

State of Washington

1994

Fatal Traffic
Collisions in
Washington
State

May 1995



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Preface

This document summarizes 1994 fatal traffic collisions on Washington State roadways. The major data source is the Washington Fatal Accident Reporting System (FARS), a traffic records system managed by the Washington Traffic Safety Commission (WTSC) under a contract with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

Note: The FARS data included in this document are based on all fatal collisions for 1994 reported as of May 1995. There may be minor revisions in FARS statistical information after the date of this publication. The FARS total fatality count may differ from WSP records because of delayed fatality reports and differences in traffic fatality definitions.

Other data sources for this report are the Washington State Patrol (WSP), Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), Department of Licensing (DOL), and the Office of Financial Management (OFM).

Statewide data on all traffic collisions, including injury and property-damage-only collisions, are presented in WTSC's annual report, *Traffic Collisions in Washington State, Data Summary and Highway Safety Problem Analysis*.

In 1994 fatal traffic collisions...

638 persons were killed, the fewest recorded in Washington since 1963 (page 3).

Population, miles traveled, registered vehicles and licensed drivers all increased in the state (page 1).

Two counties, Skamania and Columbia, had no fatal collisions (page 4).

The highest number of fatal collisions occurred in October, but the highest number of people killed was during August (pages 5 and 8).

One-third of all persons killed were under the age of 25 (page 9).

Pedestrians made up 13% of all persons killed in traffic collisions (page 11).

The number of motorcyclists killed dropped from 90 in 1987 to 35 in 1994 (page 12).

Male drivers age 21 to 24 made up 3.8% of licensed drivers, but were involved in 9.3% of fatal collisions (page 14).

Nearly 15% of drivers in fatal collisions had invalid drivers licenses (page 15).

Most fatal collisions (59%) were single-vehicle collisions (page 18).

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I. Overview

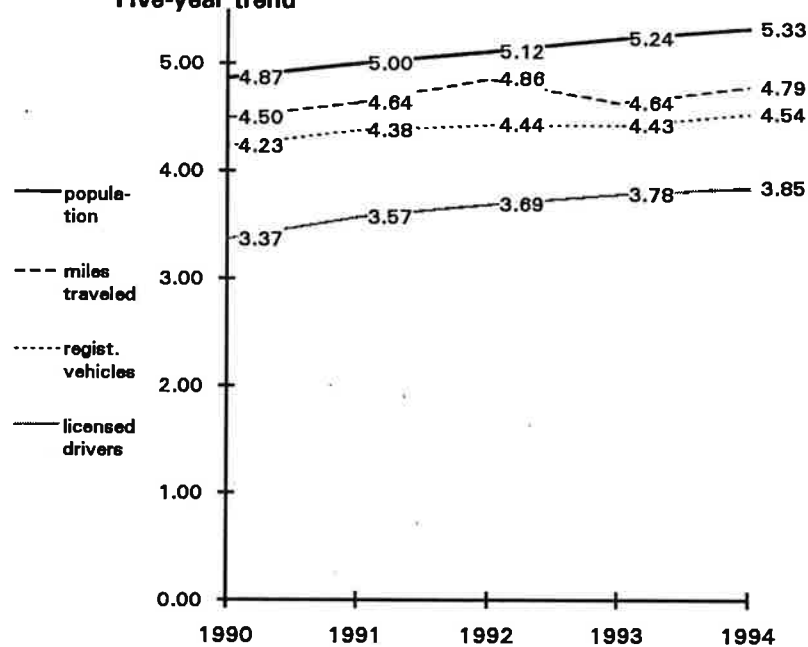
Overview of fatalities and exposure
Five-year comparison

	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	prev 4-yr avg	'94 vs prev 4-yr avg
Fatal collisions	573	579	592	601	726	625	-8.2%
Drivers involved in fatal clsns	855	832	856	876	1,066	908	-5.8%
Vehicles involved in fatal clsns	861	838	876	896	1,070	920	-6.4%
Persons killed	638	661	651	681	825	705	-9.4%
Males killed	436	455	443	476	588	491	-11.1%
Females killed	202	206	208	205	237	214	-5.6%
Persons killed in alcohol-rel clsns	295	306	308	335	431	345	-14.5%
Percent of all killed	46.2%	46.3%	47.3%	49.2%	52.2%	48.8%	-5.2%
Miles traveled (in millions)*	47,910	46,426	48,644	46,365	44,694	46,532	3.0%
Licensed drivers	3,849,270	3,784,430	3,689,741	3,572,038	3,366,146	3,603,089	6.8%
Registered vehicles	4,535,415	4,428,944	4,435,259	4,384,000	4,233,853	4,370,514	3.8%
Population	5,334,400	5,240,900	5,116,700	5,000,400	4,866,692	5,056,173	5.5%
Deaths per 100 million miles*	1.33	1.42	1.34	1.47	1.85	1.52	-12.3%
Deaths per 10,000 lic drivers	1.66	1.75	1.76	1.91	2.45	1.97	-15.7%
Deaths per 10,000 reg vehicles	1.41	1.49	1.47	1.55	1.95	1.62	-12.9%
Deaths per 10,000 population	1.20	1.26	1.27	1.36	1.70	1.40	-14.4%

