

# STATUS REPORT

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## THE RISK OF **DYING** IN ONE VEHICLE VERSUS ANOTHER

### DRIVER DEATH RATES BY MAKE AND MODEL

The driver died in the crash. So did many other passenger vehicle drivers during 2000-03, but the risk of death isn't the same in one vehicle compared with another. Car, minivan, SUV, and pickup truck models vary widely in the likelihood of dying in a crash. The average driver death rate in 1999-2002 passenger vehicle models during 2000-03 was 87 per million registered vehicle years. But the death rates in some models were two or

even three times as high (see tables), while the rates in other vehicles were much lower.

Large cars and minivans dominate among vehicle models with very low death rates. The models with the highest rates are mostly small cars and small and midsize SUVs, many of which also have high rates of death in single-vehicle rollover crashes. The model with the highest death rate of all — the two-door, two-wheel-drive Chevrolet Blazer with 308 driver deaths per million registered years — also had the highest rollover death rate (251 per million).

“Many of these general patterns of death rates have been consistent since the Institute began computing the rates by vehicle make and model in the late 1980s,” says Institute chief operating officer Adrian Lund (see *Status Report*, Nov. 25, 1989). “Since then there also has been a pattern of improvement. In the late 1980s the overall driver death rate was higher than 100. The latest overall rate was 87.”



**Vehicle body style, size, and fatality risk:** Important characteristics of vehicles that influence their driver death rates are type, body style, size, and weight. Within virtually every group of vehicles, the smaller and lighter models have the higher rates (see table, facing page).

Among cars, for example, the smallest two-door models had the highest death rate at 190 per million vehicle years. This rate is more than twice as high as the average for all vehicles included in the study.

Midsize sports cars also had a high rate at 133 driver deaths per million vehicle years.

This was higher than for either small or mini sports cars, so this type of vehicle was an exception to the general rule that bigger means lower death rates.

The vehicle group with the lowest driver death rate was large luxury cars with 37 deaths per million vehicle years. The next lowest rate was in large minivans and station wagons with 42 deaths per million.

**Vehicle weight and the risk of death:** Because vehicle size and weight are so closely related, it shouldn't be surprising that their effects on driver death rates are similar. In each group (cars, SUVs, pickups) the heavier

vehicles, like bigger ones, generally had lower death rates (see table, p. 7). The rate in the lightest SUVs, for example, was more than twice as high as in the heaviest SUVs.

“Pound for pound across the vehicle types, cars almost always have lower death rates than either pickups or SUVs. This generally is because the SUVs and pickups have much higher rates of death in single-vehicle rollover crashes,” Lund explains.

In some weight groups, the death rates in cars were dramatically lower. For example, the rate in cars weighing 3,501 to 4,000 pounds was about half of the rates in pickups or SUVs of

# MODELS WITH HIGHEST & LOWEST DEATH RATES

## LOWEST RATES OF DRIVER DEATH

Fewer than 30 driver deaths per million registered years,  
1999-2002 models during calendar years 2000-03

			overall	mv	sv	roll
Mercedes E class	luxury car	large	10	7	3	0
Toyota 4Runner	4WD SUV	midsize	12	6	6	6
Volkswagen Passat	4dr car	midsize	16	0	18	13
Lexus RX 300	4WD SUV	midsize	17	11	5	0
Toyota RAV4	4WD SUV	small	18	12	6	0
Honda Odyssey	minivan	large	19	16	2	1
Mercury Villager	minivan	large	21	7	15	7
Mercedes S class	luxury car	very large	25	15	10	0
Nissan Pathfinder	4WD SUV	midsize	25	8	17	4
Cadillac DeVille	luxury car	large	26	12	14	4
Nissan Quest	minivan	large	26	23	0	0
Toyota Camry Solara	2dr car	midsize	27	10	16	11
Cadillac Eldorado	luxury car	large	29	12	17	6

## HIGHEST RATES OF DRIVER DEATH

More than 160 driver deaths per million registered years,  
1999-2002 models during calendar years 2000-03

			overall	mv	sv	roll
Chevrolet Blazer 2dr	2WD SUV	midsize	308	54	274	251
Mitsubishi Mirage	2dr car	small	209	142	69	37
Pontiac Firebird	sports car	midsize	205	42	167	71
Kia Rio	4dr car	mini	200	95	109	64
Kia Sportage 4dr	2WD SUV	small	197	65	138	88
Chevrolet Blazer 4dr	2WD SUV	midsize	190	78	113	79
Ford Explorer 2dr	2WD SUV	midsize	187	52	145	122
Chevrolet Camaro	sports car	midsize	186	62	123	63
Mazda B series	2WD pickup	small	185	67	124	88
Chevrolet Tracker	4WD SUV	small	183	86	98	80
Chevrolet S10	2WD pickup	small	182	81	101	61
Chevrolet Cavalier	2dr car	small	168	90	76	49
Chevrolet Cavalier	4dr car	small	162	83	81	44
Kia Sportage 4dr	4WD SUV	small	162	51	119	100



