

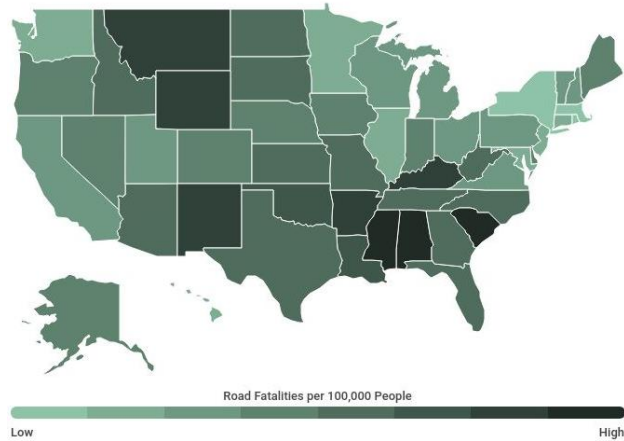
# Safest States for Driving: Essential List of All 50

By [Mike Wendland](#)

RVers know that different parts of the country offer different road conditions, traffic laws, driving behaviors, and so on — but have you ever wondered what are the safest states for driving and RVing in general?

Well, the team at [AutoInsurance.org](#) has the answer. That's because the auto insurance comparison site has [put together the list](#) based on the most recent NHTSA Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) data. You can learn more about the methodology used [here](#). Using this data, researchers computed certain safety indicators for every state and determined the safest states for driving. Check out the heat map showing road fatalities per 100,000 by state.

Road Fatality Rates for U.S. States



Sources: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Fatality Analysis Reporting System (2016); American Community Survey 2012-2016 5-Year Estimates; Federal Highway Administration Office of Highway Policy Information (2016)



## 50. Rhode Island

Road fatalities per 100,000: 4.8

Total fatal crashes: 48

% of crashes involving alcohol: 38%

% of crashes involving a distracted driver: 6%

% of miles driven on rural roads: 11%

## 49. New York

Road fatalities per 100,000: 5.2

Total fatal crashes: 965

% of crashes involving alcohol: 17%

% of crashes involving a distracted driver: 13%

% of miles driven on rural roads: 16%

## 48. Massachusetts

Road fatalities per 100,000: 5.8

Total fatal crashes: 359

% of crashes involving alcohol: 29%

% of crashes involving a distracted driver: 11%

% of miles driven on rural roads: 4%

## 47. New Jersey

Road fatalities per 100,000: 6.7

Total fatal crashes: 569

% of crashes involving alcohol: 22%

% of crashes involving a distracted driver: 33%

% of miles driven on rural roads: 5%

## 46. Minnesota

Road fatalities per 100,000: 7.2

Total fatal crashes: 357

% of crashes involving alcohol: 28%

% of crashes involving a distracted driver: 8%

% of miles driven on rural roads: 38%

## 45. Washington

Road fatalities per 100,000: 7.6

A heat map type list showing the safest states for driving

Data Trends in the Safest States for Driving

The data highlights an obvious trend: The more rural the state, generally speaking, the more dangerous the roads.

Concurrently, the data shows that while city driving can be intimidating — with busy intersections, high densities of pedestrians, and difficult parking, among other challenges — urban roads are actually far safer. In 2016, for example, the total number of deaths that occurred as a result of accidents on rural roads actually exceeded that which occurred on urban roads (18,590 vs. 17,656) despite rural roads being far less traveled. The numbers for the safest states for driving become striking when adjusting these numbers for traffic volume differences.

That's because the fatality rate per vehicle mile driven is almost three times higher on rural roads than urban ones, according to AutoInsurance.org research.

Perhaps not surprisingly, as the percentage of miles driven on rural roads increases (for each state), so does the fatality rate.

The Safest States for Driving list

The safest states for driving list below, ordered from safest to most dangerous, shows how all 50 states and the District of Columbia stack up in terms of road safety.

Total fatal crashes: 504

% of crashes involving alcohol: 32%

% of crashes involving a distracted driver: 25%

% of miles driven on rural roads: 24%

A highway in Washington – the fifth safest on the list of the safest states for driving

## 44. Connecticut

Road fatalities per 100,000: 8.2

Total fatal crashes: 281

% of crashes involving alcohol: 30%

% of crashes involving a distracted driver: 5%

% of miles driven on rural roads: 6%

## 43. Illinois

Road fatalities per 100,000: 8.4

Total fatal crashes: 1,003

% of crashes involving alcohol: 26%

% of crashes involving a distracted driver: 5%

% of miles driven on rural roads: 21%

## 42. Hawaii

Road fatalities per 100,000: 8.5

Total fatal crashes: 109

% of crashes involving alcohol: 25%

% of crashes involving a distracted driver: 17%

% of miles driven on rural roads: 7%

## 41. Maryland

Road fatalities per 100,000: 8.5

Total fatal crashes: 472

% of crashes involving alcohol: 24%

% of crashes involving a distracted driver: 6%

% of miles driven on rural roads: 12%

## 40. Virginia

Road fatalities per 100,000: 9.2

Total fatal crashes: 722  
% of crashes involving alcohol: 29%  
% of crashes involving a distracted driver: 20%  
% of miles driven on rural roads: 32%