*Preliminary for 1994

Source: FARS, DOL, WSDOT, OFM

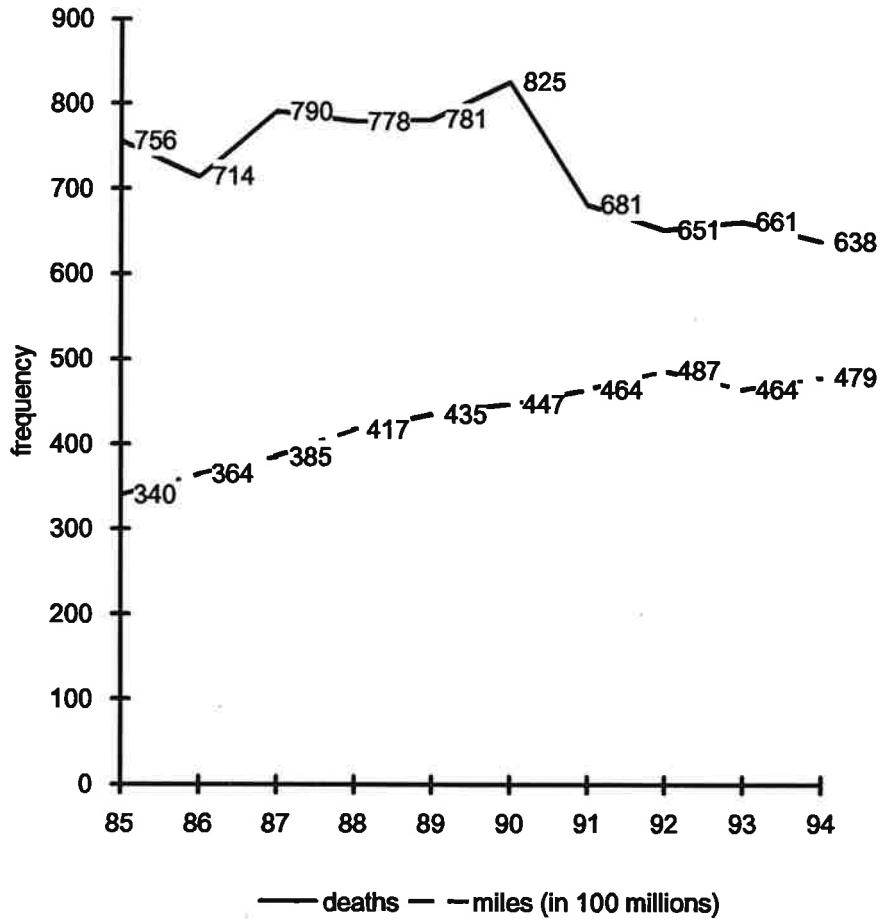
Population, miles traveled, registered vehicles & licensed drivers*
Five-year trend



* Population, drivers & vehicles in millions.
Travel in 10 billions of miles.

Source: FARS,
DOL, WSDOT, OFM

Traffic deaths and miles traveled Ten-year comparison



Source: FARS, WSDOT

Population, travel and fatality summary
1972 - 1994

year	population	lic. drivers	reg vehicles	miles traveled*	deaths +	death rate ++
1972	3,418,800	2,011,893	2,315,310	22,363	855	3.82
1973	3,424,300	2,113,460	2,453,880	23,457	776	3.31
1974	3,448,100	2,122,131	2,545,975	22,585	761	3.37
1975	3,493,990	2,176,505	2,640,944	24,023	771	3.21
1976	3,571,591	2,324,697	2,785,500	25,932	825	3.18
1977	3,661,975	2,339,215	2,952,383	27,449	927	3.38
1978	3,774,300	2,485,248	3,042,265	29,378	1,006	3.42
1979	3,911,200	2,579,368	3,186,898	29,122	1,034	3.55
1980	4,132,353	2,662,659	3,293,065	28,696	985	3.43
1981	4,250,200	2,732,722	3,408,871	30,346	872	2.87
1982	4,264,000	2,774,212	3,313,348	30,353	757	2.49
1983	4,285,100	2,867,032	3,372,966	32,275	705	2.18
1984	4,328,100	2,973,468	3,459,772	33,344	761	2.28
1985	4,384,100	2,980,717	3,546,152	33,978	756	2.22
1986	4,419,700	3,029,375	3,651,102	36,416	714	1.96
1987	4,481,100	3,156,600	3,833,058	38,520	790	2.05
1988	4,565,000	3,264,065	3,896,828	41,698	778	1.87
1989	4,660,700	3,350,324	4,084,367	43,449	781	1.80
1990	4,866,692	3,366,146	4,233,853	44,694	825	1.85
1991	5,000,400	3,572,038	4,384,000	46,365	681	1.47
1992	5,116,700	3,689,741	4,435,259	48,644	651	1.34
1993	5,240,900	3,784,430	4,428,944	46,426	661	1.42
1994	5,334,400	3,849,270	4,535,415	48,000	638	1.33

Source: FARS, WSP, OFM, DOL, WSDOT

* In millions; preliminary estimate for 1994

WSDOT method for estimating travel changed in 1993, resulting in lower mileage.

+ State adopted a 90-day fatal-reporting policy in 1980
and a 30-day fatal-reporting policy in 1989.

++Traffic deaths per 100 million vehicle miles of travel.