### BODY STYLE AND SIZE

Driver death rates by size and body style group

overall	mv	sv	roll	
				<b>CARS</b>
				FOUR-DOOR
<b>148</b>	94	53	26	mini
<b>110</b>	65	43	22	small
<b>76</b>	43	32	15	midsize
<b>79</b>	48	29	12	large
<b>71</b>	43	30	12	very large
				TWO-DOOR
<b>190</b>	116	75	40	mini
<b>130</b>	62	67	39	small
<b>94</b>	42	52	30	midsize
<b>75</b>	37	38	19	large
				SPORTS
<b>86</b>	46	38	19	mini
<b>61</b>	25	35	14	small
<b>133</b>	48	85	42	midsize
				LUXURY
<b>41</b>	20	20	11	midsize
<b>37</b>	19	19	7	large
<b>47</b>	26	20	7	very large
				SPECIALTY
<b>115</b>	60	54	28	small
				<b>MINIVANS AND STATION WAGONS</b>
<b>65</b>	49	15	2	small
<b>47</b>	11	40	27	midsize
<b>42</b>	26	15	9	large
				<b>SUVS</b>
				4 WHEEL DRIVE
<b>102</b>	39	65	51	small
<b>67</b>	22	48	34	midsize
<b>52</b>	14	40	31	large
<b>103</b>	19	92	75	very large
				2 WHEEL DRIVE
<b>121</b>	60	61	43	small
<b>114</b>	38	80	63	midsize
<b>70</b>	31	39	31	large
				<b>PICKUPS</b>
				4 WHEEL DRIVE
<b>109</b>	32	77	53	small
<b>97</b>	29	69	49	large
<b>95</b>	27	68	51	very large
				2 WHEEL DRIVE
<b>124</b>	56	68	39	small
<b>107</b>	38	70	42	large
<b>69</b>	31	38	22	very large
				SPECIALTY
<b>93</b>	34	64	62	midsize

**KEY TO TABLES:**

overall: driver death rate per million registered vehicle years  
 mv: driver death rate in multiple-vehicle crashes  
 sv: driver death rate in single-vehicle crashes  
 roll: driver death rate in single-vehicle rollovers

similar weight. The exception was light pickups, which had relatively low rates compared with cars or SUVs weighing about the same.

“There’s no ready explanation for this exception,” Lund says. “It probably has something to do with how light pickups are driven and their use patterns compared with larger and heavier pickups.”

**Rates differ among similar vehicles:** Besides these broad death rate differences across vehicle groups, the rates varied within body style and size groups. In almost every size group of two-door and four-door cars, for example, the death rate for the worst vehicle

was at least twice as high as the rate for the best vehicle (see tables, pp. 4-5).

Consider the Infiniti G20’s rate of 46 deaths per million registered years, which was much lower than rates for other small four-door cars. The Chevrolet Cavalier’s rate was 162 per million, and the Pontiac Sunfire’s was 160. The upper confidence bound for the G20’s death rate is well below the lower confidence bounds for the other two cars.

“This means that the lower death rate for the G20 wasn’t due to chance,” Lund says. A more extreme example involves midsize four-wheel-drive SUVs. The (continues on p. 6)

