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Reported Road Casualties Scotland 2023

**An Accredited Official
Statistics Publication for
Scotland**

October 2024

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Supporting Information

An Accredited Official Statistics Publication for Scotland

These statistics are [accredited official statistics](#). The Office for Statistics Regulation has independently reviewed and accredited these statistics as complying with the standards of trustworthiness, quality, and value in the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#).



The statistics were accredited in March 2020 and details can be found on the Office for Statistics Regulation website here [Statistics on Reported Road Casualties in Scotland – Office for Statistics Regulation \(statisticsauthority.gov.uk\)](#)

Accredited official statistics are called National Statistics in the [Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007](#).

Transport Scotland's statistics are regulated by the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR). OSR sets the standards of trustworthiness, quality and value in the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#) that all producers of official statistics should adhere to.

This publication presents detailed statistics about the circumstances of personal injury road accidents in Scotland that were reported by the police using the Stats 19 statistical returns.

Given their size and detail, the tables referred to throughout the text are published separately. These tables are available as excel files on the [Reported Road Casualties publication page](#).

Each accident is classified according to the severity of the injury to the most seriously injured person involved in the accident. These statistics are used to inform public debate and support policy on road safety (through education and engineering programs).

This publication also includes statistics related to further analysis on specific road safety topics. For example:

- Valuation of road accident and casualties: Table 9 presents estimates of the value of preventing reported road accidents in GB and Scotland, based on DfT analysis.

- Drink drive estimates: Table 22 presents estimates of the levels of accidents and casualties involving drivers and riders with illegal alcohol levels using Procurator Fiscal data.

Since 2023, Transport Scotland has used the term 'collision' rather than 'accident' in our Reported Road Casualties publications. This brings us in line with the terminology used by Police Scotland and the Department for Transport.

The status of the statistics

Most of the data used in this publication were extracted from Transport Scotland's Road Collisions statistical database on the **20 September 2024**. The statistics given here may differ slightly from those published elsewhere (e.g. provisional figures published in *Key Reported Road Casualty Statistics* in May) because they were extracted on a different date and wouldn't incorporate any later changes (e.g. due to late returns or late corrections). Any late returns will be incorporated into the next available publication.

The information held in Transport Scotland's Road Collision Statistics database was collected by the police following each collision, and subsequently reported to Transport Scotland. Transport Scotland's statistics may differ slightly from the local authorities as changes or corrections that local authorities may have made, for use at local level, to their own data may not always be accounted for in the Transport Scotland database.

In mid-2019, Police Scotland started to use a new collision recording system. The introduction of this new system has changed the way casualty severity is recorded, making direct comparisons difficult. For the years 2004 to 2019, this publication uses figures for slight casualties, slight collisions, serious casualties, and serious collisions that have been adjusted in order to maximise comparability with figures for the most recent years. This does mean that the figures for serious and slight collision and casualties are not comparable prior to 2004. More information is set out in the following section.

Changes in severity reporting and 'adjustments' to figures

In the summer of 2019, Police Scotland started using CRASH (Collision Reporting and Sharing), an injury-based reporting system, for recording the data that feeds this publication. Before the introduction of CRASH, police officers would use their own judgement, based on official guidance, to determine the severity of the casualty (either 'slight' or 'serious'). CRASH is an injury-based recording system where the

officer records the most severe injury for the casualty. The system then automatically converts the injuries to a severity level from 'slight' to 'serious'.

Since CRASH removes the uncertainty that arises from officers having to assess the severity of casualties based on their own judgement, severity information collected in this way is expected to be more accurate and consistent. However, the move to an injury-based reporting system tends to result in more casualties being classified as 'serious', which means that the number of serious and slight casualties are not comparable with earlier years.

The Department for Transport has carried out analysis which adjusts historical figures so that they reflect the numbers that would have been reported if CRASH had been used to record the casualty severity in those years. Within this publication, these adjusted figures are used to report on serious casualties, serious collisions, slight casualties, and slight collision for the years 2004 to 2019. This means that the adjusted figures for 2004 to 2019 are comparable with figures for 2020 and 2021, but not with figures for years prior to 2004.

As the adjustments relate only to serious and slight casualties, figures for total casualties and fatalities are unaffected

More information on the methodology used to produce these adjusted figures is available from the [Department for Transport](#).

The years covered in the tables

Some tables present a time series so that any trends can be identified. However, more detailed tables provide figures in the form of 5-year annual averages (e.g. 2019-2023), and do not present figures for the latest single year. This smooths out levels of variation often present with low numbers of collisions and casualties. If readers require versions of the detailed tables for single years, these can be provided on request.

Road casualty reduction targets

In many of the tables, the latest figures are compared with the annual averages for the period 2014-18. This is to allow comparison against the baseline period for the Scotland's 2030 casualty reduction targets published within the [Road Safety Framework to 2030](#).

This publication discusses these targets in more detail, monitoring progress and exploring differences between modes of travel. Due to the changes in casualty severity recording, progress against some of the targets is measured using the

adjusted figures produced by the Department for Transport, which show what historical figures would have looked like if the CRASH system had been used previously.

Estimates of the total volume of road traffic

Some tables include estimates of traffic volumes, or collision or casualty rates calculated from them. The traffic estimates were provided by the Department for Transport (DfT), which produces estimates of the total volume of road traffic for Scotland and for other parts of Great Britain. Care should be taken when using these estimates and a detailed description can be found in Appendix D of this publication.

Review of Stats 19

National & local government police forces across Great Britain work closely to achieve an agreed standard for the system for collecting & processing statistics on road collisions involving personal injury. The statistics are subject to regular reviews as part of the continued drive to improve quality and meet user needs whilst minimising the burden of collection.

The most recent STATS19 review started in autumn 2018 and has made a number of recommendations on changes to STATS19 going forward. These were based on evidence and detailed discussion with the review group.

Following this review, the changes to the data collection that were anticipated to effect in calendar year 2024.

In practice, these changes were implemented on the collision recording system used by Police Scotland in November 2023, meaning that collisions entered after this date were entered using the new format of the 19 data collection.

Key recommendations can be found in the full [STATS19 review report](#).

For further information please contact: STATS19REVIEW@dft.gov.uk

Office for Statistics Regulation compliance check

In 2019 and 2020, these statistics were assessed against the Code of Practice for Official Statistics by the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR). The outcome of the review was that these statistics should continue to be classified as National Statistics (now referred to as Accredited Official Statistics). More information about the findings of the review is available on the [OSR website](#).

Further details on the role of the UKSA and the assessment process can also be found via [the OSR website](#).

Other Scottish Transport Statistics

Reported Road Casualties Scotland is one of a series of Transport Statistics publications. Details of other Transport Scotland statistics can be found at <http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/analysis/statistics>.