Traffic fatalities & vehicle registration

By county - 1994

county	vehicle			county	rate*	ranking**
	registration	deaths	rate*			
Adams	16,142	9	5.58	Skamania	0.00	1
Asotin	16,214	1	0.62	Columbia	0.00	2
Benton	108,411	12	1.11	Asotin	0.62	3
Chelan	58,156	16	2.75	Clallam	0.72	4
Clallam	55,480	4	0.72	King	0.83	5
Clark	234,689	27	1.15	Snohomish	1.08	6
Columbia	4,718	0	0.00	Benton	1.11	7
Cowlitz	81,875	10	1.22	Clark	1.15	8
Douglas	23,164	5	2.16	Pierce	1.15	9
Ferry	4,808	2	4.16	Island	1.19	10
Franklin	48,735	14	2.87	Cowlitz	1.22	11
Garfield	2,795	2	7.16	Grays Harbor	1.22	12
Grant	55,884	17	3.04	Kitsap	1.33	13
Grays Harbor	57,157	7	1.22	Spokane	1.41	14
Island	50,335	6	1.19	Thurston	1.58	15
Jefferson	21,466	8	3.73	San Juan	1.62	16
King	1,363,049	113	0.83	Whatcom	1.67	17
Kitsap	172,355	23	1.33	Klickitat	1.78	18
Kittitas	27,330	12	4.39	Skagit	2.05	19
Klickitat	16,860	3	1.78	Douglas	2.16	20
Lewis	65,941	18	2.73	Yakima	2.32	21
Lincoln	11,607	3	2.58	Mason	2.45	22
Mason	40,819	10	2.45	Lincoln	2.58	23
Okanogan	32,717	10	3.06	Lewis	2.73	24
Pacific	18,069	5	2.77	Chelan	2.75	25
Pend Oreille	9,529	5	5.25	Pacific	2.77	26
Pierce	476,761	55	1.15	Stevens	2.86	27
San Juan	12,355	2	1.62	Franklin	2.87	28
Skagit	92,729	19	2.05	Grant	3.04	29
Skamania	6,155	0	0.00	Okanogan	3.06	30
Snohomish	434,032	47	1.08	Walla Walla	3.17	31
Spokane	326,613	46	1.41	Jefferson	3.73	32
Stevens	27,977	8	2.86	Ferry	4.16	33
Thurston	189,493	30	1.58	Kittitas	4.39	34
Wahkiakum	2,931	2	6.82	Whitman	4.57	35
Walla Walla	37,799	12	3.17	Pend Oreille	5.25	36
Whatcom	125,402	21	1.67	Adams	5.58	37
Whitman	28,420	13	4.57	Wahkiakum	6.82	38
Yakima	176,443	41	2.32	Garfield	7.16	39
Total	4,535,415	638	1.41			

Source: FARS, DOL

* Traffic deaths per 10,000 registered vehicles.

** County ranking in fatality rate (1 = lowest fatality rate).



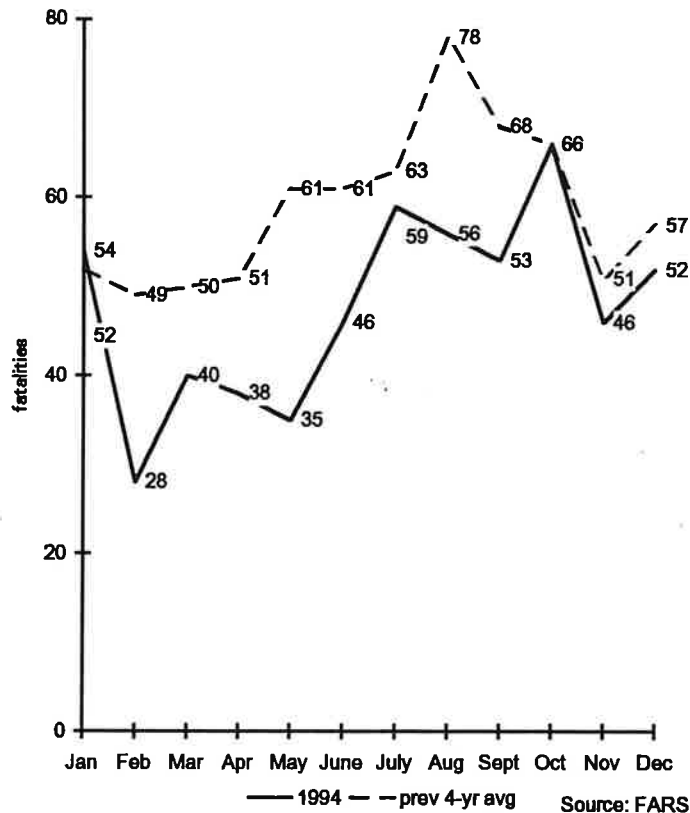
II. Fatal Collisions

Fatal collisions by month
Five-year comparison

month	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	prev 4-yr avg	'94 vs prev 4-yr avg
January	54	41	42	44	60	47	15.5%
February	28	38	45	39	48	43	-34.1%
March	40	33	43	51	57	46	-13.0%
April	38	48	44	35	48	44	-13.1%
May	35	48	49	59	68	56	-37.5%
June	46	42	57	45	69	53	-13.6%
July	59	51	43	51	72	54	8.8%
August	56	68	66	61	78	68	-17.9%
September	53	58	48	63	69	60	-10.9%
October	66	66	58	57	55	59	11.9%
November	46	44	34	49	51	45	3.4%
December	52	42	63	47	51	51	2.5%
Total	573	579	592	601	726	625	-8.2%

Source: FARS

Fatal collisions by month
1994 vs previous 4-year average



Fatal collisions by first harmful event
Five-year comparison

	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	prev 4-yr avg	'94 vs prev 4-yr avg
Collision w/ other motor vehicle	226	210	232	225	275	236	-4.0%
Collision w/ fixed or other object	154	171	167	180	217	184	-16.2%
Vehicle overturned	84	100	95	103	120	105	-19.6%
Vehicle - pedestrian	80	75	76	70	78	75	7.0%
Vehicle - pedalcycle	14	7	9	5	14	9	60.0%
Vehicle - railway vehicle	3	2	4	7	6	5	-36.8%
Vehicle - animal	1	0	1	2	1	1	0.0%
Other	11	13	5	7	14	10	12.8%
Not stated	0	1	3	2	1		
Total	573	579	592	601	726	625	-8.2%

Source: FARS

Fatal collisions by location in trafficway
Five-year comparison

location	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	prev 4-yr avg	'94 vs prev 4-yr avg
On roadway	336	311	346	319	391	342	-1.7%
Shoulder	19	19	13	22	31	21	-10.6%
Median	13	10	22	21	30	21	-37.3%
Roadside	128	150	111	137	168	142	-9.5%
Outside right of way	7	25	53	31	48	39	-82.2%
Off roadway - location unknown	66	59	45	67	54	56	17.3%
Other (in parking lane, etc.)	4	3	2	2	4	3	45.5%
Unknown	0	2	0	2	0	1	-100.0%
Total	573	579	592	601	726	625	-8.2%

