

Rollover risk

Commonly used to transport forest workers, 15-passenger vans have been singled out by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration as more likely to roll over than any other vehicle. The vans are widely used to transport farm and forest workers, seniors, church groups, commuters and sports teams, although laws in some states have recently limited their use by students.

Center of gravity

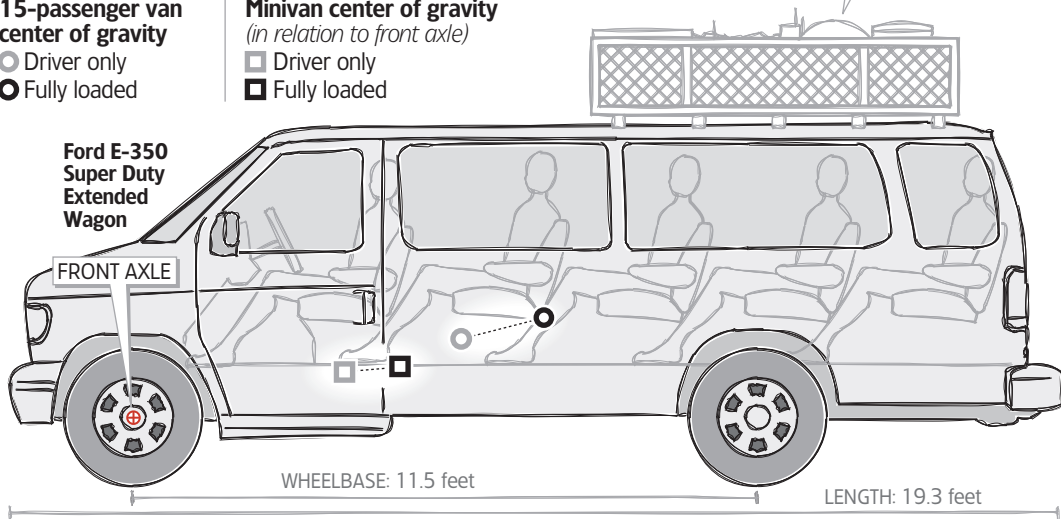
The large vans are more dangerous when fully loaded with passengers and gear because the increased weight shifts their center of gravity much more than other vehicles – causing the vans to handle very differently.

15-passenger van center of gravity

- Driver only
- Fully loaded

FOR COMPARISON: Minivan center of gravity (in relation to front axle)

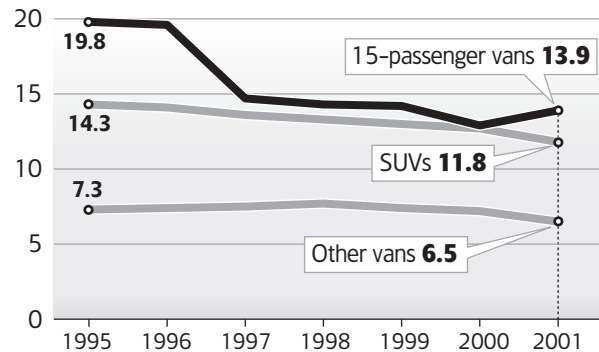
- Driver only
- Fully loaded



Fatal crash rate

15-passenger vans constitute less than 1 percent of the nation's passenger vehicles. But they are more likely to be involved in fatal, single-vehicle crashes – where a majority of rollovers occur – than any other vehicle.

Number of fatal, single-vehicle crashes per 100,000 vehicles



Increasing risk

As the vans fill up with passengers, they have a greater tendency to roll over in single-vehicle crashes.

Occupants	Percentage of single-vehicle crashes resulting in rollovers
Fewer than 5	12.3%
5-9	20.8%
10-15	29.1%
Over 15	70.0%

Recommended safety precautions:

- **Keep passenger load light** – fewer than 10 people if possible.
- **Check tire pressure frequently.** Improperly inflated tires change the van's handling.
- **Require all occupants to wear seat belts.** Most people killed in rollover accidents were not wearing a seat belt.
- **Keep occupants and cargo in front of rear axle** if possible.
- **Keep speed down.** Rollover risk increases dramatically at speeds over 50 mph.
- **Make sure drivers are experienced** and know the vehicles' safety risks.