

2016 California Quick Collision Facts

During 2016, California had a total of 198,899 fatal and injury traffic collisions: 3,552 fatal and 195,347 injury. Both numbers were higher than 2015 where there were 3,168 fatal collisions and 178,669 injury collisions.

There were 2,043 vehicle occupants killed (excluding pedestrian, bicyclist, emergency vehicle, and bus); of these, 426 were not using safety equipment. There were 220,546 vehicle occupants injured; of these, 8,772 were not using safety equipment.

The number of vehicle occupants killed increased by 11 percent over 2015 and the number of vehicle occupants injured also increased by 12.5 percent over the same year.

On average, a fatal and injury traffic collision was reported every 3 minutes.

On average, 1 person was killed every 2 hours and 16 minutes as a result of a traffic collision.

On average, 1 person was injured every 1 minute and 53 seconds as a result of a traffic collision.

Children under the age of 15 accounted for 11.3 percent of pedestrian victims and 9.4 percent of bicycle victims (killed and injured).

For each person killed, there were 73 persons injured.

Speed was indicated as the primary collision factor in 31.9 percent of the fatal and injury collisions.

Fatal truck collisions where the truck driver was at fault have increased from 74 in 2015, to 89 in 2016. Injury truck collisions where the truck driver was at fault have also increased from 2,693 in 2015, to 2,922 in 2016.

In 2016, there were 563 motorcyclists killed, of which 60 did not indicate safety equipment was used. There were 14,491 motorcyclists injured, of which 1,859 did not indicate safety equipment was used.

In 2015, there were 494 motorcyclists killed and 13,662 motorcyclists injured. Motorcyclists killed in 2016 increased by 14 percent from 2015 and those injured also increased 6.1 percent over that same year. Licensed motorcycle drivers in 2016 increased 1.6 percent over 2015.

There were 580 motorcyclists involved in fatal collisions, of which 367 were the fault of the driver. This indicates 63.3 percent of motorcyclists involved in fatal collisions were at fault.

Of the 580 motorcyclists involved in fatal collisions, 165 (28.4 percent) were involved in fatal collisions where no other party was involved. The motorcyclist was at fault 94.5 percent of the time in solo motorcycle fatal collisions.

In 2016, alcohol involved fatal collisions increased 9.3 percent. Persons killed when alcohol was involved also increased 6.9 percent over the previous year.

Since 2007, the number of licensed drivers in California has increased 12.1 percent. Of the licensed drivers in California, 22.2 percent were under 30 years of age; however, drivers under 30 years of age comprised 33.3 percent of all drivers in fatal and injury collisions. Drivers at fault under 30 years of age comprised 39.2 percent of all drivers at fault in fatal and injury collisions.

Since 2007, California's population has increased 4.1 percent. On average, 1 out of every 10,200 persons living in California was killed in a traffic collision; 1 out of every 140 persons was injured; and 1 out of every 71 licensed drivers was involved in a fatal or injury traffic collision.

As a result of the 3,552 fatal collisions, 3,854 (2,062 drivers, 662 passengers, 958 pedestrians, and 172 bicyclists) persons were killed. This is an average of 1.1 deaths per fatal collision.

There were 1.12 persons killed and 82 persons injured for every 100 million vehicle miles of travel (these are more commonly known as the mileage death and mileage injury rates). Since 2007, the estimated vehicle miles of travel has increased 3.8 percent.

Hit-and-run was indicated in 10.3 percent of the fatal and injury collisions.

In 2016, California did not have a day without a traffic fatality. The last recorded dates or times without motor vehicle traffic fatalities were on June 30, 2015; August 13, 2013; and in 2009; when there were three such days: March 30, June 10, and September 5.