

# Heavy-Duty Truck Study



FMCSA's Heavy-Duty Truck Study will collect and analyze an unprecedented amount of data on fatal crashes involving heavy-duty trucks to better understand how to prevent them.

## In-Depth Approach

The Heavy-Duty Truck Study will analyze a broad range of data on driver, vehicle, motor carrier, and environmental factors. It will focus on Class 7 and 8 trucks, which make up about 70% of large trucks involved in fatal crashes.\* A large, nationally representative sample of 2,000 fatal crashes provides sufficient data for detailed analysis of contributing factors. The study will culminate in a final report and public database of anonymized crash data to inform crash-reduction strategies.



**2,000**

Fatal Crashes Involving  
Heavy-Duty Trucks  
Class 7 & 8 (GVWR of >26,000 lbs)



**2 YEARS**

of Data Collection  
targeted to start in 2026



**~30 STATES**

Nationally  
Representative Sample

\*National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) data from 2018 to 2022.

## Streamlined Data Collection

FMCSA is partnering with State and local agencies to incorporate data they already collect through existing crash response procedures. These agencies may also gather a small amount of supplemental data for the study. Confidential interviews with individuals and companies involved in the crash will offer additional context for a more comprehensive understanding of crashes. The Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) will conduct these interviews under Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act (CIPSEA) protections (turn over for more details).

### MAIN DATA SOURCES INCLUDE



Police Crash  
Reports



Post-Crash  
Inspections



Post-Crash  
Investigations & Crash  
Reconstructions



Confidential  
Interviews

# Confidential Interviews

The Heavy-Duty Truck Study will collect additional detailed information through **confidential interviews** with individuals and companies involved in fatal crashes. **FMCSA is partnering with BTS** to conduct these interviews under **CIPSEA confidentiality protections**.

## Potential interview participants include:



- » Motor carriers
- » CMV drivers
- » Dispatchers
- » Passenger vehicle drivers
- » Pedestrians
- » Witnesses

## Example interview topics include:



- » Scheduling
- » Vehicle inspection and maintenance
- » Driver hiring practices
- » Driver compensation and benefits
- » Distracted driving
- » Truck stop/rest area availability

## BTS and CIPSEA Protections

As the U.S. Department of Transportation's statistical agency, BTS is authorized to collect and protect confidential information under its own confidentiality statute (49 U.S.C. 6307(b)) and CIPSEA (44 U.S.C. 3561-3583).

### Because BTS is conducting the interviews under CIPSEA protections, BTS:

- » **Must** make a pledge of confidentiality
- » **Must** use the information for statistical purposes only
- » **Must** protect the information from unauthorized access, including by other government agencies

### Identifiable interview information protected by CIPSEA:

- » **Cannot** be used for regulation or enforcement
- » **Cannot** be used for legal purposes (e.g., subpoenaed or submitted as evidence)
- » **Cannot** be released under a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request

BTS must ensure that responses cannot be traced back to a specific individual or company and will provide aggregated, anonymized data to FMCSA for use in the Heavy-Duty Truck Study.

BTS employees, contractors, and agents are subject to Class E felony charges and fines for knowingly disclosing confidential information (5 years prison and \$250,000 fine). Visit [www.bts.gov/confidentiality](https://www.bts.gov/confidentiality) for more information.

## About the CCFP



Through in-depth research, the **Crash Causal Factors Program (CCFP)** advances our understanding of the factors that contribute to crashes involving large trucks and buses.

The program creates a foundation to carry out future **timely, efficient studies** to address Agency priorities and needs.

Ultimately, the CCFP will produce resources that State enforcement agencies, public advocacy groups, and other organizations can use to develop **data-driven, targeted, and effective strategies to prevent crashes**.



Learn more about the Heavy-Duty Truck Study and the CCFP at <https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/CCFP>.