

## AVZ Briefing-Driver outcomes in fatal crashes

6 Feb 2026

### Key point

- Drivers in England and Wales are much more likely to die in a crash than to be convicted or imprisoned for causing it, and almost never face a lifetime driving ban after causing the death of another person.

### Outcome for drivers in fatal crashes (2024, England and Wales)

19% drivers involved in fatal crashes were prosecuted for causing it

29% surviving drivers in fatal crashes were prosecuted for causing it

36% drivers involved in fatal crashes died in the crash

Driver's risk of being killed is

1.9	Prosecuted for causing death
2.2	Convicted for causing death
3.2	Imprisoned for causing death
14.2	Imprisoned for 9 years or longer for causing death
3.8	Disqualified for 5 years or longer (but less than life)
432.5	Given a lifetime disqualification

**Table 1: Drivers in fatal crashes, England and Wales**

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Fatal collisions related</b>						
Fatal collisions	1,500	1,258	1,336	1,449	1,373	1,351
Total road deaths	1,587	1,317	1,415	1,538	1,471	1,437
Total drivers involved	2,703	2,198	2,416	2,588	2,428	2,426
Drivers killed	917	831	882	953	858	865
Surviving drivers	1,786	1,367	1,534	1,635	1,570	1,561
<b>Causing death by driving related</b>						
Drivers prosecuted	428	370	408	353	454	459
Drivers convicted	369	293	383	312	376	394
Drivers imprisoned	231	200	213	192	242	271
Drivers given custodial sentences over 9 years				7	48	61
Disqualified for 5 years or longer (but less than life)	66	50	77	93	179	226
Life disqualification				1	2	2

Source: [DfT \(2025\)](#), [Moj \(2025\)](#)