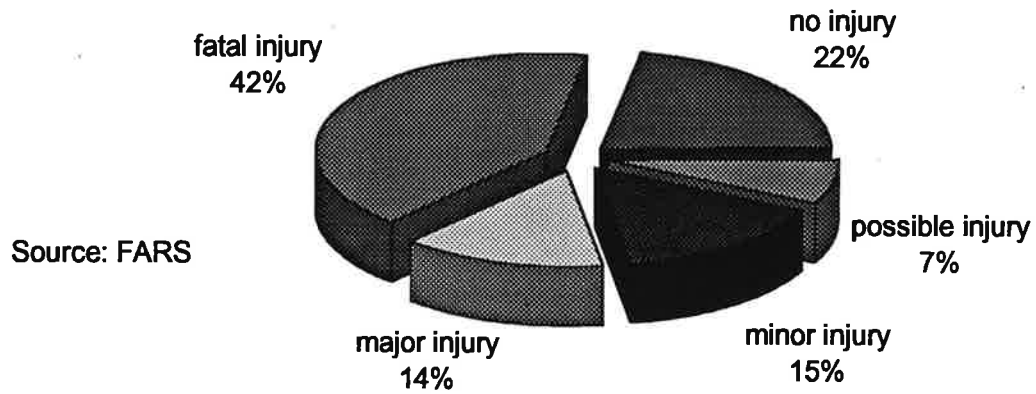
Source: FARS

Severity of injuries to all persons involved in fatal crashes
Five-year comparison

severity	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	prev 4-yr avg	'94 vs prev 4-yr avg
Fatal injury	638	661	651	681	825	705	-9.4%
Major injury	217	224	258	248	336	267	-18.6%
Minor injury	240	266	281	293	309	287	-16.4%
Possible injury	112	113	118	113	109	113	-1.1%
No injury	342	299	286	304	363	313	9.3%
Unknown injury	8	10	0	0	0	3	220.0%
Total persons	1,557	1,573	1,594	1,639	1,942	1,687	-7.7%

Source: FARS

**Injury severity of persons involved
in fatal collisions - 1994**





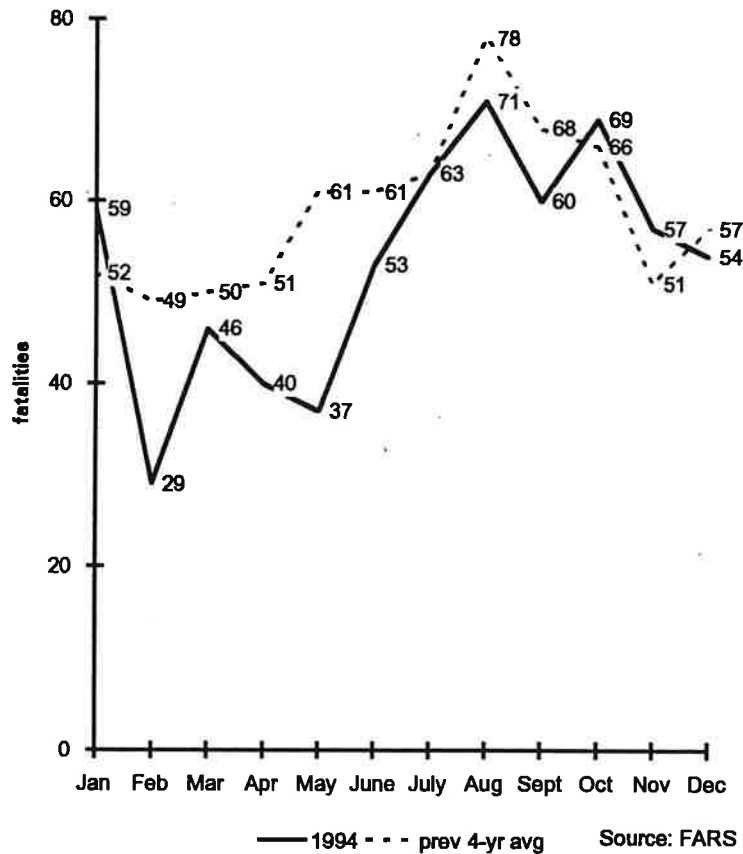
III. Traffic Fatalities

Traffic fatalities by month
Five-year comparison

	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	prev 4-yr avg	'94 vs prev 4-yr avg
January	59	47	45	53	63	52	13.5%
February	29	43	49	49	53	49	-40.2%
March	46	36	46	55	61	50	-7.1%
April	40	54	47	47	55	51	-21.2%
May	37	52	51	64	75	61	-38.8%
June	53	49	61	51	82	61	-12.8%
July	63	59	50	58	85	63	0.0%
August	71	77	71	73	92	78	-9.3%
September	60	71	56	66	80	68	-12.1%
October	69	72	67	62	62	66	4.9%
November	57	56	37	54	56	51	12.3%
December	54	45	71	49	61	57	-4.4%
Total	638	661	651	681	825	705	-9.4%