Key articles from previous editions of Reported Road Casualties Scotland

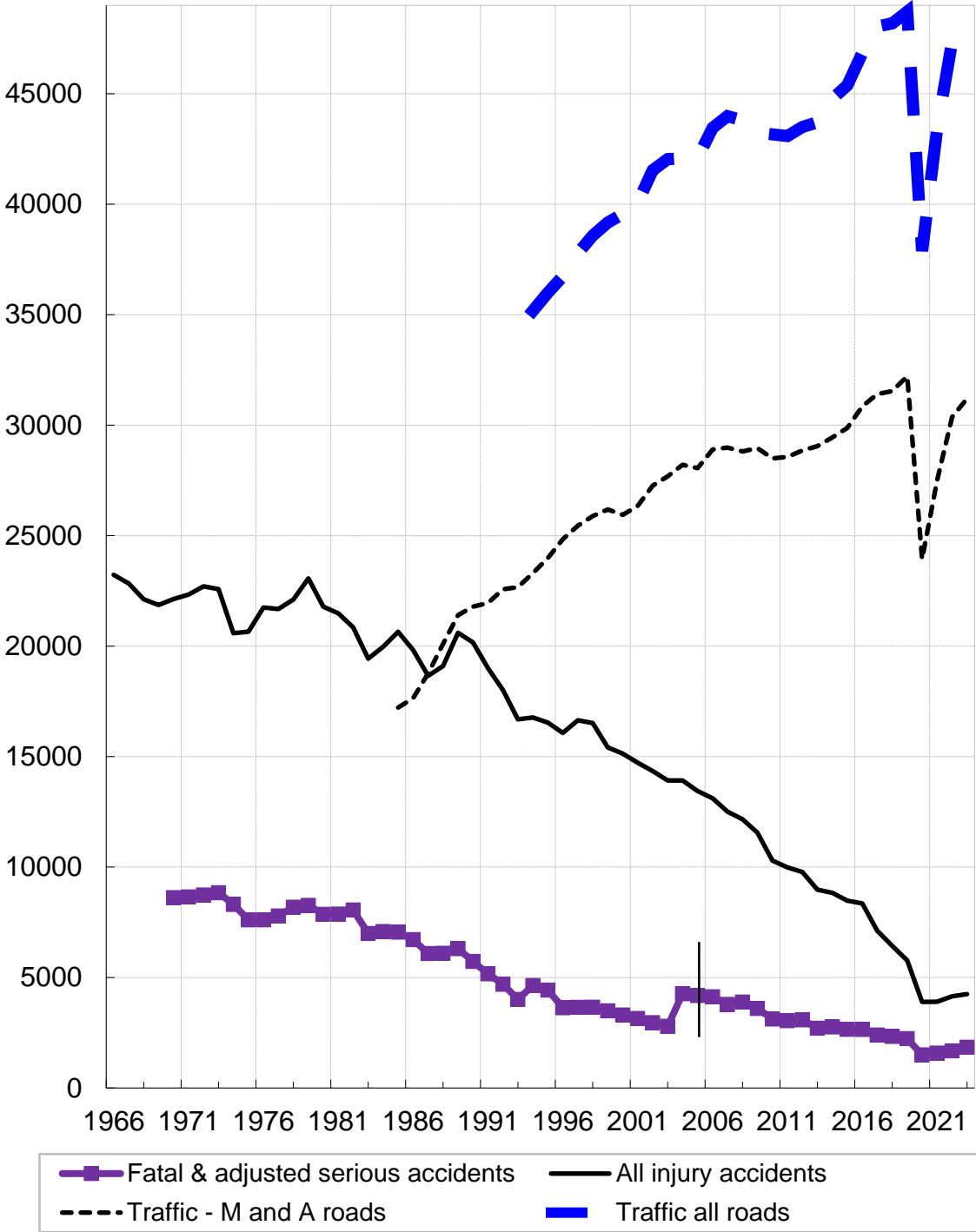
Article	Version of RRCS where article can be found
Estimating under- counting of Road Casualties in Scotland	RRCS 2010 http://bit.ly/2xSFW9v
Priorities in Scotland’s Road Safety Framework to 2020- An assessment of relative levels and trends	RRCS 2011 http://bit.ly/2yHMoz6
Comparison of police casualty statistics with other sources	RRCS 2011 http://bit.ly/2yHMoz6
Vulnerable road users	RRCS 2014 http://bit.ly/2yqZLrx
In Focus: Pedal and motorcycle casualties	RRCS 2013 http://bit.ly/2yXQcxb
Road User Factsheet	RRCS 2017 https://bit.ly/2IVRkbl
Casualty rates for local authority roads by local authority area, and the likely range of random year-to-year variation in these figures	RRCS 2018 https://bit.ly/2SWOGZg

We welcome suggestions for improving the usefulness of the data and the publications. Comments and enquiries should be sent to the address overleaf.

Andrew Paterson
Statistician
Transport Statistics
Transport Scotland
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh EH6 6QQ
[Email: Transtat@transport.gov.scot](mailto:Transtat@transport.gov.scot)

Figure 1 - Reported collisions by severity 1966 to 2023

Figure 1 Reported accidents by severity. 1966 to 2023



Note for Figure 1: Due to changes in the way casualty severities are recorded, figures for serious collisions prior to 2004 are not comparable with later years.

Trends in the reported numbers of Injury Road Collisions and Casualties

Main Points

Table 1 shows the long-term trends in the reported numbers of injury road collisions and casualties, the population of Scotland, the number of vehicles licensed, the length of the road network and the volume of traffic. Information on the severities of the collisions, and of the injuries suffered by the casualties, is provided in Table 2. The numbers of injury road collisions were first recorded separately in 1966, while the numbers of casualties are available back to 1938, with annual collection of data starting in 1950. Figures 1 to 7 illustrate the trends in the reported numbers of injury road collisions and casualties including (in some cases) indications of the likely range of random year-to-year variations.

As mentioned in the introduction, injury collisions not reported by the public to the police won't appear in the returns. Note that each collision will result in one or more casualties. For example a fatal collision could result in two fatalities and a serious injury which would count as one collision and 3 casualties.

As outlined in the Supporting Information section, Police Scotland's move to CRASH, an injury-based reporting system, has resulted in changes in severity reporting for serious and slight casualties and collisions. For years 2004-2019, this publication uses figures that have been adjusted for comparability. Table 2 provides a comparison between the adjusted figures and the figures 'as recorded'.

Collisions

- In 2023, there were 151 fatal collisions, the same as 2022.
- In 2023 there were 1,696 serious injury collisions.
- In 2023 there were 2,404 slight injury collisions.

Casualties

- There were 155 people killed in road collisions in Scotland in 2023, 16 less than in 2022.
- 1,944 people were seriously injured in road collisions in 2023.

- 3,730 people were slightly injured in road collisions in 2023.
- There were a total number of 5,829 casualties in 2023 – 186 (3%) more than in 2022.

Figures for casualties and collisions have increased since the lows seen during the pandemic years of 2020 and 2021. All figures are lower than they were prior to the pandemic.

Reported Collisions

In 1966 there were just over 23,200 injury road collisions and the annual total remained around this level until 1973. Numbers then dropped considerably in 1974 and 1975 to about 20,600. This was the time of a fuel crisis when a national speed limit of 50 mph was introduced and the volume of traffic in Great Britain fell by 3% in 1974. Collision numbers increased again in 1976 and reached a peak of nearly 23,100 in 1979.

In the early 1980s numbers began to fall, and did so particularly sharply in 1983 when the total number of injury collisions fell by 7% in a single year to 19,400, serious collisions fell by 13% to just over 6,400, and fatal collisions fell by 11% to 568. The 1981 Transport Act came into force in 1983 and changed the law relating to drink driving, with the introduction of evidential breath testing. Compulsory front seatbelt wearing and new procedures for licensing learner motorcyclists were also introduced in 1983. After 1983 the total number of injury collisions increased again to over 20,600 in 1985, and the number of serious collisions rose to just over 6,500 while fatal collisions continued a downward trend.

