



## DRIVER-RELATED FACTORS IN SINGLE-VEHICLE FATAL CRASHES

The summary data in the two tables and graph for the 'Driver-Related Factors in Single-Vehicle Fatal Crashes' report was derived from FARS. Information was tabulated using a comparison between large truck and/or bus and passenger vehicle driver factors for each type of vehicle when involved in single-vehicle fatal crashes. Passenger vehicles include automobiles, vans, mini-vans, pickup trucks and sport utility vehicles.

The first table presents the number of large trucks and/or bus and passenger vehicles that had driver-related factors recorded in single-vehicle fatal crashes.

The second table presents the types of driver-related factors recorded for single-vehicle fatal crashes. FARS includes 98 different driver-related crash factors. FARS includes up to four driver-related factors for each driver involved in a crash. The table shows the percent of drivers cited for each factor, whether that factor was the only one listed for the driver, or was the second, third, or fourth factor. Thus, when adding the percentages for the major driver factors cited for large trucks and/or passenger vehicles, the result will usually exceed the percent of total drivers recorded with factors. These percentages were calculated by dividing the number of times a factor was recorded by the total number of vehicles that had factors recorded.

"Related Factor" does not necessarily mean fault or crash cause. Related factors are merely the judgment of the officer at the scene and are not based on a thorough evaluation of the crash in an attempt to determine the cause of the crash or crash contributing factors. Some of the factors in the tables, such as manslaughter/homicide and hit and run driver, are charges assessed to drivers after the crash, not descriptions of pre-crash behavior that lead to crashes.

### 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

**Cellular Telephone Present in Vehicle** - Using hands-held and hands-free cellular telephones at time of crash.

**Driving Too Fast** - Driving too fast for conditions, or in excess of posted maximum speed limit.

**Drowsy/Asleep** - Drowsy, sleepy, asleep, fatigued not due to other factors, such as drugs.

**Erratic/Reckless Driving** - Operating a vehicle in an erratic, reckless, careless or negligent manner; operating at erratic or suddenly changing speeds.

**Failure to Keep in Proper Lane** - Driving or crossing over centerline and striking oncoming vehicles.

**Failure to Obey Traffic Devices** - Failure to obey actual traffic sign, traffic control device, or traffic officer; failure to obey safety zone traffic laws.

**Failure to Yield Right of Way** - Failure to yield to pedestrian, other vehicles, streetcar already in intersection.

**Hit and Run Vehicle Driver**

**Ill, Passed Out/Blackout** - Diabetic reactions, seizure, heart attack, high/low blood pressure, fainting.

**Inattentive** - Driver distracted by cigarette, children, adjusting radio and other devices, reading, talking, television, etc.

**Making Other Improper Turn** - Too wide a right or left turn; unsafe U-turn. Implies judgment-oriented actions, not those explicitly stated by the law.

**Other Non-Moving Traffic Violations**

**Over Correcting** - Based on police officer judgment, with knowledge of driver's intention.

**Ran Off Road/Lane** - Failure to keep in proper lane or running off road.

**Under the Influence of Alcohol, Drugs or Medications** - Driver impaired, DUI, DWI (of alcohol or drugs).

**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.