Source: FARS

Traffic fatalities by month
1994 vs previous 4-year average

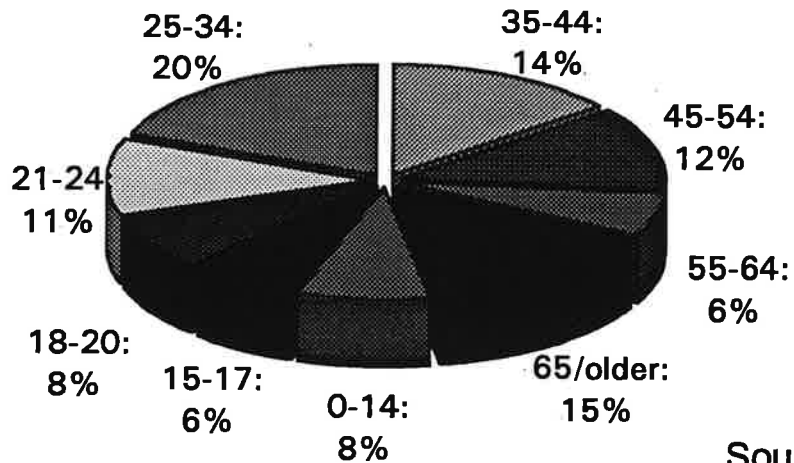


Fatalities by age group
Five-year comparison

age	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	prev 4-yr avg	'94 vs prev 4-yr avg
0 - 14	52	34	38	43	51	42	25.3%
15 - 17	41	53	35	42	60	48	-13.7%
18 - 20	50	84	54	74	73	71	-29.8%
21 - 24	71	81	88	89	107	91	-22.2%
25 - 34	121	123	132	144	203	151	-19.6%
35 - 44	90	97	91	84	116	97	-7.2%
45 - 54	78	62	56	48	74	60	30.0%
55 - 64	39	36	33	45	41	39	0.6%
65 & older	93	90	121	111	100	106	-11.8%
Unknown	3	1	3	1	0		
Total	638	661	651	681	825	705	-9.4%

Source: FARS

Age groups of persons killed - 1994



Source: FARS

Traffic fatalities by county

Five-year comparison

county	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	'94 vs	
						prev 4-yr avg	prev 4-yr avg
Adams	9	9	7	9	8	8.3	9.1%
Asotin	1	2	0	2	1	1.3	-20.0%
Benton	12	12	17	17	22	17.0	-29.4%
Chelan	16	14	12	17	12	13.8	16.4%
Clallam	4	6	6	2	17	7.8	-48.4%
Clark	27	39	39	32	36	36.5	-26.0%
Columbia	0	0	3	0	3	1.5	-100.0%
Cowlitz	10	7	8	13	23	12.8	-21.6%
Douglas	5	13	7	7	9	9.0	-44.4%
Ferry	2	8	3	3	9	5.8	-65.2%
Franklin	14	16	14	12	14	14.0	0.0%
Garfield	2	0	2	0	0	0.5	300.0%
Grant	17	17	16	12	24	17.3	-1.4%
Grays Harbor	7	15	13	20	15	15.8	-55.6%
Island	6	6	5	5	8	6.0	0.0%
Jefferson	8	4	5	6	3	4.5	77.8%
King	113	115	123	123	170	132.8	-14.9%
Kitsap	23	21	30	28	11	22.5	2.2%
Kittitas	12	12	21	27	39	24.8	-51.5%
Klickitat	3	2	4	4	13	5.8	-47.8%
Lewis	18	17	19	17	26	19.8	-8.9%
Lincoln	3	1	7	7	2	4.3	-29.4%
Mason	10	9	17	7	11	11.0	-9.1%
Okanogan	10	8	13	8	11	10.0	0.0%
Pacific	5	4	6	6	2	4.5	11.1%
Pend Oreille	5	1	4	2	3	2.5	100.0%
Pierce	55	61	60	61	85	66.8	-17.6%
San Juan	2	1	1	6	1	2.3	-11.1%
Skagit	19	16	11	16	24	16.8	13.4%
Skamania	0	4	4	2	2	3.0	-100.0%
Snohomish	47	47	42	69	76	58.5	-19.7%
Spokane	46	39	31	26	39	33.8	36.3%
Stevens	8	8	4	10	16	9.5	-15.8%
Thurston	30	25	30	22	17	23.5	27.7%
Wahkiakum	2	2	0	0	0	0.5	300.0%
Walla Walla	12	15	8	14	7	11.0	9.1%
Whatcom	21	30	15	16	21	20.5	2.4%
Whitman	13	4	3	12	7	6.5	100.0%
Yakima	41	51	42	41	38	43.0	-4.7%
Total	638	661	652	681	825	704.8	-9.5%

Source: FARS

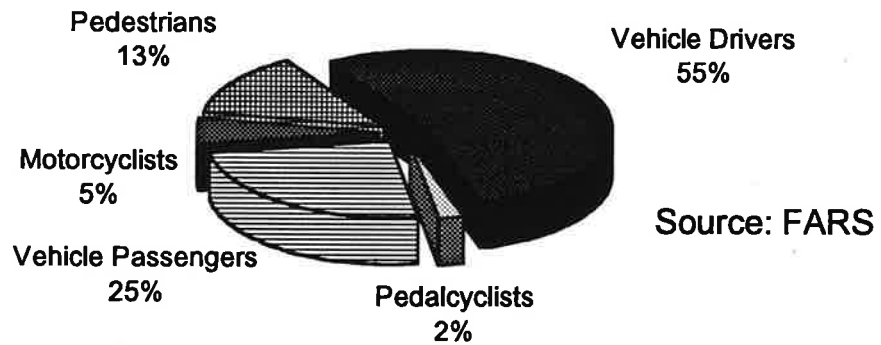
Status of persons killed
By month - 1994

month	total	vehicle			
		occupants	motorcyclists	pedestrians	pedalcyclists
January	59	45	0	12	2
February	29	27	0	2	0
March	46	41	0	4	1
April	40	33	2	5	0
May	37	30	1	6	0
June	53	46	4	3	0
July	63	38	13	10	2
August	71	55	8	6	2
September	60	49	3	5	3
October	69	49	2	15	3
November	57	53	0	4	0
December	54	38	2	13	1
Total	638	504	35	85	14

June pedestrians includes one skateboard fatality.

