GLOSSARY

alcohol involvement

NHTSA defines a fatal crash as alcohol-related or alcohol-involved if at least one driver or nonoccupant (such as a pedestrian or pedalcyclist) involved in the crash is determined to have had a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .01 grams per deciliter (g/dL) or higher. Thus, any fatality that occurs in an alcohol-related crash is considered an alcohol-related fatality.

NHTSA defines a nonfatal crash as alcohol-related or alcohol-involved if police indicate on the police crash report that there is evidence of alcohol present. The code does not necessarily mean that a driver or nonoccupant was tested for alcohol.

The terms “alcohol-related” and “alcohol-involved” do not indicate that a crash or fatality was caused by the presence of alcohol.

alcohol-impaired-driving crash

A crash that involves at least one driver or motorcycle rider (operator) with a BAC of .08 g/dL or higher. Thus, any crash involving a driver or motorcycle rider with a BAC of .08 g/dL or higher is considered an alcohol-impaired-driving crash.

alcohol-impaired-driving fatalities

Fatalities in crashes that involve at least one driver or motorcycle rider (operator) with a BAC of .08 g/dL or higher. Thus, any fatality occurring in a crash involving a driver or motorcycle rider with a BAC of .08 g/dL or higher is considered an alcohol-impaired-driving fatality.

blood alcohol concentration

BAC is measured as the weight of alcohol in a volume of blood (g/dL). A positive BAC level (.01 g/dL or higher) indicates that alcohol was consumed by the person tested; a BAC level of .08 g/dL or more indicates that the person was alcohol-impaired.

body type

A classification of a vehicle based on its general body configuration, size, shape, doors, etc.

bus

Any motor vehicle designed primarily to transport large groups of nine or more people, including the driver. Includes school buses, inter-city buses, and transit buses.

combination truck

A truck tractor not pulling a trailer; a tractor pulling at least one full- or semi-trailer; or a single-unit truck pulling at least one trailer.

crash

An event that produces injury and/or property damage, involves a motor vehicle in-transport, and occurs on a trafficway or while the vehicle is still in motion after running off the trafficway.

crash severity

1. ***fatal crash***. A police-reported crash involving a motor vehicle in-transport on a trafficway in which at least one person dies within 30 days of the crash.
2. ***injury crash***. A police-reported crash that involves a motor vehicle in-transport on a trafficway in which no one died but at least one person was reported to have: (1) an incapacitating injury; (2) a visible but not incapacitating injury; (3) a possible, not visible injury; or (4) an injury of unknown severity.
3. ***property-damage-only crash***. A police-reported crash involving a motor vehicle in-transport on a trafficway in which no one involved in the crash suffered any injuries.

crash type

Single-vehicle or multivehicle crash.

day

From 6 a.m. to 5:59 p.m.

driver

The motor vehicle occupant who is in physical control of a motor vehicle in-transport, or for an out-of-control vehicle, the occupant who was in control until control was lost.

ejection

Refers to an occupant being totally or partially thrown from the vehicle because of an impact or rollover.

First Harmful Event

The first event during a crash that caused injury or property damage.

fixed object

Stationary structures or substantial vegetation attached to the terrain.

functional system

Identifies the functional classification of the segment of the trafficway on which the crash occurred. Includes the following:

interstates. Highest classification of Arterials, Principal Arterials. Interstates are designed and constructed with mobility and long-distance travel in mind. They are typically limited-access, divided highways linking the major urban areas of the United States

other freeways and expressways. Roadways that have directional travel lanes usually separated by some type of physical barrier, and their access and egress points are limited to on- and off-ramp locations or a very limited number of at-grade intersections. They look very similar to Interstates, and like Interstates are designed and constructed to maximize their mobility function, and abutting land uses are not directly served by them.

other principal arterials. Roadways that serve major centers of metropolitan areas, provide a high degree of mobility, and can also provide mobility through rural areas. Unlike their access-controlled counterparts, abutting land uses can be served directly. Forms of access for Other Principal Arterial roadways include driveways to specific parcels and at-grade intersections with other roadways.

