## 1994-1996

# Narionol Auromotive Sampling System Crashworthiness Data Systems 



Crashworthiness Data System 1994-1996

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## Executive Summary

During the period 1994 through 1996, an estimated 11.4 million vehicles each year were involved in police-reported traffic crashes. Approximately 93 percent of these were automobiles, pickup trucks, vans, and sport/utility vehicles, collectively referred to as passenger vehicles. Pickup trucks, vans, and utility vehicles are collectively referred to as light trucks. Most of these vehicles were not seriously damaged: only 26 percent of them were towed from the crash scene due to damage sustained in the crash. Approximately 47,000 passenger vehicles were involved in fatal crashes each year.

This report focuses attention on occupants of those passenger vehicles that were towed from the crash scene. NHTSA's National Automotive Sampling System (NASS)/ Crashworthiness Data System (CDS) collects detailed information on towed passenger vehicle crashes, employing trained, professional crash investigation teams. The in-depth data collection, scientific protocols, and professionalism of those involved make the NASS/CDS database a valuable resource to many in the traffic safety community.

NASS data are used by government, industry, and the private sector to conduct research, identify injury patterns and mechanisms, provide a basis for regulatory decision making, and provide a means of evaluating the association between occupant injury and various crashrelated characteristics.

Some highlights of the report include:
! Passenger cars comprise the largest segment (about 76 percent) of the passenger vehicles found in the NASS/CDS, and hence, in police-reported towaway crashes. In the report, Passenger cars are treated separately from the remaining vehicles, which have been grouped together as light trucks.
! Occupancy patterns for towed crash-involved cars and light trucks were very similar: about two-thirds (about 67 percent) of the time, the only occupant of a towed crash-involved car or light truck was the driver. A front-seat passenger was present in the car about 21 percent of the time, with passengers in the second and further seats about 13 percent of the time. For occupants of light trucks, front-seat passengers were present 20 percent of the time, with passengers in the second and further seats about 17 percent of the time.
! One of the health-care consequences of motor vehicle crashes is the burden on emergency and health services. About 243,000 occupants of passenger vehicles were hospitalized each year as a result of police-reported traffic crashes. Another $1,321,000$ occupants were transported to a medical facility and released, and 369,000 occupants were treated at the scene of the crash.
! Contact with the steering assembly accounted for about 10 percent of the minor injuries (AIS 1-2) but about 15 percent of the serious-maximum (AIS 3+) injuries. A similar pattern was observed for contact with the interior side surface, comprising 7 percent of the minor injuries and 15 percent of serious and greater injuries.
! Approximately 288,000 injuries to occupants resulted from contacting an air bag. Around 97 percent were minor injuries, and about 1 percent were serious injuries.

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! About 4 percent of the towed cars in crashes rolled over, compared with 16 percent of the towed light trucks.
! Eight percent of car occupants in rollover crashes were ejected; the remaining crash types exhibited ejection rates in the range of 0.1 to 1.5 percent.
! The belt use rate for all occupants of passenger vehicles was about 75 percent.
! The alcohol involvement rate for drivers of both passenger cars and light trucks in traffic crashes is highest for the age group 25-34 years.
! The alcohol involvement rate for all drivers of light trucks in traffic crashes is almost twice that for drivers of passenger cars.

## 1. Introduction

## Background

The National Automotive Sampling System (NASS)—formerly, the National Accident Sampling System-is the mechanism through which the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) collects nationally representative data on motor vehicle traffic crashes to aid in the development, implementation, and evaluation of motor vehicle and highway safety countermeasures. The NASS was originally designed and implemented in 1979 to support highway and motor vehicle safety programs. The NASS program was reevaluated in the mid1980s. The evaluation team concluded that the program should be redesigned to focus on enhanced in-depth analyses of passenger vehicle crash protection performance. This reevaluation resulted in changes that were implemented by NHTSA's National Center for Statistics and Analysis (NCSA) in January 1988.

To enhance its applicability in addressing crashworthiness issues, the NASS was divided into two parts: (1) the General Estimates System (GES), which collects data on an annual sample of approximately 50,000 police-reported traffic crashes; and (2) the Crashworthiness Data System (CDS), which collects additional detailed information on an annual sample of approximately 5,000 police-reported traffic crashes involving passenger vehicles towed from the crash scene due to damage resulting from the crash. In this report, the term passenger vehicles is used to refer to all cars, pickup trucks, vans, and sport/utility vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of 10,000 pounds or less. The term light trucks is used to refer to pickup trucks, vans, and sport/utility vehicles.

Unlike the CDS, the GES does not investigate crashes. Its only source of information is the police crash report. It does provide the data needed for assessments of the state of and trends in motor vehicle and traffic safety. An annual report is published each year that describes the data availability from the NASS/GES and the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS). The FARS is a census of all fatal crashes that occur in the United States and Puerto Rico.

## Objective

The objective of this report is to illustrate the availability, resolution, and applicability of crash, vehicle, occupant, and casualty attributes for the characterization of vehicle crash protection performance on U.S. roads during the years 1994 through 1996, based on the NASS/CDS records for those years.

## Vehicles Under Consideration

This report addresses towed passenger cars, pickup trucks, vans, and sport/utility vehicles under 10,000 pounds GVWR. Sport/utility vehicles include jeeps, truck-based station wagons, utility vehicles, and other van- or truck-based motor vehicles under 10,000 pounds GVWR that are not cars, pickups, or vans. Motorcycles, bicycles, horse-drawn carriages, etc., are not included.

## CDS Estimates

Unless otherwise noted, all the CDS statistics presented in this report are estimates -not exact counts- generated from a sample of crashes that occurred in the 3-year period from 1994 through 1996. Descriptions of the CDS sample design and the procedure used to obtain the data shown in the tables are contained in Appendix B. Since the CDS is a probability sample, the sampling error of every CDS statistic can be estimated. Approximate sampling errors for the weighted average counts over the 1994-1996 period are provided in Appendix F.

## 2. <br> Perspective

A perspective on crash-involved vehicles is provided in Figure 1, which shows the annual incidence averaged over the years 1994-1996.

The number of vehicles of all body types involved in police-reported crashes each year in the United States is about 11,400,000; about 93.0 percent of these are passenger cars, pickups, vans, and sport/utility vehicles. In this report, pickups, vans, and sport/utility vehicles are collectively referred to as "light trucks." Each of these body types is subdivided into towed and non-towed vehicles.


Note: For those vehicles where tow status is unknown it is assumed that the vehicles were not towed. While all vehicles are addressed by NASS/GES, only towed passenger vehicles are addressed by NASS/CDS
Source: NASS/CDS and NASS/GES, 1994-1996.

The towed vehicles shown in Figure 1 are investigated in the NASS/CDS, because of interest in the crashworthiness of vehicles involved in the more severe crashes. These are the subject of the following analyses and illustrations, with emphasis on cars. During the period 1994-1996, the average number of registered passenger vehicles per year, as reported by R.L. Polk \& Co., was $185,765,664$, of which $123,283,749$ ( 66.4 percent) were passenger cars and $62,481,915$ (33.6 percent) were light trucks.

## 3.

## Car Size

About 2,544,000 cars are towed away from the scene of traffic crashes every year. Table 1 shows the distribution of these cars by weight class. Passenger cars made up about 76 percent of all NASS/CDS towed vehicles; the remaining 24 percent were light trucks (see Table 5).

Table 1
Crash-Involved Towed Cars by Weight Class, 1994-1996

| Weight Class | Total Sample | Annual Average |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Percent | Count |
| Small (<2,500 lbs) | 4,762 | 33.3\% | 846,069 |
| Mid-Size (2,500-3,000 lbs) | 4,536 | 35.0\% | 890,969 |
| Large (>3,000 lbs) | 4,631 | 30.3\% | 772,190 |
| Unknown Size | 256 | 1.4\% | 35,066 |
| Total | 14,185 | 100.0\% | 2,544,293 |

Examples of Weight Class:
Small—Ford Tempo, Mercury Tracer, Saturn, Nissan Sentra, Honda Civic Mid-size—Plymouth Sundance, Ford Probe, Honda Prelude, Toyota Celica Large—Ford Taurus, Dodge Dynasty, BMW 3 series, Pontiac Grand Prix

## Car Crash Modes and Areas of Damage

Table 2 and Figure 2 show the distribution of towed cars among the primary crash modes and areas of damage. Frontal damage in nonrollover car crashes is the most frequent crash type, accounting for about 58 percent of all towed car crashes. Side damage and all other nonrollover crash types account for 29 percent and 9 percent, respectively. Rollover car crashes account for the remaining 4 percent.

These crash frequencies do not reflect the distribution of harmful outcomes to the car occupants. Certain crash types are associated with higher proportions of injury. For example, although rollover occurs in about 4 percent of towed car crashes, it is responsible for about 13 percent of the harm-weighted injuries to car occupants in towed crashes. On the other hand, car crashes with rear damage account for about 9 percent of the cases but are responsible for about 5 percent of the harm-weighted injuries to occupants (see Table 25).

Table 2
Distribution of Towed Car Crash Modes and Areas of Damage, 1994-1996

| Crash Mode and Area of Damage | Total Sample | Annual Average |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Percent | Count |
| Rollover |  |  |  |
| 1-3 Quarter Turns | 568 | 2.8\% | 71,340 |
| 4+ Quarter Turns | 443 | 1.4\% | 36,254 |
| End Over End | 38 | 0.1\% | 1,827 |
| Total Rollover | 1,049 | 4.3\% | 109,421 |
| Nonrollover |  |  |  |
| Single-Vehicle |  |  |  |
| Frontal Damage | 1,989 | 14.2\% | 362,350 |
| Side Damage | 565 | 4.1\% | 104,425 |
| Rear, Top, or Under Damage | 73 | 1.0\% | 25,007 |
| Total Single-Vehicle | 2,627 | 19.3\% | 491,782 |
| Multiple-Vehicle |  |  |  |
| Frontal Damage | 6,196 | 43.4\% | 1,104,169 |
| Side Damage | 3,380 | 25.0\% | 636,588 |
| Rear Damage | 919 | 7.9\% | 200,319 |
| Top or Under Damage | 14 | 0.1\% | 2,014 |
| Total Multiple-Vehicle | 10,509 | 76.4\% | 1,943,090 |
| Total Nonrollover | 13,136 | 95.7\% | 2,434,872 |
| Total Towed Car Crashes | 14,185 | 100.0\% | 2,544,293 |

Note: Damage Area "Unknown" has been imputed into the known damage areas.