By 1987 the total number of injury collisions had fallen to under 18,700, but in 1989 it rose to just over 20,600. 1989 was the most recent peak in the total number of injury collisions. Since 1989, the total number of injury collisions has fallen in 28 out of 32 years, and in 2020 it was at the lowest level ever recorded. The 2022 figure of 4,134 was 226 more than in 2021.

Since the late 1980s, the number of **fatal collisions** has fallen considerably e.g. from 517 in 1987 to 135 in 2021. For **serious collisions**, the trend has also been downwards. The number of **slight collisions** did not share such a clear downward trend between 1970 and 1998, oscillating between 12,000 and 15,000 with a recent peak level of 14,443 in 1990. However, they fell below 12,000 in 1999. The 2023 figure was 2,404.

Reported Casualties

As the numbers of collisions have fallen, so have the numbers of casualties. Therefore, this section does not repeat the previous section's detailed analysis of how the numbers have changed. Details can be found in Table 2.

Numbers killed

In 2023 there were 155 people killed in road collisions in Scotland, 16 less than in 2022. With a few exceptions, figures fell in each year since 1978, showing a clear, steady long-term downward trend, particularly between 1982 and 1994. Since then, figures have been fluctuating around a less pronounced downwards trend. The number of fatalities in 2023 was lower than in 2019, the last year pre-pandemic.

Numbers seriously injured

In 2023 there were 1,944 people seriously injured in road collisions. The long-term trend shows that the number of serious casualties peaked in the early 1970s at around 10,000 and has generally fallen since the early 1980s. The long-term downward trend appeared to level off at around 4,050 in the mid to late nineties, but the downward trend subsequently resumed. The number of people seriously injured in 2023 increased by 9% on 2022.

Numbers slightly injured

In 2023 there were 3,730 people slightly injured. Between 1970 and 1990, the figures fluctuated between 17,000 and 21,000. The fall between 1990 and 1995 was followed by an apparent levelling-off at around 17-18,000 in each of the years from 1996 to 1999. However, 2004 to 2021 showed consecutive falls continuing the downward trend. The number of people slightly injured in road collisions in 2023 increased by 1% on 2022.

Total numbers of casualties

In 2023 there was a total of 5,829 casualties, 186 (3%) more than in 2022 (the fourth lowest number recorded). Between about 1970 and 1990, the figures fluctuated around a general downward trend. Subsequently, the casualty figures fell markedly from the level of the most recent short-term peak (over 27,000 in both 1989 and 1990), before appearing to level off. However, the downward trend resumed from 1999 to 2020.

Reported Collisions by road type and severity

Table 4 shows separate figures for trunk roads and local authority roads. Trunk roads accounted for a minority of the total number of collisions in 2023: 31% of fatal collisions, 21% of serious collisions, and 22% of all collisions. The trunk road network's share of collision numbers in previous years were broadly similar.

Collision trends for different types of road will be affected by developments in the surrounding area (new city and town bypasses, construction of new roads with high average traffic flows etc.) Therefore, figures do *not* provide an accurate measure of the comparative change in the road safety performance of different types of road.

Several changes were made to the trunk road network with effect from 1st April 1996. Appendix E refers to them, and explains why the 1994-98 averages for trunk roads and for local authority major roads have been calculated by counting collisions which occurred prior to 1st April 1996 on the basis of whether they occurred on roads which were part of the post- 1 April 1996 trunk road network.

Collision rates

Collision rates showing the number of collisions per 100 million vehicle kilometres are contained in parts (b) and (c) of table 5. These are calculated by dividing the numbers of collisions on each type of road by the estimated volumes of traffic on those roads, which were provided by the Department for Transport, and which are available for all types of road with effect from 1993. The five-year average collision rates were calculated by dividing the total number of collisions which occurred in each five-year period by the total of the estimated volumes of traffic for the same period, rather than by calculating the averages of the individual collision rates for the five years.

Collision rates have fallen markedly since the early 1990s. The overall fatal collision rate has dropped from 0.63 per 100 million vehicle kilometres in 2005 to 0.32 in 2023 and the overall collision rate (all severities) reduced from 31.93 per 100 million vehicle kilometres to 8.73. Motorways had consistently lower collision rates than A roads. Leaving aside the relatively low rate for fatal collisions, minor roads (taken together as a group) tend to have higher collision rates than major roads, and collision rates tend to be higher for built-up roads (roads with speed limits of up to 40 mph) than for non built-up roads (ones with higher speed limits).

Part C of the table shows that estimated collision rates vary considerably by police force area. Some of this variation may be attributed to the distribution of traffic by road type within individual areas.

Collisions by month by road type

Table 6 refers.

The numbers of injury collisions over the years 2019-2023 were fairly evenly spread throughout the year, with minor peaks in August and November. (Months are standardised to 30 days to allow comparison).

On average, there were 12 fatal collisions per month in the years 2019 to 2023. Over the five year period, the number did not vary greatly between the months: the lowest average was 9, and the highest was 15.

Collisions by light condition and road type

Table 7 refers.

Using annual averages over the period 2019-2023, 6.8% of injury road collisions on non built-up roads in darkness (31 out of 455) resulted in one or more deaths compared with 3.0% of collisions on built-up roads in darkness (22 out of 735) and 5.3% of collisions on non built-up roads in daylight (65 out of 1,220).

Car driver collision rates

Table 18b refers.

This table includes all car drivers involved in injury collisions regardless of whether they were injured or not, on the basis of whatever information is known about their ages and their sex. For example, someone whose sex was known, but whose age was not known, will be included in the all ages total for the appropriate sex. The grand total includes those for whom neither the age nor the sex was known.

As the car driver collision rates shown for each sex and age group are on a per head of population basis, rather than based on the numbers of driving licence holders or on the distance driven, they can provide only a general indication of the relative collision rates for each group. The statistics do *not* provide a measure of the relative risk of each group as car drivers, because they do not take account of the differing levels of car driving by each group.

Age & Gender

Car driver collision rates per head of population vary markedly by age and sex. In 2023, the overall rate was 1.1 collisions per thousand population aged 17+. The peak occurs for males in the 17-25 age group, with a rate of 2.0 per thousand

population in 2023. This rate is nearly twice that of females of the same age (1.1 per thousand in 2023).

The overall male car driver collision rate in 2023 was 1.3 per thousand population; slightly higher than 2022 with rates for all age groups being slightly higher than the previous year except for 26-34 which was slightly lower than 2022. The overall female car driver collision rate in 2023 was 0.9 per thousand population and all age groups showed slight increases from the previous year except for ages 17-25.

Between 2013 and 2023, the male car driver collision rate fell from 2.8 to 1.3 per thousand population, while the female car driver collision rate has declined slowly from 2.1 to 0.9 per thousand in 2023. As a result, the overall, ratio of male to female car driver collision rates has fluctuated between 1.3:1 and 1.5:1 from 2013 and 2023.

Reported casualties by type of road

Table 23 refers.

In 2023, non built-up roads accounted for over two-fifths of the total number of casualties (45%: 2,636 out of 5,829). However, because speeds are higher on non built-up roads than elsewhere (the definition is roads with a speed limit of more than 40mph), they accounted for almost two thirds of those killed (65%: 101 out of 155) and for just under half of the total number of seriously injured (46%: 902 out of 1,944).

