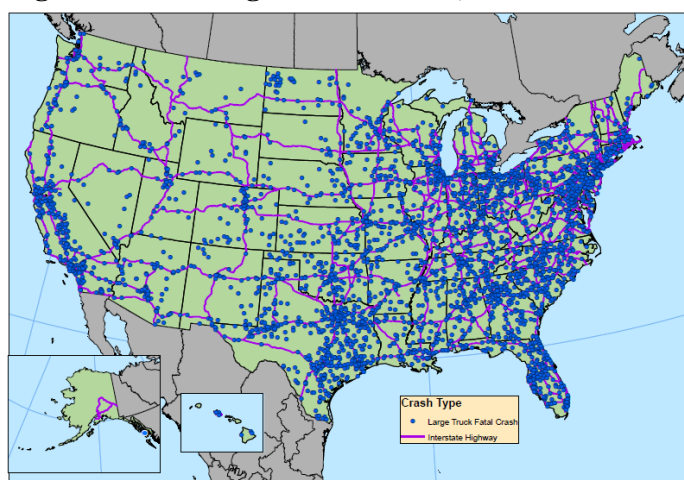# Fatal Crashes Involving Large Trucks, 2015

In 2015, 32,166 fatal crashes took place on our Nation's roadways, with 11.2 percent (3,598) involving at least one large truck (see Figure 1). This report examines the various ways of looking at fatal crashes and presents a variety of crash rates based on the 2015 Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) data.

Figure 1. Fatal large truck crashes, 2015.

Source: U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS), available at: http://www.nhtsa.gov/FARS.

Traditionally, large truck fatal crashes are analyzed in three ways: the number of crashes, the number of fatalities, or the number of vehicles involved (see Table 1). In 2015, 11.2 percent of all fatal crashes involved at least one large truck, 11.6 percent of all fatalities occurred in a crash that involved a large truck, and 8.3 percent of all vehicles in fatal crashes were large trucks.

Table 1. Fatal large truck crashes, 2011-15.

Statistic	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Large Truck Fatal Crashes as Percent of All Fatal Crashes	11.3%	11.2%	11.8%	11.4%	11.2%
Large Truck Fatalities as Percent of All Fatalities	11.6%	11.7%	12.1%	11.9%	11.6%
Large Trucks as Percent of All Vehicles Involved in Fatal Crashes	8.2%	8.3%	8.7%	8.3%	8.3%

Source: USDOT, NHTSA, FARS, available at: http://www.nhtsa.gov/FARS.

Table 2 lists the 10 States with the greatest number of fatal large truck crashes in 2015 and displays the crashes as a percent of all fatal crashes. Combined, these 10 States accounted for just over half (50.1 percent) of all fatal large truck crashes. As seen in Table 2, the greatest number of fatal large truck crashes in 2015 took place in Texas, accounting for 15.2 percent of all fatal crashes in the State. California followed Texas with 271 fatal large truck crashes in 2015, accounting for 9.3 percent of all fatal crashes in California that year.
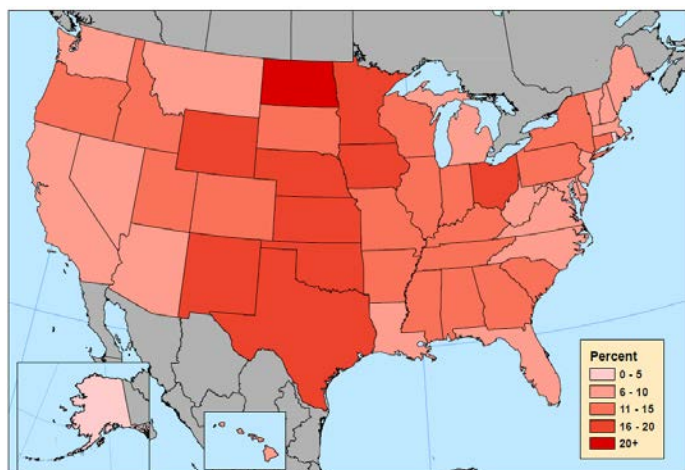
Table 2. Fatal large truck crash data, top 10 States, 2015.

State	Fatal Large Truck Crashes	All Fatal Crashes	Percent Large Truck
Texas	474	3,124	15.2%
California	271	2,925	9.3%
Florida	197	2,699	7.3%
Georgia	161	1,327	12.1%
Ohio	156	1,029	15.2%
Pennsylvania	138	1,102	12.5%
North Carolina	115	1,275	9.0%
New York	113	1,046	10.8%
Indiana	105	756	13.9%
Tennessee	101	884	11.4%
U.S. Total	**3,598**	**32,166**	**11.2%**

Source: USDOT, NHTSA, FARS, available at: http://www.nhtsa.gov/FARS.

