

2017 California Quick Crash Facts

During 2017, California had a total of 197,146 fatal and injury traffic crashes: 3,582 fatal and 193,564 injury. Fatal crashes were higher than 2016 where there were 3,552 fatal crashes; however, injury crashes were lower than 2016 where there were 195,347 injury crashes.

There were 2,137 vehicle occupants killed (excluding pedestrian, bicyclist, emergency vehicle, and bus); of these, 473 were not using safety equipment. There were 222,356 vehicle occupants injured; of these, 8,907 were not using safety equipment.

The number of vehicle occupants killed increased by 4.6 percent over 2016 and the number of vehicle occupants injured also increased by .8 percent over the same year.

On average, a fatal or injury traffic crash was reported every 3 minutes.

On average, 1 person was killed every 2 hours and 14 minutes as a result of a traffic crash.

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

Children under the age of 15 accounted for 10.9 percent of pedestrian victims and 9.7 percent of bicycle victims (killed and injured).

For each person killed, there were 71 persons injured.

Speed was indicated as the primary crash factor in 32 percent of the fatal and injury crashes.

Fatal truck crashes where the truck driver was at fault have decreased from 89 in 2016, to 84 in 2017. Injury truck crashes where the truck driver was at fault have increased from 2,922 in 2016, to 2,967 in 2017.

In 2017, there were 566 motorcyclists killed, of which 75 did not indicate safety equipment was used. There were 14,148 motorcyclists injured, of which 1,811 did not indicate safety equipment was used.

In 2016, there were 563 motorcyclists killed and 14,491 motorcyclists injured. Motorcyclists killed in 2017 increased by 0.5 percent from 2016 and those injured decreased 2.4 percent over that same year. Licensed motorcycle drivers in 2017 increased 0.9 percent over 2016.

There were 581 motorcyclists involved in fatal crashes, of which 405 were the fault of the driver. This indicates 69.7 percent of motorcyclists involved in fatal crashes were at fault.

Of the 581 motorcyclists involved in fatal crashes, 178 (30.6 percent) were involved in fatal crashes where no other party was involved. The motorcyclist was at fault 96.1 percent of the time in solo motorcycle fatal crashes.

In 2017, alcohol involved fatal crashes increased 4.4 percent. Persons killed when alcohol was involved also increased 5.8 percent over the previous year.

Since 2008, the number of licensed drivers in California has increased 13.7 percent. Of the licensed drivers in California, 21.8 percent were under 30 years of age; however, drivers under 30 years of age comprised 32.7 percent of all drivers in fatal and injury crashes. Drivers at fault under 30 years of age comprised 38.1 percent of all drivers at fault in fatal and injury crashes.

Since 2008, California's population has increased 3.8 percent. On average, 1 out of every 10,200 persons living in California was killed in a traffic crash; 1 out of every 143 persons was injured; and 1 out of every 73 licensed drivers was involved in a fatal or injury traffic crash.

As a result of the 3,582 fatal crashes, 3,904 (2,089 drivers, 690 passengers, 963 pedestrians, and 162 bicyclists) persons were killed. This is an average of 1.1 deaths per fatal crash.

There were 1.13 persons killed and 80 persons injured for every 100 million vehicle miles of travel (these are more commonly known as the mileage death and mileage injury rates). Since 2008, the estimated vehicle miles of travel has increased 5.6 percent.

Hit-and-run was indicated in 7.5 percent of the fatal and injury crashes.

In 2017, 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.