

FATALITY FACTS 2004: GENDER

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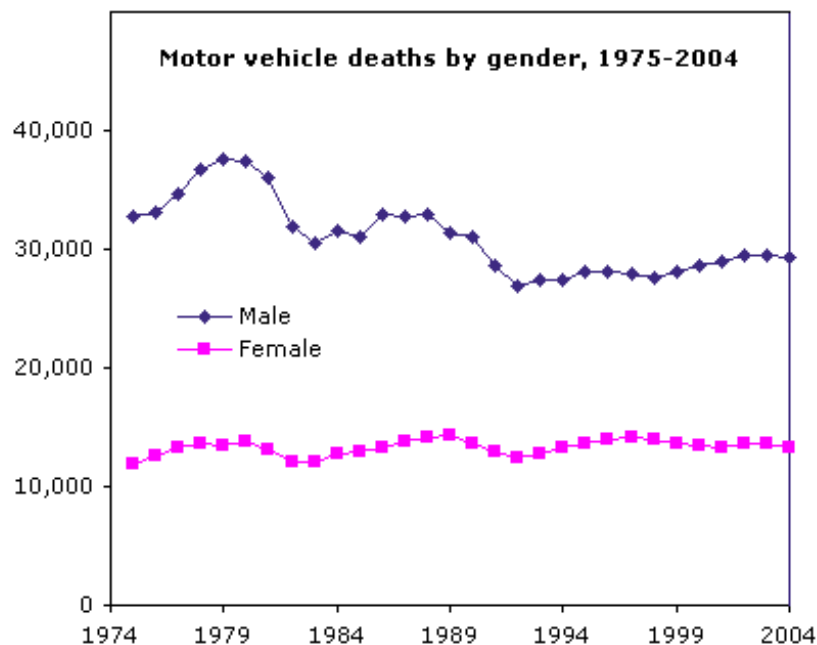
More men than women die each year in motor vehicle crashes. Men typically drive more miles than women and more often engage in risky driving practices including not using seat belts, driving while impaired by alcohol, and speeding. Crashes involving male drivers often are more severe than those involving women.¹ However, when crashes of equal severity are examined by gender, females are more likely than males to be killed or injured.^{2,3,4,5}

Since 1975 deaths among female drivers have increased while male driver deaths have changed little. The increase in female driver deaths can be explained by an increase in exposure. More women now are licensed than in the past. They drive more miles and are more likely to drive at night. The rate of fatal crashes per 100 million miles of travel for male and female drivers decreased similarly between 1977 and 2001 — a 48 percent decrease for female drivers and a 45 percent decrease for male drivers.⁶

The following facts are based on analysis of data from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS):

OVERVIEW

- From 1975 to 2004 female deaths in motor vehicle crashes increased 12 percent, compared with a 10 percent decline in male deaths. The increase in female deaths was largely due to a 79 percent increase in deaths of female passenger vehicle drivers since 1975. Deaths of male passenger vehicle drivers changed little during the same time period. Male passenger deaths declined 16 percent, while female passenger deaths decreased 9 percent. Deaths have gone down among both male and female pedestrians and bicyclists. Since 1997 motorcyclist deaths increased by 86 percent for males and more than doubled for females. Still, males comprised 90 percent of motorcyclist deaths in 2004.