Looking at the distribution of fatal crashes nationally, Figure 2 depicts the proportion of all fatal crashes within each State that involved a large truck. Table 3 highlights the 10 States with the highest rates of large truck fatal crashes out of their individual total fatal traffic crashes. Combined, the 10 States depicted accounted for 28.5 percent of all fatal large truck crashes in 2015. As seen, 33.3 percent of fatal crashes in North Dakota and 18 percent in Kansas involved at least one large truck.

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Figure 2. Fatal large truck crashes as a ratio of all fatal crashes within the State, 2015.

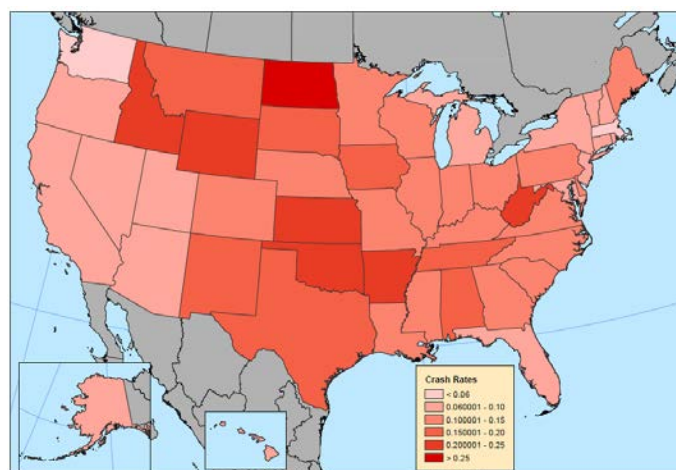Source: USDOT, NHTSA, FARS, available at: http://www.nhtsa.gov/FARS.

Table 3. Fatal large truck crashes as a ratio of all fatal crashes within the State, top 10 States, 2015.

State	Large Truck Fatal Crashes	All Fatal Crashes	Percent Large Truck
North Dakota	37	111	33.3%
Kansas	58	322	18.0%
Wyoming	22	129	17.1%
Iowa	48	282	17.0%
Oklahoma	97	588	16.5%
Nebraska	35	218	16.1%
New Mexico	42	269	15.6%
Minnesota	57	375	15.2%
Texas	474	3,124	15.2%
Ohio	156	1,029	15.2%
U.S. Total	**3,598**	**32,166**	**11.2%**

Source: USDOT, NHTSA, FARS, available at: http://www.nhtsa.gov/FARS.

While the above examines large truck fatal crashes as a ratio to all crashes, fatal crashes are often represented in terms of exposure. Figure 3 depicts large truck fatal crashes per 100 million total vehicle miles traveled (VMT) in the State. As seen in Figure 3, North Dakota, once again, has the greatest fatal crash ratio (at 0.369 fatal crashes per 100 million VMT), followed by Wyoming and Oklahoma at 0.229 and 0.203, respectively (see Table 4). The 10 States listed in Table 4 accounted for over one quarter (28.2 percent) of all fatal large truck crashes in 2015.

Figure 3. Fatal large truck crashes per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT), 2015.

Source: Fatal Crashes —USDOT, NHTSA, FARS, available at: http://www.nhtsa.gov/FARS; VMT—Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), *Highway Statistics 2015*.
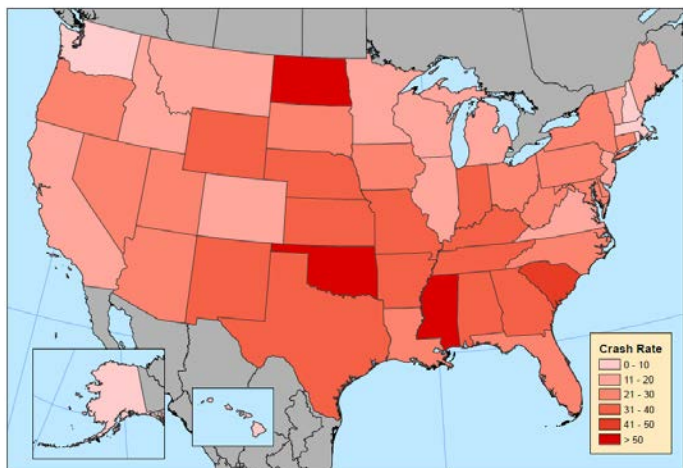
Table 4. Fatal large truck crashes per 100 million total VMT, top 10 States, 2015.