# DRIVER DEATHS



**PER MILLION REGISTERED VEHICLE YEARS**

	MODELS	EXPOSURE	DRIVER DEATH RATES			
			OVERALL	MV	SV	SV/ROLL
<b>ALL PASSENGER VEHICLES</b>			<b>87</b> (85-89)	<b>41</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>FOUR-DOOR CARS</b>						
	MINI	660,173				
	Toyota Echo	2000-02 184,554	<b>75</b> (32-119)	65	8	4
	Hyundai Accent	2000-02 237,380	<b>150</b> (93-208)	97	51	28
	Kia Rio	2001-02 154,069	<b>200</b> (107-294)	95	109	64
	SMALL	11,622,917				
	Infiniti G20	1999-2002 144,854	<b>46</b> (15-77)	21	25	15
	Honda Civic	2001-02 632,071	<b>67</b> (43-91)	34	33	13
	Nissan Sentra	2000-02 511,642	<b>71</b> (44-98)	39	34	16
	Volkswagen Jetta	2001-02 420,084	<b>76</b> (44-108)	30	48	30
	Volvo S40	2000-02 156,137	<b>88</b> (33-144)	58	30	24
	Hyundai Elantra	2001-02 318,801	<b>88</b> (46-130)	39	53	33
	Toyota Corolla	1999-2002 2,111,339	<b>93</b> (77-109)	61	28	12
	Ford Focus	2000-02 1,172,299	<b>94</b> (73-115)	49	43	21
	Mazda Protege	1999-2002 636,882	<b>99</b> (70-129)	66	29	16
	Saturn SL	1999-2002 1,472,461	<b>108</b> (87-128)	73	32	15
	Chevrolet Prizm	1999-2002 429,540	<b>128</b> (87-170)	83	43	21
	Dodge Neon	2000-02 800,589	<b>154</b> (124-185)	82	71	32
	Ford Escort	1999-2002 860,038	<b>158</b> (125-190)	112	41	15
	Pontiac Sunfire	1999-2002 277,940	<b>160</b> (104-215)	81	76	49
	Chevrolet Cavalier	1999-2002 1,196,559	<b>162</b> (135-190)	83	81	44
	MIDSIZE	12,606,067				
	Volkswagen Passat	2001-02 181,637	<b>16</b> (0-41)	0	18	13
	Toyota Avalon	2000-02 536,303	<b>45</b> (23-66)	25	20	17
	Nissan Maxima	2000-02 795,842	<b>52</b> (35-70)	23	28	14
	Toyota Camry	2002 429,506	<b>56</b> (28-83)	44	8	5
	Hyundai Sonata	2001-02 167,051	<b>57</b> (14-99)	25	32	14
	Honda Accord	1999-2002 3,256,030	<b>58</b> (47-69)	36	19	7
	Nissan Altima	2002 191,305	<b>72</b> (27-118)	22	52	24
	Mitsubishi Galant	1999-2002 800,235	<b>79</b> (57-100)	44	35	11
	Mazda 626	1999-2002 705,237	<b>82</b> (55-109)	43	39	17
	Chevrolet Malibu	1999-2002 1,941,422	<b>94</b> (77-111)	55	37	17
	Pontiac Grand Am	1999-2002 1,679,596	<b>100</b> (82-117)	48	51	28
	Dodge Stratus	2001-02 181,716	<b>112</b> (52-172)	60	51	8
	Oldsmobile Alero	1999-2002 816,072	<b>114</b> (85-142)	75	34	14
	Daewoo Leganza	1999-2002 173,524	<b>125</b> (58-192)	73	50	26
	Chrysler Sebring	2001-02 124,532	<b>126</b> (39-213)	74	43	30
	LARGE	13,067,650				
	Buick LeSabre	2000-02 970,423	<b>60</b> (44-76)	45	14	5
	Chrysler Concorde	1999-2002 517,406	<b>68</b> (42-93)	43	23	3
	Dodge Intrepid	1999-2002 1,380,371	<b>70</b> (53-86)	40	29	12
	Pontiac Grand Prix	1999-2002 1,118,291	<b>73</b> (54-92)	30	42	30
	Chevrolet Impala	2000-02 1,142,216	<b>79</b> (60-97)	47	29	14
	Ford Taurus	1999-2002 3,346,778	<b>82</b> (70-94)	51	30	12
	Mercury Sable	1999-2002 938,145	<b>82</b> (60-104)	51	31	11
	Chrysler 300M	1999-2002 568,146	<b>82</b> (52-113)	51	29	17
	Buick Century	1999-2002 1,396,883	<b>84</b> (68-100)	65	18	5
	Buick Regal	1999-2002 607,865	<b>88</b> (60-117)	48	41	11
	Oldsmobile Intrigue	1999-2002 651,884	<b>93</b> (65-120)	54	39	15
	Pontiac Bonneville	2000-02 302,542	<b>97</b> (52-143)	52	44	17
	VERY LARGE	1,897,467				
	Ford Crown Victoria	1999-2002 756,458	<b>53</b> (36-71)	29	25	10
	Mercury Grand Marquis	1999-2002 1,141,009	<b>83</b> (66-100)	52	32	14
<b>TWO-DOOR CARS</b>						
	MINI	411,329				
	Hyundai Accent	2000-02 161,017	<b>148</b> (75-222)	82	69	32
	Mitsubishi Mirage	1999-2002 98,812	<b>209</b> (115-302)	142	69	37
	SMALL	5,203,147				
	Volkswagen Golf convertible	1999-2002 127,219	<b>52</b> (8-96)	12	42	30
	Honda Civic coupe	2001-02 351,791	<b>76</b> (49-103)	40	35	15
	Volkswagen New Beetle	1999-2002 722,944	<b>94</b> (64-124)	48	45	28
	Saturn SC	1999-2002 311,756	<b>100</b> (58-142)	55	45	27
	Mitsubishi Eclipse	2000-02 323,220	<b>114</b> (77-151)	31	86	34
	Ford Focus	2000-02 265,645	<b>118</b> (72-165)	50	68	45
	Toyota Celica	2000-02 265,393	<b>128</b> (84-172)	44	84	42
	Ford Escort	1999-2002 667,128	<b>141</b> (108-174)	68	72	46
	Mercury Cougar	1999-2002 545,712	<b>155</b> (116-194)	71	82	50
	Pontiac Sunfire	1999-2002 457,562	<b>157</b> (117-197)	80	78	36
	Chevrolet Cavalier	1999-2002 1,046,388	<b>168</b> (138-197)	90	76	49