minor arterials. Roadways that provide service for trips of moderate length, serve geographic areas that are smaller than their higher Arterial counterparts, and offer connectivity to the higher Arterial system. In an urban context, they interconnect and augment the higher Arterial system, provide intra-community continuity, and may carry local bus routes.

major collectors. Routes that gather traffic from Local Roads and funnel it to the Arterial network. The distinctions between Major Collectors and Minor Collectors are often subtle. Major Collectors are longer; have lower connecting driveway densities; have higher speed limits; are spaced at greater intervals; have higher annual average traffic volumes; and may have more travel lanes than their Minor Collector counterparts.

minor collectors. Routes that gather traffic from Local Roads and funnel it to the Arterial network. The distinctions between Major Collectors and Minor Collectors are often subtle. Minor Collectors are shorter; have higher connecting driveway densities; have lower speed limits; are spaced at smaller intervals; have lower annual average traffic volumes; and may have fewer travel lanes than their Major Collector counterparts.

local. Roadways not intended for use in long-distance travel except at the origin or destination of the trip due to their provision of direct access to abutting land. Locally classified roads account for the largest percentage of all roadways in terms of mileage. They are often designed to discourage through traffic. As public roads, they should be accessible for public use throughout the year.

gross vehicle weight rating

The GVWR is the maximum rated capacity of a vehicle, including the weight of the base vehicle, all added equipment, driver and passengers, and all cargo loaded into or on the vehicle. Actual weight may be less than or greater than GVWR.

impact point

The first impact point that produced personal injury or property damage, regardless of First or Most Harmful Event.

injury severity

The police-reported injury severity of the person in the crash.

1. Killed (Fatal)
2. Injured (Incapacitating injury, evident injury but not incapacitating, complaint of injury, or injured, severity unknown)
3. No injury

jackknife

Jackknife can occur at any time during the crash sequence. In this report, jackknifing is restricted to a truck tractor pulling a trailing unit in which the trailing unit and the pulling vehicle rotate with respect to each other.

junction

Area formed by the connection of two roadways, including intersections, interchange areas, and entrance/exit ramps.

large trucks

Trucks with a GVWR of over 10,000 pounds, including single-unit trucks and truck tractors.

light trucks

Trucks with a GVWR of 10,000 pounds or less, including pickups, vans, and SUVs.

manner of collision

A classification for crashes in which the First Harmful Event was a collision between two motor vehicles in-transport and is described as one of the following:

angle. Collisions that are not head-on, rear-end, rear-to-rear, or sideswipe.

head-on. A collision where the front of one vehicle collides with the front of another vehicle.

rear-end. A collision in which one vehicle collides with the rear of another vehicle.

sideswipe. A collision in which the sides of both vehicles sustain minimal engagements.

Most Harmful Event

The event during a crash for a particular vehicle that is judged to have produced the greatest personal injury or property damage.

motor vehicle in-transport

A motor vehicle in motion on the trafficway or any other motor vehicle on the roadway, including stalled, disabled, or abandoned vehicles.

motorcycle

A 2- or 3-wheeled motor vehicle designed to transport one or two people, including motor-scooters, minibikes, and mopeds.

motorcycle rider

The operator (driver) of a motorcycle.

motorcyclist

Any person riding on a motorcycle, including the motorcycle rider (operator) and any passenger (a person riding on, but not in control of, the motorcycle).

night

From 6 p.m. to 5:59 a.m.

noncollision

A crash in which the First Harmful Event does not involve a collision with a fixed object, nonfixed object, or a motor vehicle. This includes rollover/overturn, fire/explosion, fall from a vehicle, and injuries in a vehicle.

nonoccupant

Any person who is not an occupant of a motor vehicle in-transport and includes the following.

