

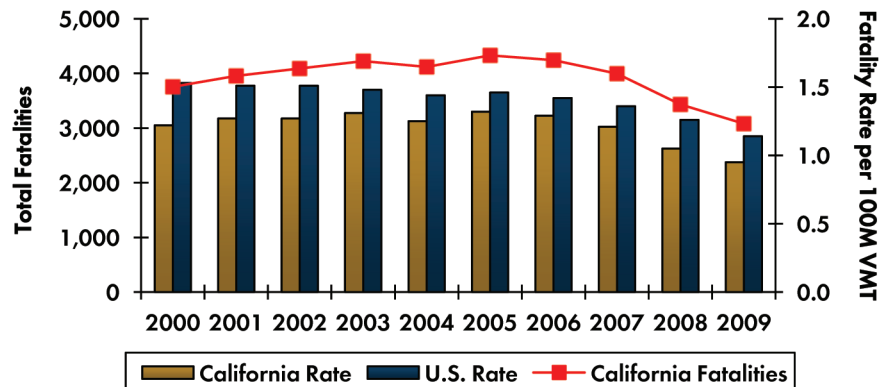


## Motor vehicle crashes are a leading cause of death in the United States.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the number of people who died in crashes across the country decreased from 37,423 in 2008 to 33,808 in 2009. In addition, the number of people injured declined for the ninth year in a row to just over 2.2 million. Even in light of these reductions, motor vehicle crashes remain a significant problem. These traffic crashes cost the Nation over \$230 billion each year. To improve safety, a coordinated response is needed from all levels and branches of government – Federal agencies, State legislatures, city and county councils, and local agencies. A coordinated response should result in increased safety funding, more effective safety laws, and enhanced education, enforcement, engineering, and emergency response efforts targeting critical safety issues. As part of the overall strategy to reduce fatalities and serious injuries, California has an approved Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP), which identifies the following challenge areas: impaired driving, leaving the roadway and head-on collisions, driver licensing and competency, safety belts/child safety seats, driver decisions about rights of way/turning, young drivers, intersections/interchanges, walking/street crossing, older roadway users, speeding/aggressive driving, commercial vehicles, motorcycles, bicycling, work zones, post crash survivability, data collection/access/analysis, and distracted driving. To obtain a copy of the SHSP, contact the State DOT or FHWA Division Office Safety Specialist.

### Fatality Trends

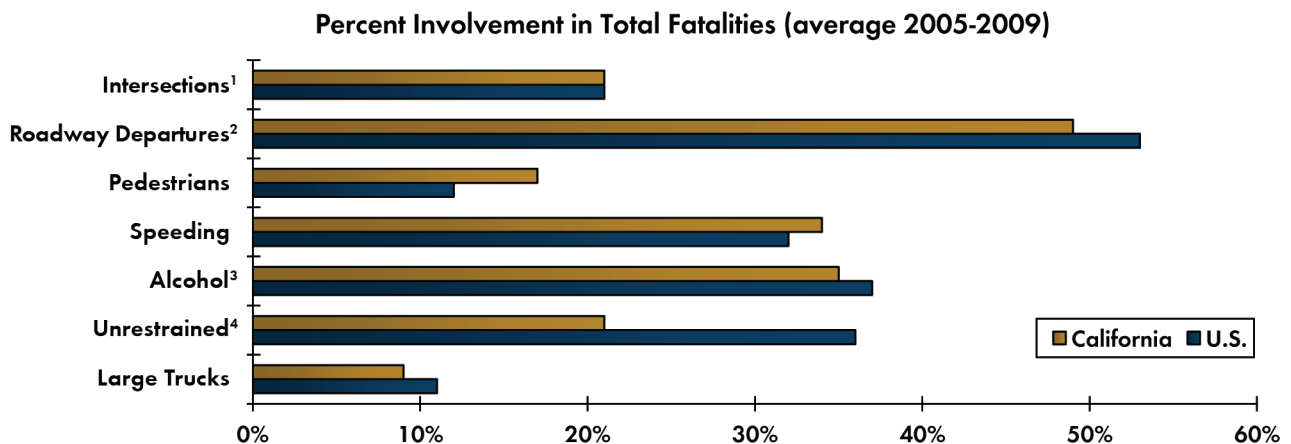
Indicators	CA	U.S.
<b>Total Fatalities</b>		
<b>2009</b>	<b>3,081</b>	<b>33,808</b>
<b>Average: 2000-2009</b>	<b>3,922</b>	<b>41,157</b>
<b>Fatality Rate (per 100M VMT)</b>		
<b>2009</b>	<b>0.95</b>	<b>1.14</b>
<b>Average: 2000-2009</b>	<b>1.21</b>	<b>1.41</b>



Fatality rate is calculated based on State fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT). Total fatalities are taken from the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS): [www.nhtsa.gov/FARS](http://www.nhtsa.gov/FARS)

### Safety Focus Areas

This chart represents national safety focus areas and their corresponding percentages of total crash fatalities in the State and in the Nation. More than one of these focus areas may be involved as contributing factors in a single crash.