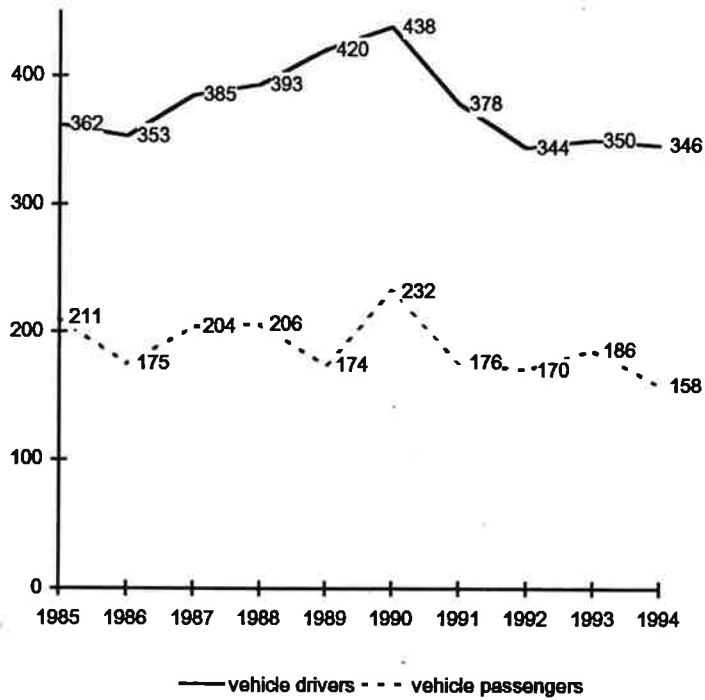
Source: FARS

Status of persons killed - 1994



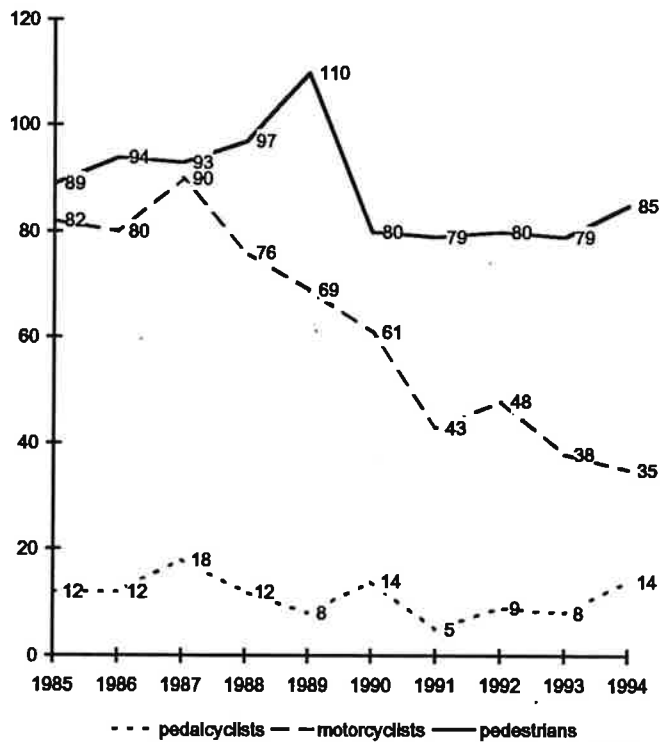
Source: FARS

**Drivers and passengers killed
Ten-year trend**



Source: FARS

**Pedestrians, motorcyclists & pedalcyclists
killed - 10-year trend**



Source: FARS



IV. Safety Equipment

Safety restraint use by vehicle occupants killed

Five-year comparison

	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	prev 4-yr avg	'94 vs prev 4-yr avg
Lap & shoulder	132	143	125	151	137	139	-5.0%
Lap belt only	20	20	23	24	30	24	-17.5%
Shoulder belt only	14	7	5	2	4	5	211.1%
Child safety seat	5	3	2	4	3	3	66.7%
Used - unknown type	3	3	2	3	1		
Total restraints used	174	176	157	184	175	173	0.6%
No restraint used	301	337	338	348	482	376	-20.0%
Percent restraints used	34.4%	32.2%	30.2%	32.7%	25.3%	30.1%	14.2%
Deployed air bag*	8	3	5	NA	NA	4	100.0%
Unknown if restraint used	31	33	25	30	34		

* Air bag data collected separately from other restraint use.

Source: FARS

Motorcycle helmet use by motorcyclists killed

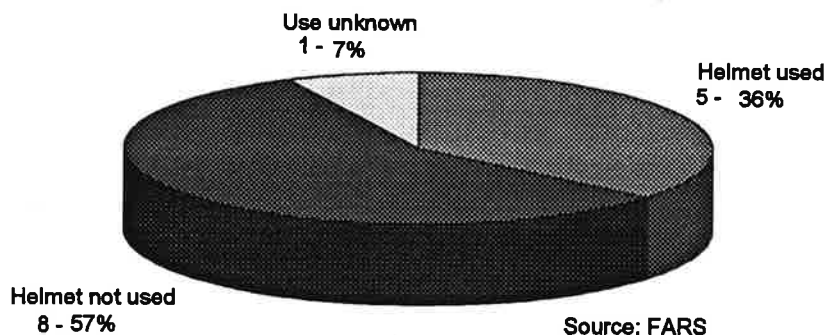
Five-year comparison

	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	prev 4-yr avg	'94 vs prev 4-yr avg
Motorcycle helmet worn*	29	27	42	36	44	37	-22.1%
Motorcycle helmet not worn	6	11	6	7	16	10	-40.0%
Percent helmet worn	82.9%	71.1%	87.5%	83.7%	73.3%	78.9%	5.0%

*Of the 29 fatalities in 1994 wearing helmets, 2 were coded as improperly worn.