Figure 2
Distribution of Towed Car Crash Modes


## Car Crash Severity

Crash severity (delta-v in miles per hour) for cars varies generally in the range from 1 to 50 mph . Table 3 shows the distribution of towed cars by severity and area of damage. No crash severity, in terms of delta-v, can be defined for rollover crashes. Figure 3 illustrates the primary aspects of this distribution.

Crash frequency rises sharply to a peak located between 11 and 20 mph , as shown in Figure 3. This frequency drops sharply following the peak; cumulative frequency beyond 40 mph is about 0.2 percent. The same general pattern holds for all areas of damage in nonrollover crashes: front, side, and rear.

Great caution is recommended in the use and interpretation of crash severity data, for two reasons: (a) the large number of unknowns; and (b) the sharp reduction in the number of available cases as crash severity increases. For "Unknown" area of damage in Table 3, crash severity was calculated using the missing vehicle reconstruction algorithm (see Appendix E, "CRASHPC and OLDMISSPC Summary"). Area of damage "other" includes top and undercarriage, which are outside the scope of the reconstruction algorithm.

Table 3
Distribution of Towed Cars by Crash Severity (delta-v) and Area of Damage: Average per Year, 1994-1996

| Area of Damage | Crash Frequency by Crash Severity* |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 1-10 mph | 11-20 mph | 21-30 mph | 31-40 mph | $>40 \mathrm{mph}$ | Unknown | Total |
| Front | 217,353 | 368,872 | 57,659 | 6,991 | 1,477 | 382,295 | 1,034,646 |
|  | 33.3\% | 56.5\% | 8.8\% | 1.1\% | 0.2\% | 36.9\% | 40.7\% |
| Side | 144,746 | 148,240 | 16,480 | 5,753 | 242 | 218,918 | 534,377 |
|  | 45.9\% | 47.0\% | 5.2\% | 1.8\% | 0.1\% | 41.0\% | 21.0\% |
| Rear | 31,131 | 61,872 | 11,587 | 1,303 | 367 | 44,579 | 150,840 |
|  | 29.3\% | 58.2\% | 10.9\% | 1.2\% | 0.3\% | 29.6\% | 5.9\% |
| Other | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 68,925 | 68,925 |
|  | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 100.0\% | 2.7\% |
| Unknown | 4,753 | 3,542 | 117 | 0 | 0 | 747,092 | 755,505 |
|  | 56.5\% | 42.1\% | 1.4\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 98.9\% | 29.7\% |
| Total | 397,983 | 582,526 | 85,843 | 14,047 | 2,086 | 1,461,809 | 2,544,293 |
|  | 36.8\% | 53.8\% | 7.9\% | 1.3\% | 0.2\% | 57.5\% | 100.0\% |

*For each area of damage and known crash severity, the first data row shows the number of vehicles, and the second row shows the percentage of the total number of vehicles in that row for which crash severities were known. For the "Unknown" column, the second data row shows the percentage of the total for each area of damage. For the "Total" column, the second data row shows the percentage of the grand total. NA = not available.

Figure 3
Distribution of Towed Car Crashes by Crash Severity
and Area
of
Damage,
19941996


Note: Data taken from Table 3 (percentage of the total number of vehicles for which crash severities were known).

Due to the sharp rise of outcome severity as crash severity increases, the distribution of injuries to car occupants vs. crash severity differs markedly from the distribution of the crash frequency. Specifically, the injury distribution rises to a peak much faster, and drops much more slowly thereafter, than does the crash frequency distribution. For example, the injury proportions (not shown) in the five crash severity intervals used in Table 3 and Figure 3 are 10 percent, 37 percent, 28 percent, 16 percent, and 8 percent for frontal impacts, compared with the corresponding crash proportions of 33 percent, 57 percent, 9 percent, 1 percent, and about 0 percent. However, although it is true that the injury proportions exceed the corresponding crash proportions at high crash severities, it is also true that the majority of the injuries occur at severities under 40 mph . For example, in frontal impacts 92 percent of the injuries to occupants occur at severities under 40 mph ; the cumulative injury proportion under 40 mph is 97 percent for side impacts and 98 percent for rear impacts.

## Seating Position of Car Occupants

Every year, approximately 3.8 million people are involved in crashes as occupants of towed cars. Table 4 shows the distribution of occupant seating positions for towed cars from 1994 through 1996.

The distribution pattern-about 67 percent drivers, 21 percent right front passengers, and 12 percent all other-is roughly the same as for all cars regardless of crash involvement.

Table 4
Occupant Seating Positions in Towed Cars, 1994-1996

| Car Occupants | Total Sample | Annual Average |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Percent | Count |
| Drivers | 14,146 | 66.7\% | 2,532,969 |
| Right Front Passengers | 5,064 | 20.5\% | 780,160 |
| Second Seat Passengers | 3,221 | 11.8\% | 448,201 |
| Other Passengers | 287 | 1.0\% | 36,774 |
| Total | 22,718 | 100.0\% | 3,798,104 |

## Functional Class and Size of Light Trucks

About 785,000 light trucks (pickups, vans, and sport/utility vehicles) under 10,000 pounds gross vehicle weight rating are towed away from the scene of traffic crashes every year. Table 5 shows the distribution of these vehicles by functional class and size. The annual average for these vehicles is 24 percent of all NASS/CDS towed vehicles. The remaining 76 percent are cars.

Table 5
Distribution of Towed Light Trucks by Vehicle Class and Size, 1994-1996

|  |  |  | Annual Average |  |
| :--- | :---: | ---: | ---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Vehicle Category and Size | Total Sample | Percent | Count |  |
| Compact Pickup | 1,345 | $29.4 \%$ | 231,107 |  |
| Standard Pickup | 1,292 | $21.0 \%$ | 165,241 |  |
| Unknown Size Pickup | 44 | $0.8 \%$ | 6,163 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Minivan | 734 | $14.1 \%$ | 110,595 |  |
| Standard Van | 429 | $9.5 \%$ | 74,723 |  |
| Unknown Size Van | 36 | $0.4 \%$ | 3,192 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Compact Utility Vehicle | 1,038 | $20.3 \%$ | 159,594 |  |
| Standard Utility Vehicle | 247 | $4.2 \%$ | 33,066 |  |
| Unknown Size Utility Vehicle | 12 | $0.2 \%$ | 1,709 |  |
| Total | 5,177 | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0}$ |  |  |

## Light Truck Crash Modes and Areas of Damage

Crash mode and area of damage distributions for towed light trucks involved in crashes are generally similar to those for towed cars, except for rollover crashes. The proportion of rollovers for light trucks is 3 to 4 times that for passenger cars. Table 6 shows the distribution of towed light trucks among the primary crash modes and areas of damage.

Table 6
Distribution of Towed Light Truck Crash Modes and Areas of Damage, 1994-1996

| Crash Mode and Area of Damage | Total Sample | Annual Average |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Percent | Count |
| Rollover |  |  |  |
| 1-3 Quarter Turns | 613 | 10.0\% | 78,439 |
| 4+ Quarter Turns | 444 | 5.4\% | 42,570 |
| End Over End | 16 | 0.1\% | 450 |
| Total Rollover | 1,073 | 15.5\% | 121,459 |
| Nonrollover |  |  |  |
| Single-Vehicle |  |  |  |
| Frontal Damage | 679 | 17.3\% | 135,613 |
| Side Damage | 140 | 3.0\% | 23,210 |
| Rear, Top, or Under Damage | 14 | 0.2\% | 1,918 |
| Total Single-Vehicle | 833 | 20.5\% | 160,741 |
| Multiple-Vehicle |  |  |  |
| Frontal Damage | 2,380 | 43.2\% | 339,519 |
| Side Damage | 692 | 15.7\% | 123,457 |
| Rear Damage | 196 | 5.1\% | 40,174 |
| Top or Under Damage | 3 | 0.0\% | 40 |
| Total Multiple-Vehicle | 3,271 | 64.1\% | 503,190 |
| Total Nonrollover | 4,104 | 84.5\% | 663,931 |
| Total Crashes | 5,177 | 100.0\% | 785,390 |

Figure 4 shows the distribution of crash modes and areas of damage for towed light trucks, compared with the distribution for towed cars for the years 1994 through 1996.

Most of the observations for car crash frequencies and injury as a function of crash mode and area of damage are also valid for these vehicles. Rollover is the major exception: rollover crashes for light trucks are both more frequent than car rollover crashes (16 percent and 4 percent, respectively) and result in a greater proportion of harmful outcomes to the vehicle occupants (37 percent and 13 percent, respectively). The proportion of harm-weighted injuries (37 percent) associated with rollover crashes is the average for three vehicle classes -pickups, vans, and sport/utility vehicles (see Table 26). For these three classes the proportion of harmful outcomes varies significantly: rollover accounts for approximately 37 percent of all harm associated with pickups, 29 percent for vans, and 45 percent for sport/utility vehicles

Figure 4
Distribution of Crash Modes and Areas of Damage:
Comparison of Cars vs. Light Trucks, 1994-1996


Note: The "Other" category for single-vehicle crashes includes rear, top, and under damage. For multiple-vehicle crashes, "Other" includes top and under damage.

## Light Truck Crash Severity

Table 7 shows the distribution of towed light truck crashes by crash severity (delta-v in miles per hour) and area of damage. Most of the observations made for towed car crash frequencies and injuries to occupants as a function of crash severity are also valid for these vehicles; the same general patterns are observed. For example, for frontal impact, the injury proportions (not shown) in the five crash severity intervals used in Table 7 are 7 percent, 27 percent, 29 percent, 18 percent, and 20 percent for frontal impacts, and the corresponding crash proportions are 39 percent, 48 percent, 10 percent, 2 percent, and less than 1 percent.

A large majority of the injuries to occupants in towed light truck crashes occur at crash severities under 40 mph . For example, in frontal impacts 80 percent of the injuries occur at severities under 40 mph . The cumulative injury proportion under 40 mph is 100 percent for both side and rear impacts.

