



NHTSA

NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

Evaluating Disparities in Traffic Fatalities by Race, Ethnicity, and Income

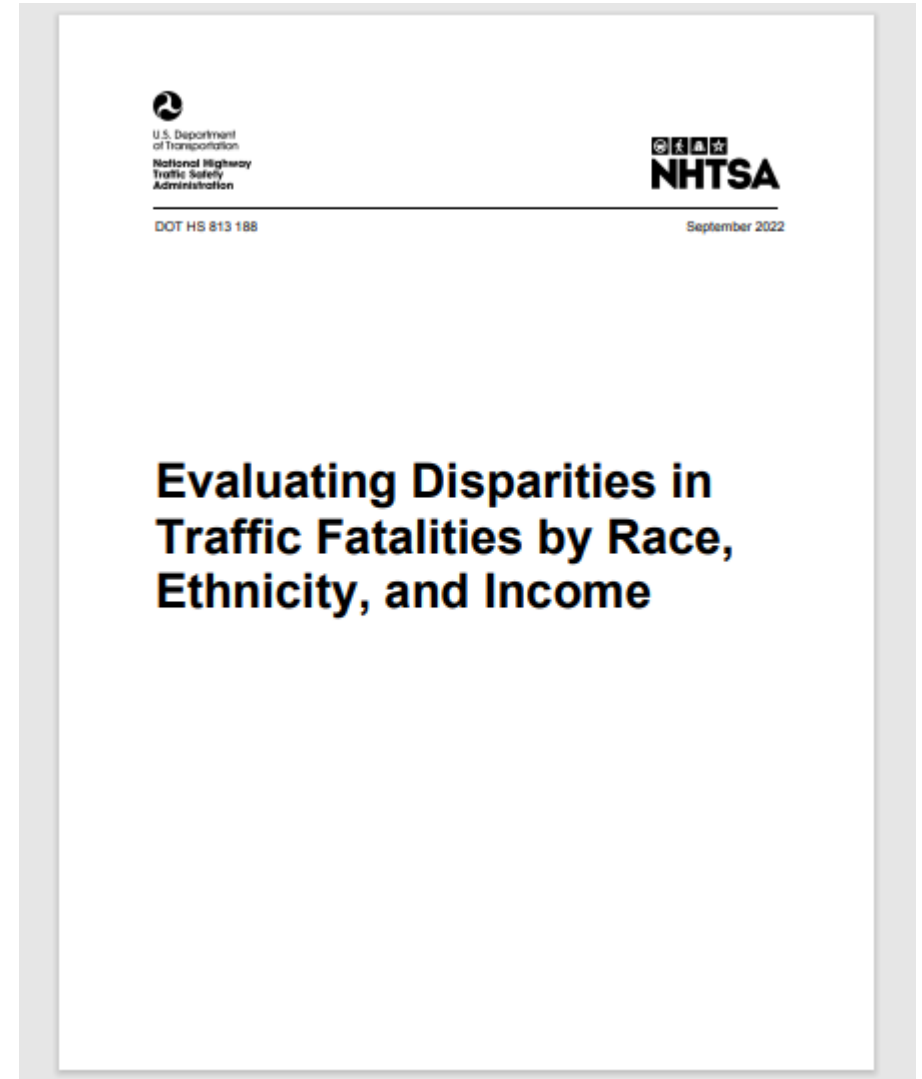
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Introduction

This analysis and report was prompted by Executive Order 13985 on January 20, 2021, on Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government.

Report available at
<https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813188>



Introduction

- Equity is a challenging topic; motor vehicle traffic crashes are complex events.
- We are seeking answers to questions about safety outcomes:
 - How crashes occur
 - Where crashes occur
 - When crashes occur
- This analysis...
 - only applies to fatal crashes.
 - is not intended to determine cause or blame.
 - presents a lot of information and poses many more questions requiring further research and analysis.
 - is a first look at Race/Ethnicity within the context of traffic safety equity and was published with available data.