Source: FARS

**Bicycle helmet use by
Bicyclists who were killed - 1994**



Source: FARS



V. Drivers in Fatal Collisions

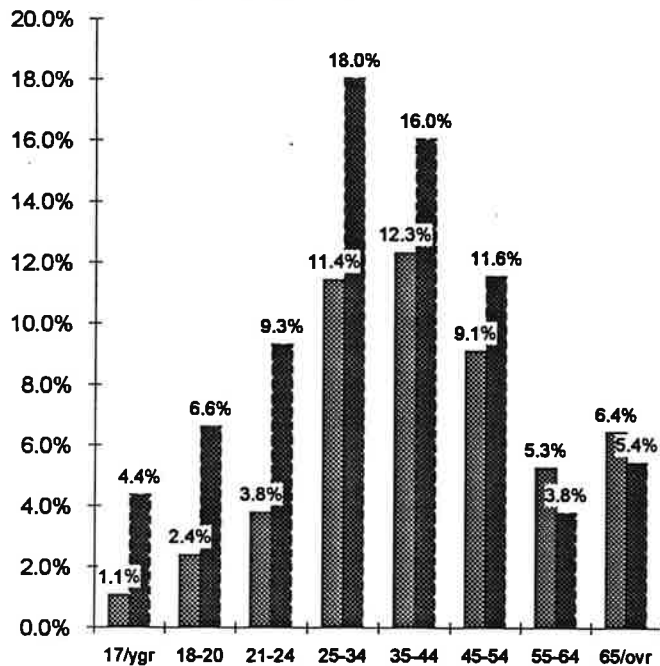
Licensed drivers and drivers in fatal collisions
By age group and sex* - 1994

	males				females			
	licensed drivers	% of all lic drivers	dvrs in fatal clnsns	% of all fatal clnsns	licensed drivers	% of all lic drivers	dvrs in fatal clnsns	% of all fatal clnsns
17 & younger	40,697	1.1%	37	4.4%	38,355	1.0%	13	1.5%
18-20	91,435	2.4%	56	6.6%	82,243	2.1%	20	2.4%
21-24	146,146	3.8%	79	9.3%	133,433	3.5%	19	2.2%
25-34	441,990	11.4%	153	18.0%	405,618	10.5%	44	5.2%
35-44	475,610	12.3%	136	16.0%	446,934	11.6%	40	4.7%
45-54	351,803	9.1%	98	11.6%	321,497	8.3%	36	4.2%
55-64	203,321	5.3%	32	3.8%	184,941	4.8%	11	1.3%
65 & over	248,864	6.4%	46	5.4%	249,418	6.5%	27	3.2%
Unkn age**			1					
Total	1,999,866	51.8%	638	75.1%	1,862,439	48.2%	210	24.8%

* There were 7 additional drivers where sex was not stated.

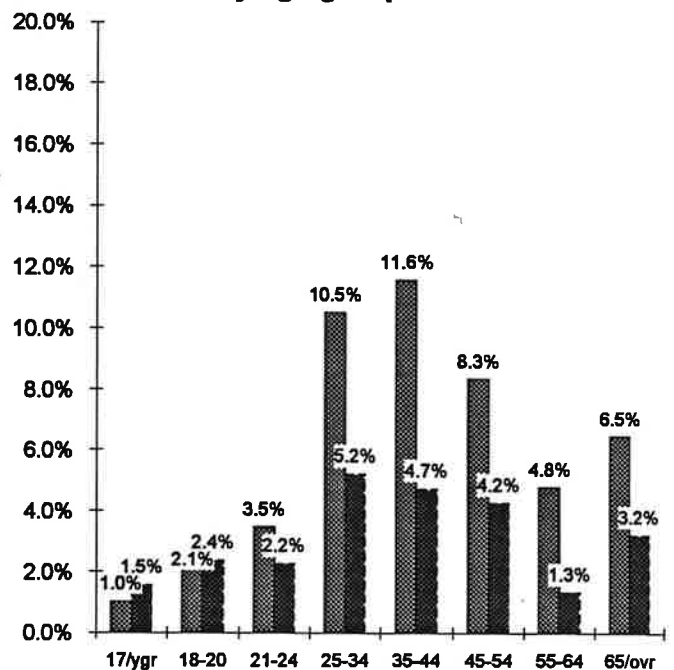
Source: FARS, DOL

Licensed drivers and drivers in fatal collisions
Males by age group - 1994



Source: FARS, DOL ■ % of lic drivers ■ % of fatal clnsns

Licensed drivers and drivers in fatal collisions
Females by age group - 1994



Source: FARS, DOL ■ % of lic drivers ■ % of fatal clnsns

Drivers in fatal collisions

By license status & previous driving record* - 1994

Drivers	valid license	invalid license	percent invalid lic
Total drivers in fatal collisions	716	125	14.9%
Previous collisions			
None	603	108	15.2%
One	102	13	11.3%
Two or more	10	1	9.1%
% with prev collisions	15.7%	11.5%	—
Previous citations**			
Speeding	231	30	11.5%
Other moving viols	162	45	21.7%
DUI	13	20	60.6%
Previous license suspensions			
None	669	60	8.2%
One	30	28	48.3%
Two	10	22	68.8%
Three or more	7	14	66.7%
% with prev license susp.	6.6%	51.6%	—

* Driver records for previous 3 years.

Source: FARS

Does not include drivers with unknown license status and driver record.

** More than one type of previous citation may be reported for a single driver

Drivers in fatal collisions by license status & previous DUI record*

Five-year comparison

previous DUIs*	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	prev 4-yr avg	'94 vs prev 4-yr avg
Valid license							
0 prev DUI	703	676	710	736	865	747	-5.9%
1 prev DUI	13	12	10	9	13	11	18.2%
2 or more DUIs	0	6	0	0	2	2	-100.0%
Unknown prev record	0	2	3	0	1	2	-100.0%
Percent w/ prev DWI	1.8%	2.6%	1.4%	1.2%	1.7%	1.7%	5.3%
Invalid license							
0 prev DUI	104	82	99	94	98	93	11.5%
1 prev DUI	17	26	17	19	22	21	-19.0%
2 or more DUIs	3	0	2	2	3	2	71.4%
Unknown prev record	1	1	3	1	4	2	-55.6%
Percent w/ prev DUI	16.1%	24.1%	16.1%	18.3%	20.3%	0	-18.1%
Unknown license status	14	27	12	15	58	28	-50.0%
Total drivers	855	832	856	876	1,066	908	-5.8%

* DUIs during three years previous to fatal collision.