Motor vehicle crash deaths by type and gender, 1975-2004												
Year	Passenger vehicle driver deaths		Passenger vehicle passenger deaths		Pedestrian deaths		Bicyclist deaths		Motorcyclist deaths		Total motor vehicle deaths*	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
	Num	Num	Num	Num	Num	Num	Num	Num	Num	Num	Num	Num
1975	15,706	3,642	6,069	5,095	5,196	2,319	820	183	2,863	243	32,675	11,844
1976	16,013	4,078	6,206	5,330	5,120	2,307	751	163	2,950	282	33,038	12,481
1977	16,499	4,442	6,242	5,542	5,331	2,400	730	192	3,676	328	34,627	13,248
1978	17,974	4,782	6,373	5,659	5,494	2,296	714	178	4,059	389	36,731	13,591
1979	18,273	4,836	6,430	5,388	5,701	2,391	759	173	4,295	417	37,588	13,498
1980	18,110	4,876	6,439	5,438	5,613	2,454	782	183	4,524	430	37,392	13,688
1981	17,592	4,910	5,972	5,077	5,459	2,332	748	181	4,348	389	35,930	13,161
1982	15,128	4,534	5,297	4,609	5,144	2,185	720	144	3,933	334	31,877	12,062
1983	14,619	4,716	5,022	4,699	4,775	2,050	700	130	3,800	299	30,498	12,084
1984	14,933	5,365	5,094	4,604	5,016	2,005	684	153	4,076	349	31,541	12,707
1985	14,767	5,288	5,009	4,704	4,671	2,133	732	137	4,074	341	30,959	12,856
1986	15,935	5,564	5,667	4,931	4,771	2,004	789	140	4,002	305	32,856	13,191
1987	16,133	6,022	5,782	5,093	4,777	1,967	826	114	3,526	306	32,621	13,757
1988	16,744	6,140	5,815	5,293	4,756	2,111	773	128	3,255	235	32,947	14,123
1989	16,284	6,269	5,562	5,408	4,594	1,959	696	126	2,790	240	31,338	14,232
1990	15,901	6,049	5,587	5,061	4,495	1,985	732	121	2,888	240	30,916	13,665
1991	14,824	5,727	5,231	4,904	3,985	1,815	715	121	2,491	211	28,545	12,953
1992	14,021	5,550	4,995	4,779	3,867	1,679	627	90	2,119	171	26,772	12,444
1993	14,298	5,737	5,014	4,869	3,936	1,711	702	104	2,144	202	27,322	12,814
1994	14,610	6,033	5,041	5,021	3,757	1,732	687	109	2,013	202	27,409	13,291
1995	15,163	6,293	5,203	5,137	3,856	1,728	699	128	1,949	189	28,133	13,663
1996	15,066	6,563	5,379	5,260	3,780	1,667	654	107	1,888	189	28,061	13,991
1997	15,016	6,681	5,230	5,292	3,643	1,677	712	99	1,869	187	27,819	14,164
1998	14,975	6,651	5,006	5,046	3,558	1,670	658	99	2,027	200	27,607	13,884
1999	15,238	6,658	5,044	4,979	3,466	1,472	656	94	2,197	221	28,040	13,667
2000	15,323	6,495	5,381	4,831	3,251	1,512	613	76	2,563	266	28,545	13,396
2001	15,396	6,465	5,275	4,705	3,421	1,479	657	72	2,840	283	28,986	13,205
2002	15,907	6,629	5,361	4,737	3,298	1,552	590	73	2,883	304	29,466	13,529
2003	15,551	6,647	5,209	4,682	3,274	1,499	554	71	3,283	358	29,346	13,532
2004	15,319	6,519	5,069	4,612	3,215	1,423	624	95	3,471	415	29,320	13,310

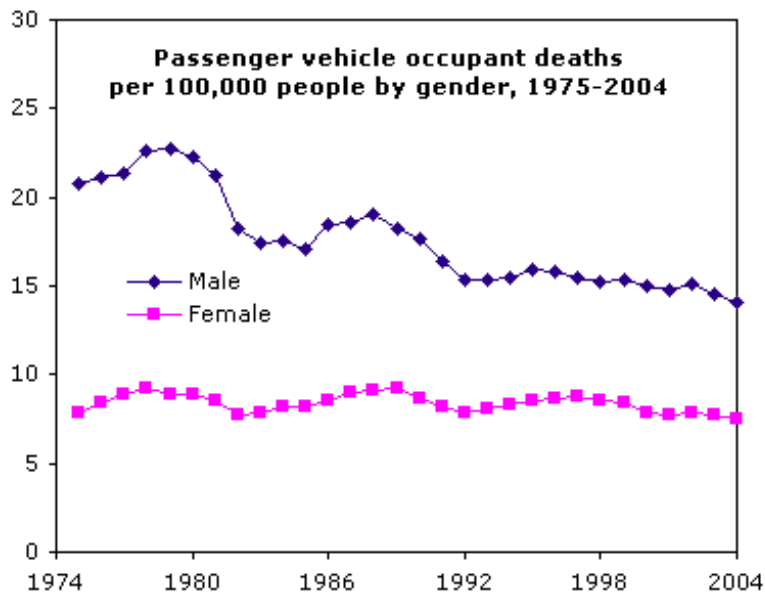
*Total includes other and/or unknowns

- About one-third of all motor vehicle crash deaths in 2004 were females. Females accounted for 30 percent of passenger vehicle driver deaths, 48 percent of passenger deaths, 31 percent of pedestrian deaths, 13 percent of bicyclist deaths, and 11 percent of motorcyclist deaths.