Compared with 2013, the fall in the total number of casualties has been 43% for non built-up roads and 54% for those elsewhere. The numbers killed on built-up roads has risen by 15% whereas those on non built-up ones have fallen by 19%. Over the years, some traffic will have been transferred away from built-up roads by the opening of city and town bypasses, and by the construction of non built-up roads with higher average traffic volumes. Therefore, these figures do *not* provide an accurate measure of the comparative change in the road safety performance of built-up and non built-up roads.

Casualties by mode of transport

Table 23 refers.

A total of 3,402 car users were injured in road collisions in 2023, representing 58% of all casualties. Of these car users, 61 died. There were 952 pedestrian casualties (16% of the total), of whom 47 died, 405 pedal cycle casualties (7% of the total), of whom 7 died, and 477 motorcycle casualties (8% of the total), of whom 27 died.

Because of the numbers of car user, pedestrian, pedal cyclist and motorcyclist casualties, the figures for each of these four groups of road users are the subject of separate sections, which follow this one, and are followed by a section on child casualties, which gives details of their modes of transport.

Together, all the modes of transport other than the four mentioned above accounted for 593 casualties in 2023 (10% of the total), and for smaller percentages of the numbers of seriously injured. These included 147 bus and coach users injured in 2023, of whom 43 suffered serious injuries (1 died). There were also 183 casualties who were travelling in light goods vehicles (4 died), 30 people in heavy goods vehicles (2 died), 118 users of taxis (1 died), 7 users of minibuses (none died) and 108 people with another means of transport (5 died).

Car user casualties

A total of 3,402 car users were injured in road collisions in 2023, representing 58% of all casualties. Of these people, a total of 904 were seriously injured, 61 died. Non built-up roads accounted for over a half of all car user casualties (75%: 1,975 out of 2,636). Perhaps because average speeds are higher on non-built up roads, they accounted for much higher percentages of the total numbers of car users who were killed (82%: 50 out of 61) or were seriously injured (66%: 598 out of 902). (see *Table 23*)

The number of car users killed in 2023 was 37 less than the 2022 figure and the total number of casualties of all severities was up by 6%. Since 2013, the number killed has decreased by 31%, and there has been a fall of 51% in the total number of car user casualties. (see *Table 23*)

Looking at the annual average over the years 2019-2023, the casualty rate for 16-22 year old car users was 1.25 per thousand population. This was much higher than the rate for car users in the older age groups, which varied from 0.44 to 1.13 per thousand population. (see *Table 32*)

On average, over the years 2019-2023, 65% of car user fatalities occurred on roads with a speed limit of 60 mph. Such roads accounted for 37% of the total number of car user casualties of all severities, where less casualties occurred on roads with a 30 mph limit (32%). (see *Table 33*)

Adult car users

On weekdays, the peak time for adult car user casualties was from 4pm to 6pm. The 4pm to 5pm average of 219 (the average over the years 2019-2023) was 67% higher than the average of 131 in the morning 8am to 9am peak. (see *Table 28*)

Adult car user casualties varied by month, with fewest in April and most in August. August had 35% more adult car user casualties than April (annual averages over the years 2019-2023; months standardised to 30 days). (see *Table 29*)

Friday had the peak numbers of adult car user casualties over the years 2019-2023 with 18% more than the average daily number of adult car user casualties. (see *Table 30*)

Pedestrian casualties

There were 952 pedestrian casualties in 2023: 16% of all casualties. Of these, 434 were seriously injured and 47 died. Presumably due to their greater vulnerability, a higher proportion of the total number of people who were killed (30%) and seriously injured (22%) were pedestrians. In addition, 46% of pedestrian casualties were seriously injured (434 out of 952) compared with serious for all modes of 33% (1,944 out of 5,829). 92% of pedestrian casualties occurred on built-up roads (878 out of 952) in 2023. (see *Table 23*)

The overall number of pedestrian casualties was 4% higher than 2022. Since 2013, the number of pedestrians killed has risen by 9 and there has been a 45% reduction in the total number of pedestrian casualties. Looking at the annual average for the period 2019 to 2023, the 12-15 age-group had the highest 'all severities' pedestrian casualty rates (0.52 per thousand population). (see *Tables 23 & 32*)

The overall pedestrian 'all severities' casualty rate for males was 0.19 per thousand population, compared with 0.15 per thousand for females, using the averages for the period 2019 to 2023. (see *Table 34*)

Adult pedestrian casualties

On average in the period 2019 to 2023, the peak time for adult pedestrian casualties during the week was from 4pm to 6pm; at weekends it was from 5pm to 7pm. (see *Table 28*)

November and December were the peak months for adult pedestrian casualties, with each having 42% and 44% respectively more than the monthly average. Adult pedestrian casualties in the four winter months, November to February, were 28% more than the monthly average (annual averages over the years 2019-2023; months standardised to 30 days). (see *Table 29*)

Friday has the highest numbers of adult pedestrian casualties; 19% more than the daily average over the period 2019 to 2023. (see *Table 30*)

Pedal Cycle Casualties

There were 405 pedal cycle casualties in 2023, 75 less than the previous year. The number of seriously injured pedal cycle casualties in 2023 was 158. There were 7 pedal cycle fatalities in 2023, 5 more than 2022. Since 2013 there has been a 54% decrease in all pedal cycle casualties and the number of fatalities has fluctuated between 2 and 13. In 2023, 83% of pedal cycle casualties were on built-up roads (see *Table 23*). It should be noted that pedal cycle traffic is estimated to have seen a decrease of 5% in 2023 compared with 2022.

In terms of the averages for the period 2019 to 2023, the pedal cycle casualty rate per head of population was highest for those aged 23-25 (0.17 per thousand population). Of course, it must be remembered that, as noted earlier, per capita casualty rates do not provide a measure of the relative risk, because they do not take account of the levels of usage of (in this case) pedal cycles. (see *Table 32*)

Adult pedal cycle casualties

Using the averages for the period 2019 to 2023, on weekdays, the peak numbers of adult pedal cycle casualties occurred from 4 pm to 6 pm and from 8 am to 9 am. At weekends the numbers were smaller, but appear to peak between 11 am to 1 pm. (see *Table 28*)

The peak months of the year for adult pedal cycle casualties were June and August which were 21-31% more than the monthly average (2019-2023 annual averages standardised to 30 days). (see *Table 29*)

The day of the week with the peak numbers of adult pedal cycle casualties was Tuesday, 17% higher than the daily average, over the years 2019-2023. There were substantially fewer adult pedal cycle casualties on Sunday, 31% less than the daily average. (see *Table 30*)

Motorcyclist casualties

A total of 477 motorcyclists were injured in road collisions in 2023, representing 8% of all casualties. Of these, 292 were seriously injured and 27 died. 53% of all motorcyclist casualties occurred on non built-up roads but (perhaps because of their higher average speeds) such roads accounted for 58% of those seriously injured, and all of those killed. (see *Table 23*)

The number of motorcyclist casualties in 2023 was 2% higher than in the previous year and the number killed increased by 2. The total number of motorcycle casualties rose each year from 1999 to a peak in 2001; since then, it has tended to

decline. As a result, the figure for all casualties in 2023 was 38% lower than in 2013. Four more motorcyclists died in 2023 than in 2013. (see *Table 23*)

On average, over the years 2019 to 2023, the motorcyclist casualty rate was highest for the 16-22 and 23-29 age groups (0.15 and 0.14 per thousand population respectively); other age-groups had smaller casualty rates. (see *Table 32*)

Looking at the averages for the period 2019 to 2023, the peak time of day for adult motorcyclist casualties was 4pm to 6pm on weekdays (see *Table 28*), the peak months of the year were June (61 casualties) and August (63 casualties, amidst a general peak from May to September (see *Table 29*) and there were more casualties from Friday to Sunday than on any of the other days (see *Table 30*).

