

2008 California Quick Collision Facts

During 2008, California had a total of 452,595 traffic collisions: 3,113 fatal; 170,496 injury; and 278,986 property damage only. This is the lowest number of fatal collisions since 1998, which was 3,075 and also the lowest number of injury collisions since 1975, which was 167,758.

There were 1,963 vehicle occupants (excludes bicyclist, pedestrian, motorcyclist/moped, emergency vehicle, and buses) killed with 574 not using safety equipment and 173,657 injured with 10,857 not using safety equipment.

Vehicle occupants killed decreased 19.6% from 2007. Vehicle occupants injured decreased 9.7% over that same year.

On average a traffic collision was reported every one minute and 10 seconds.

On average one person was killed every two hours and 35 minutes as a result of a traffic collision.

On average one person was injured every two minutes and 10 seconds as a result of a traffic collision.

Children under the age of 15 accounted for 20.1% of pedestrian victims and 16.9% of bicycle victims (victims killed and injured).

For each person killed, there were 71 persons injured.

Speed was indicated as the Primary Collision Factor in 28.4% of the fatal and injury collisions.

Fatal and injury truck collisions where the truck driver was at fault was the lowest number since these numbers have been documented with 59 fatal and 2,417 injury collisions.

Beginning in 1999, motorcyclist victims began to increase over the all time low experienced in 1998. That increase has continued until this day. Motorcyclists killed in 2008 increased 164.5% from 1998 and those injured increased 85.8% over that same year. Licensed motorcycle drivers in 2008 increased 45.6% over 1998.

There were 529 motorcyclist victims killed of which 71 did not indicate safety equipment used and 11,764 motorcyclist victims injured of which 1,613 did not indicate safety equipment used.

Motorcyclist victims killed increased 12.1% from 2007. Motorcyclist victims injured increased 5.0% over that same year.

There were 563 motorcyclists involved in fatal collisions of which 378 were the driver at fault. This indicates 67.1% of motorcyclists involved in fatal collisions were at fault.

Of the 563 motorcyclists involved in fatal collisions, 204 (36.2%) were involved in fatal collisions where no other party was involved. The motorcyclist was at fault 91.6% of the time in solo motorcycle fatal collisions.

In 2008, alcohol involved fatal collisions decreased 8.0% and alcohol involved persons killed also decreased 9.0% over the previous year. This is the second year in a row to show a decrease in the number of alcohol involved fatal collision and persons killed in those collisions.

Since 1999, the number of licensed drivers in California has increased 12.8%. Of the licensed drivers in California, 22.8% were under 30 years of age; however, drivers under 30 years of age comprise 34.6% of all drivers in fatal and injury collisions. Drivers at fault under 30 years of age comprise 40.5% of all drivers at fault in fatal and injury collisions.

Since 1999, California's population has increased 12.1%. On average one out of every 11,217 persons living in California was killed in a traffic collision; on an average one out of every 141 persons was injured; and on an average one out of every 76 licensed drivers was involved in a fatal or injury traffic collision.

As a result of the 3,113 fatal collisions, 3,401 persons were killed for an average of 1.1 deaths per fatal collision.

There were 1.04 persons killed and 74.25 persons injured for every 100 million vehicle miles of travel. (These are more commonly known as the mileage death and mileage injury rates.) This is the lowest mileage death and mileage injury rates on record and marks the second year in a row that a new record lowest rate has been set. Since 1999, the estimated vehicle miles of travel have increased 8.7%.

Hit-and-run was indicated in 9.9% of the fatal and injury collisions.

California has not had a day without a traffic fatality since September 12, 2000.