Number and percent of motor vehicle crash deaths by type and gender, 2004												
Gender	Passenger vehicle driver deaths		Passenger vehicle passenger deaths		Pedestrian deaths		Bicyclist deaths		Motorcyclist deaths		Total motor vehicle deaths*	
	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%
Male	15,319	70	5,069	52	3,215	69	624	87	3,471	89	29,320	69
Female	6,519	30	4,612	48	1,423	31	95	13	415	11	13,310	31
All*	21,838	100	9,682	100	4,641	100	719	100	3,888	100	42,636	100

*Total includes other and/or unknowns

- From 1975 to 2004, the rate of passenger vehicle occupant deaths per 100,000 people has varied little among females (from 7.9 to 7.5 deaths per 100,000 people) but has declined somewhat among males (from 21 to 14 deaths).



Passenger vehicle occupant deaths per 100,000 people by gender, 1975-2004

Year	Male			Female			All*		
	Population	Num	Rate	Population	Num	Rate	Population	Num	Rate
1975	105,365,965	21,841	20.7	110,607,234	8,755	7.9	215,973,199	30,601	14.2
1976	106,308,604	22,300	21.0	111,726,560	9,420	8.4	218,035,164	31,724	14.5
1977	107,334,548	22,806	21.2	112,904,877	10,015	8.9	220,239,425	32,823	14.9
1978	108,423,580	24,443	22.5	114,160,965	10,477	9.2	222,584,545	34,923	15.7
1979	109,583,961	24,772	22.6	115,471,526	10,252	8.9	225,055,487	35,026	15.6
1980	110,398,754	24,649	22.3	116,825,965	10,341	8.9	227,224,719	34,995	15.4
1981	111,502,912	23,667	21.2	117,962,696	10,038	8.5	229,465,608	33,711	14.7
1982	112,579,479	20,494	18.2	119,085,017	9,158	7.7	231,664,496	29,654	12.8
1983	113,646,987	19,719	17.4	120,144,916	9,430	7.8	233,791,903	29,153	12.5
1984	114,670,252	20,102	17.5	121,154,531	9,989	8.2	235,824,783	30,091	12.8
1985	115,729,577	19,825	17.1	122,194,155	10,016	8.2	237,923,732	29,847	12.5
1986	116,865,225	21,677	18.5	123,267,616	10,514	8.5	240,132,841	32,224	13.4
1987	117,960,907	21,986	18.6	124,328,116	11,148	9.0	242,289,023	33,145	13.7
1988	119,085,496	22,633	19.0	125,413,340	11,459	9.1	244,498,836	34,105	13.9
1989	120,277,490	21,897	18.2	126,541,629	11,693	9.2	246,819,119	33,599	13.6
1990	121,626,118	21,564	17.7	127,838,278	11,132	8.7	249,464,396	32,711	13.1
1991	122,956,043	20,151	16.4	129,197,049	10,651	8.2	252,153,092	30,810	12.2
1992	124,423,544	19,077	15.3	130,606,155	10,350	7.9	255,029,699	29,457	11.6
1993	125,787,805	19,360	15.4	131,994,803	10,622	8.0	257,782,608	29,994	11.6
1994	127,049,175	19,728	15.5	133,277,846	11,076	8.3	260,327,021	30,816	11.8
1995	128,293,712	20,442	15.9	134,509,564	11,452	8.5	262,803,276	31,913	12.1
1996	129,504,353	20,491	15.8	135,724,219	11,852	8.7	265,228,572	32,354	12.2
1997	130,783,107	20,308	15.5	137,000,500	12,006	8.8	267,783,607	32,331	12.1
1998	132,029,729	20,057	15.2	138,218,274	11,714	8.5	270,248,003	31,779	11.8
1999	133,276,559	20,347	15.3	139,414,254	11,654	8.4	272,690,813	32,008	11.7
2000	138,468,999	20,759	15.0	143,723,163	11,346	7.9	282,192,162	32,109	11.4
2001	140,012,615	20,747	14.8	145,089,460	11,187	7.7	285,102,075	31,938	11.2
2002	141,518,989	21,326	15.1	146,422,231	11,389	7.8	287,941,220	32,724	11.4
2003	143,024,340	20,810	14.5	147,764,636	11,354	7.7	290,788,976	32,166	11.1
2004	144,537,408	20,433	14.1	149,117,996	11,147	7.5	293,655,404	31,581	10.8

*Total includes other and/or unknowns

AGE DIFFERENCES

- In 2004, the rates of passenger vehicle occupant deaths per 100,000 people were higher among males than females for every age group except 0-15 years. The gender difference in fatalities was greatest for occupants ages 20-24, followed by those 85 and older. Males ages 16-19 had the highest fatality rate, and fatality rates were lowest for males and females younger than 16.