	MODELS	EXPOSURE	DRIVER DEATH RATES			
			OVERALL	MV	SV	SV/ROLL
<b>MIDSIZE</b>						
		2,955,220				
Toyota Camry Solara	1999-2002	466,268	<b>27</b> (10-43)	10	16	11
Honda Accord	1999-2002	689,365	<b>59</b> (37-81)	34	23	13
Chrysler Sebring convertible	2001-02	125,126	<b>98</b> (25-170)	42	57	24
Chevrolet Monte Carlo	2000-02	381,398	<b>127</b> (83-171)	49	79	49
Oldsmobile Alero	1999-2002	285,278	<b>128</b> (79-176)	63	64	40
Pontiac Grand Am	1999-2002	639,825	<b>150</b> (116-185)	65	86	48
<b>LARGE</b>						
		269,204				
Pontiac Grand Prix	1999-2002	266,338	<b>75</b> (46-104)	37	38	19
<b>SPORTS CARS</b>						
<b>MINI</b>						
		271,635				
Mazda Miata	1999-2002	237,281	<b>80</b> (37-122)	39	38	22
<b>SMALL</b>						
		424,062				
BMW Z3 Roadster convertible	1999-2002	127,005	<b>58</b> (12-103)	21	34	12
<b>MIDSIZE</b>						
		2,432,984				
Ford Mustang convertible	1999-2002	433,046	<b>91</b> (60-123)	35	58	35
Ford Mustang	1999-2002	1,072,873	<b>140</b> (115-165)	61	78	41
Chevrolet Camaro	1999-2002	317,403	<b>186</b> (139-233)	62	123	63
Pontiac Firebird	1999-2002	261,563	<b>205</b> (147-263)	42	167	71
<b>LUXURY CARS</b>						
<b>MIDSIZE</b>						
		2,000,683				
BMW 3 series	1999-2002	518,714	<b>34</b> (16-52)	14	19	8
Saab 9-5	1999-2002	157,905	<b>46</b> (3-88)	28	14	14
Acura TL	1999-2002	545,450	<b>47</b> (24-69)	18	30	15
<b>LARGE</b>						
		3,405,485				
Mercedes E class	2000-02	223,625	<b>10</b> (0-22)	7	3	0
Cadillac DeVille	2000-02	533,430	<b>26</b> (13-40)	12	14	4
Cadillac Eldorado	1999-2002	130,388	<b>29</b> (3-54)	12	17	6
BMW 5 series	1999-2002	326,719	<b>38</b> (12-64)	15	24	4
Volvo S80	1999-2002	274,320	<b>45</b> (14-76)	11	38	14
Lincoln Continental	1999-2002	238,937	<b>46</b> (14-77)	24	23	6
Lincoln LS	2000-02	334,834	<b>48</b> (21-75)	11	40	20
Buick Park Avenue	1999-2002	487,306	<b>60</b> (38-83)	46	13	9
Jaguar S-type	2000-02	147,932	<b>68</b> (14-123)	40	27	5
<b>VERY LARGE</b>						
		1,157,664				
Mercedes S class	2000-02	208,198	<b>25</b> (6-44)	15	10	0
Lincoln Town Car	1999-2002	776,692	<b>62</b> (45-79)	35	27	10
<b>SPECIALTY CARS</b>						
<b>SMALL</b>						
		528,077				
Chrysler PT Cruiser	2001-02	474,982	<b>117</b> (79-156)	57	60	31
<b>MINIVANS &amp; STATION WAGONS</b>						
<b>SMALL</b>						
		368,411				
Ford Focus	2000-02	211,870	<b>62</b> (25-99)	48	15	0
<b>MIDSIZE</b>						
		535,808				
Subaru Legacy	2000-02	472,842	<b>54</b> (28-79)	13	45	31
<b>LARGE</b>						
		7,113,651				
Honda Odyssey	1999-2002	887,482	<b>19</b> (8-31)	16	2	1
Mercury Villager	1999-2002	314,518	<b>21</b> (3-39)	7	15	7
Nissan Quest	1999-2002	350,899	<b>26</b> (2-51)	23	0	0
GMC Safari 2WD	1999-2002	140,163	<b>31</b> (0-66)	24	5	5
Toyota Sienna	1999-2002	854,589	<b>32</b> (17-47)	20	12	6
Chevrolet Astro 2WD	1999-2002	393,809	<b>37</b> (14-59)	12	28	19
Chrysler Town & Country 2WD	2001-02	346,462	<b>38</b> (13-62)	24	13	11
Ford Windstar	1999-2002	1,809,442	<b>41</b> (30-53)	23	18	13
Chevrolet Venture 2WD	2001-02	178,526	<b>52</b> (8-97)	38	14	13
Dodge Grand Caravan 2WD	2001-02	425,350	<b>52</b> (24-81)	38	13	11
Mazda MPV	2000-02	221,282	<b>53</b> (18-87)	34	16	10
Chevrolet Astro 4WD	1999-2002	121,320	<b>66</b> (9-122)	43	18	6
Ford Taurus	1999-2002	282,091	<b>82</b> (40-124)	72	5	3
Dodge Caravan	2001-02	184,584	<b>83</b> (34-131)	45	37	16
<b>SUVS: FOUR WHEEL DRIVE</b>						
<b>SMALL</b>						
		2,428,952				
Toyota RAV4	2001-02	123,339	<b>18</b> (0-39)	12	6	0
Subaru Forester	1999-2002	406,795	<b>70</b> (35-105)	37	33	21
Jeep Wrangler	1999-2002	704,099	<b>99</b> (71-127)	26	77	67
Ford Escape	2001-02	236,632	<b>115</b> (58-173)	38	80	38
Suzuki Grand Vitara	1999-2002	180,713	<b>127</b> (56-197)	60	65	58
Kia Sportage 4dr	1999-2002	221,640	<b>162</b> (91-233)	51	119	100
Chevrolet Tracker 4dr	1999-2002	208,394	<b>183</b> (109-258)	86	98	80