Source: FARS

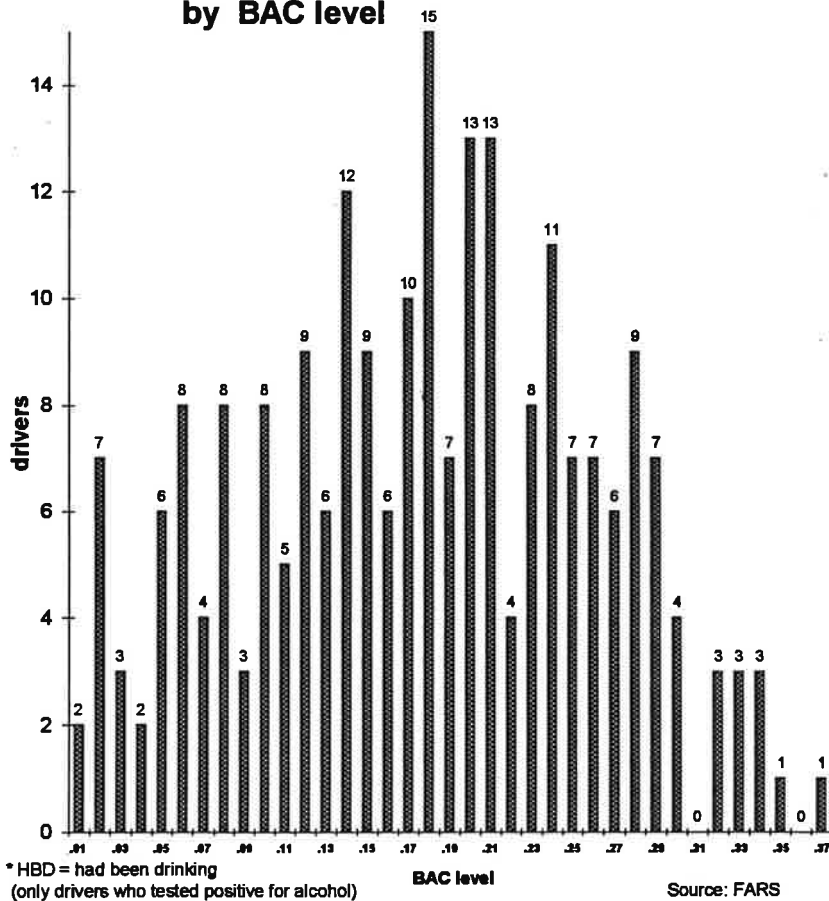
BAC levels of HBD* drivers in fatal collisions
By age and sex - 1994

	.01 - .05	.06 - .09	.10-ovr	total
15	0	0	1	1
16	1	0	2	3
17	0	1	1	2
18	1	3	4	8
19	1	0	8	9
20	2	0	3	5
21-24	3	4	28	35
15-24	8	8	47	63
25-34	6	7	58	71
35-44	3	3	43	49
45-54	2	3	31	36
55-64	1	0	3	4
65 +	0	2	5	7
Male	17	20	163	200
Female	3	3	24	30
Total	20	23	187	230

Source: FARS

* HBD = had been drinking (determined by investigating officer).
Does not include 36 cases in which there was missing data.

HBD* drivers in fatal collisions
by BAC level





VI. Vehicles in Fatal Collisions

Vehicles in fatal collisions by motor vehicle class
Five-year comparison

vehicle type	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	prev 4-yr avg	'94 vs prev 4-yr avg
Passenger vehicles	448	440	476	491	592	500	-10.4%
Light trucks (under 10,000 lb)	237	230	242	248	274	249	-4.6%
Medium & heavy trucks	55	60	47	55	73	59	-6.4%
Utility trucks	73	41	46	39	47	43	68.8%
Motorcycles	34	38	47	42	62	47	-28.0%
Buses	5	6	4	6	6	6	-9.1%
Other	3	7	5	4	9	6	-52.0%
Unknown	6	16	9	11	7	11	-44.2%
Total vehicles	861	838	876	896	1,070	920	-6.4%

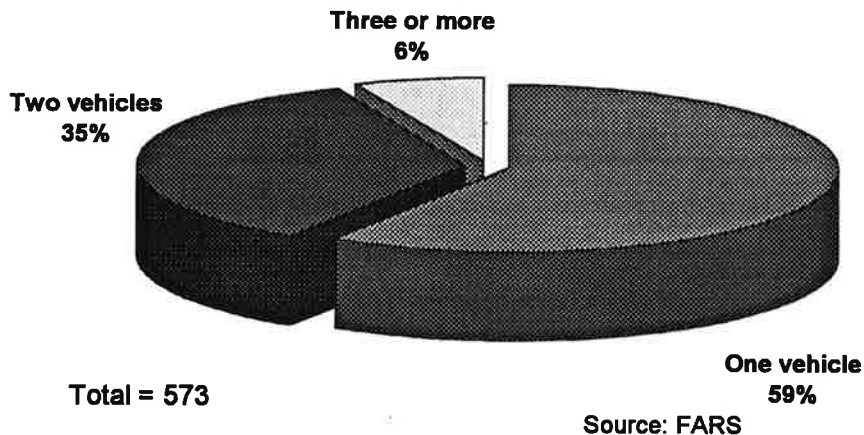
Source: FARS

Vehicles in fatal collisions by severity of damage
Five-year comparison

	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	prev 4-yr avg	'94 vs prev 4-yr avg
Towed away	755	741	769	813	949	818	-7.7%
Driven away	104	94	102	79	119	99	5.6%
Abandoned	0	1	1	2	1	1	-100.0%
Unknown/ not reported	2	2	4	2	1	2.3	-11.1%
Total	861	838	876	896	1,070	920	-6.4%

Source: FARS

Single-vehicle vs multiple-vehicle fatal collisions - 1994



Types of single-vehicle fatal crashes By most harmful event - 1994