1. Pedestrians
2. Pedalcyclists
3. Occupants of parked motor vehicles
4. Others such as joggers, skateboard riders, people riding on animals, and people riding in animal-drawn conveyances.

nonoccupant location

The location of nonoccupants at time of impact. Intersection locations are coded only if nonoccupants were struck in the area formed by a junction of two or more trafficways. Non-intersection location may include nonoccupants struck on a junction of a driveway/alley access and a named trafficway. Nonoccupants who are occupants of motor vehicles not in-transport are coded with respect to the location of the vehicle.

objects not fixed

Objects that are movable or moving but are not motor vehicles. Includes pedestrians, pedalcyclists, animals, or trains (e.g., spilled cargo in roadway).

occupant

Any person who is in or on a motor vehicle in-transport. Includes the driver, passengers, and any person riding on the exterior of a motor vehicle.

other vehicle

Consists of the following types of vehicles.

1. Large limousine (more than 4 side doors or stretched chassis)
2. 3-wheel automobile or automobile derivative
3. Van-based motorhome
4. Light-truck-based motorhome (chassis-mounted)
5. Large-truck-based motorhome
6. ATV (all-terrain vehicle, including dune/swamp buggy) and ATC (all-terrain cycle)
7. Snowmobile
8. Farm equipment other than trucks
9. Construction equipment other than trucks (includes graders)
10. Other type vehicle (includes go-cart, forklift, city streetsweeper).

passenger

Any occupant of a motor vehicle in-transport who is not a driver.

passenger car

Motor vehicles used primarily for carrying passengers, including convertibles, sedans, and station wagons.

passenger vehicle

Passenger cars and light trucks with a GVWR of 10,000 pounds or less.

pedalcyclist

A person on a vehicle powered solely by pedals. Starting in 2022, pedalcyclists also include a person on a vehicle powered by a combination of pedals and motors.

pedestrian

Any person not in or upon a motor vehicle or other vehicle.

restraint use

The occupant's use of available vehicle restraints, including lap belt, shoulder belt, or automatic belt.

roadway

That part of a trafficway designed, improved, and ordinarily used for motor vehicle travel.

rollover

Any vehicle rotation of 90° or more about any true longitudinal or lateral axis. Includes rollovers occurring as a First Harmful Event or subsequent event.

rural/urban classification

The crash location (urban or rural).

seating position

The location of the occupants in the vehicle. More than one can be assigned the same seat position; however, this is allowed only when a person is sitting on someone's lap.

school-bus-related crash

Any crash in which a vehicle, regardless of body design, used as a school bus is directly or indirectly involved, such as a crash involving school children alighting from a vehicle.

single-unit truck

A medium or heavy truck in which the engine, cab, drive train, and cargo area are all on one chassis.

trafficway

Any road, street, or highway open to the public as a matter of right or custom for moving people or property from one place to another.

vehicle

See *motor vehicle in-transport*.

Vehicle Identification Number

VIN is a unique combination of 17 alphanumeric characters assigned to a specific motor vehicle designated by the manufacturer.

vehicle miles traveled

VMT is a measurement of the total distance traveled by vehicles on a specific segment of roadway within a specific time frame. Annual VMT is calculated by multiplying the estimated mean traffic volume (Annual Average Daily Traffic) for a roadway segment by the roadway segment length in miles and the number of days in the year.

vehicle type

A series of motor vehicle body types that have been grouped together because of their design similarities. The principal vehicle types used in this report are passenger car, light truck, large truck, motorcycle, bus, and other vehicle. See the definition of each of the vehicle types in this glossary.

vPIC

The NHTSA Product Information Catalog and Vehicle Listing (vPIC) is a consolidated platform that presents data collected in the manufacturer reported data from 49 CFR Parts 512 – 595 for use in a variety of modern tools. NHTSA's vPIC platform is intended to serve as a centralized source for basic VIN decoding, Manufacturer Information Database (MID), Manufacturer Equipment Plant Identification and associated data.

weekday

From 6 a.m. Monday to 5:59 p.m. Friday.

weekend

From 6 p.m. Friday to 5:59 a.m. Monday.