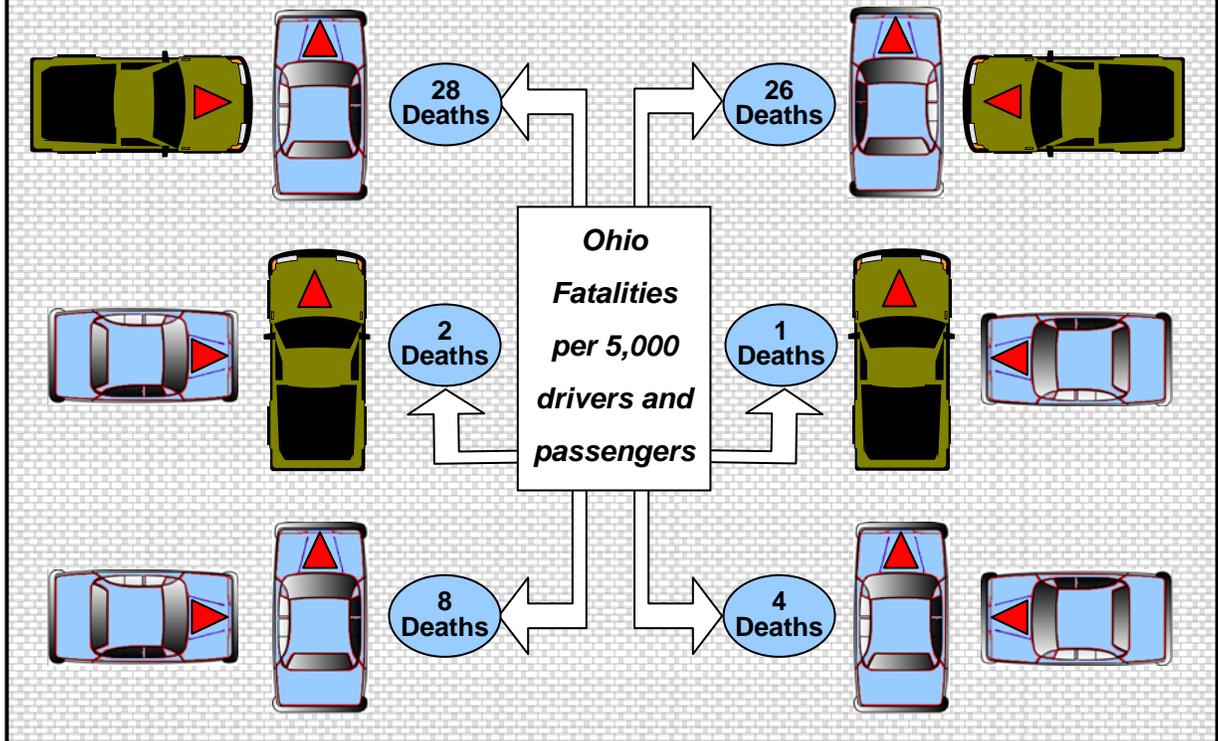




Vehicle mismatch: Passenger Cars & Light Trucks¹



WEEKLY FOCUS: **Vehicle mismatch**

- Light trucks¹ are heavier, have higher bumpers and stiffer frames than passenger cars. This "vehicle mismatch" results in greater injury and fatality rates for occupants of passenger cars.
- An examination of 2005 crashes involving passenger cars and light trucks revealed the following:
 - Side-impact crashes account for the greatest proportion of fatal crashes between passenger cars and light trucks (as well as in passenger-car-only crashes).
 - The number of traffic fatalities per 5,000 vehicle occupants is substantially higher for people in passenger cars than for people in light trucks (see figure above).
 - One out of every 73 passenger car occupants hit by a light truck is seriously injured, compared to one out of every 118 being seriously injured in passenger-car-only crashes, and one out of every 171 light truck occupants being seriously injured when hit by a passenger car.
- Pickups, vans, and SUVs currently comprise approximately one-third of light vehicles on US highways, but account for over half of fatalities resulting from crashes between light vehicles. Moreover, a disproportionate share of the fatalities are incurred by passenger car occupants.²

¹ "Light Trucks" include Pickups, Vans, and SUVs; "Passenger cars" include subcompact, compact, midsize, and full size cars.

² Gabler, HC & WT Hollowell. (2000). "The Crash Compatibility of Cars and Light Trucks." *Journal of Crash Prevention and Injury Control*. January.