

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 California Department of Motor Vehicles.

The CHP has prepared the 2016 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, Allied agencies, and from CHP field Area 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 44-year-old system, was reengineered 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 2 percent due to transit time from all reporting law enforcement agencies of their traffic collision reports and/or incomplete traffic collision reports received from 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 collisions" or "motorcycle-involved collisions" that use vehicle type may be under reported.

Property Damage Only (PDO) collisions are found in Sections 1, 7, and 8 of this publication. Property Damage Only collisions are 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 received from all reporting traffic law enforcement agencies is greatly appreciated.

This report can also be viewed at the CHP Internet at <http://www.chp.ca.gov> by clicking on "Programs & Services," scrolling down to the subheading "Services/Information," selecting "SWITRS (Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System [Standard Reports])," and selecting the "SWITRS 2016 Report" in the right-hand column.