Child (0-15) casualties

There were 582 child casualties in 2023, representing 10% of the total number of casualties of all ages. Of the child casualties, 178 were seriously injured, and five died (see *Table 24*).

There were two more children killed in 2023 than in 2022. The total number of child casualties decreased by 5 on 2022. Since 2013, the number of children killed has decreased by four. (see *Table A and Table 25*)

In terms of the averages for the period 2019 to 2023, on weekdays, the peak time for child casualties was from 3 pm to 6 pm, with 42% of all weekday casualties in those three hours. A further 19% occurred in the three hours between 6 pm and 9 pm. There was another peak in the morning, between 8 am and 9 am. There was no real clear peak at weekends: the numbers of casualties were very broadly the same each hour from 12 noon to 7 pm (see *Table 27*)

August was the peak month for child casualties, with 24% more than in an average month. June and October had 16% more than an average month. (2019-2023 annual averages standardised to 30 days). (see *Table 29*)

Using the averages for 2019 to 2023, Friday was the peak day of the week for child casualties, with 28% more than an average day. Sunday, on the other hand, had 21% less than an average day. (see *Table 30*)

Child (0-15) casualties by mode of transport

In 2023, there were 263 child pedestrian casualties. They accounted for 28% of all pedestrian casualties of all ages (263 out of 952). Of the child pedestrian casualties, 107 were seriously injured and 2 died. (see *Table 24*)

There were 34 child pedal cycle casualties in 2023 (8% of the total of 405 pedal cycle casualties of all ages). The child pedal cycle casualties included 8 who were seriously injured, one died. (see *Table 24*)

In 2023, there were 238 child casualties in cars, 8% of the total number of car user casualties of all ages (238 out of 3,520). Of the child casualties in cars, 45 were seriously injured (two died). (see *Tables 23 and 25*)

Child (0-15) casualty rates (per head of population)

Children's casualty rates (per head of population) increase with age: using the averages for the years 2019-2023 taken together, for children aged 0-4 the rate was 0.32 per thousand population, whereas it was 0.66 per thousand for those aged 5-11 and for the 12-15 age group it was 0.99 per thousand. The pedestrian casualty rate for younger children (0-4 years) was 33% of that for 5-11 and 19% of the 12-15 year old rate. (see *Table 32*)

The pedestrian casualty rate for boys in the 0-4 age group was more than twice that for girls. The difference between the sexes was even more pronounced in driver or rider casualty rates. (see *Table 34*)

The overall child pedestrian casualty rate at 0.30 per thousand child population was twice the corresponding rate for adult pedestrian casualties. (see *Table 32*)

Emergency hospital admissions for Road Traffic Collisions, by ethnic group

A new table U has been added to the Excel data tables which provides a time series showing the number of emergency hospital admissions for injury collisions by ethnic group.

Motorists, breath testing and drink-driving

Breath testing of drivers

Tables 19, 20, and 21 refer.

These tables cover all motorists who were known to be involved in injury road collisions (excluding, for example, those untraced drivers involved in hit and run collisions). Here, a motorist is defined as the driver or the rider of a motor vehicle (including, for example, motorcyclists)

In 2023, 58% of motorists involved in injury collisions were asked for a breath test (this ranged from 43% to 71% across the police force divisions). The breath test proved positive (or the motorist refused to take the test) for 4.1% of those drivers breathalysed. This represented 2.4% of the total number of motorists involved in collisions (including those who were not asked for a breath test). Although there was a general downward trend in these percentages, in the last couple of years these have been rising as seen in Table 19.

Tables 20 and 21 show the time and day of the collision (Table 20) and for a number of years (Table 21). Table 21 shows that, in 2023, of the 165 positive / refused cases, 31% occurred between 9 pm and 3 am (15% between 9 pm and midnight, plus 16% between midnight and 3 am). Table 20 shows that, using 2019 to 2023 averages, the number of positive / refused cases, expressed as a percentage of motorists involved in collisions, was highest at 23% between midnight and 6 am, but varied depending upon the day of the week, from 7% (the average for 3 am to 6 am for Monday-Thursday) to 13% (3 am to 6 am on Sundays). Table 20 shows that, although the period from 9 pm to midnight had the highest number of positive / refused cases, the equivalent percentages were not as high, because between 9 pm and midnight there were many more motorists involved in collisions than between midnight and 3 am.

Drink-drive collisions and casualties

Table 22 shows the estimates (made by the Department for Transport) of the numbers of injury road collisions involving illegal alcohol levels. They are higher than the number of drivers with positive breath test results (or who refused to take the breath test) as they include allowances for the numbers of cases where drivers were not breath tested because of the severity of their injuries, or because they left the scene of the collision. Information about blood alcohol levels of road users who died within 12 hours of being injured in a road collision is supplied by the Procurators Fiscal.

The estimates show that the numbers of drink-drive collisions and casualties fell by 55% and 47% respectively between 2012 and 2022 (the latest year for which estimates are available): from a rounded estimate of 440 to roughly 200 (collisions) and from around 580 to some 310 (casualties). While fluctuating from year to year, the number of people killed as a result of drink-drive collisions is estimated to have fallen by 20 from 10 in 2012 to 30 in 2022. The adjusted number of serious casualties is estimated to have dropped by 100% (from roughly 180 in 2012 to some 90 in 2022).

Comparisons of Scottish figures against those of other countries

Casualty rates: against England & Wales

Tables C to F refer.

Historically, killed casualty rates per head of population in Scotland have been above those for England & Wales, whereas the serious and total casualty rate is usually lower in Scotland than in England & Wales. In 2023, Scotland's casualty rates were 17% higher (killed), 18% lower (serious) and 49% lower (all severities).

Child rates

In 2023, the Scottish rates were 3% higher (serious) than those in England and Wales and 34% lower (all severities). In the case of serious and all severities this represented an improvement in Scotland's figures relative to England & Wales (compared with the 2014-18 average).

Due to the relatively small number of fatalities a 5 year average is used for comparison here. In the period 2019-2023, child fatality rates in Scotland were on average 28% higher than England and Wales, however, in two of the five years the rates were lower.

It should be noted that the ratio of the fatality rates for Scotland and for England and Wales can fluctuate markedly from year to year, particularly for the child fatality rates due to the relatively small numbers in Scotland (which may be subject to year-to-year changes which are large in percentage terms). Therefore, subsequent paragraphs do not refer to the fatality rates for children using different modes of transport. In addition, it should be remembered the rates for some other sub-groups may be affected by year-to-year fluctuations: for example, the numbers are relatively small for most categories of child killed and seriously injured casualties in Scotland.

Mode of transport

The casualty rates of car users in Scotland have typically been higher than those of England & Wales for killed and seriously injured casualties, while for all severities the rate has been much lower. In 2023, Scotland's car user fatality rate was 2% higher than that of England & Wales, the seriously injured rate was the same and the all severity car user rate was 46% lower. For child car users, the seriously injured rate was 24% higher in Scotland and the all severities rate was 34% less than that of England and Wales.