Data Sources

- **Traffic Fatalities:** NHTSA's [Fatality Analysis Reporting System](#) (FARS) Final Files
- **Observation Surveys:** NHTSA's [National Occupant Protection Use Survey](#) (NOPUS) and [National Survey of the Use of Booster Seats](#) (NSUBS)
- **Mortality Data:** Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) [Mortality Data](#)
- **Per Capita Income:** [Bureau of Economic Analysis](#) (BEA)
- **Exposure Data:** Population from [Census Bureau](#) and FHWA's [National Household Travel Survey](#) (NHTS)

FARS Racial/Ethnicity Group Definitions

- **Hispanic or Latino:** Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, European Spanish, or Other Hispanic Origin
- **American Indian or Alaska Native:** American Indian or Alaska Native, Non-Hispanic or Unknown if Hispanic
- **Asian:** Asian, Non-Hispanic or Unknown if Hispanic
- **Black or African American:** Black or African-American, Non-Hispanic
- **Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander:** Native Hawaiian (includes part Hawaiian) or Other Pacific Islander, Non-Hispanic or Unknown if Hispanic
- **White:** White, Non-Hispanic
- **Multiple Races:** Individual races not specified (e.g. “mixed”), Non-Hispanic or Unknown if Hispanic
- **All Others:** Includes White, Unknown if Hispanic; African-American, Unknown if Hispanic; Non-Hispanic, Unknown Race; and all Other Races, Non-Hispanic or Unknown if Hispanic
- **Unknown:** Unknown

National Traffic Fatalities, Population, and Traffic Fatality Rates, 2018

Race-Ethnicity	Traffic Fatalities	Population	Traffic Fatality Rate per 100K Population
Hispanic or Latino	5,632 (15%)	59,639,869 (18%)	9.44
AIAN	599 (2%)	2,420,241 (1%)	24.75
Asian	557 (2%)	18,545,428 (6%)	3.00
Black or African American	5,503 (15%)	40,860,704 (13%)	13.47
NHPI	78 (0.2%)	586,163 (0.2%)	13.31
White	21,572 (59%)	197,535,202 (60%)	10.92
Total*	36,835 (100%)	326,687,501 (100%)	11.28

Sources: FARS 2018 Final File; Population – Census Bureau

*Includes other and unknown race-ethnicity groups.

Summary of Travel Outcomes Relative to White Travelers, 2017 and 2018

Travel Outcomes Relative to White Travelers	Hispanic or Latino	AIAN	Asian	Black or African American	NHPI
Fatalities per Person Mile Traveled (any mode), 2017	1.00	2.80	0.37	1.63	0.67
Fatalities per Person Mile in a Passenger Vehicle, 2017	0.96	2.64	0.32	1.71	0.64
Fatalities per Population, 2018	0.86	2.11	0.27	1.23	1.22

