

U.S. Speeding-Related Motor Vehicle Fatalities by Road Function Classification, 1995-1999

Nationally, the distribution of speeding-related fatalities changed little across road types from 1995 to 1999. (See companion handout "Fatality Rates by Road Function Classification, 1995-1999", for rate information.) The definition of speeding used to compile the following tables was based on the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's *Fatality Analysis Reporting System* (FARS) data elements. To be designated as speeding related by the FHWA, the FARS analyst had to indicate that at least one of the following three criteria was met:

- Driver-related factor of driving too fast for conditions or exceeding the posted speed limit, or
- Driver charged with a speeding-related violation (other than driving too slow), or
- Vehicle speed was estimated to be at least 10 mi/h over the posted speed limit.

Table 1. Totals for Speeding-Related Fatalities by Road Class

		1995		1996		1997		1998		1999	
Roadway Function Class		Speeding Related	Not Related	Speeding Related	Not Related	Speeding Related	Not Related	Speeding Related	Not Related	Speeding Related	Not Related
Rural	Interstate	906	1,752	991	1,933	1,003	2,037	1,025	2,080	1,032	2,204
	Other Principal Arterial	1,444	3,521	1,394	3,857	1,430	3,964	1,356	4,022	1,244	4,036
	Minor Artery	1,303	3,103	1,217	2,967	1,198	3,086	1,213	3,003	1,235	3,028
	Major Collector	2,379	3,839	2,178	3,795	2,242	3,678	2,108	3,732	2,146	3,670
	Minor Collector	714	884	674	879	724	999	682	1,071	657	1,097
	Local Road	1,952	2,604	1,951	2,445	1,975	2,475	1,970	2,489	2,029	2,730
	Unknown Rural Road	19	29	97	183	131	193	191	243	136	209
	Total Rural	8,717	15,732	8,502	16,059	8,703	16,432	8,545	16,640	8,479	16,974
Urban	Interstate	805	1,372	816	1,505	831	1,461	839	1,444	799	1,548
	Freeway/Expressway	558	1,249	549	989	444	852	412	870	486	868
	Other Principal Arterial	1,300	3,741	1,364	4,164	1,384	4,036	1,191	4,094	1,230	3,773
	Minor Artery	1,044	2,688	989	2,663	947	2,576	884	2,451	877	2,295
	Collector	445	768	423	785	410	753	353	684	380	643
	Local Road	1,083	2,080	1,077	1,975	1,108	1,956	1,017	1,904	997	1,919
	Unknown Urban Road	12	18	26	43	25	46	18	58	23	56
	Total Urban	5,247	11,916	5,244	12,124	5,149	11,680	4,714	11,505	4,792	11,102
Unknown		52	153	30	106	24	25	42	55	86	178
Grand Total		14,016	27,801	13,776	28,289	13,876	28,137	13,357	28,200	13,357	27,254

Table 2. Annual Distribution of Speeding-Related Fatalities by Road Function Class

Roadway Function Class		1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Rural	Interstate	6%	7%	7%	8%	8%
	Other Principal Arterial	10%	10%	10%	10%	9%
	Minor Artery	9%	9%	9%	9%	9%
	Major Collector	17%	16%	16%	16%	16%
	Minor Collector	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
	Local Road	14%	14%	14%	15%	15%
	Unknown Rural Road	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%
	Total Rural	62%	62%	63%	64%	63%
Urban	Interstate	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%
	Freeway/Expressway	4%	4%	3%	3%	4%
	Other Principal Arterial	9%	10%	10%	9%	9%
	Minor Artery	7%	7%	7%	7%	7%
	Collector	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%
	Local Road	8%	8%	8%	8%	7%
	Unknown Urban Road	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
	Total Urban	37%	38%	37%	35%	36%
Unknown		0%	0%	0%	0%	1%
Total		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 3. Percent of Annual Fatalities that were Speeding Related by Road Function Class

Roadway Function Class		1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Rural	Interstate	34%	34%	33%	33%	32%
	Other Principal Arterial	29%	27%	27%	25%	24%
	Minor Artery	30%	29%	28%	28%	29%
	Major Collector	38%	36%	38%	36%	37%
	Minor Collector	45%	43%	42%	41%	37%
	Local Road	43%	44%	44%	44%	43%
	Unknown Rural Road	40%	35%	40%	50%	39%
	Total Rural	36%	35%	35%	34%	33%
Urban	Interstate	37%	35%	36%	36%	34%
	Freeway/Expressway	31%	36%	34%	33%	36%
	Other Principal Arterial	26%	25%	26%	23%	25%
	Minor Artery	28%	27%	27%	26%	28%
	Collector	37%	35%	35%	32%	37%
	Local Road	34%	35%	36%	34%	34%
	Unknown Urban Road	40%	38%	35%	28%	29%
	Total Urban	31%	30%	31%	29%	30%
Unknown		25%	22%	49%	63%	33%
Total		34%	33%	33%	32%	32%

Source: Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) data run for the Federal Highway Administration by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Analysis Division, October 2000.