The comment made in connection with car crash severities is even more important for these vehicles: great caution is recommended in the use and interpretation of crash severity data, for two reasons: (a) the large number of unknowns; and (b) the sharp reduction of the number of available cases as crash severity increases. For "Unknown" area of damage in Table 7, crash severity was calculated using the missing vehicle reconstruction algorithm.

| Table 7 <br> Distribution of Towed Light Trucks by Crash Severity (delta-v) <br> and Area of Damage: Average per Year, 1994-1996 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Area of Damage | Crash Frequency by Crash Severity* |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 1-10 mph | 11-20 mph | 21-30 mph | 31-40 mph | $>40 \mathrm{mph}$ | Unknown | Total |
| Front | 67,304 | 81,479 | 17,753 | 3,073 | 1,185 | 140,678 | 311,472 |
|  | 39.4\% | 47.7\% | 10.4\% | 1.8\% | 0.7\% | 45.2\% | 39.7\% |
| Side | 39,068 | 20,333 | 3,609 | 129 | 16 | 53,728 | 116,883 |
|  | 61.9\% | 32.2\% | 5.7\% | 0.2\% | 0.0\% | 46.0\% | 14.9\% |
| Rear | 5,021 | 10,331 | 364 | 37 | 0 | 10,691 | 26,444 |
|  | 31.9\% | 65.6\% | 2.3\% | 0.2\% | 0.0\% | 40.4\% | 3.4\% |
| Other | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 39,652 | 39,652 |
|  |  | -- | -- | -- | -- | 100.0\% | 5.0\% |
| Unknown | 150 | 406 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 290,372 | 290,940 |
|  | 26.4\% | 71.5\% | 1.9\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 99.8\% | 37.0\% |
| Total | 111,543 | 112,549 | 21,737 | 3,239 | 1,201 | 535,121 | 785,390 |
|  | 44.6\% | 45.0\% | 8.7\% | 1.3\% | 0.5\% | 68.1\% | 100.0\% |

## Seating Position of Light Truck Occupants

Approximately $1,225,000$ people are involved in crashes as occupants of towed light trucks every year. Table 8 shows the distribution of occupant seating positions for these vehicles from 1994 through 1996.

The distribution pattern-about 63 percent drivers, 20 percent right front passengers, and 17 percent all other-is roughly the same as for all light trucks regardless of crash involvement. It is also similar to the corresponding distribution for towed car crashes (Table 4).

Table 8
Occupant Seating Positions in Towed Light Trucks, 1994-1996

| Vehicle Occupants | Total Sample | Annual Average |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Percent | Count |
| Drivers | 5,156 | 63.4\% | 776,920 |
| Right Front Passengers | 1,726 | 19.9\% | 244,121 |
| Second Seat Passengers | 805 | 7.5\% | 92,409 |
| Other Passengers | 604 | 9.1\% | 111,064 |
| Total | 8,291 | 100.0\% | 1,224,514 |

## 4. Occupant Injury Data

## Crash-Involved Occupants by Injury Severity

Approximately $3,800,000$ occupants are involved in towed car crashes every year. About 49 percent of them are uninjured, and 51 percent are injured at various severity levels. Similarly, about 1,225,000 occupants are involved in towed light truck crashes per year, with about 55 percent uninjured and 45 percent injured.

Given that each injured occupant usually has more than one injury, the severity of the occupant's most harmful injury is used to characterize the seriousness of the injuries resulting from the crash. The Abbreviated Injury Scale (AIS) is used to compare injury severities, as follows:


| 0 | Not injured |
| :--- | :--- |
| 1 | Minor |
| 2 | Moderate |
| 3 | Serious |
| 4 | Severe |
| 5 | Critical |
| 6 | Maximum |
| 7 | Injured, Severity Unknown |

The AIS scale reflects primarily the threat to life: approximately 99 percent for AIS=6; about 51 percent for $\mathrm{AIS}=5$; about 24 percent for $\mathrm{AIS}=4$; declining rapidly to almost 0 percent for $\mathrm{AIS}=1$. However, the scale is also used to reflect the gravity of consequences for survivors.

The distribution of injury severities for injured crash-involved occupants is shown in Table 9 for cars and in Table 10 for light trucks. The two distributions are compared in Figure 5, where it is evident that there are no major differences at any given level of injury severity.

Occupants coded as "unknown if injured" have been excluded from the detail in Tables 9 through 14, but have been included in the "Total" rows to reflect the total number of occupants involved in towed passenger vehicle crashes.

| $\begin{array}{c}\text { Table 9 }\end{array}$ |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| $\begin{array}{c}\text { Distribution of Crash-Involved }\end{array}$ |  |  |
| Car Occupants by Maximum Injury Severity: |  |  |
| Average per Year, 1994-1996 |  |  |$]$

Table 10
Distribution of Crash-Involved
Light Truck Occupants by Maximum Injury Severity:
Average per Year, 1994-1996

| Maximum AIS Rating | Count | Percent |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Not Injured (0) | 675,165 | $55.1 \%$ |
| Minor (1) | 403,107 | $32.9 \%$ |
| Moderate (2) | 51,367 | $4.2 \%$ |
| Serious (3) | 17,490 | $1.4 \%$ |
| Severe (4) | 6,225 | $0.5 \%$ |
| Critical (5) | 3,156 | $0.3 \%$ |
| Maximum (6) | 1,601 | $0.1 \%$ |
| Total, Known Severity | $1,158,111$ | $94.6 \%$ |
| Injured, Severity Unknown (7) | 57,770 | $4.7 \%$ |
| Total | $\mathbf{1 , 2 2 4 , 5 1 4}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0 \%}$ |

Figure 5
Distribution of Crash-Involved Occupant Injuries by Maximum Injury Severity: Cars vs. Light Trucks, 1995-1996


## Use of Belts

The annual distribution of injuries to crash-involved car occupants by maximum injury severity and belt use is shown in Table 11. A similar joint distribution is shown in Table 12 for crashinvolved light truck occupants.

Table 11
Distribution of Crash-Involved Car Occupants by Belt Use and Maximum Injury Severity: Average per Year, 1994-1996

| Belt Use | Frequency of Injury by Maximum AIS Rating* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Not Injured (0) | Minor <br> (1) | Moderat e (2) | Serious <br> (3) | Severe <br> (4) | Critical <br> (5) | $\underset{(6)}{\left\|\begin{array}{c} \text { Maximum } \\ \hline \end{array}\right\|}$ | Injured, Severity Unknown (7) | Total |
| None | 267,314 | 372,119 | 64,938 | 29,997 | 7,695 | 5,514 | 1,650 | 27,856 | 789,094 |
|  | 17.6\% | 27.1\% | 45.4\% | 50.6\% | 58.4\% | 62.9\% | 65.0\% | 25.1\% | 24.3\% |
| Automatic | 327,889 | 244,606 | 27,057 | 12,451 | 2,769 | 1,169 | 385 | 20,416 | 636,988 |
| Belt | 21.5\% | 17.8\% | 18.9\% | 21.0\% | 21.0\% | 13.3\% | 15.2\% | 18.4\% | 19.6\% |
| Manual Belt | 862,436 | 747,911 | 50,379 | 16,788 | 2,584 | 2,029 | 472 | 62,266 | 1,748,457 |
|  | 56.7\% | 54.5\% | 35.2\% | 28.3\% | 19.6\% | 23.2\% | 18.6\% | 56.2\% | 53.8\% |
| Belt With | 64,747 | 8,933 | 752 | 18 | 138 | 51 | 31 | 315 | 74,985 |
| Child Seat | 4.3\% | 0.7\% | 0.5\% | 0.0\% | 1.0\% | 0.6\% | 1.2\% | 0.3\% | 2.3\% |
| Total, | 1,255,072 | 1,001,450 | 78,188 | 29,257 | 5,491 | 3,249 | 888 | 82,997 | 2,460,430 |
| Restrained | 82.4\% | 72.9\% | 54.6\% | 49.4\% | 41.6\% | 37.1\% | 35.0\% | 74.9\% | 75.7\% |
| Total Known | 1,522,386 | 1,373,569 | 143,126 | 59,254 | 13,186 | 8,763 | 2,538 | $110,853$ | $3,249,524$ |
|  | 81.7\% | 95.1\% | 94.2\% | 91.9\% | 94.6\% | 91.8\% | 75.4\% | 53.5\% | 85.6\% |
| Unknown | 341,262 | 70,244 | 8,793 | 5,225 | 758 | 778 | 826 | 96,487 | 548,580 |
|  | 18.3\% | 4.9\% | 5.8\% | 8.1\% | 5.4\% | 8.2\% | 24.6\% | 46.5\% | 14.4\% |
| Total | 1,863,648 | 1,443,813 | 151,919 | 64,479 | 13,944 | 9,541 | 3,364 | 207,340 | 3,798,104 |
|  | 49.1\% | 38.0\% | 4.0\% | 1.7\% | 0.4\% | 0.3\% | 0.1\% | 5.5\% | 100.0\% |

*For each known belt use category, the first data row shows the number of injuries and the second row shows the percentage of the "Total Known" in that column. For the "Total Known" and "Unknown" belt use categories, the first row shows the number of injuries and the second row shows the percentage of the column total. For the column totals, the first row shows the number of injuries and the second row shows the percentage of the total number of injuries. The row totals include the number of "unknown if injured".

Overall, belt use is approximately 76 percent for passenger car occupants and 71 percent for occupants of light trucks. These belt use rates are in agreement with the belt use rates obtained by individual state surveys reported to NHTSA each year. Not all states report belt usage rates each year. Therefore, to calculate the national safety belt use rate from the individual state use rates, each state's most recent rate is weighted by the state's proportion of the total U.S. population. Average state belt use rates were reported as 66 percent in 1993, 67 percent in 1994, and 68 percent in 1995.