Sources: FARS 2017-2018 Final Files; 2017 NHTS; Population – Census Bureau

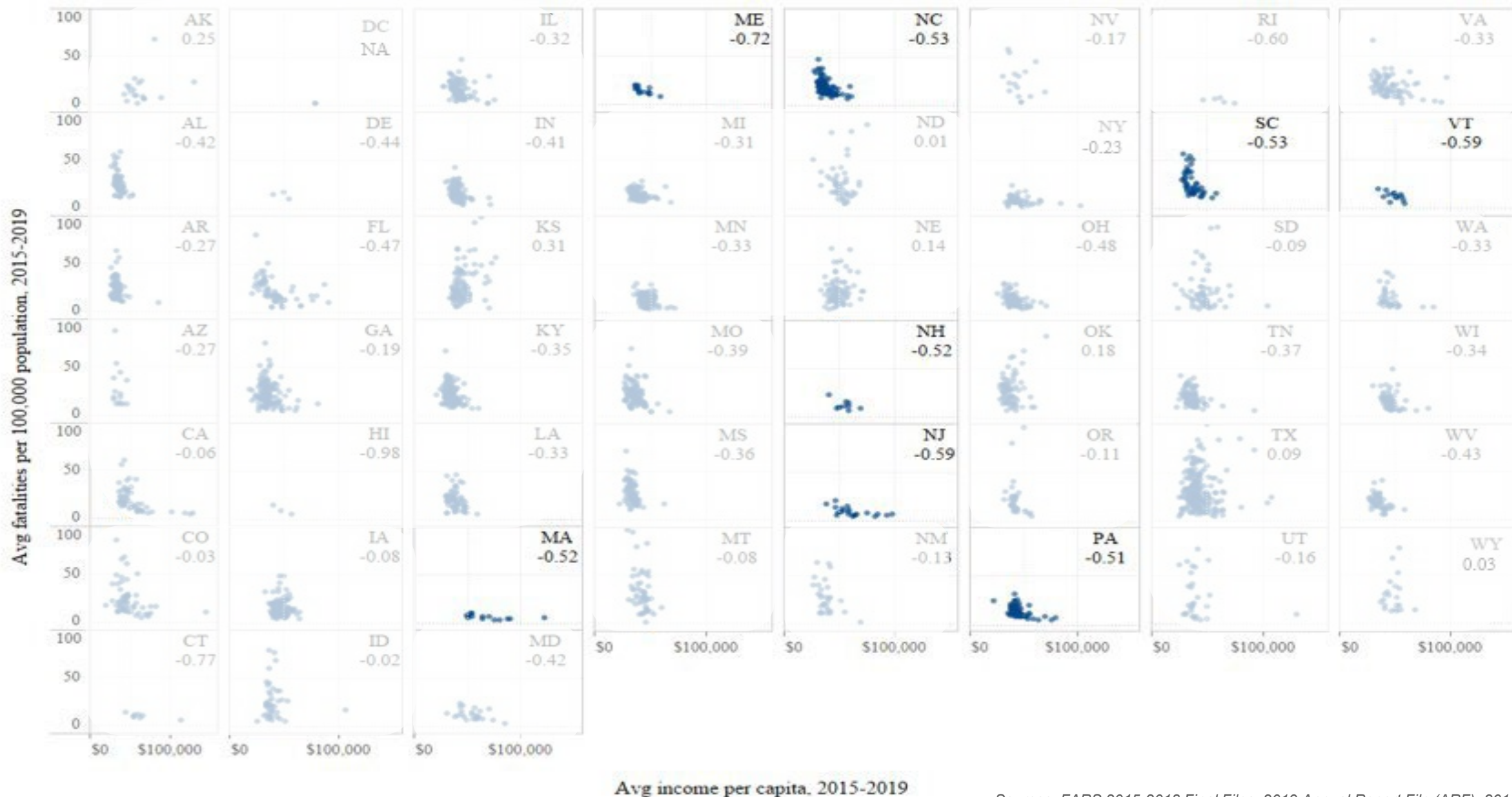
Summary of Travel Outcomes Relative to White Travelers, 2017 and 2018 (Continued)

