html>

Table 2

Fatalities in Crashes Involving a Young Driver (Ages 15-20) by State and Fatality Type

State	Young Drivers	Passengers of Young Drivers	Occupants of Other Vehicles	Non-Occupants	Total
Alabama	92	65	40	15	212
Alaska	11	1	5	1	18
Arizona	69	54	54	9	186
Arkansas	58	30	27	9	124
California	277	256	189	88	810
Colorado	65	42	30	10	147
Connecticut	28	20	6	2	56
Delaware	17	11	5	3	36
Dist of Columbia	4	1	2	4	11
Florida	249	118	150	80	597
Georgia	140	82	73	24	319
Hawaii	9	8	13	2	32
Idaho	29	17	9	0	55
Illinois	123	109	83	23	338
Indiana	84	61	54	7	206
Iowa	42	28	26	4	100
Kansas	51	38	22	2	113
Kentucky	79	34	39	8	160
Louisiana	88	43	37	16	184
Maine	13	12	11	2	38
Maryland	50	38	28	11	127
Massachusetts	43	27	15	10	95
Michigan	106	57	76	25	264
Minnesota	67	38	37	9	151
Mississippi	71	40	38	8	157
Missouri	130	73	63	15	281
Montana	31	13	5	3	52
Nebraska	31	23	13	1	68
Nevada	27	26	12	10	75
New Hampshire	14	6	2	2	24
New Jersey	43	31	32	17	123
New Mexico	33	43	11	8	95
New York	107	64	52	34	257
North Carolina	136	92	74	16	318
North Dakota	13	7	7	2	29
Ohio	125	80	78	12	295
Oklahoma	50	39	35	6	130
Oregon	40	37	22	3	102
Pennsylvania	157	93	63	23	336
Rhode Island	11	8	5	2	26
South Carolina	82	45	36	8	171
South Dakota	14	17	5	1	37
Tennessee	108	55	42	11	216
Texas	332	219	203	51	805
Utah	37	16	15	7	75
Vermont	11	5	1	1	18
Virginia	81	43	38	12	174
Washington	53	41	26	15	135
West Virginia	32	24	12	3	71
Wisconsin	84	45	56	9	194
Wyoming	10	9	2	2	23
National (US)	3,657	2,384	1,979	646	8,666
Puerto Rico	19	23	15	14	71

Source: NCSA, FARS 2003 (ARF)