



ESTIMATED DRIVER ALCOHOL USE IN FATAL CRASHES

The summary data in the table and graph for the 'Estimated Driver Alcohol Use in Fatal Crashes' report were taken from FARS. Information was tabulated using a comparison between large truck and/or bus and passenger vehicle estimated driver alcohol use for each type of vehicle where fatal large truck and/or bus-passenger vehicle collisions take place.

"This report uses the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) definition of a fatal traffic crash as being alcohol-related if the driver had a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of 0.01 grams per deciliter (g/dl) or greater in a police-reported traffic crash. Drivers with a BAC of 0.08 g/dl or greater involved in fatal crashes are considered to be intoxicated. This is the legal limit of intoxication in most states.

Known BAC test results are not available for all drivers involved in fatal crashes. Missing data can result for a number of reasons, the most frequent of which is that drivers are not always tested for alcohol. To address the missing data issue, NHTSA has developed and employs a statistical model to estimate the likelihood that a fatal crash-involved driver was sober (BAC of zero), had some alcohol (BAC of 0.01-0.07), or was intoxicated (BAC of 0.08 or greater) at the time of the crash."

Definitions

Fatal crash - A crash where one or more persons dies within 30 days of the crash. The fatality does not have to occur at the scene of the crash. It includes any person involved in the crash, including pedestrians and bicyclists, as well as occupants of the passenger cars.

Non-fatal crash - A crash where one or more persons has non-fatal injuries requiring transportation by a vehicle for the purpose of obtaining immediate medical attention; or one or more of the vehicles were towed away from the scene due to "disabling damage". The towed vehicle need not be the truck or bus involved in the crash.

Categories

.00 (no alcohol) - Driver's estimated BAC was zero.

.01 - .07 (low alcohol) - Driver's estimated BAC was between .01 and .07.

.08 and over (high alcohol) - Driver's estimated BAC was .08 or greater.

CAUTION: Although efforts have been made to provide the most accurate and complete MCMIS Crash data possible, data quality can vary from state to state. Please use caution when interpreting MCMIS crash data.