	MODELS	EXPOSURE	DRIVER DEATH RATES			
			OVERALL	MV	SV	SV/ROLL
MIDSIZE		8,139,278				
Toyota 4Runner	2001-02	125,229	<b>12</b> (0-29)	6	6	6
Lexus RX 300	2001-02	135,105	<b>17</b> (0-36)	11	5	0
Nissan Pathfinder	1999-2002	381,018	<b>25</b> (11-39)	8	17	4
BMW X5	2000-02	151,107	<b>33</b> (0-74)	17	16	15
Acura MDX	2001-02	125,105	<b>36</b> (7-65)	30	6	6
Isuzu Trooper	1999-2002	143,360	<b>47</b> (16-78)	32	15	15
Nissan Xterra	2000-02	274,133	<b>48</b> (16-79)	26	23	11
Dodge Durango	1999-2002	1,171,194	<b>49</b> (34-65)	18	32	19
Jeep Grand Cherokee	1999-2002	1,816,350	<b>55</b> (42-68)	18	38	24
Ford Explorer 4dr	2002	294,934	<b>56</b> (19-93)	11	49	26
Isuzu Rodeo	1999-2002	192,701	<b>60</b> (17-103)	19	39	11
Chevrolet Trailblazer	2002	149,277	<b>86</b> (20-152)	17	76	56
Jeep Liberty	2002	142,870	<b>86</b> (27-145)	42	43	31
Mitsubishi Montero Sport	1999-2002	209,394	<b>89</b> (36-143)	12	84	50
GMC Jimmy	1999-2002	385,710	<b>95</b> (56-134)	34	66	43
Chevrolet Blazer 2dr	1999-2002	203,541	<b>98</b> (53-142)	24	73	65
Chevrolet Blazer 4dr	1999-2002	1,077,063	<b>101</b> (77-125)	35	70	61
Land Rover Discovery Series II	1999-2002	153,126	<b>119</b> (53-184)	29	89	53
Ford Explorer 2dr	1999-2002	336,605	<b>134</b> (87-181)	22	117	94
LARGE		2,491,022				
Chevrolet Suburban 1/2 ton	2000-02	326,300	<b>47</b> (22-73)	10	36	27
Ford Expedition	1999-2002	945,092	<b>50</b> (33-67)	12	40	32
GMC Yukon XL	2000-02	172,266	<b>51</b> (10-91)	15	35	35
GMC Yukon	2000-02	180,112	<b>52</b> (8-96)	4	53	26
Chevrolet Tahoe	2000-02	417,693	<b>75</b> (43-106)	28	48	38
VERY LARGE		174,000				
Ford Excursion	2000-02	167,874	<b>107</b> (41-173)	20	96	77
<b>SUVS: TWO WHEEL DRIVE</b>						
SMALL		809,416				
Ford Escape	2001-02	175,853	<b>86</b> (28-143)	59	22	21
Kia Sportage 4dr	1999-2002	181,208	<b>197</b> (106-287)	65	138	88
MIDSIZE		3,769,759				
Nissan Pathfinder	1999-2002	183,400	<b>40</b> (8-72)	12	29	29
Dodge Durango	1999-2002	382,584	<b>42</b> (18-66)	19	24	14
Ford Explorer 4dr	2002	140,127	<b>57</b> (8-106)	11	51	49
Jeep Grand Cherokee	1999-2002	551,833	<b>89</b> (57-121)	27	64	55
Nissan Xterra	2000-02	243,200	<b>101</b> (50-152)	22	84	55
Mitsubishi Montero Sport	1999-2002	274,667	<b>121</b> (69-173)	60	59	46
Isuzu Rodeo	1999-2002	323,757	<b>132</b> (84-180)	56	80	63
Ford Explorer 2dr	1999-2002	427,935	<b>187</b> (136-239)	52	145	122
Chevrolet Blazer 4dr	1999-2002	303,155	<b>190</b> (127-254)	78	113	79
Chevrolet Blazer 2dr	1999-2002	138,214	<b>308</b> (190-426)	54	274	251
LARGE		1,765,992				
Ford Expedition	1999-2002	909,196	<b>66</b> (46-86)	34	32	24
Chevrolet Suburban 1/2 ton	2000-02	235,796	<b>73</b> (26-120)	29	48	45
Chevrolet Tahoe	2000-02	276,878	<b>84</b> (45-123)	30	55	46
<b>PICKUPS: FOUR WHEEL DRIVE</b>						
SMALL		2,660,735				
Dodge Dakota club cab	1999-2002	316,512	<b>49</b> (25-73)	10	40	18
Dodge Dakota crew cab	2000-02	172,381	<b>77</b> (36-119)	42	34	17
Toyota Tacoma ext cab	1999-2002	458,272	<b>83</b> (56-111)	26	59	40
Chevrolet S10 ext cab	1999-2002	244,211	<b>109</b> (70-148)	42	65	45
Ford Ranger super cab	1999-2002	813,529	<b>154</b> (127-181)	36	118	91
LARGE		4,638,938				
GMC Sierra 1500 ext cab	1999-2002	514,238	<b>71</b> (49-92)	22	48	30
Toyota Tundra access cab	2000-02	271,296	<b>83</b> (42-124)	34	48	35
Chevrolet Silverado 1500 ext cab	1999-2002	1,592,743	<b>90</b> (75-105)	23	69	46
Ford F-150	1999-2002	231,747	<b>108</b> (65-151)	28	79	48
Ford F-150 super cab	1999-2002	1,033,314	<b>114</b> (92-136)	34	83	60
Ford F-150 crew cab	2001-02	293,513	<b>120</b> (76-163)	31	94	82
Chevrolet Silverado 1500	1999-2002	435,201	<b>125</b> (91-159)	40	85	61
VERY LARGE		3,402,199				
Chevrolet Silverado 2500	1999-2002	123,725	<b>66</b> (26-106)	25	41	35
Ford F-250 crew cab	1999-2002	392,066	<b>80</b> (50-111)	24	58	47
Chevrolet Silverado 2500 ext cab	1999-2002	343,414	<b>82</b> (54-110)	23	57	36
Ford F-350 super cab	1999-2002	194,449	<b>94</b> (49-140)	23	74	53
Ford F-250 super cab	1999-2002	683,397	<b>96</b> (73-119)	28	68	50
Ford F-350 crew cab	1999-2002	436,185	<b>112</b> (80-143)	20	92	66
Ford F-250	1999-2002	176,005	<b>114</b> (70-158)	30	82	66
Dodge Ram 2500 club cab	1999-2002	470,489	<b>119</b> (88-150)	36	84	72

