National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Saving Lives with Data

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NHTSA - background

• **MISSION:** Save lives, prevent injuries and reduce economic costs due to road traffic crashes, through education, research, safety standards and enforcement activity.

• To do this we:
  – Regulate motor vehicle safety equipment
  – Research what is happening and what works
  – Support State activities through Highway Safety Offices
Scope of the Problem

• 32,719 fatalities in 2013
  – 90 deaths / day
    • 28 alcohol-related fatalities each day
    • 13 pedestrian fatalities each day
• 10,076 alcohol-impaired driving fatalities
  – 21% of drivers in fatal crashes with BAC .08+
    • 2% of large truck drivers
    • 27% of motorcyclists
Understanding the Problem

Percentage of critical reasons for crashes

Attributed to drivers:
1. Recognition error (41%)
2. Decision error (33%)
3. Performance error (11%)
4. Non-performance error (sleep, etc.) (7%)
5. Other (8%)

Attributed to vehicles:
1. Tires/wheels-related (35%)
2. Brakes-related (22%)
3. Steering/suspension/transmission/ engine-related (3%)
4. Other/unknown vehicle-related problems (40%)
NHTSA and the States have an agreed upon set of performance measures to be used in the development and implementation of behavioral highway safety plans and programs.

- Overall fatalities
- Serious injuries
- Fatalities/VMT
- Unrestrained fatalities
- Belt citations
- Speeding fatalities
- <20 year-old driver fatalities
- Pedestrian fatalities
- Observed Seat Belt use
- .08+ driver fatalities
- Speeding citations
- Motorcycle fatalities
- DWI arrests
- Un-helmeted fatalities
- Bicyclist fatalities
Successes and Challenges

- Success focused on passenger vehicle occupants
- Motorcyclists, pedestrians, and bicyclists increasing in proportion
- Elusive driver behaviors: distraction, drowsiness, drugs

![Graph showing the percentage of different types of road users and their involvement in traffic accidents from 2004 to 2013.](https://www.nhtsa.gov)
Accessing State-specific data

The diagram shows how to access State-specific data on the NHTSA website. The NHTSA Data section is highlighted, with a circled area indicating the "Data" menu and the "Search for State-Specific Information" option. This section is part of the National Center for Statistics and Analysis (NCSA), which provides a wide range of analytical and statistical support to NHTSA and the highway safety community.
Who can help you solve problems?

- Your State Highway Safety Office – [www.ghsa.org](http://www.ghsa.org)
- NHTSA’s National Center for Statistics and Analysis - [www.nhtsa.gov/NCSA](http://www.nhtsa.gov/NCSA)
Safer cars. Safer drivers. Safer roads.

www.NHTSA.gov

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