Table 12
Distribution of Crash-Involved Light Truck Occupants by Belt Use and Maximum Injury Severity: Average per Year, 1994-1996

| $\begin{aligned} & \text { Belt } \\ & \text { Use } \end{aligned}$ | Frequency of Injury by Maximum AIS Rating* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Not Injured (0) | Minor <br> (1) | Moderat e (2) | Serious $(3)$ | Severe (4) | Critical (5) | Maximum (6) | Injured, Severity Unknown (7) | Total |
| None | 107,905 | 138,722 | 24,137 | 11,080 | 4,819 | 2,393 | 659 | 11,814 | 307,417 |
|  | 19.7\% | 35.9\% | 49.7\% | 66.6\% | 82.1\% | 80.3\% | 62.2\% | 33.5\% | 29.2\% |
| Automatic | 2,318 | 1,577 | 406 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4,318 |
| Belt | 0.4\% | 0.4\% | 0.8\% | 0.1\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.4\% |
| Manual Belt | 426,032 | 244,583 | 23,916 | 5,499 | 1,050 | 586 | 400 | 23,333 | 725,857 |
|  | 77.6\% | 63.3\% | 49.3\% | 33.0\% | 17.9\% | 19.7\% | 37.8\% | 66.2\% | 69.0\% |
| Belt With | 12,432 | 1,565 | 69 | 45 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 112 | 14,222 |
| Child Seat | 2.3\% | 0.4\% | 0.1\% | 0.3\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.3\% | 1.4\% |
| Total, | 440,782 | 247,725 | 24,391 | 5,561 | 1,050 | 586 | 400 | 23,445 | 744,397 |
| Restrained | 80.3\% | 64.1\% | 50.3\% | 33.4\% | 17.9\% | 19.7\% | 37.8\% | 66.5\% | 70.8\% |
| Total Known |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1,051,81 |
|  | 548,687 | 386,447 | 48,528 | 16,641 | 5,869 | 2,979 | 1,059 | 35,259 | 4 |
|  | 81.3\% | 95.9\% | 94.5\% | 95.2\% | 94.3\% | 94.4\% | 66.1\% | 61.0\% | 85.9\% |
| Unknown | 126,480 | 16,661 | 2,840 | 848 | 355 | 176 | 543 | 22,512 | 172,700 |
|  | 18.7\% | 4.1\% | 5.5\% | 4.8\% | 5.7\% | 5.6\% | 33.9\% | 39.0\% | 14.1\% |
| Total |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1,224,51 |
|  | 675,167 | 403,108 | 51,368 | 17,489 | 6,224 | 3,155 | 1,602 | 57,771 | 4 |
|  | 55.1\% | 32.9\% | 4.2\% | 1.4\% | 0.5\% | 0.3\% | 0.1\% | 4.7\% | 100.0\% |

*For each known belt use category, the first data row shows the number of injuries and the second row shows the percentage of the "Total Known" in that column. For the "Total Known" and "Unknown" belt use categories, the first row shows the number of injuries and the second row shows the percentage of the column total. For the column totals, the first row shows the number of injuries and the second row shows the percentage of the total number of injuries. The row totals include the number of "unknown if injured."

## Effect of Belt Use on Injury Risk

It is evident from Tables 11 and 12 that safety belt use reduces the risk of injury, especially serious injury. This is illustrated in Figure 6 for crash-involved car occupants. In this figure, AIS ratings $3,4,5$, and 6 have been grouped together as "Serious-Maximum" in order to deal with the small sample sizes at these high severities. As seen in Figure 6, the risk of injury (expressed in injured people per 100 crash-involved car occupants) for occupants using belts is lower than that for unbelted occupants. Moreover, this advantage appears to increase as the injury severity increases.

A word of caution is necessary when interpreting the much lower risk associated with belted versus unbelted occupants at high injury severities. It is likely that belted occupants, who usually have a higher awareness of safety than the unbelted, are also the occupants who usually avoid crashes of high severities. Thus, the advantage of belted occupants may be in part due to the fact that such occupants are exposed to lower crash severities, in addition to the crash protection provided by the belts.

Figure 6
Injury Rates for Crash-Involved Car Occupants by Maximum Injury Severity as a Function
of
Belt
use,
1994-
1996


## Injury Severity and Outcome

As discussed above (see Table 9), not all crash deaths are associated with untreatable injuries (AIS=6). Rather, the probability of death increases sharply with injury severity, and many fatalities occur as a result of one or more injuries that are generally considered survivable. Crash injury outcomes-fatality, hospitalization, needed emergency medical care, first aid treatment, and no treatment needed-are generally a function of the severity of an occupant's most severe injury, plus other factors, such as the number, severity, and type of additional injuries; the person's age and overall health; extrication time; etc.

The primary determinant of an outcome is the maximum injury severity. Table 13 shows the distribution of injuries to crash-involved car occupants according to the AIS values of maximum injury severity and the pertinent outcomes of maximum injury severities. This table also includes the number of days an occupant was hospitalized for injuries sustained in the crash as a result of the crash. An occupant may be hospitalized for observation or due to a preexisting medical condition, as directed by the attending physician, without having received any injuries in the crash.

Fatal injuries with $\mathrm{AIS}=1$ are the result of incomplete medical information by which to code the data. A similar distribution is shown in Table 14 for crash-involved light truck occupants.

Table 13
Distribution of Crash-Involved Car Occupants by Treatment and Maximum Injury Severity: Average per Year, 1994-1996

| Treatment | Frequency of Injury by Maximum AIS Rating* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Not Injured (0) | Minor (1) | Moderat e (2) | Serious <br> (3) | Severe <br> (4) | Critical <br> (5) | $\underset{(6)}{M a x i m u m}$ | Injured, Severity Unknown (7) | Total |
| None | 1,755,391 | 341,630 | 4,690 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 38,918 | 2,147,728 |
|  | 81.7\% | 15.9\% | 0.2\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 1.8\% | 56 5\% |
| Treated | 21,832 | 223,483 | 10,138 | 538 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 33,266 | 289,777 |
| at Scene | 7.5\% | 77.1\% | 3.5\% | 0.2\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 11.5\% | $76 \%$ |
| Transported | 76,662 | 815,911 | 75,124 | 12,833 | 81 | 16 | 0 | 49,492 | 1,030,895 |
| and Released | 7.4\% | 79.1\% | 7.3\% | 1.2\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 4.8\% | 27 1\% |
| Hospitalized | 3,330 | 40,439 | 34,389 | 15,663 | 2,568 | 533 | 0 | 3,053 | 99,975 |
| 1-2 Days | 3.3\% | 40.4\% | 34.4\% | 15.7\% | 2.6\% | 0.5\% | 0.0\% | 3.1\% | $26 \%$ |
|  | 326 | 8,599 | 21,098 | 17,990 | 4,269 | 1,145 | 0 | 774 | 54,202 |
| 3-7 Days | 0.6\% | 15.9\% | 38.9\% | 33.2\% | 7.9\% | 2.1\% | 0.0\% | 1.4\% | 14\% |
|  | 43 | 268 | 3,217 | 10,294 | 1,759 | 1,433 | 0 | 29 | 17,044 |
| 8-14 Days | 0.3\% | 1.6\% | 18.9\% | 60.4\% | 10.3\% | 8.4\% | 0.0\% | 0.2\% | 0 4\% |
|  | 0 | 327 | 1,684 | 3,726 | 1,237 | 999 | 0 | 33 | 8,007 |
| 15-30 Days | 0.0\% | 4.1\% | 21.0\% | 46.5\% | 15.4\% | 12.5\% | 0.0\% | 0.4\% | 0 2\% |
|  | 0 | 38 | 160 | 1,048 | 724 | 504 | 27 | 0 | 2,499 |
| >30 Days | 0.0\% | 1.5\% | 6.4\% | 41.9\% | 29.0\% | 20.2\% | 1.1\% | 0.0\% | 0.1\% |
| Fatal | 0 | 1,077 | 1,272 | 2,362 | 3,306 | 4,909 | 3,338 | 2,912 | 19,177 |
|  | 0.0\% | 5.6\% | 6.6\% | 12.3\% | 17.2\% | 25.6\% | 17.4\% | 15.2\% | 0.5\% |
| Unknown | 6,064 | 12,040 | 147 | 24 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 78,863 | 128,800 |
|  | 4.7\% | 9.3\% | 0.1\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 61.2\% | 3.4\% |

*For each treatment category, the first data row shows the number of injuries and the second row shows the percentage of the row total. The row totals include the number of "unknown if injured."

Table 14
Distribution of Crash-Involved Light Truck Occupants by Treatment and Maximum Injury Severity: Average per Year, 1994-1996

| Treatment | Frequency of Injury by Maximum AIS Rating* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Not Injured (0) | Minor (1) | Moderat e (2) | Serious (3) | Severe <br> (4) | Critical $(5)$ | $\begin{array}{\|c\|} \hline \text { Maximum } \\ (6) \\ \hline \hline \end{array}$ | Injured, Severity Unknown (7) | Total |
| None | 646,139 | 87,387 | 60 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 17,652 | 752,000 |
|  | 85.9\% | 11.6\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 2.3\% | 61 4\% |
| Treated | 15,165 | 57,849 | 1,509 | 41 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4,883 | 79,522 |
| at Scene | 19.1\% | 72.7\% | 1.9\% | 0.1\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 6.1\% | $65 \%$ |
| Transported | 11,329 | 240,825 | 26,066 | 1,477 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9,957 | 289,653 |
| and Released | 3.9\% | 83.1\% | 9.0\% | 0.5\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 3.4\% | 23 7\% |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { Hospitalized } \\ & \text { 1-2 Days } \end{aligned}$ | 392 | 12,142 | 14,412 | 3,769 | 1,423 | 157 | 0 | 1,658 | 34,001 |
|  | 1.2\% | 35.7\% | 42.4\% | 11.1\% | 4.2\% | 0.5\% | 0.0\% | 4.9\% | $28 \%$ |
| 3-7 Days | 42 | 3,154 | 5,267 | 6,080 | 1,422 | 141 | 0 | 32 | 16,138 |
|  | 0.3\% | 19.5\% | 32.6\% | 37.7\% | 8.8\% | 0.9\% | 0.0\% | 0.2\% | $13 \%$ |
| 8-14 Days | 6 | 110 | 1,829 | 2,793 | 989 | 285 | 0 | 4 | 6,016 |
|  | 0.1\% | 1.8\% | 30.4\% | 46.4\% | 16.4\% | 4.7\% | 0.0\% | 0.1\% | $05 \%$ |
| 15-30 Days | 0 | 25 | 1,748 | 1,970 | 288 | 301 | 0 | 24 | 4,355 |
|  | 0.0\% | 0.6\% | 40.1\% | 45.2\% | 6.6\% | 6.9\% | 0.0\% | 0.6\% | $04 \%$ |
|  | 0 | 0 | 120 | 359 | 275 | 152 | 3 | 0 | 908 |
| >30 Days | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 13.2\% | 39.5\% | 30.3\% | 16.7\% | 0.3\% | 0.0\% | 0.1\% |
| Fatal | 0 | 529 | 325 | 983 | 1,828 | 2,120 | 1,598 | 1,836 | 9,220 |
|  | 0.0\% | 5.7\% | 3.5\% | 10.7\% | 19.8\% | 23.0\% | 17.3\% | 19.9\% | 0.8\% |
| Unknown | 2,093 | 1,086 | 30 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 21,726 | 32,700 |
|  | 6.4\% | 3.3\% | 0.1\% | 0.1\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 66.4\% | 2.7\% |
| Total |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1,224,51 |
|  | 675,165 | 403,107 | 51,367 | 17,490 | 6,225 | 3,156 | 1,601 | 57,770 | 4 |

The annual incidence of crash-involved car occupants as a function of maximum injury severity and injury outcome is shown in Figure 7. This figure illustrates how injury outcome progresses from "No Treatment" to "Fatality," as the maximum injury severity increases from "None" to "Untreatable" (Fatal). Similar comments apply for light truck occupants, as shown in Table 14.