State	Fatal Crashes Involving Large Trucks	Fatal Large Truck Crashes per 100 Million total VMT
North Dakota	37	0.369
Wyoming	22	0.229
Oklahoma	97	0.203
Kansas	58	0.185
South Carolina	95	0.184
Texas	474	0.184
Nebraska	35	0.174
Arkansas	58	0.166
Mississippi	64	0.160
Kentucky	76	0.156
U.S. Total	**3,598**	**0.116**

Source: Fatal Crashes - USDOT, NHTSA, FARS, available at: http://www.nhtsa.gov/FARS. VMT – Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), *Highway Statistics 2015*

While VMT is one way to express fatal crashes in terms of exposure, Figure 4 examines exposure with respect to the number of truck and truck-trailer registrations within each State. In 2015, there were 12,092,091 large trucks registered in the United States. Table 5 highlights the 10 States where the ratio of fatal crashes to million truck and truck-trailer registrations was the greatest. The 10 States represented in Table 5 accounted for 30.8 percent of all fatal large truck crashes in 2013. Once again, North Dakota is at the top of the list, with 62.87 fatal crashes per million truck and truck-trailer registrations, followed by Oklahoma at 57.59.

Figure 4. Fatal large truck crashes per million truck and truck-trailer registrations, 2015.

Table 5. Fatal large truck crashes per million truck and truck-trailer registrations, top 10 States, 2016.

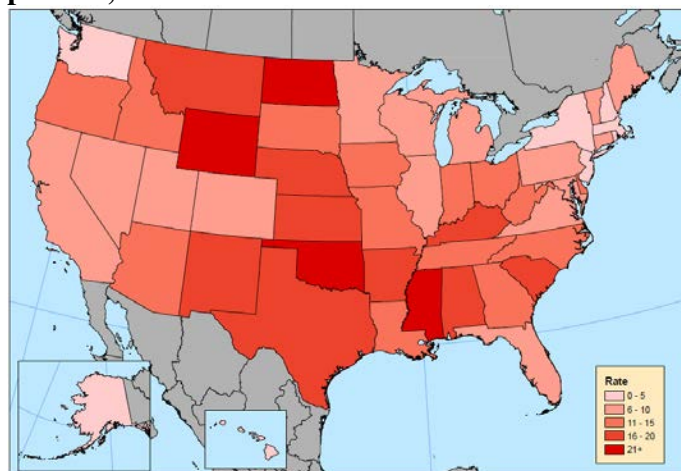| State	Fatal Crashes Involving Large Trucks	Fatal Large Truck Crashes per Million Truck and Truck-Tractor Registrations
North Dakota	37	62.87
Oklahoma	97	57.59
Mississippi	64	54.34
South Carolina	95	43.82
New Mexico	42	39.47
Wyoming	22	38.48
Kansas	58	38.15
Georgia	161	37.49
Texas	474	37.07
Arkansas	58	34.36
U.S. Total	**3,598**	**25.87**

The previous fatality and crash rates were expressed relative to exposure on the highway system, whether as a ratio of all fatal crashes, VMT by all vehicles, or the relative number of large trucks registered in the Nation. Figure 5 depicts the ratio of fatal large truck crashes to million persons by State population in 2015. Table 6 highlights the 10 States with the most fatal large truck crashes per million persons in 2015. The States depicted in this table account for 16.7 percent of all fatal large truck crashes that took place in 2015.

Once again, North Dakota had the greatest crash ratio, with approximately 49 fatal crashes per million persons. Wyoming and Oklahoma followed with crash rates of 37.5 and 24.8, respectfully.

Figure 5. Fatal large truck crashes per million persons, 2015.

Table 6. Fatal large truck crashes per million persons, top 10 States, 2015.

State	Fatal Crashes Involving Large Trucks	Fatal Large Truck Crashes per Million Persons
North Dakota	37	48.9
Wyoming	22	37.5
Oklahoma	97	24.8
Mississippi	64	21.4
New Mexico	42	20.1
Kansas	58	19.9
Arkansas	58	19.5
South Carolina	95	19.4
Alabama	94	19.4
Nebraska	35	18.5
U.S. Total	**3,541**	**11.0**

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