



# VITALS

A Weekly Safety Newsletter For Medical Transport Professionals

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## Are Women Drivers Safer Than Men?

There are no statistics I could find which compare gender differences in crashes of medical transportation vehicles. There are some interesting comparisons that can be made from a study done by a company called Quality Planning. The information is based on national data from 2007. The following table gives the incidence ratio of unsafe driving behaviors in males compared to females.

Traffic Violation	Male to Female Ratio (M:F)
Reckless Driving -----	3.41:1
DUI -----	3.09:1
Seatbelt Violations -----	3.08:1
Speeding -----	1.75:1
Failure to Yield -----	1.54:1
Stop Sign/Signal Violations -----	1.53:1



Female drivers were 27% less likely than males to be found at fault if involved in an accident. It is no surprise that from 1998 to 2007 the number of males driving under the influence exceeded females by a factor of 4 to 1. What is a surprise is during the same time period the number of females with DUI convictions increased by 14.3%, while the number of males decreased by 19.7%.

How are these behavioral differences reflected in crash incidence? The following 2007 numbers come from NHTSA.

Type of Crash	Males	Females	M:F
Fatal	40,804	14,099	2.9:1
Injury	1.7 million	1.3 million	1.3:1
Property Damage Only	4.3 million	3.0 million	1.4:1

What do you think about this? How does this data fit with your personal experience? Do you think that this general data applies to medical transportation? Why or why not?