Figure 7
Annual Incidence of Injured Crash-Involved Car Occupants, by Maximum Injury Severity and Treatment, 1994-1996


## Effect of Alcohol Use on Injury Risk

The presence of alcohol in a motor vehicle driver increases (a) the likelihood of being involved in a crash, (b) the severity of the crash, and possibly the severity of the outcome in terms of survivability. In this report, alcohol reporting is based on the police officer's assessment at the time of the crash.

Table 15 shows that, for drivers of passenger cars, those whose age is between 25 and 34 have the highest alcohol use rate, followed by the 35 through 44 age range and then the 21 - through 24 -year-old drivers. Table 16 shows that, for drivers of light trucks, those whose age is between 25 and 34 have the highest alcohol use rate, followed by drivers 15 through 20 years old and then by those 35 through 44 years old. Drivers of light trucks have almost twice the alcohol use rate of passenger car drivers. These percentages are based on the "Total Known."

Table 17 shows that, for drivers of passenger cars, as the severity of the injury increases so does the presence of alcohol. Drivers in towed passenger cars with alcohol present had MAIS 3-6 injury rates alsmost 3 times those for drivers with no alcohol present. Approximately 24 percent of the MAIS 6 injuries are the result of alcohol involvement, followed by 23 percent of the MAIS 5 injuries and 18 percent of the MAIS 4 injuries. Table 18 describes the same pattern for drivers of towed light trucks. Drivers in towed light trucks with alcohol present had MAIS 3-6 injury rates at least twice those for drivers with no alcohol present.

Table 15
Distribution of Crash-Involved Car Drivers
by Age Group and Alcohol Use: Average per Year, 1994-1996

| Police-Reported Alcohol Use | Age Group (Years) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 15-20 | 21-24 | 25-34 | 35-44 | 45-64 | \$65 | Unknown | Total |
| No Alcohol Present | $\begin{array}{r} \hline \hline 447,146 \\ 20.9 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \hline \hline 280,812 \\ 13.1 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \hline \hline 480,055 \\ 22.4 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \hline \hline 363,468 \\ 17.0 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \hline \hline 354,019 \\ 16.5 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \hline 205,835 \\ 9.6 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \hline 11,205 \\ 0.5 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \hline 2,142,538 \\ 84.6 \% \end{array}$ |
| Alcohol Present | $\begin{array}{r} 27,404 \\ 14.8 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 27,984 \\ 15.1 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 64,193 \\ 34.7 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 36,986 \\ 20.0 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 19,355 \\ 10.5 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 4,851 \\ 2.6 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 4,130 \\ 2.2 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 184,903 \\ 7.3 \% \end{array}$ |
| Not Reported | $\begin{array}{r} 42,743 \\ 27.0 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 15,643 \\ 9.9 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 26,115 \\ 16.5 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 20,563 \\ 13.0 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 21,752 \\ 13.7 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 16,171 \\ 10.2 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 15,355 \\ 9.7 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 158,342 \\ 6.3 \% \end{array}$ |
| Not Coded | 5,997 | 12,095 | 7,870 | 3,878 | 3,617 | 799 | 12,929 | 47,186 |
|  | 12.7\% | 25.6\% | 16.7\% | 8.2\% | 7.7\% | 1.7\% | 27.4\% | 1.9\% |
| Total | $\begin{array}{r} 523,290 \\ 20.7 \% \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 336,533 \\ 13.3 \% \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 578,233 \\ 22.8 \% \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 424,894 \\ 16.8 \% \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 398,743 \\ 15.7 \% \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 227,657 \\ 9.0 \% \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 43,619 \\ 1.7 \% \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 2,532,969 \\ 100.0 \% \\ \hline \end{array}$ |

For each police-reported alcohol category, the first data row shows the number of drivers and the second row shows the percentage of the row total.
Not Reported: Variable is not available on the police crash report.
Not Coded: Police Office did not provide the information.


For each police-reported alcohol category, the first data row shows the number of drivers and the second row shows the percentage of the row total.
Not Reported: Variable is not available on the police crash report.
Not Coded: Police Office did not provide the information.

Table 17
Distribution of Crash-Involved Car Drivers by Alcohol Use and Maximum Injury Severity: Average per Year, 1994-1996

| Frequency of Injury by Maximum AIS Rating* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| PoliceReported Alcohol Use | Not Injured (0) | Minor <br> (1) | $\begin{array}{\|c} \text { Moderat } \\ e \\ (2) \\ \hline \end{array}$ | Serious (3) | Severe (4) | Critical (5) | Maximum <br> (6) | Injured, Severity Unknown (7) | Total |
| No Alcohol |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 2,142,53 |
| Present | 1,017,247 | 862,458 | 90,720 | 35,973 | 5,252 | 3,603 | 805 | 121,243 | 8 |
|  | 47.5\% | 40.3\% | 4.2\% | 1.7\% | 0.2\% | 0.2\% | 0.0\% | 5.7\% | 84.6\% |
| Alcohol | 69,748 | 78,238 | 13,002 | 5,983 | 1,765 | 1,556 | 487 | 11,807 | 184,903 |
| Present | 37.7\% | 42.3\% | 7.0\% | 3.2\% | 1.0\% | 0.8\% | 0.3\% | 6.4\% | 7.3\% |
| Not Reported | 64,537 | 65,731 | 6,397 | 1,917 | 692 | 561 | 528 | 6,326 | 158,342 |
|  | 40.8\% | 41.5\% | 4.0\% | 1.2\% | 0.4\% | 0.4\% | 0.3\% | 4.0\% | 6.3\% |
| Not Coded | 22,310 | 10,273 | 1,637 | 2,082 | 1,903 | 1,082 | 180 | 1,550 | 47,186 |
|  | 47.3\% | 21.8\% | 3.5\% | 4.4\% | 4.0\% | 2.3\% | 0.4\% | 3.3\% | 1.9\% |
| Total |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 2,532,96 |
|  | 1,173,842 | 1,016,701 | 111,756 | 45,954 | 9,612 | 6,802 | 2,000 | 140,925 | 9 |
|  | 46.3\% | 40.1\% | 4.4\% | 1.8\% | 0.4\% | 0.3\% | 0.1\% | 5.6\% | 100.0\% |

Table 18
Distribution of Crash-Involved Light Truck Drivers by Alcohol Use and Maximum Injury Severity: Average per Year, 1994-1996

| Police- <br> Reported Alcohol Use | Frequency of Injury by Maximum AIS Rating* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Not Injured (0) | Minor <br> (1) | $\begin{array}{\|c\|} \hline \text { Moderat } \\ e \\ (2) \\ \hline \hline \end{array}$ | Serious (3) | Severe (4) | Critical (5) | $\begin{gathered} \text { Maximum } \\ (6) \end{gathered}$ | Injured, Severity Unknown (7) | Total |
| No Alcohol | 330,223 | 239,746 | 21,865 | 8,342 | 2,355 | 1,225 | 372 | 35,281 | 639,857 |
| Present | 51.6\% | 37.5\% | 3.4\% | 1.3\% | 0.4\% | 0.2\% | 0.1\% | 5.5\% | 82.1\% |
| Alcohol | 32,964 | 40,353 | 5,033 | 1,771 | 1,165 | 471 | 147 | 2,782 | 86,466 |
| Present | 38.1\% | 46.7\% | 5.8\% | 2.0\% | 1.3\% | 0.5\% | 0.2\% | 3.2\% | 11.1\% |
| Not Reported | 19,772 | 5,328 | 6,136 | 336 | 112 | 115 | 111 | 2,416 | 34,442 |
|  | 57.4\% | 15.5\% | 17.8\% | 1.0\% | 0.3\% | 0.3\% | 0.3\% | 7.0\% | 4.4\% |
| Not Coded | 4,489 | 3,079 | 1,860 | 1,045 | 781 | 233 | 819 | 992 | 18,685 |
|  | 24.0\% | 16.5\% | 10.0\% | 5.6\% | 4.2\% | 1.2\% | 4.4\% | 5.3\% | 2.4\% |
| Total | 387,447 | 288,506 | 34,894 | 11,495 | 4,413 | 2,044 | 1,450 | 41,470 | 779,450 |

For each police-reported alcohol use category, the first data row shows the number of drivers involved and the second row shows the percentage of the row total. The row totals include the number of "unknown if injured."
Not Reported: Variable is not available on the police crash report.
Not Coded: Police Office did not provide the information.

## Body Regions Injured in Traffic Crashes

There are about 2,544,000 cars towed away from traffic crashes every year. The incidence of crash-involved occupants in these cars is about 3,800,000 per year. Of these, about 1,934,000 car occupants per year are injured, incurring about 4,844,000 injuries of various severities, in various body regions, and by various injury contacts. Table 19 shows the distribution of all injuries incurred by injured occupants of crash-involved cars (as opposed to each occupant's most severe injury, reported in Tables 9-18) as a function of injury severity and injured body region. Table 20 shows the same distribution for injured occupants of light trucks.