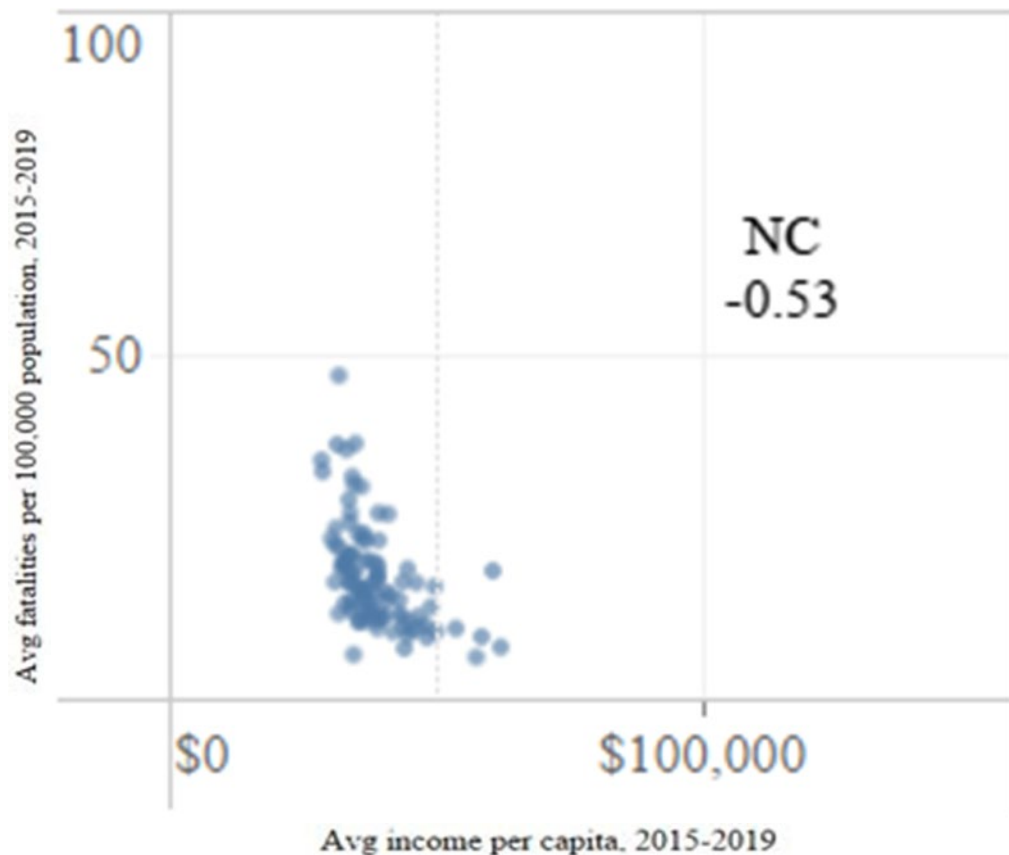
Travel Outcomes Relative to White Travelers	Hispanic or Latino	AIAN	Asian	Black or African American	NHPI
Fatalities per Mile Walked,* 2017	1.06	5.09	0.43	2.08	1.23
Pedestrian Fatalities per Population, 2018	1.38	3.42	0.58	1.97	1.37

Sources: FARS 2017-2018 Final Files; 2017 NHTS; Population – Census Bureau

*Includes all miles walked, not just those near a road.

Economic Findings





Economic Findings (continued)

- Average of 5 years of economic data and crash data
 - 2015 to 2019
- Did not compare across race-ethnicity groups

Key Caveats

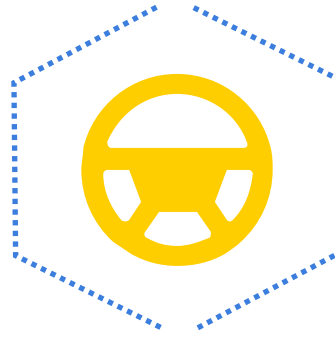
Race and ethnicity reporting differs by source

Multi-racial people could be misrepresented

FARS contains unknown values for race and ethnicity

Conclusions

- Roadway travel is less risky for white people than for most other race-ethnicity groups; this disparity persists, even accounting for the amount and mode of travel.
- Among all travel modes, we found a particularly pronounced disparity for pedestrians.
- In 8 of the 50 States, traffic fatalities per population decreased as the per population income of a county increased.



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Additional Slides

Total Traffic Fatalities and Alcohol-Impaired-Driving Fatalities, by Race-Ethnicity, 2018

