

PREFACE

The California State Transportation Agency is the lead agency for traffic safety in the State of California. It oversees the activities of the Office of Traffic Safety, Department of California Highway Patrol (CHP), California Department of Transportation, and Department of Motor Vehicles.

The CHP has prepared the 2012 Annual Report of Fatal and Injury Motor Vehicle Traffic Collisions. This report was completed based on motor vehicle traffic collision reports received from all reporting law enforcement agencies, respective agencies, and from CHP field offices.

The Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System (SWITRS) processes all reported fatal and injury collisions that occurred on California's state highways and all other roadways, excluding private property.

The SWITRS, a 40 year old system, was re-engineered beginning with 2002 data to take advantage of advances in computer technology. Additionally, changes were made to the definition of some data elements and corresponding logic processes to reflect current industry practices. Due to these changes in the program and the processing of traffic collision reports, portions of the current data are not directly comparable to data from years prior to 2002.

There is an error margin of two percent due to transit time from all reporting law enforcement agencies of their traffic collisions reports and/or incomplete traffic collision reports received by respective agencies.

As previously reported, the Traffic Collision Report form was revised in July 2003. A change was made to the entry method for vehicle type. Following this revision, a significant number of reports have been submitted without data in the vehicle type field or with an incorrect code. Due to this error, the number of "Not Stated" vehicle types has greatly increased. As a result, the data in tables, such as "truck involved collision" or "motorcycle involved collisions" that use vehicle type may be under reported.

Property Damage Only (PDO) collisions in Section 1, Ten Years Summaries, 2003-2012 and Section 8, Location, will be produced in the second edition of the 2012 Annual Report of Motor Vehicle Traffic Collisions. Property Damage Only collisions are not indicators of the volume of traffic collisions and are not exact statistics. This is because some agencies report only partial numbers of their PDO collisions or none at all.

Section 3, Drivers and Vehicles, Table 3H, Drivers in Fatal and Injury Collisions by Inattention by Collision Severity - 2008-2012, shows drivers in fatal and injury collisions related to inattention/distracted driving.

This report is prepared in accordance with Section 2408 of the California Vehicle Code. The cooperation received from all traffic law enforcement agencies is greatly appreciated.

This report can also be viewed at the CHP Internet home page at <http://www.chp.ca.gov> under "Fast Find Information," click on "SWITRS Reports," click on "View Previously Created SWITRS Reports" and the current annual report will be available.