The numbers for "injured, severity unknown" (AIS=7) are lower in these tables than in tables using maximum AIS (MAIS), because of the level of information available for coding the injuries. An AIS of 7 is assigned to an injury when there is not sufficient information about the injury available. An MAIS of 7 is assigned to an occupant when it is known that the occupant was injured, but no information about the injury is available. Therefore, an occupant with an MAIS of 7 may not have any associated injuries coded.

| ( $\begin{array}{r}\text { Di } \\ \text { by }\end{array}$ | Table 19 <br> istribution of All Injuries to Crash-Involved Car Occupants <br> Body Region and Severity: Average per Year, 1994-1996 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Frequency of Injury by AIS Rating* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | Total |
| Head (Brain) | 39,344 | 62,493 | 22,228 | 11,435 | 8,751 | 747 | 0 | 444,998 |
|  | 27.1\% | 43.1\% | 15.3\% | 7.9\% | 6.0\% | 0.5\% | 0.0\% |  |
|  | 0.9\% | 19.6\% | 16.6\% | 36.9\% | 57.2\% | 20.2\% | 0.0\% |  |
| Head (Skull) | 0 | 3,534 | 5,511 | 2,171 | 0 | 443 | 0 | 11,658 |
|  | 0.0\% | 30.3\% | 47.3\% | 18.6\% | 0.0\% | 3.8\% | 0.0\% |  |
|  | 0.0\% | 1.1\% | 4.1\% | 7.0\% | 0.0\% | 12.0\% | 0.0\% |  |
| Head (Other) | 0 | 442 | 21 | 47 | 38 | 0 | 8,117 | 8,666 |
|  | 0.0\% | 5.1\% | 0.2\% | 0.5\% | 0.4\% | 0.0\% | 93.7\% |  |
|  | 0.0\% | 0.1\% | 0.0\% | 0.2\% | 0.2\% | 0.0\% | 31.4\% |  |
| Face | 74,232 | 17,465 | 4,810 | 107 | 0 | 0 | 42 | 96,654 |
|  | 76.8\% | 18.1\% | 5.0\% | 0.1\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% |  |
|  | 1.7\% | 5.5\% | 3.6\% | 0.3\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.2\% |  |
| Neck | 371,631 | 236 | 35 | 22 | 0 | 10 | 2,240 | 374,174 |
|  | 99.3\% | 0.1\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.6\% |  |
|  | 8.6\% | 0.1\% | 0.0\% | 0.1\% | 0.0\% | 0.3\% | 8.7\% |  |
| Chest | 28,607 | 24,818 | 34,755 | 10,673 | 4,087 | 1,876 | 8,812 | 113,628 |
|  | 25.2\% | 21.8\% | 30.6\% | 9.4\% | 3.6\% | 1.7\% | 7.8\% |  |
|  | 0.7\% | 7.8\% | 26.0\% | 34.4\% | 26.7\% | 50.7\% | 34.1\% |  |
| Shoulder and Back | 196,256 | 49,404 | 4,222 | 90 | 0 | 0 | 1,423 | 251,395 |
|  | 78.1\% | 19.7\% | 1.7\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.6\% |  |
|  | 4.5\% | 15.5\% | 3.2\% | 0.3\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 5.5\% |  |

*For each body region, the first data row shows the number of injuries, the second row shows the percentage of the row total, and the third row shows the percentage of the column total.

## Table 19 (Continued)

Distribution of All Injuries to Crash-Involved Car Occupants by Body Region and Severity: Average per Year, 1994-1996

Frequency of Injury by AIS Rating*

| Body Region | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Abdomen | 809 | 20,263 | 4,557 | 5,052 | 1,326 | 4 | 4,421 | 36,432 |
|  | 2.2\% | 55.6\% | 12.5\% | 13.9\% | 3.6\% | 0.0\% | 12.1\% |  |
|  | 0.0\% | 6.4\% | 3.4\% | 16.3\% | 8.7\% | 0.1\% | 17.1\% |  |
| Spine | 0 | 0 | 467 | 1,372 | 732 | 192 | 0 | 2,763 |
|  | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 16.9\% | 49.7\% | 26.5\% | 6.9\% | 0.0\% |  |
|  | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.3\% | 4.4\% | 4.8\% | 5.2\% | 0.0\% |  |
| Upper Extremities | 61,518 | 35,663 | 23,057 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 651 | 120,889 |
|  | 50.9\% | 29.5\% | 19.1\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.5\% |  |
|  | 1.4\% | 11.2\% | 17.3\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 2.5\% |  |
| Pelvis | 0 | 16,954 | 8,377 | 23 | 36 | 0 | 0 | 25,390 |
|  | 0.0\% | 66.8\% | 33.0\% | 0.1\% | 0.1\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% |  |
|  | 0.0\% | 5.3\% | 6.3\% | 0.1\% | 0.2\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% |  |
| Lower Extremities | 42,337 | 83,608 | 25,231 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 132 | 151,313 |
|  | 28.0\% | 55.3\% | 16.7\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.1\% |  |
|  | 1.0\% | 26.2\% | 18.9\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.5\% |  |
| Skin | 3,500,72 | 3,793 | 241 | 0 | 7 | 430 | 0 | 3,505,192 |
|  | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 99.9\% | 0.1\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% |  |
|  | 81.1\% | 1.2\% | 0.2\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 11.6\% | 0.0\% |  |
| All Other | 11 | 16 | 129 | 33 | 315 | 0 | 0 | 503 |
|  | 2.2\% | 3.2\% | 25.6\% | 6.6\% | 62.6\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% |  |
|  | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.1\% | 0.1\% | 2.1\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% |  |
| Total | 4,315,46 | 318,690 | 133,639 | 31,030 | 15,293 | 3,702 | 25,837 | 4,843,655 |

*For each body region, the first data row shows the number of injuries, the second row shows the percentage of the row total, and the third row shows the percentage of the column total.

Table 20
Distribution of All Injuries to Crash-Involved Light Truck Occupants by Body Region and Severity: Average per Year, 1994-1996

| Body Region | Frequency of Injury by AIS Rating* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | Total |
| Head (Brain) | 16,450 | 26,768 | 8,485 | 5,145 | 3,068 | 235 | 0 | 60,150 |
|  | 27.3\% | 44.5\% | 14.1\% | 8.6\% | 5.1\% | 0.4\% | 0.0\% |  |
|  | 1.2\% | 21.8\% | 19.1\% | 40.1\% | 62.7\% | 12.6\% | 0.0\% |  |
| Head (Skull) | 0 | 2,157 | 3,052 | 1,401 | 0 | 512 | 0 | 7,122 |
|  | 0.0\% | 30.3\% | 42.9\% | 19.7\% | 0.0\% | 7.2\% | 0.0\% |  |
|  | 0.0\% | 1.8\% | 6.9\% | 10.9\% | 0.0\% | 27.4\% | 0.0\% |  |
| Head (Other) | 0 | 12 | 0 | 85 | 0 | 0 | 6,811 | 6,908 |
|  | 0.0\% | 0.2\% | 0.0\% | 1.2\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 98.6\% |  |
|  | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.7\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 58.0\% |  |
| Face | 22,810 | 10,325 | 1,843 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 34,995 |
|  | 65.2\% | 29.5\% | 5.3\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% |  |
|  | 1.7\% | 8.4\% | 4.1\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.1\% |  |
| Neck | 89,616 | 116 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 89,750 |
|  | 99.9\% | 0.1\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% |  |
|  | 6.5\% | 0.1\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.3\% | 0.0\% |  |
| Chest | 5,938 | 7,354 | 8,689 | 4,352 | 1,041 | 542 | 1,608 | 29,523 |
|  | 20.1\% | 24.9\% | 29.4\% | 14.7\% | 3.5\% | 1.8\% | 5.4\% |  |
|  | 0.4\% | 6.0\% | 19.6\% | 33.9\% | 21.3\% | 29.0\% | 13.7\% |  |
| Shoulder and Back | 46,265 | 20,447 | 2,748 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 69,460 |
|  | 66.6\% | 29.4\% | 4.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% |  |
|  | 3.4\% | 16.6\% | 6.2\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% |  |

*For each body region, the first data row shows the number of injuries, the second row shows the percentage of the row total, and the third row shows the percentage of the column total.

## Table 20 (Continued)

Distribution of All Injuries to Crash-Involved Light Truck Occupants by Body Region and Severity: Average per Year, 1994-1996

| Body Region | Frequency of Injury by AIS Rating* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | Total |
| Abdomen | 623 | 6,640 | 985 | 1,453 | 423 | 0 | 3,207 | 13,330 |
|  | 4.7\% | 49.8\% | 7.4\% | 10.9\% | 3.2\% | 0.0\% | 24.1\% |  |
|  | 0.0\% | 5.4\% | 2.2\% | 11.3\% | 8.6\% | 0.0\% | 27.3\% |  |
| Spine | 0 | 0 | 150 | 406 | 200 | 34 | 0 | 789 |
|  | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 19.0\% | 51.5\% | 25.3\% | 4.3\% | 0.0\% |  |
|  | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.3\% | 3.2\% | 4.1\% | 1.8\% | 0.0\% |  |
| Upper Extremities | 18,569 | 14,595 | 5,209 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 19 | 38,391 |
|  | 48.4\% | 38.0\% | 13.6\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% |  |
|  | 1.4\% | 11.9\% | 11.7\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.2\% |  |
| Pelvis | 0 | 5,258 | 4,798 | 4 | 89 | 0 | 0 | 10,150 |
|  | 0.0\% | 51.8\% | 47.3\% | 0.0\% | 0.9\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% |  |
|  | 0.0\% | 4.3\% | 10.8\% | 0.0\% | 1.8\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% |  |
| Lower Extremities | 10,598 | 26,232 | 8,193 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 75 | 45,097 |
|  | 23.5\% | 58.2\% | 18.2\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.2\% |  |
|  | 0.8\% | 21.3\% | 18.4\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.6\% |  |
| Skin | 1,164,14 | 3,025 | 215 | 0 | 72 | 542 | 0 | 1,168,002 |
|  | 8 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 99.7\% | 0.3\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% |  |
|  | 84.7\% | 2.5\% | 0.5\% | 0.0\% | 1.5\% | 29.0\% | 0.0\% |  |
| All Other | 0 | 17 | 33 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 51 |
|  | 0.0\% | 33.3\% | 64.7\% | 0.0\% | 2.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% |  |
|  | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.1\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% |  |
| Total | $\begin{array}{r} 1,375,01 \\ 6 \end{array}$ | 122,945 | 44,411 | 12,845 | 4,894 | 1,870 | 11,737 | 1,573,718 |

*For each body region, the first data row shows the number of injuries, the second row shows the percentage of the row total, and the third row shows the percentage of the column total.

It is apparent from Tables 19 and 20 that the body regions most frequently affected by injuries of all severities are markedly different from those most frequently affected by injuries of high severities (serious-maximum (AIS=3-6)). This is illustrated in Figure 8, where two distributions are shown: one for all severities and one for serious-maximum severities, each adding up to 100 percent.