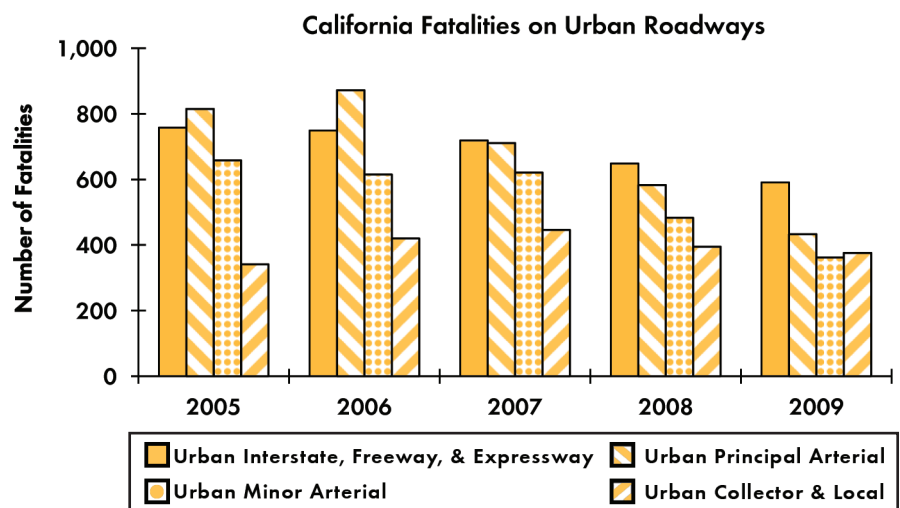
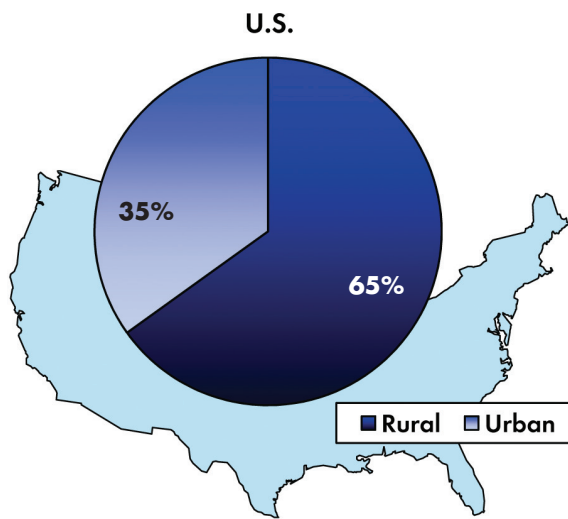
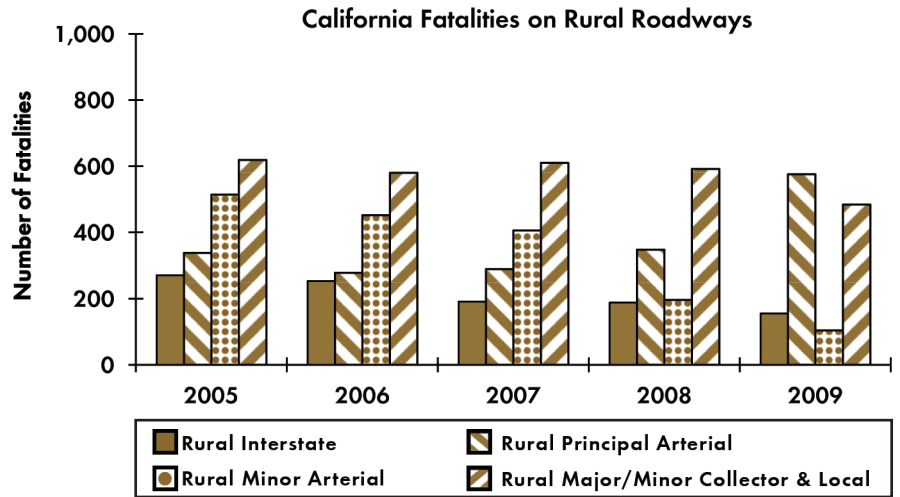
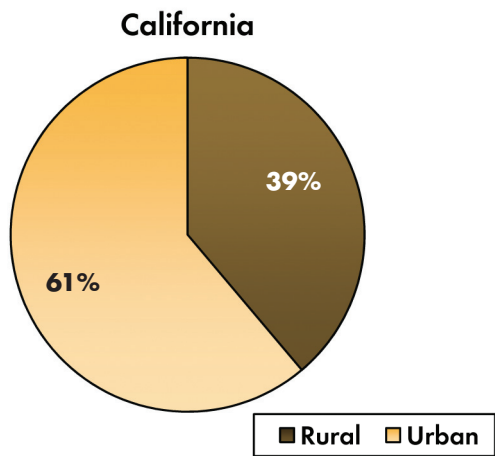
<sup>1</sup> Non-interchange intersection/intersection-related crashes.

<sup>2</sup> Non-intersection crashes in which a vehicle crosses an edge line, a centerline, or leaves the traveled way. Includes intersections at interchange areas.

<sup>3</sup> Crashes involving a driver with a blood alcohol content (BAC) = .01+.

<sup>4</sup> Unrestrained passenger vehicles occupant fatalities. Does not include unknown restraint use.

# Rural and Urban Roadway Fatalities



For the purposes of this document, the terms urban and rural are based on the definition published in the American National Standard (ANSI D16.1-1996).

## For More Information

The Transportation Safety Planning Working Group: [tsp.trb.org](http://tsp.trb.org)

Fatality Analysis Reporting System: [www.nhtsa.gov/FARS](http://www.nhtsa.gov/FARS)

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration: [www.nhtsa.dot.gov](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov)

Federal Highway Administration Division Office Contacts: [www.fhwa.dot.gov/field.html](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/field.html)

Federal Highway Administration, Office of Planning: [www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/index.htm](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/index.htm)

Federal Highway Administration, Office of Safety: [safety.fhwa.dot.gov](http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov)

Federal Highway Administration Resource Center: [www.fhwa.dot.gov/resourcecenter/misc/techassist.cfm](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/resourcecenter/misc/techassist.cfm)

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