

A Comparison of the Road's Biggest Killers

What causes people to die in automobile crashes and who are the most likely to be involved in a fatal collision? While 80% of people in collisions believe someone else is at fault, what are the contributing factors and facts surrounding fatal car crashes? We've summarized into five key areas:

- Human Factors
- Age and Gender
- Day of Week
- Impact of Alcohol
- Impact of Cell Phone Usage

What are the contributory factors to fatal automobile crashes?

- 83% Human Factors
- 9% Vehicle Factors
- 8% Road/Environment Factors

What are Road Fatalities by Age and Gender?

Males account for 76% of road fatalities with 64% of all fatalities occurring in ages 25-44.

What are Road Fatalities by Day of the Week?

60% of road fatalities happen on the weekend with 24% occurring on Saturday, 19% on Sunday and 17% on Friday.

What Percent Road Fatalities are Due to Alcohol?

Fortunately, the percentages of road fatalities due to alcohol has decreased tremendously since 1982. However, alcohol still remains the cause of 32% of all road fatalities.

How Does Cell Phone Usage Impact Road Fatalities?

- 50% of all drivers between ages 18-24 are texting while driving
- Everyday in 2008, 800,000 people were texting or talking on their cell phone while driving
- Talking on a cell phone causes 25% of all car crashes

How to Make a Fatal Car Crash?

- Speed Over 55 miles per hour: 49% of fatal collisions occur in speed zones over 55
- Poor Weather: Fatal collisions are five times more likely to occur during sleet vs. clear weather.
- Alcohol: 32% of fatal crashes in 2007 resulted from drivers with blood alcohol content of .08% or greater
- Driver: Teen and young adults between the ages of 15-34 make up the largest number of road deaths, 44%
- Cell Phones: Talking on a cell phone while driving can make a young driver's reaction time as slow as a 70 year-old. A driver dialing a cell phone is 2.8 times more likely to get into a crash than a non-distracted driver
- Date & Time: 33% of fatal accidents occur during rush hour, between the hours of 3-9 PM with the summer months and August with the most fatal collisions per year