Passenger vehicle occupant deaths per 100,000 people by age and gender, 2004

Age	Male			Female			All*		
	Population	Num	Rate	Population	Num	Rate	Population	Num	Rate
0-15	33,281,054	943	2.8	31,752,676	912	2.9	65,033,730	1,855	2.9
16-19	8,477,614	2,678	31.6	8,040,454	1,436	17.9	16,518,068	4,114	24.9
20-24	10,802,990	3,362	31.1	10,168,312	1,241	12.2	20,971,302	4,603	21.9
25-29	9,994,814	2,032	20.3	9,566,092	801	8.4	19,560,906	2,833	14.5
30-34	10,341,219	1,494	14.4	10,129,813	699	6.9	20,471,032	2,193	10.7
35-39	10,570,515	1,416	13.4	10,481,803	652	6.2	21,052,318	2,068	9.8
40-44	11,463,366	1,444	12.6	11,592,968	717	6.2	23,056,334	2,161	9.4
45-49	10,917,745	1,384	12.7	11,204,884	736	6.6	22,122,629	2,120	9.6
50-54	9,534,928	1,106	11.6	9,961,248	597	6.0	19,496,176	1,703	8.7
55-59	8,001,419	939	11.7	8,488,082	530	6.2	16,489,501	1,469	8.9
60-64	5,998,014	709	11.8	6,591,409	499	7.6	12,589,423	1,208	9.6
65-69	4,632,949	642	13.9	5,323,518	459	8.6	9,956,467	1,101	11.1
70-74	3,794,677	549	14.5	4,712,328	459	9.7	8,507,005	1,008	11.8
75-79	3,098,639	641	20.7	4,312,118	533	12.4	7,410,757	1,174	15.8
80-84	2,119,592	590	27.8	3,440,533	445	12.9	5,560,125	1,035	18.6
≥85	1,507,873	450	29.8	3,351,758	412	12.3	4,859,631	862	17.7
Total	144,537,408	20,433	14.1	149,117,996	11,147	7.5	293,655,404	31,581	10.8

*Total includes other and/or unknowns

ALCOHOL INVOLVEMENT

- From 1982 to 2004 the proportion of fatally injured passenger vehicle drivers with blood alcohol concentrations (BACs) at or above 0.08 percent declined by 32 percent among males and 45 percent among females. Since 1985 the percentage of fatally injured male drivers with high BACs has been about twice that of female drivers.

Estimated number and percent of fatally injured passenger vehicle drivers with BACs≥0.08 percent, 1982-2004									
Year	Male			Female			All*		
	Drivers killed	Estimated deaths with BACs≥0.08		Drivers killed	Estimated deaths with BACs≥0.08		Drivers killed	Estimated deaths with BACs≥0.08	
	Num	Num	%	Num	Num	%	Num	Num	%
1982	15,128	8,529	56	4,534	1,495	33	19,663	10,023	51
1983	14,619	8,070	55	4,716	1,458	31	19,337	9,529	49
1984	14,933	7,855	53	5,365	1,523	28	20,298	9,378	46
1985	14,767	7,325	50	5,288	1,348	25	20,057	8,674	43
1986	15,935	7,950	50	5,564	1,444	26	21,503	9,396	44
1987	16,133	7,787	48	6,022	1,554	26	22,157	9,343	42
1988	16,744	8,080	48	6,140	1,500	24	22,884	9,581	42
1989	16,284	7,710	47	6,269	1,491	24	22,554	9,201	41
1990	15,901	7,591	48	6,049	1,380	23	21,953	8,973	41
1991	14,824	6,916	47	5,727	1,326	23	20,551	8,242	40
1992	14,021	6,216	44	5,550	1,217	22	19,573	7,434	38
1993	14,298	6,114	43	5,737	1,213	21	20,036	7,328	37
1994	14,610	5,898	40	6,033	1,184	20	20,644	7,083	34
1995	15,163	6,216	41	6,293	1,272	20	21,456	7,488	35
1996	15,066	6,063	40	6,563	1,272	19	21,631	7,336	34
1997	15,016	5,813	39	6,681	1,247	19	21,702	7,062	33
1998	14,975	5,712	38	6,651	1,232	19	21,627	6,945	32
1999	15,238	5,832	38	6,658	1,161	17	21,899	6,994	32
2000	15,323	5,844	38	6,495	1,283	20	21,819	7,127	33
2001	15,396	5,954	39	6,465	1,250	19	21,862	7,205	33
2002	15,907	6,182	39	6,629	1,199	18	22,537	7,381	33
2003	15,551	5,938	38	6,647	1,182	18	22,200	7,120	32
2004	15,319	5,856	38	6,519	1,181	18	21,838	7,037	32

*Total includes other and/or unknowns

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