

2012 California Quick Collision Facts

During 2012, California had a total of 162,454 fatal and injury traffic collisions: 2,758 fatal; and 159,696 injury. This is the lowest number of fatal collisions since 1945, which was 2,760 and also the lowest number of injury collisions since 1969, which was 159,927.

There were 1,679 vehicle occupants (excluding bicyclist, pedestrian, motorcyclist/moped, emergency vehicle, and buses) killed; of these, 420 were not using safety equipment. There were 168,184 injured; of these, 7,886 were not using safety equipment.

Vehicle occupants killed increased 5.1 percent from 2011. Vehicle occupants injured decreased 0.1 percent over that same year.

On average, a fatal and injury traffic collision was reported every three minutes and 14 seconds.

On average, one person was killed every two hours and 6 minutes as a result of a traffic collision.

On average, one person was injured every two minutes and 19 seconds as a result of a traffic collision.

Children under the age of 15 accounted for 15 percent of pedestrian victims and 13.1 percent of bicycle victims (killed and injured).

For each person killed, there were 76 persons injured.

Speed was indicated as the primary collision factor in 29.8 percent of the fatal and injury collisions.

Fatal truck collisions where the truck driver was at fault have increased from 57 to 75, and injury truck collisions where the truck driver was at fault have decreased from 2,257 to 2,211 in 2011.

In 2012, there were 451 motorcyclists killed, of which 60 did not indicate safety equipment used. There were 11,472 motorcyclists injured, of which 1,411 did not indicate safety equipment used.

In 2011, there were 417 motorcyclists killed and 10,906 motorcyclists injured. Motorcyclists killed increased 8.2 percent from 2011 and those injured increased 5.7 percent over that same year. Licensed motorcycle drivers in 2012 increased 2.3 percent over 2011.

There were 473 motorcyclists involved in fatal collisions of which 327 were the driver at fault. This indicates 69.1 percent of motorcyclists involved in fatal collisions were at fault.

Of the 473 motorcyclists involved in fatal collisions, 171 (36.2 percent) were involved in fatal collisions where no other party was involved. The motorcyclist was at fault 95.5 percent of the time in solo motorcycle fatal collisions.

In 2012, alcohol involved fatal collisions decreased 4.8 percent. Persons killed when alcohol was involved also decreased 7.3 percent over the previous year. This is the fifth year in a row to show a decrease in the number of alcohol involved fatal collisions and persons killed in those collisions.

Since 2003, the number of licensed drivers in California has increased 6.9 percent. Of the licensed drivers in California, 22.4 percent were under 30 years of age; however, drivers under 30 years of age comprised 32.9 percent of all drivers in fatal and injury collisions. Drivers at fault under 30 years of age comprised 39 percent of all drivers at fault in fatal and injury collisions.

Since 2003, California's population has increased 5.4 percent. On average one out of every 12,645 persons living in California was killed in a traffic collision; one out of every 167 persons was injured; and one out of every 59 licensed drivers was involved in a fatal or injury traffic collision.

As a result of the 2,758 fatal collisions, 2,995 persons were killed for an average of 1.1 deaths per fatal collision.

There were 0.92 persons killed and 69 persons injured for every 100 million vehicle miles of travel (these are more commonly known as the mileage death and mileage injury rates). Since 2003, the estimated vehicle miles of travel has increased 0.8 percent.

Hit-and-run was indicated in 9.1 percent of the fatal and injury collisions.

In 2012, California had no days without a traffic fatality. The last year with a day without a traffic collision fatality was 2009 with three such days: March 30, June 10, and September 5.