	MODELS	EXPOSURE	DRIVER DEATH RATES			
			OVERALL	MV	SV	SV/ROLL
<b>PICKUPS: TWO WHEEL DRIVE</b>						
SMALL		5,776,529				
Dodge Dakota club cab	1999-2002	420,166	<b>58</b> (36-80)	30	28	10
Nissan Frontier crew cab	2000-02	164,565	<b>72</b> (30-113)	32	41	32
Nissan Frontier king cab	1999-2002	324,247	<b>77</b> (47-108)	44	31	11
Toyota Tacoma ext cab	1999-2002	442,792	<b>81</b> (51-111)	31	52	29
Toyota Tacoma	1999-2002	246,369	<b>108</b> (67-149)	61	44	27
Ford Ranger super cab	1999-2002	981,240	<b>110</b> (86-133)	47	64	35
Dodge Dakota crew cab	2000-02	165,444	<b>118</b> (53-183)	41	80	14
GMC Sonoma	1999-2002	128,519	<b>126</b> (60-191)	76	45	23
Chevrolet S10 ext cab	1999-2002	626,521	<b>137</b> (108-165)	67	70	41
Ford Ranger	1999-2002	891,186	<b>146</b> (120-172)	57	91	56
Dodge Dakota	1999-2002	216,101	<b>153</b> (97-209)	77	77	44
GMC Sonoma ext cab	1999-2002	185,426	<b>154</b> (92-216)	59	91	56
Chevrolet S10	1999-2002	678,036	<b>182</b> (148-216)	81	101	61
Mazda B series	1999-2002	118,351	<b>185</b> (95-274)	67	124	88
LARGE		5,610,361				
Toyota Tundra access cab	2000-02	252,014	<b>62</b> (31-92)	21	41	17
Chevrolet Silverado 1500 ext cab	1999-2002	1,192,708	<b>84</b> (67-102)	34	51	27
GMC Sierra 1500	1999-2002	220,603	<b>97</b> (58-137)	26	69	40
GMC Sierra 1500 ext cab	1999-2002	366,748	<b>98</b> (66-131)	45	52	26
Ford F-150 super cab	1999-2002	1,641,186	<b>105</b> (88-123)	39	68	47
Ford F-150 crew cab	2001-02	288,611	<b>111</b> (68-154)	30	85	54
Ford F-150	1999-2002	786,195	<b>131</b> (106-156)	36	95	59
Chevrolet Silverado 1500	1999-2002	652,379	<b>153</b> (122-185)	52	103	60
VERY LARGE		1,449,621				
Ford F-250 crew cab	1999-2002	128,814	<b>40</b> (10-71)	12	28	17
Ford F-250	1999-2002	182,388	<b>45</b> (18-72)	33	12	8
Ford F-250 super cab	1999-2002	323,230	<b>58</b> (35-81)	31	27	18
Ford F-350 crew cab	1999-2002	178,461	<b>58</b> (21-94)	21	38	29
Dodge Ram 2500 club cab	1999-2002	147,473	<b>96</b> (52-140)	46	49	35
<b>SPECIALTY PICKUPS</b>						
MIDSIZE		133,940				
Ford Explorer Sport Trac 2WD	2001-02	133,940	<b>93</b> (35-151)	34	64	62
<b>ALL PASSENGER VEHICLES</b>		<b>113,607,805</b>	<b>87</b> (85-89)	<b>41</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>28</b>