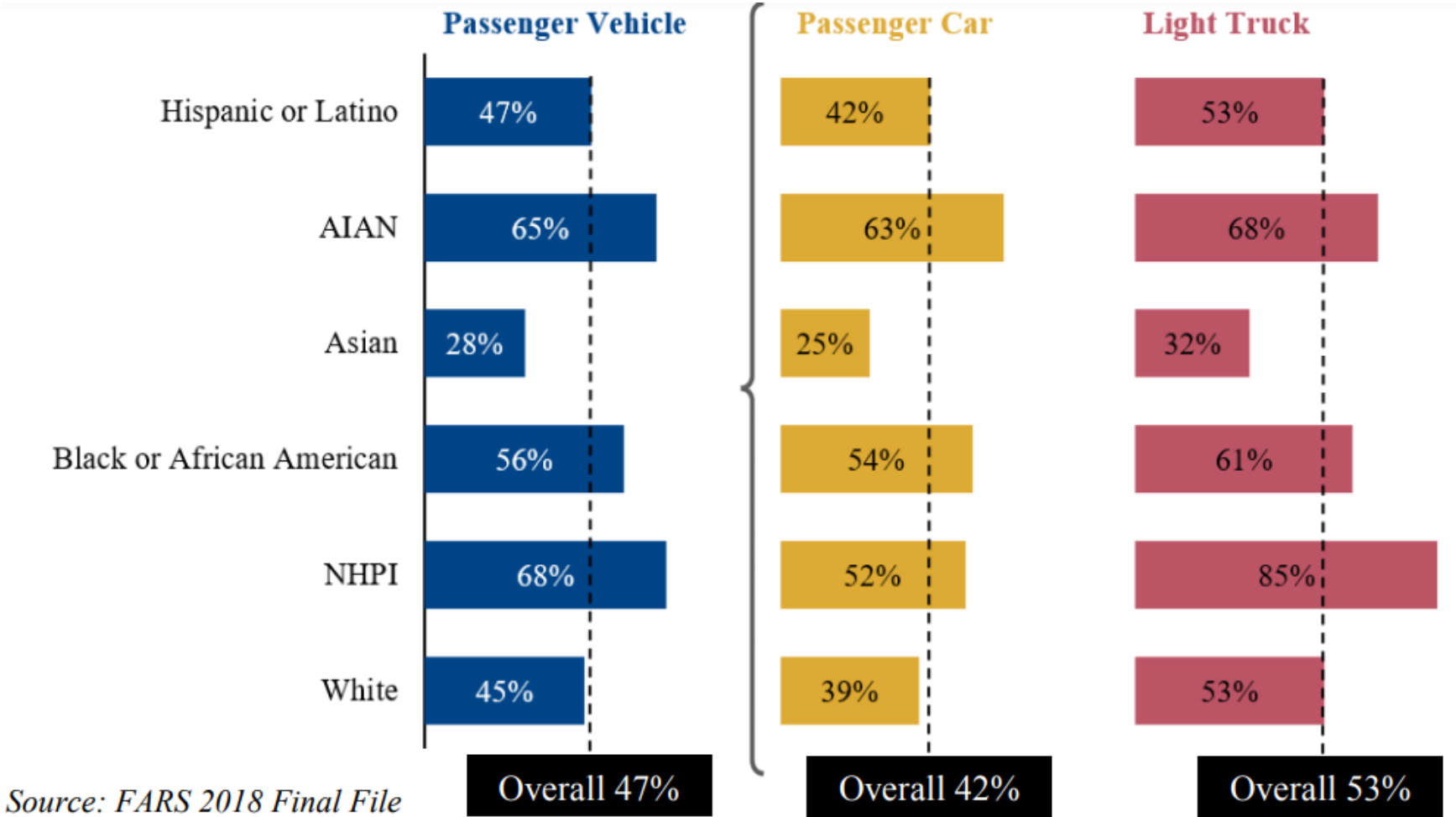
Race-Ethnicity	Traffic Fatalities	Alcohol-Impaired-Driving Fatalities	
		Number	Percent
Hispanic or Latino	5,632	1,974	35
AIAN	599	232	39
Asian	557	119	21
Black or African American	5,500	1,767	32
NHPI	78	24	30
White	21,572	5,802	27
Total*	36,835	10,710	29

Source: FARS 2018 Final File

*Includes other and unknown race-ethnicity groups.

Note: NHTSA imputes alcohol test results when unknown. These statistics don't imply causation of crash or fatalities.

Unrestrained Passenger Vehicle Occupant Fatalities, by Race-Ethnicity and Vehicle Type, 2018



Source: FARS 2018 Final File
Note: Based on known restraint use.

Total Traffic Fatalities and Speeding-Related Traffic Fatalities, by Race-Ethnicity, 2018

Race-Ethnicity	Traffic Fatalities	Speeding-Related Traffic Fatalities	
		Number	Percent
Hispanic or Latino	5,632	1,569	28
AIAN	599	168	28
Asian	557	136	24
Black or African American	5,500	1,550	28
NHPI	78	37	47
White	21,572	5,398	25
Total*	36,835	9,579	26

Source: FARS 2018 Final File

*Includes other and unknown race-ethnicity groups.

Note: These statistics don't imply causation of crash or fatalities.