### **39. Pennsylvania**

Road fatalities per 100,000: 9.3  
Total fatal crashes: 1,088  
% of crashes involving alcohol: 24%  
% of crashes involving a distracted driver: 6%  
% of miles driven on rural roads: 30%

### **38. California**

Road fatalities per 100,000: 9.4  
Total fatal crashes: 3,357  
% of crashes involving alcohol: 23%  
% of crashes involving a distracted driver: 5%  
% of miles driven on rural roads: 14%

### **37. Utah**

Road fatalities per 100,000: 9.5  
Total fatal crashes: 259  
% of crashes involving alcohol: 20%  
% of crashes involving a distracted driver: 7%  
% of miles driven on rural roads: 29%

### **36. Ohio**

Road fatalities per 100,000: 9.8  
Total fatal crashes: 1,053  
% of crashes involving alcohol: 34%  
% of crashes involving a distracted driver: 6%  
% of miles driven on rural roads: 25%

### **35. Vermont**

Road fatalities per 100,000: 9.9  
Total fatal crashes: 57  
% of crashes involving alcohol: 47%  
% of crashes involving a distracted driver: 5%  
% of miles driven on rural roads: 66%

### **34. New Hampshire**

Road fatalities per 100,000: 10.2  
Total fatal crashes: 130  
% of crashes involving alcohol: 30%  
% of crashes involving a distracted driver: 4%  
% of miles driven on rural roads: 34%

### **33. Wisconsin**

Road fatalities per 100,000: 10.6  
Total fatal crashes: 544  
% of crashes involving alcohol: 32%  
% of crashes involving a distracted driver: 18%  
% of miles driven on rural roads: 42%

### **32. Michigan**

Road fatalities per 100,000: 10.7  
Total fatal crashes: 980  
% of crashes involving alcohol: 25%  
% of crashes involving a distracted driver: 6%  
% of miles driven on rural roads: 22%

### **31. Colorado**

Road fatalities per 100,000: 11.3  
Total fatal crashes: 558  
% of crashes involving alcohol: 34%  
% of crashes involving a distracted driver: 12%  
% of miles driven on rural roads: 28%

### **30. Alaska**

Road fatalities per 100,000: 11.4  
Total fatal crashes: 78  
% of crashes involving alcohol: 45%

% of crashes involving a distracted driver: 1%  
% of miles driven on rural roads: 41%

### **29. Nebraska**

Road fatalities per 100,000: 11.6  
Total fatal crashes: 194  
% of crashes involving alcohol: 39%  
% of crashes involving a distracted driver: 7%  
% of miles driven on rural roads: 57%

### **28. Nevada**

Road fatalities per 100,000: 11.6  
Total fatal crashes: 303  
% of crashes involving alcohol: 30%  
% of crashes involving a distracted driver: 3%  
% of miles driven on rural roads: 29%

### **27. Maine**

Road fatalities per 100,000: 12.1  
Total fatal crashes: 151  
% of crashes involving alcohol: 31%  
% of crashes involving a distracted driver: 2%  
% of miles driven on rural roads: 64%

### **26. Oregon**

Road fatalities per 100,000: 12.4  
Total fatal crashes: 446  
% of crashes involving alcohol: 27%  
% of crashes involving a distracted driver: 2%  
% of miles driven on rural roads: 39%

### **25. Indiana**

Road fatalities per 100,000: 12.5  
Total fatal crashes: 768  
% of crashes involving alcohol: 18%  
% of crashes involving a distracted driver: 5%  
% of miles driven on rural roads: 38%

### **24. Delaware**

Road fatalities per 100,000: 12.7  
Total fatal crashes: 116  
% of crashes involving alcohol: 31%  
% of crashes involving a distracted driver: 14%  
% of miles driven on rural roads: 26%

### **23. Iowa**

Road fatalities per 100,000: 13.0  
Total fatal crashes: 356  
% of crashes involving alcohol: 26%  
% of crashes involving a distracted driver: 9%  
% of miles driven on rural roads: 61%

### **22. South Dakota**

Road fatalities per 100,000: 13.6  
Total fatal crashes: 103  
% of crashes involving alcohol: 42%  
% of crashes involving a distracted driver: 9%  
% of miles driven on rural roads: 77%