#### ABOUT THESE TABLES

Rates are for 1999-2002 model year cars, minivans, SUVs, and pickup trucks during 2000-03. However, every model year isn't included for every vehicle. If a vehicle was substantially redesigned during the 1999-2002 model years, only the most recent design is included.

Rates are driver deaths per million registered vehicle years. Two vehicles registered for 12 months each yield 2 vehicle years.

Sources of data are the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Fatality Analysis Reporting System and The Polk Company's National Vehicle Population Profile.

#### KEY

overall: driver death rate per million registered vehicle years  
mv: driver death rate in multiple-vehicle crashes  
sv: driver death rate in single-vehicle crashes  
roll: driver death rate in single-vehicle rollover crashes





(continued from p.3) Toyota 4Runner had only 12 driver deaths per million registered years during 2000-03. This compares with 134 deaths per million for the two-door Ford Explorer and 119 per million for the Land Rover Discovery Series II.

**Single- versus multiple-vehicle crashes:**

In many vehicle groups, driver death rates are split fairly evenly between single- and multiple-vehicle crashes. But there are exceptions. Most driver deaths in large four-door cars and minivans occurred in crashes involving other vehicles. In contrast, in pickup trucks and SUVs of almost every size more deaths occurred in single-vehicle crashes. In large four-wheel-drive SUVs, for example, the death rate was almost three times as high in single-vehicle crashes as it was in collisions involving two or more vehicles (14 deaths per million compared with 40).

**Rollover crashes:** Eleven vehicles, all pickups or SUVs, had more than 75 driver deaths per million in single-vehicle rollover crashes. This is in large part because pickup trucks and SUVs have relatively high centers of gravity compared with cars. The Ford Excursion is a very large SUV with a high rollover death rate. This is at least in part because its occupancy rate tends to be high, which raises its center of gravity even higher.