It is evident in this figure that body regions such as face, neck, shoulder and back, and skin are injured with a high frequency in general, but occur at very low frequencies for serious to maximum severities. Conversely, other body regions, such as the head (brain/skull), chest, spine, abdomen, and upper and lower extremities are injured frequently at high severities, but occur less significantly when all severities are considered.

Figure 8
Distribution of Injuries to Crash-Involved Car Occupants by Affected Body Region and Severity of Inury, 1994-1996


## Belt Use and Body Regions Injured

Figure 9 shows the distribution of crash-involved car occupants by injured body region and belt usage. An occupant may receive more than one injury to a given body region; however, this figure represents one injury per body region per occupant. An occupant may also receive injuries across more than one body region. Therefore, the number for each body region will add up to more than the number of injured occupants. For example, an occupant may have a contusion to the left side of the brain and a laceration to the right side of the brain. The figure counts only one of the injuries to the brain. If the occupant in the example sustained a contusion to the left side of the brain and a skull fracture, then both injuries would be included in the figure, and one injury would be counted in the brain body region while the other injury would be counted in the skull body region. To determine the percent of belted occupants who sustained a brain injury, divide the number of occupants with a brain injury by the total number of occupants using a restraint system. The same methodology applies to the unbelted occupants. The percentages will not add to 100 percent, because the total number of occupants includes those who were not injured. Figure 10 shows a similar distribution of crashinvolved occupants of light trucks by belt usage.

Belted
Brain: 48,896 (2.0\%) Other Head: 2,802 (0.1\%)

Face: 29,064 (1.2\%)
Chest: 57,691 (2.3\%)
Upper
Extremities: 60,022 (2.4\%)
Abdomen: 10,067 (0.4\%)
Abdomen: 10,945 (1.4\%)

Skin: 927,202 (37.7\%)


Skull: 6,679 (0.1\%)
Neck: 288,263 (11.7\%)

Shoulder
and Back: 158,553 (6.4\%)
Spine: 509 ( $0.0 \%$ )

Pelvis: 5,368 (2.2\%)

Lower
Extremities: 63,210 (2.6\%)

Total
Belted

Figure 9
Distribution of Injuries by Body Region to Crash-Involved Car Occupants by Belt Usage: Average per Year, 1994-1996
Occupants:
2,460,430

Occupants:
789,094

Figure 10
Distribution of Injuries by Body Region to Crash-Involved Light Truck Occupants by Belt Usage: Average per Year, 1994-1996

Belted
Brain: 17,868 (2.4\%) Other Head: 728 (0.1\%)
Face: 5,689 (0.8\%)
Chest: 8,941 (1.2\%)
Upper
Extremities: 19,615 (2.6\%)
Abdomen: 2,040 (0.3\%)


Skull: 700 (0.1\%)
Neck: 64,413 (8.7\%)

Shoulder
and Back: 27,922 (3.8\%) and Back: 25,248 (8.2\%)
Spine: 195 (0.0\%)

Pelvis: 1,952 (0.3\%)

Lower
Extremities: 10,734 (1.4\%)

Total
Belted
Occupants:
744,397

Occupants:
307,417

## Injury Contacts

In addition to data on injured body regions, crash protection practitioners need data concerning the various sources of injury (injury contacts). A summary of injury contacts for injuries to crashinvolved occupants is presented in Table 21 for cars and in Table 22 for light trucks. Table 21 shows the distribution of all crash-involved car occupant injuries as a function of injury severity and injury contact. Table 22 shows the same distribution for light truck occupants.

*For each injury contact, the first data row shows the number of injuries, the second row shows the percentage of the row total, and the third row shows the percentage of the column total.

Table 22
Distribution of All Injuries to Crash-Involved Light Truck Occupants by Injury Contact and Severity: Average per Year, 1994-1996

| Injury Contact | Frequency of Injury by AIS Rating* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | Total |
| Steering Assembly | 140,269 | 14,345 | 5,124 | 2,124 | 612 | 172 | 4,263 | 166,908 |
|  | 84.0\% | 8.6\% | 3.1\% | 1.3\% | 0.4\% | 0.1\% | 2.6\% |  |
|  | 10.2\% | 11.7\% | 11.5\% | 16.5\% | 12.5\% | 9.2\% | 36.3\% |  |
| Instrument Panel | 213,041 | 21,541 | 7,723 | 350 | 177 | 28 | 124 | 242,983 |
|  | 87.7\% | 8.9\% | 3.2\% | 0.1\% | 0.1\% | 0.0\% | 0.1\% |  |
|  | 15.5\% | 17.5\% | 17.4\% | 2.7\% | 3.6\% | 1.5\% | 1.1\% |  |
| Windshield | 115,717 | 5,810 | 905 | 410 | 235 | 219 | 3,975 | 127,271 |
|  | 90.9\% | 4.6\% | 0.7\% | 0.3\% | 0.2\% | 0.2\% | 3.1\% |  |
|  | 8.4\% | 4.7\% | 2.0\% | 3.2\% | 4.8\% | 11.7\% | 33.9\% |  |
| Interior Side | 99,319 | 9,230 | 6,784 | 1,180 | 307 | 113 | 120 | 117,055 |
| Surface | 84.8\% | 7.9\% | 5.8\% | 1.0\% | 0.3\% | 0.1\% | 0.1\% |  |
|  | 7.2\% | 7.5\% | 15.3\% | 9.2\% | 6.3\% | 6.0\% | 1.0\% |  |
| Pillars | 39,192 | 8,398 | 1,797 | 953 | 323 | 0 | 200 | 50,863 |
|  | 77.1\% | 16.5\% | 3.5\% | 1.9\% | 0.6\% | 0.0\% | 0.4\% |  |
|  | 2.9\% | 6.8\% | 4.0\% | 7.4\% | 6.6\% | 0.0\% | 1.7\% |  |
| Restraint (Belt) | 133,932 | 2,498 | 1,225 | 252 | 0 | 0 | 326 | 138,233 |
| System | 96.9\% | 1.8\% | 0.9\% | 0.2\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.2\% |  |
|  | 9.7\% | 2.0\% | 2.8\% | 2.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 2.8\% |  |
| Child Seat | 3,383 | 290 | 82 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 3,760 |
|  | 90.0\% | 7.7\% | 2.2\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.1\% |  |
|  | 0.2\% | 0.2\% | 0.2\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% |  |
| Air Bag | 25,636 | 1,542 | 161 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 27,345 |
|  | 93.8\% | 5.6\% | 0.6\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% |  |
|  | 1.9\% | 1.3\% | 0.4\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.2\% | 0.0\% |  |
| Head Restraints | 13,059 | 1,395 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 21 | 14,479 |
|  | 90.2\% | 9.6\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.1\% |  |
|  | 0.9\% | 1.1\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.2\% |  |
| Seat Back | 40,555 | 4,840 | 451 | 204 | 71 | 0 | 16 | 46,137 |
|  | 87.9\% | 10.5\% | 1.0\% | 0.4\% | 0.2\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% |  |
|  | 2.9\% | 3.9\% | 1.0\% | 1.6\% | 1.5\% | 0.0\% | 0.1\% |  |
| Roof | 53,157 | 9,292 | 3,134 | 986 | 647 | 173 | 374 | 67,763 |
|  | 78.4\% | 13.7\% | 4.6\% | 1.5\% | 1.0\% | 0.3\% | 0.6\% |  |
|  | 3.9\% | 7.6\% | 7.1\% | 7.7\% | 13.2\% | 9.3\% | 3.2\% |  |

*For each injury contact, the first data row shows the number of injuries, the second row shows the percentage of the row total, and the third row shows the percentage of the column total.

## Table 22 (Continued)

Distribution of All Injuries to Crash-Involved Light Truck Occupants by Injury Contact and Severity: Average per Year, 1994-1996

| Injury Contact | Frequency of Injury by AIS Rating* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | Total |
| Froor | 17,642 | 9,014 | 613 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 27,268 |
|  | 64.7\% | 33.1\% | 2.2\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% |  |
|  | 1.3\% | 7.3\% | 1.4\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% |  |
| Non-Contact | 163,317 | 755 | 315 | 18 | 182 | 26 | 14 | 164,627 |
| Injuries | 99.2\% | 0.5\% | 0.2\% | 0.0\% | 0.1\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% |  |
|  | 11.9\% | 0.6\% | 0.7\% | 0.1\% | 3.7\% | 1.4\% | 0.1\% |  |
| Fire in Vehicle | 29 | 0 | 67 | 0 | 70 | 542 | 0 | 708 |
|  | 4.1\% | 0.0\% | 9.5\% | 0.0\% | 9.9\% | 76.6\% | 0.0\% |  |
|  | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.2\% | 0.0\% | 1.4\% | 29.0\% | 0.0\% |  |
| Ground | 44,973 | 12,231 | 5,416 | 2,051 | 963 | 59 | 616 | 66,309 |
|  | 67.8\% | 18.4\% | 8.2\% | 3.1\% | 1.5\% | 0.1\% | 0.9\% |  |
|  | 3.3\% | 9.9\% | 12.2\% | 16.0\% | 19.7\% | 3.2\% | 5.2\% |  |
| Exterior (Occupant's | 5,446 | 4,046 | 2,057 | 907 | 238 | 64 | 55 | 12,814 |
| Vehicle) | 42.5\% | 31.6\% | 16.1\% | 7.1\% | 1.9\% | 0.5\% | 0.4\% |  |
|  | 0.4\% | 3.3\% | 4.6\% | 7.1\% | 4.9\% | 3.4\% | 0.5\% |  |
| Exterior (Other | 2,206 | 1,430 | 1,531 | 662 | 256 | 157 | 138 | 6,380 |
| Vehicle or Exterior | 34.6\% | 22.4\% | 24.0\% | 10.4\% | 4.0\% | 2.5\% | 2.2\% |  |
| Object) | 0.2\% | 1.2\% | 3.4\% | 5.2\% | 5.2\% | 8.4\% | 1.2\% |  |
| Side and Rear | 27,617 | 1,538 | 744 | 22 | 12 | 0 | 23 | 29,956 |
| Glazing | 92.2\% | 5.1\% | 2.5\% | 0.1\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.1\% |  |
|  | 2.0\% | 1.3\% | 1.7\% | 0.2\% | 0.2\% | 0.0\% | 0.2\% |  |
| All Others | 86,759 | 3,781 | 815 | 216 | 74 | 0 | 54 | 91,699 |
|  | 94.6\% | 4.1\% | 0.9\% | 0.2\% | 0.1\% | 0.0\% | 0.1\% |  |
|  | 6.3\% | 3.1\% | 1.8\% | 1.7\% | 1.5\% | 0.0\% | 0.5\% |  |
| Unknown | 149,766 | 10,969 | 5,466 | 2,509 | 726 | 313 | 1,410 | 171,160 |
|  | 87.5\% | 6.4\% | 3.2\% | 1.5\% | 0.4\% | 0.2\% | 0.8\% |  |
|  | 10.9\% | 8.9\% | 12.3\% | 19.5\% | 14.8\% | 16.7\% | 12.0\% |  |
| Total | $1,375,01$ | 122,945 | 44,411 | 12,845 | 4,894 | 1,870 | 11,737 | 1,573,718 |

*For each injury contact, the first data row shows the number of injuries, the second row shows the percentage of the row total, and the third row shows the percentage of the column total.