### **21. Texas**

Road fatalities per 100,000: 14.0  
Total fatal crashes: 3,407  
% of crashes involving alcohol: 25%  
% of crashes involving a distracted driver: 11%  
% of miles driven on rural roads: 24%

### **20. Arizona**

Road fatalities per 100,000: 14.3  
Total fatal crashes: 865  
% of crashes involving alcohol: 23%  
% of crashes involving a distracted driver: 6%  
% of miles driven on rural roads: 32%

## **19. North Carolina**

Road fatalities per 100,000: 14.6

Total fatal crashes: 1,348

% of crashes involving alcohol: 28%

% of crashes involving a distracted driver: 12%

% of miles driven on rural roads: 28%

## **18. West Virginia**

Road fatalities per 100,000: 14.6

Total fatal crashes: 250

% of crashes involving alcohol: 28%

% of crashes involving a distracted driver: 2%

% of miles driven on rural roads: 44%

## **17. Kansas**

Road fatalities per 100,000: 14.8

Total fatal crashes: 381

% of crashes involving alcohol: 21%

% of crashes involving a distracted driver: 25%

% of miles driven on rural roads: 52%

## **16. Georgia**

Road fatalities per 100,000: 15.4

Total fatal crashes: 1,422

% of crashes involving alcohol: 22%

% of crashes involving a distracted driver: 5%

% of miles driven on rural roads: 25%

## **15. North Dakota**

Road fatalities per 100,000: 15.4

Total fatal crashes: 102

% of crashes involving alcohol: 48%

% of crashes involving a distracted driver: 11%

% of miles driven on rural roads: 73%

## **14. Idaho**

Road fatalities per 100,000: 15.5

Total fatal crashes: 232

% of crashes involving alcohol: 28%

% of crashes involving a distracted driver: 21%

% of miles driven on rural roads: 57%

## **13. Missouri**

Road fatalities per 100,000: 15.6

Total fatal crashes: 868

% of crashes involving alcohol: 28%

% of crashes involving a distracted driver: 9%

% of miles driven on rural roads: 37%

## **12. Florida**

Road fatalities per 100,000: 15.9

Total fatal crashes: 2,933

% of crashes involving alcohol: 21%

% of crashes involving a distracted driver: 8%

% of miles driven on rural roads: 19%

## **11. Tennessee**

Road fatalities per 100,000: 15.9

Total fatal crashes: 966

% of crashes involving alcohol: 23%

% of crashes involving a distracted driver: 13%

% of miles driven on rural roads: 30%

## **10. Louisiana**

Road fatalities per 100,000: 16.3

Total fatal crashes: 704

% of crashes involving alcohol: 30%

% of crashes involving a distracted driver: 19%

% of miles driven on rural roads: 33%

## **9. Oklahoma**

Road fatalities per 100,000: 17.6

Total fatal crashes: 624

% of crashes involving alcohol: 28%

% of crashes involving a distracted driver: 8%

% of miles driven on rural roads: 45%

## **8. Arkansas**

Road fatalities per 100,000: 18.4

Total fatal crashes: 488

% of crashes involving alcohol: 23%

% of crashes involving a distracted driver: 5%

% of miles driven on rural roads: 45%

## **7. Montana**

Road fatalities per 100,000: 18.6

Total fatal crashes: 171

% of crashes involving alcohol: 48%

% of crashes involving a distracted driver: 9%

% of miles driven on rural roads: 75%

## **6. Kentucky**

Road fatalities per 100,000: 18.9

Total fatal crashes: 763

% of crashes involving alcohol: 25%

% of crashes involving a distracted driver: 25%

% of miles driven on rural roads: 52%

## **5. Wyoming**

Road fatalities per 100,000: 19.2

Total fatal crashes: 100

% of crashes involving alcohol: 29%

% of crashes involving a distracted driver: 15%

% of miles driven on rural roads: 76%

## **4. New Mexico**

Road fatalities per 100,000: 19.3

Total fatal crashes: 358

% of crashes involving alcohol: 29%

% of crashes involving a distracted driver: 40%

% of miles driven on rural roads: 54%

## **3. South Carolina**

Road fatalities per 100,000: 21.0

Total fatal crashes: 936

% of crashes involving alcohol: 36%

% of crashes involving a distracted driver: 5%

% of miles driven on rural roads: 43%

## **2. Alabama**

Road fatalities per 100,000: 21.4

Total fatal crashes: 937

% of crashes involving alcohol: 15%

% of crashes involving a distracted driver: 5%

% of miles driven on rural roads: 38%

## **1. Mississippi**

Road fatalities per 100,000: 23.1

Total fatal crashes: 628

% of crashes involving alcohol: 16%

% of crashes involving a distracted driver: 0%

% of miles driven on rural roads: 50%