

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 and the Departments of California Highway Patrol (CHP), Transportation, and Motor Vehicles.

The CHP has prepared the 2013 Annual Report of Property Damage Only Motor Vehicle Traffic Collisions. This report was completed based on motor vehicle traffic collision reports received from local police and sheriff jurisdictions and from CHP field offices.

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

The SWITRS, a 41 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.

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 collisions" or "motorcycle involved collisions" that use vehicle type may be under reported.

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.

This report is prepared in accordance with Section 2408 of the California Vehicle Code. The cooperation of 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> by clicking on "PROGRAMS & SERVICES", scrolling down to the subheading "Services / Information" and clicking on "SWITRS (Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System [Standard Reports])," and selecting the "SWITRS 2013 Report" in the right-hand column, or at <http://www.chp.ca.gov/Programs-Services/Services-Information/SWITRS-Internet-Statewide-Integrated-Traffic-Records-System>.