In 2023, the pedestrian killed rate per thousand was 46% higher in Scotland than England & Wales, and the serious and all severities rates were 15% and 42% lower respectively. The child pedestrian casualty rates in Scotland were higher for killed (9%) and seriously injured (11%) but lower for all severities (24%) compared to those for England & Wales.

Pedal cyclists casualty rates (all ages) in Scotland were substantially lower than in England & Wales in 2023 for seriously injured (54% lower) and for all severities (69% lower). The child pedal cycle casualty serious rate was 68% lower and the all severities rate 73% lower in Scotland than in England & Wales.

Further information about the numbers of casualties in England and Wales, and for Great Britain as a whole, can be found in [Reported road casualties Great Britain 2023](#) which is published by the Department for Transport.

Road deaths: International comparison 2022 & 2023 (provisional)

Tables G and H refer.

Introduction

This section compares Scotland's road death rates in 2022 and 2023 (provisional) with the fatality rates of some countries in Western Europe and some developed countries world-wide. The comparisons involve a total of up to 42 countries (including Scotland, and count *each* of the UK, Great Britain, England, Wales and Northern Ireland as individual countries). The fatality rates were calculated on a per capita basis (the statistics given are rates per million population), and the countries were then listed in order of their fatality rates in Table G sections (a), (b), (c) and (d). In cases where two countries appear to have the same rate, the order takes account of decimal places which are not shown in the tables. A table of car user fatality rates which were calculated on a per motor vehicle basis is no longer shown due to a lack of consistent data.

Tables G and H were provided by the Department for Transport, which obtained the figures for foreign countries from the [International Road Traffic and Accident Database \(IRTAD\)](#).

In accordance with the commonly agreed international definition, most countries define a fatality as being due to a road collision if death occurs within 30 days of the collision. However, the official road collision statistics of some countries limit the fatalities to those occurring within shorter periods after the collision. The numbers of deaths, and the death rates, which appear in the IRTAD tables take account of the

adjustment factors used by the Economic Commission for Europe and the European Conference of Ministers of Transport to represent standardised 30-day numbers of deaths.

Latest Results

In 2023, Scotland's provisional overall road death rate of 28 per million population was the sixth lowest of the 37 countries surveyed (counting each of Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland as separate countries, but *not* counting the overall GB and UK figures). Figures for tables G2 and H have not been updated this year for 2022 due to difficulties obtaining data from IRTAD.

Pedestrians

In 2021, Scotland's pedestrian fatality rate was 7 per million population. Scotland ranked 20 of the 33 countries for which figures are available (again counting Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland separately, and again *not* counting the GB and UK figures).

Car Users

When the car user fatality rate is calculated on a per capita basis, Scotland has a car user fatality rate of 7 per million population: the twentieth lowest of 33 countries, again *not* counting the GB and UK figures.

Age

The fatality rates per head of population for up to 35 countries (including Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland as separate countries, but not counting the overall GB and UK figures) are shown, for each of four broad age-groups, in Table H. Again, the ordering takes account of decimal places not shown in the table. The Scottish rate is the tenth lowest for casualties aged 0-14. It was the fourteenth lowest for those aged 15-24, tenth lowest for those aged 25-64 and twelfth lowest for 65+ (in each case, *not* counting the overall GB and UK figures).

International comparisons of road safety are based on road death rates, as this is the only basis for which there is an international standard definition. As indicated above, the OECD IRTAD tables provide comparable figures for each country, after making adjustments to the data for countries which do not collect their figures on the standard basis. One should not try to compare different countries' overall road collision casualty rates (i.e. the total numbers killed or injured, relative to the population of each country) because there is no internationally-adopted standard definition of an injury road collision. There are considerable differences between

countries in the coverage of their injury road collision statistics. For example, many countries count only collisions which result in someone being admitted to hospital – so their figures would not include the kinds of collision which, in Britain, are classified as causing only slight injuries or certain types of serious injury. Because many countries' definitions of injury road collisions are much narrower than the definition used in the UK, their reported numbers of injury road collisions will appear low relative to ours – so comparing the reported numbers of people injured in road collisions may provide a misleading impression of different countries' road safety records.

Casualty Reduction Targets: Scotland's Road Safety Framework to 2030

Introduction

Transport Scotland has published a [Road Safety Framework to 2030](#). The following section provides information on the progress made towards the four main casualty reduction targets outlined in the framework. Each reduction target is assessed against a baseline of the 2014-2018 average.

Target	2030 target % reduction
People killed	50%
People seriously injured	50%
Children (aged < 16) killed	60%
Children (aged < 16) seriously injured	60%

As outlined previously, the number of serious and slight casualties cannot be directly compared to previously recorded figures due to changes in severity reporting.

Progress against the serious casualty reduction targets are therefore based on adjusted figures.

To illustrate the reductions necessary the following table shows the 2014 to 2018 baseline, the latest position, as well as the level of casualties inferred by the 2030 targets.

	2014-2018 average	2023	2030 target
People killed	174	155	87
People seriously injured	2,728	1,944	1,364
Children (aged < 16) killed (3 year average)	6	4	3
Children (aged < 16) seriously injured	259	178	155

Charts showing performance are presented in figure 8. More detail about the calculation of these indicative lines is included in the methodology of assessment section.

Summary of Progress

The 2023 figures show:

- 155 people were reported as killed in 2023, 11 per cent (19) below the 2014-2018 average of 174.
- 1,944 people were reported as seriously injured in 2023, 29 per cent (784) below the 2014-2018 average of 2,728.
- 5 children were reported as killed in 2023, meaning the average for the 2021-2023 period was 4 a year, this is 23 per cent (2) below the 2014-2018 average of 6.
- 178 children were reported as seriously injured in 2023, 31 per cent (81) below the 2014-2018 average of 259.

Figure 8 shows progress towards the casualty reduction targets for 2023.