It is evident from Tables 21 and 22 that the most frequent injury contacts for injuries of all severities (AIS 1-7) are not necessarily the same as those that are most frequently involved in serious to maximum injuries (AIS 3-6). This is illustrated in Figure 11, where two distributions are shown: one for all severities and one for serious to maximum severities, each adding up to 100 percent.

As can be seen in this figure, the instrument panel, windshield, and restraint system as injury contacts have high frequencies in general but relatively low frequencies for serious to maximum injuries. The converse is observed for the steering assembly, interior side, roof, pillars, and ground.

Figure 11
Distribution of Injuries to Crash-Involved Car Occupants

by Injury Contact and Severity of Injury, 1994-1996
Note: All Others category includes items shown in Table 22 (child seat and exterior of occupant's vehicle, other vehicle, or exterior object). Unknowns are excluded from Figure 11.

## Occupant Ejection and Entrapment

Table 23 shows the rates of occupant ejections from and entrapment in crash-involved towed cars. Two degrees of ejection are distinguished: complete and partial. The results in Table 23 are shown by primary crash modes and areas of damage. Similar data for light trucks are shown in Table 24. Ejection rates by degree of ejection are also shown in Figure 12. Ejection occurs most frequently in rollover crashes, followed by side impacts.

Table 23
Occupant Ejection and Entrapment in Crash-Involved Towed Cars by Degree of Ejection, Crash Mode, and Area of Damage: Average of Nationally Weighted Counts per Year, 1994-1996

| Crash Mode and Area of Damage | Complete Ejection | Partial Ejection | Entrapment | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Rollover | $\begin{aligned} & 8,519 \\ & 5.0 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 4,437 \\ 2.6 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 895 \\ 0.5 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 169,975 \\ 4.5 \% \end{array}$ |
| Nonrollover Single-Vehicle |  |  |  |  |
| Front | $\begin{array}{r} 966 \\ 0.2 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 897 \\ 0.2 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} 3,360 \\ 0.6 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 540,818 \\ 14.2 \% \end{array}$ |
| Side | $\begin{aligned} & 2,094 \\ & 1.2 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 2,514 \\ 1.5 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1,552 \\ & 0.9 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 173,215 \\ 4.6 \% \end{array}$ |
| Rear, Top, or Under | $\begin{array}{r} 21 \\ 0.1 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 53 \\ 0.2 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 5 \\ 0.0 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 28,693 \\ 0.8 \% \end{array}$ |
| Multiple-Vehicle Front | $\begin{array}{r} 542 \\ 0.0 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1,537 \\ & 0.1 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 4,377 \\ 0.3 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 1,599,086 \\ 42.1 \% \end{array}$ |
| Side | $\begin{aligned} & 1,897 \\ & 0.2 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 2,392 \\ & 0.2 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2,294 \\ 0.2 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 967,262 \\ 25.5 \% \end{array}$ |
| Rear | $\begin{array}{r} 343 \\ 0.1 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 353 \\ 0.1 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 30 \\ 0.0 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 315,810 \\ 8.3 \% \end{array}$ |
| Top or Under | $\begin{array}{r} 0 \\ 0.0 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 0 \\ 0.0 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 0 \\ 0.0 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 3245 \\ & 0.1 \% \end{aligned}$ |
| Total | $\begin{array}{r} 14,380 \\ 0.4 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 12,182 \\ 0.3 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 12,514 \\ 0.3 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 3,798,104 \\ 100.0 \% \end{array}$ |

*For each crash mode, the first data row shows the number of occupants ejected or entrapped and the second row shows the percentage of the row total.
Note: Damage Area "Unknown" has been imputed into the known damage areas.

Table 24
Occupant Ejection and Entrapment in Crash-Involved Towed Light Trucks by Degree of Ejection, Crash Mode, and Area of Damage:
Average of Nationally Weighted Counts per Year, 1994-1996

*For each crash mode, the first data row shows the number of occupants ejected or entrapped and the second row shows the percentage of the row total.
Note: Damage Area "Unknown" has been imputed into the known damage areas.

Figure 12
Towed Car Occupant Ejection Rates
by Crash Mode and Degree of Ejection, 1994-1996


The ejection rates shown in Tables 23 and 24 are generally small, except in rollovers. However, due to the very harmful outcomes of occupant ejections, the rate of injuries associated with occupant ejections is significantly higher, as shown in Tables 25 and 26, which show injury-weighted (using Harm-see Appendix E) ejection and entrapment data for crash-involved towed vehicles, and Figure 13, which shows ejection-induced injury rates for towed vehicles. Crashes that involve ejection are generally more severe crashes; therefore, injuries to ejected occupants may be due to higher crash forces as well as the ejection itself.

Table 25
Injury-Weighted Occupant Ejection and Entrapment Rates for Crash-Involved Towed Cars
by Degree of Ejection, Crash Mode, and Area of Damage: Average of Nationally Weighted Counts per Year, 1994-1996

| Crash Mode and Area of Damage | Complete Ejection | Partial Ejection | Entrapment | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Rollover | $\begin{array}{r} 1,530,211 \\ 28.1 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 692,621 \\ 12.7 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 240,247 \\ 4.4 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 5,447,957 \\ 13.3 \% \end{array}$ |
| Nonrollover Single-Vehicle |  |  |  |  |
| Front | $\begin{array}{r} 231,088 \\ 3.6 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 205,417 \\ 3.2 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 528,442 \\ 8.3 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 6,385,927 \\ 15.6 \% \end{array}$ |
| Side | $\begin{array}{r} 310,520 \\ 11.6 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 277,245 \\ 10.3 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 388,920 \\ 14.5 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 2,681,532 \\ 6.6 \% \end{array}$ |
| Rear, Top, or Under | $\begin{array}{r} 96 \\ 0.0 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 20,599 \\ 7.7 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 102 \\ 0.0 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 268,703 \\ 0.7 \% \end{array}$ |
| Multiple-Vehicle Front | $\begin{array}{r} 195,819 \\ 1.4 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 262,602 \\ 1.9 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 1,217,441 \\ 8.7 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 13,985,807 \\ 34.2 \% \end{array}$ |
| Side | $\begin{array}{r} 392,455 \\ 3.8 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 601,447 \\ 5.8 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 652,889 \\ 6.3 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 10,342,682 \\ 25.3 \% \end{array}$ |
| Rear | $\begin{array}{r} 21,819 \\ 1.2 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 23,131 \\ 1.3 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 10,682 \\ 0.6 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 1,787,654 \\ 4.4 \% \end{array}$ |
| Top or Under | $\begin{array}{r} 0 \\ 0.0 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 0 \\ 0.0 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 0 \\ 0.0 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 15798 \\ 0.0 \% \end{array}$ |
| Total | $\begin{array}{r} 2,682,008 \\ 6.6 \% \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 2,083,062 \\ 5.1 \% \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 3,038,723 \\ 7.4 \% \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 40,916,061 \\ 100.0 \% \\ \hline \end{array}$ |

*For each crash mode, the first data row shows the number of occupants ejected or entrapped and the second row shows the percentage of the row total.

| Table 26 <br> Injury-Weighted Occupant Ejection and Entrapment Rates for Crash-Involved Towed Light Trucks by Degree of Ejection, Crash Mode, and Area of Damage: Average of Nationally Weighted Counts per Year, 1994-1996 |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Crash Mode and Area of Damage | Complete Ejection | Partial Ejection | Entrapment | Total |
| Rollover | $\begin{array}{r} 2,555,014 \\ 47.2 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 532,049 \\ 9.8 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 272,969 \\ 5.0 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 5,413,543 \\ 37.0 \% \end{array}$ |
| Nonrollover Single-Vehicle |  |  |  |  |
| Front | $\begin{array}{r} 332,549 \\ 14.9 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 99,429 \\ 4.5 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 302,974 \\ 13.6 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 2,224,462 \\ 15.2 \% \end{array}$ |
| Side | $\begin{gathered} 68,142 \\ 10.1 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 146,592 \\ 21.8 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 139,640 \\ 20.7 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 673,111 \\ 4.6 \% \end{array}$ |
| Rear, Top, or Under | $\begin{array}{r} 87 \\ 0.6 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 0 \\ 0.0 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 10,975 \\ & 73.2 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 14,986 \\ 0.1 \% \end{array}$ |
| Multiple-Vehicle Front | $\begin{array}{r} 56,032 \\ 1.5 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 159,534 \\ 4.3 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 316,014 \\ 8.5 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 3,730,416 \\ 25.5 \% \end{array}$ |
| Side | $\begin{array}{r} 529,300 \\ 24.2 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 84,621 \\ 3.9 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 67,037 \\ 3.1 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 2,184,444 \\ 14.9 \% \end{array}$ |
| Rear | $\begin{aligned} & 1,307 \\ & 0.3 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 2,473 \\ & 0.6 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 901 \\ 0.2 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 383,908 \\ 2.6 \% \end{array}$ |
| Top or Under | $\begin{array}{r} 0 \\ 0.0 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 0 \\ 0.0 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 8305 \\ 66.5 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} 12493 \\ 0.1 \% \end{gathered}$ |
| Total | $\begin{array}{r} 3,542,432 \\ 24.2 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 1,024,699 \\ 7.0 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 1,118,815 \\ 7.6 \% \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 14,637,363 \\ 100.0 \% \end{array}$ |

*For each crash mode, the first data row shows the number of occupants ejected or entrapped and the second row shows the percentage of the row total.

Figure 13
Ejection-Induced Occupant Injury Rates for Crash-Involved
Towed Cars by Degree off Ejection and Crash Mode, 1994-1996