The vehicle with the very highest driver death rate in single-vehicle rollover crashes was the two-door, two-wheel-drive Chevrolet Blazer. The 251 deaths per million for this SUV compare with an average of 63 for all midsize two-wheel-drive SUVs, 34 for four-wheel-drive versions, and 28 for all vehicles in the study.

Not all midsize SUVs had high death rates in single-vehicle rollovers. The Lexus RX 300, Toyota 4Runner, Nissan Pathfinder, and Acura MDX had 6 or fewer rollover deaths per million vehicle years. Both the RX 300 and the 4Runner are equipped with electronic stability control, which has been shown to significantly reduce the risk of fatal single-vehicle crashes including rollovers (see *Status Report*, Jan. 3, 2005; on the web at [www.iihs.org](http://www.iihs.org)).

Not one driver death occurred in a rollover of the RX 300 or four-wheel-drive Toyota RAV4, a small SUV. This experience doesn't mean the rates for these vehicles will be zero every year, but it does mean very low rates can be expected.

"Small SUVs have had high rollover death rates in previous years, but as the RAV4 indicates this may be changing. One reason may be that the drivers are changing," Lund points out. "It





used to be that younger people, especially young men, drove small SUVs, but now many women drive them, including older women. In addition, as vehicle manufacturers redesign their small SUVs they're addressing the rollover problem in the designs, making these vehicles more stable and less likely to roll over."

**How the death rates were computed:**

Rates of driver death in all crashes plus rates in multiple-vehicle, single-vehicle, and single-vehicle rollover crashes were computed for 199 passenger vehicle models (1999-2002) with at least 120,000 registered vehicle years or 20 driver deaths during the study years.

Each model's rate represents the reported number of driver deaths divided by the model's number of registered years. Data are from the federal government's Fatality Analysis Reporting System and registration counts from The Polk Company.

Among the vehicles, exposure varies considerably. For example, the number of registered vehicle years for midsize two-door cars is nearly 3 million. This compares with fewer than 300,000 registered years for large two-door cars. Because of this variability, 95 percent confidence intervals were computed with upper and lower bounds indicating the precision of the computed rates for all crash types.

The rates reflect primarily the influence of a vehicle's design and patterns of use. Because driver demographics can be a major influence, the death rate for each vehicle was adjusted according to the proportion of deaths of women 25-64 years old. These drivers are involved in fewer fatal crashes per licensed driver. For most vehicles the rates were adjusted by less than 20 percent.

"This is the first year we've adjusted the rates to account for some driver characteristics," Lund says. "The adjustment takes away some of the differences among vehicles caused by differences in driver gender. Other demographic factors still influence the death rates, but more of the differences in the rates reflect the vehicles."

**INFLUENCE OF VEHICLE WEIGHT**

**Driver deaths per million registered vehicle years, 1999-2002 models during 2000-03**

vehicle weight:	CARS			SUVS			PICKUP TRUCKS		
	overall	mv	sv / roll	overall	mv	sv / roll	overall	mv	sv / roll
2,500 lbs. or less	<b>115</b>	71	42 20	—	—	— —	—	—	—
2,501-3,000 lbs.	<b>102</b>	54	46 25	<b>128</b>	63	66 47	<b>90</b>	42	49 28
3,001-3,500 lbs.	<b>84</b>	44	39 19	<b>98</b>	38	61 47	<b>131</b>	57	74 45
3,501-4,000 lbs.	<b>56</b>	33	23 10	<b>98</b>	32	69 53	<b>115</b>	33	82 56
4,001-4,500 lbs.	<b>47</b>	27	20 7	<b>73</b>	23	53 39	<b>107</b>	38	70 44
4,501-5,000 lbs.	—	—	— —	<b>66</b>	27	40 28	<b>93</b>	30	64 41
more than 5,000 lbs.	—	—	— —	<b>55</b>	15	42 33	<b>87</b>	28	60 44

overall driver death rate per million registered vehicle years  
 mv driver death rate in multiple-vehicle crashes  
 sv driver death rate in single-vehicle crashes  
 roll driver death rate in single-vehicle rollover crashes  
 — no exposure or insufficient exposure

# STATUS REPORT

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## Special issue

This special issue focuses on driver death rates. Recent special issues have focused on:

Rear crash protection	39:10 (2004)
Side impact crash tests	39:5 (2004)
Speeding	38:10 (2003)
Side impact crash tests	38:7 (2003)
Vehicle incompatibility	38:5 (2003)
Safety as a priority	37:10 (2002)
Automated enforcement	37:5 (2002)
Motorcycle deaths	37:1 (2002)
Elderly drivers	36:8 (2001)
What works and doesn't work	36:5 (2001)
Vehicle improvements	36:3 (2001)



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