Figure 8 (A) - Reported casualties killed

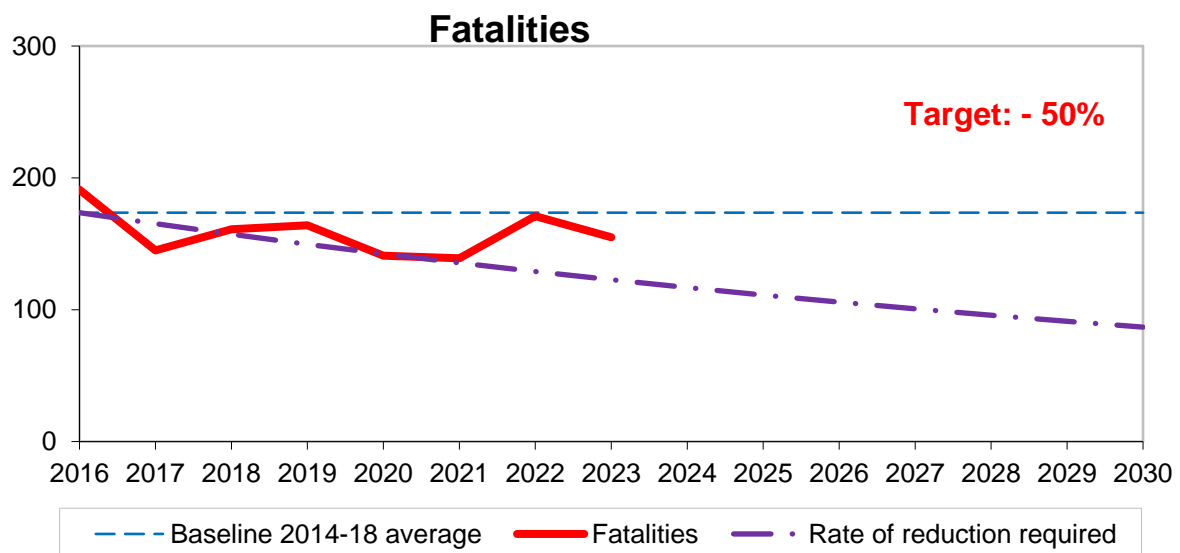


Figure 8 (B) - Reported seriously injured

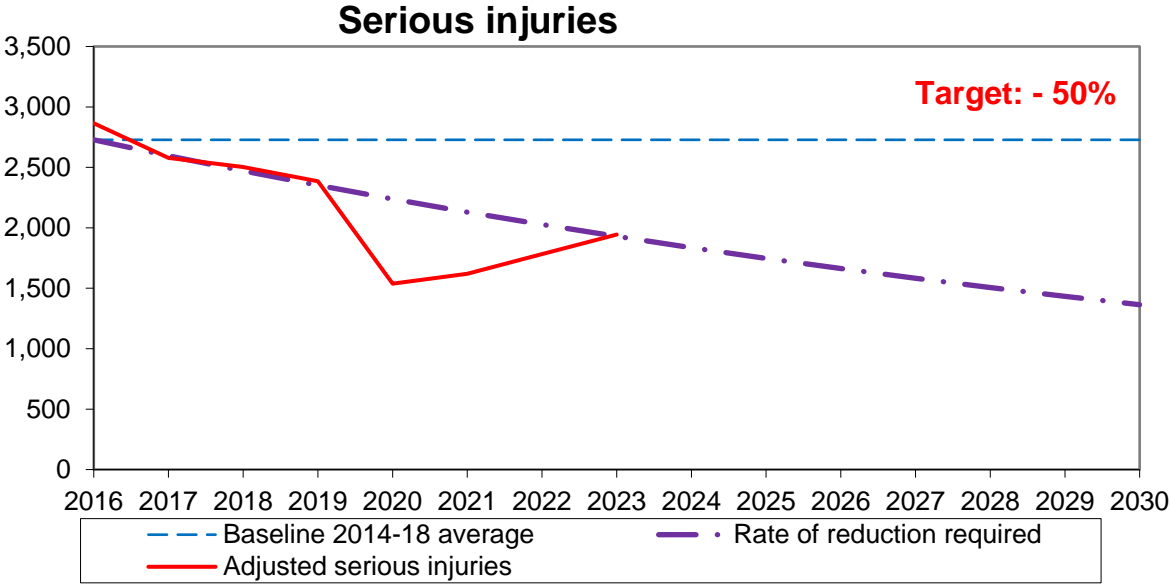


Figure 8 (C) - Reported children killed

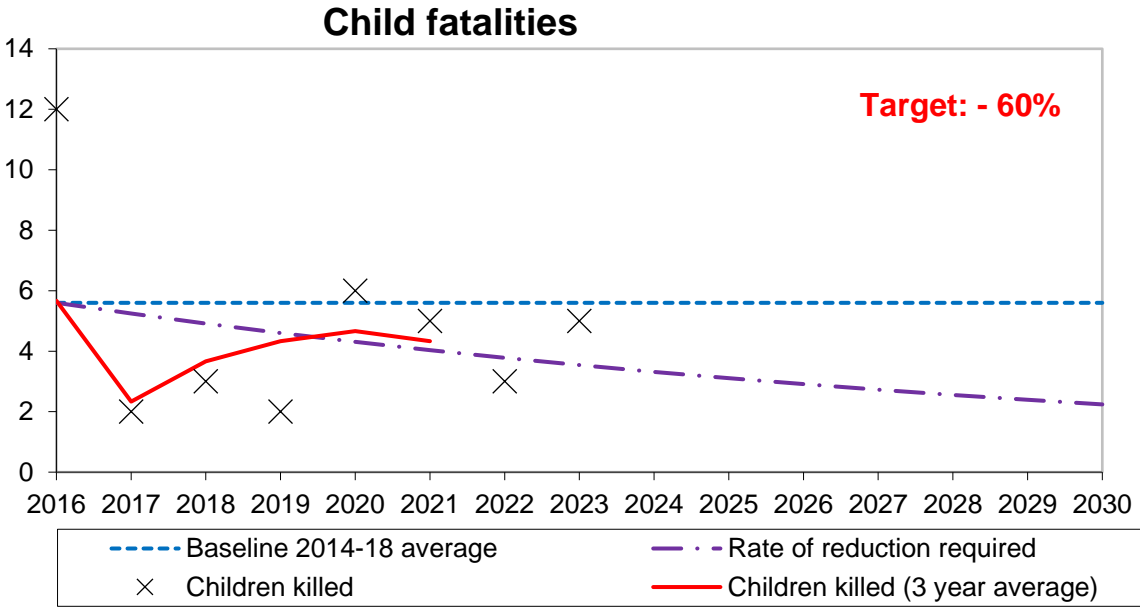
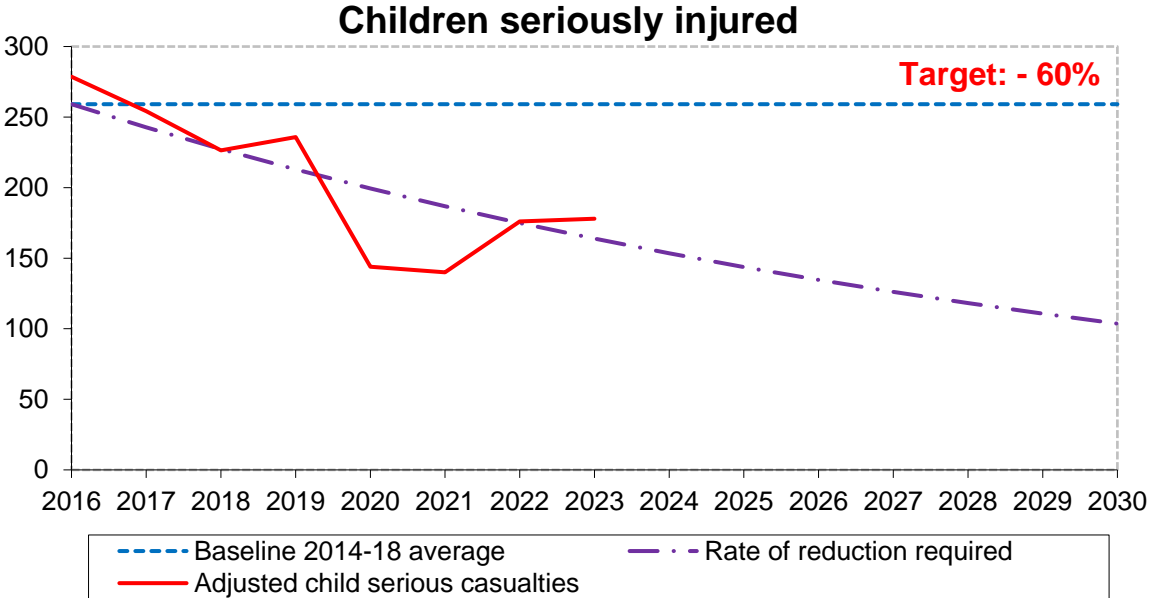


Figure 8 (D) - Reported child seriously Injured casualties



Commentary

Numbers killed

There were 155 people killed in 2023, an 11% reduction from the 2014-18 baseline average.

Figure 8(A) shows that this reduction is not on track to meet the framework target for 2030 (a reduction of 50% from 2014-18 baseline).

Numbers Seriously Injured

There were 1,944 serious injuries in 2023, a 29% reduction since the 2014-18 baseline level.

Figure 8(B) shows that this reduction is not on track to meet the framework target for 2030 (a reduction of 50% from 2014-18 baseline).

Children killed

Due to the relatively small numbers involved and the impact of year-to-year fluctuations this target is measured using a three-year average. An average of 4 children a year were killed in the 2021-2023 period, a 23% reduction from the 2014-2018 baseline.

Figure 8(C) shows that this reduction is not on track to meet the framework target for 2030 (a reduction of 60% from 2014-18 baseline).

Children seriously injured

There were 178 child serious injuries in 2023, a 33% reduction since the adjusted 2014-18 baseline level.

Figure 8(D) shows that the reduction is not currently on track to meet the framework target for 2030 (a reduction of 60% from 2014-18 baseline).

Other statistics for monitoring progress

Table 40 shows the baseline figures for each local authority area relating to the targets for the numbers killed (separately for trunk roads, local authority roads and all roads), along with the corresponding figures for each of the past ten years and the latest five years' averages. Table 42 shows figures for each Police Force division related to all killed and children killed.

Method for assessing progress towards the casualty reduction targets

One way of assessing progress towards the targets is to compare actual casualty numbers in each year with an indicative line that starts at the baseline figure in 2016 (mid-point of the 2014 to 2018 average) and falls, by a constant percentage reduction in each subsequent year, to the target for 2030. Other approaches could have been used: there are many ways of producing lines that indicate how casualty numbers might fall fairly steadily to the targets for 2030.

The method adopted to produce the indicative target lines shown in Figure 8 involves a constant percentage reduction in each year after 2016 to 2030. The resulting indicative target lines represent the percentages of the baseline averages which are shown in the table below. They are not straight lines, because of the compounding over the years effect of constant annual percentage reductions (to two decimal places, the falls are: 4.83% per annum for both killed and serious to meet the 2030 target. For both children killed and seriously injured casualties the fall is 6.34%.

Table 1a Constant percentage reductions needed to achieve 2030 targets

	Killed and Serious (50% reduction)		Child killed and serious (60% reduction)	
	% baseline (milestone from 2016)	% reduction from baseline (milestone)	% baseline (milestone from 2016)	% reduction from baseline (milestone)
2016	100%		100%	
2017	95.17%	4.83%	93.66%	6.34%
2018	90.57%	9.43%	87.73%	12.27%
2019	86.20%	13.80%	82.17%	17.83%
2020	82.03%	17.97%	76.97%	23.03%
2021	78.07%	21.93%	72.09%	27.91%
2022	74.30%	25.70%	67.52%	32.48%
2023	70.71%	29.29%	63.25%	36.75%
2024	67.30%	32.70%	59.24%	40.76%
2025	64.04%	35.96%	55.49%	44.51%
2026	60.95%	39.05%	51.97%	48.03%
2027	58.01%	41.99%	48.68%	51.32%
2028	55.20%	44.80%	45.59%	54.41%
2029	52.54%	47.46%	42.71%	57.29%
2030	50.00%	50.00%	40.00%	60.00%

The likely range of random year-to-year variation in road collision and casualty numbers for Scotland as a whole

Because road collisions may occur at random, the numbers of collisions, and the numbers of casualties in those collisions, can fluctuate from year to year. Figures 2 to 5 show, for Scotland as a whole, the numbers of:

- fatal road collisions (1972 to 2023);
- road deaths (1949 to 2023);
- people killed or seriously injured (1950 to 2023);
- children killed or seriously injured (1981 to 2023).

The number of years covered by each chart reflects the availability of the relevant figures. The blue dots are the values in each year, and the blue lines indicate the year-to-year variation. The grey dashed lines show the likely range of random year-to-year variation in the figures: based on statistical theory, one would expect that only about 5% of years would have figures outwith these ranges. Appendix G describes how these ranges were produced: the limits of the likely ranges of values are calculated in a similar way to 95% confidence intervals. It also explains why they cannot be produced for all years. It should be noted that figures for combined fatal and serious, serious and slight severities prior to 2004 cannot be compared to later years due to changes in the way casualty severities were recorded from 2004 onwards.

Figure 2 - Scottish fatal reported road collisions: 1972 onwards

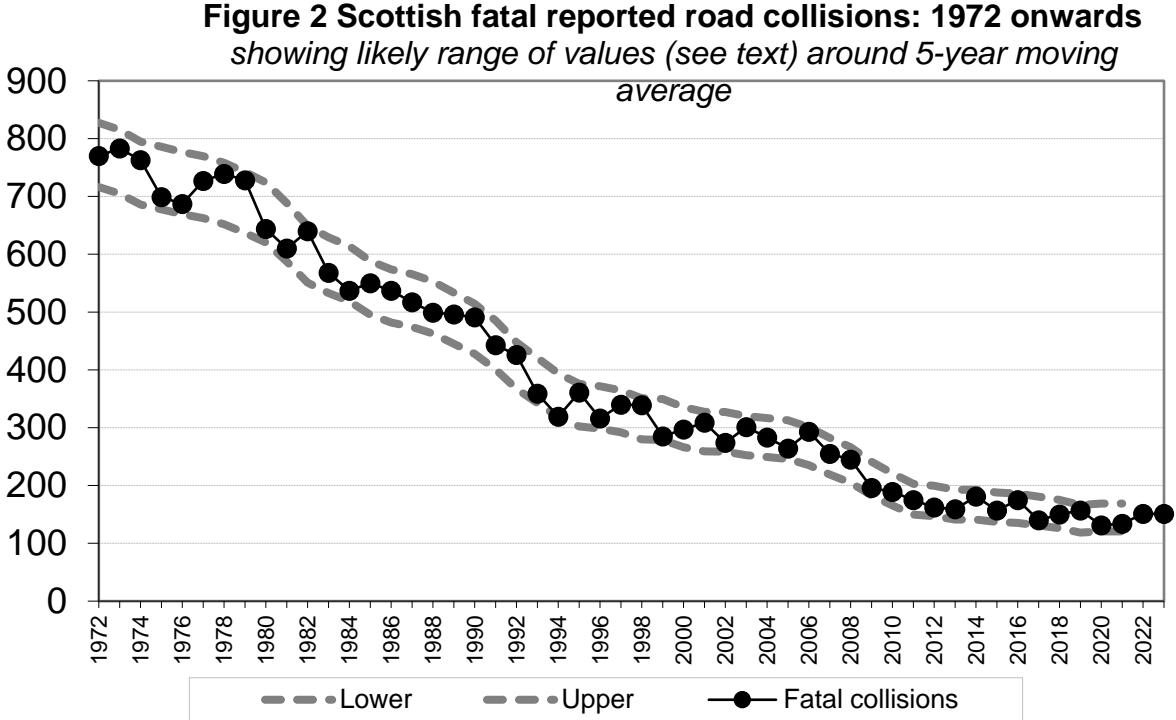


Figure 3 Scottish reported road collision deaths:1949 onwards

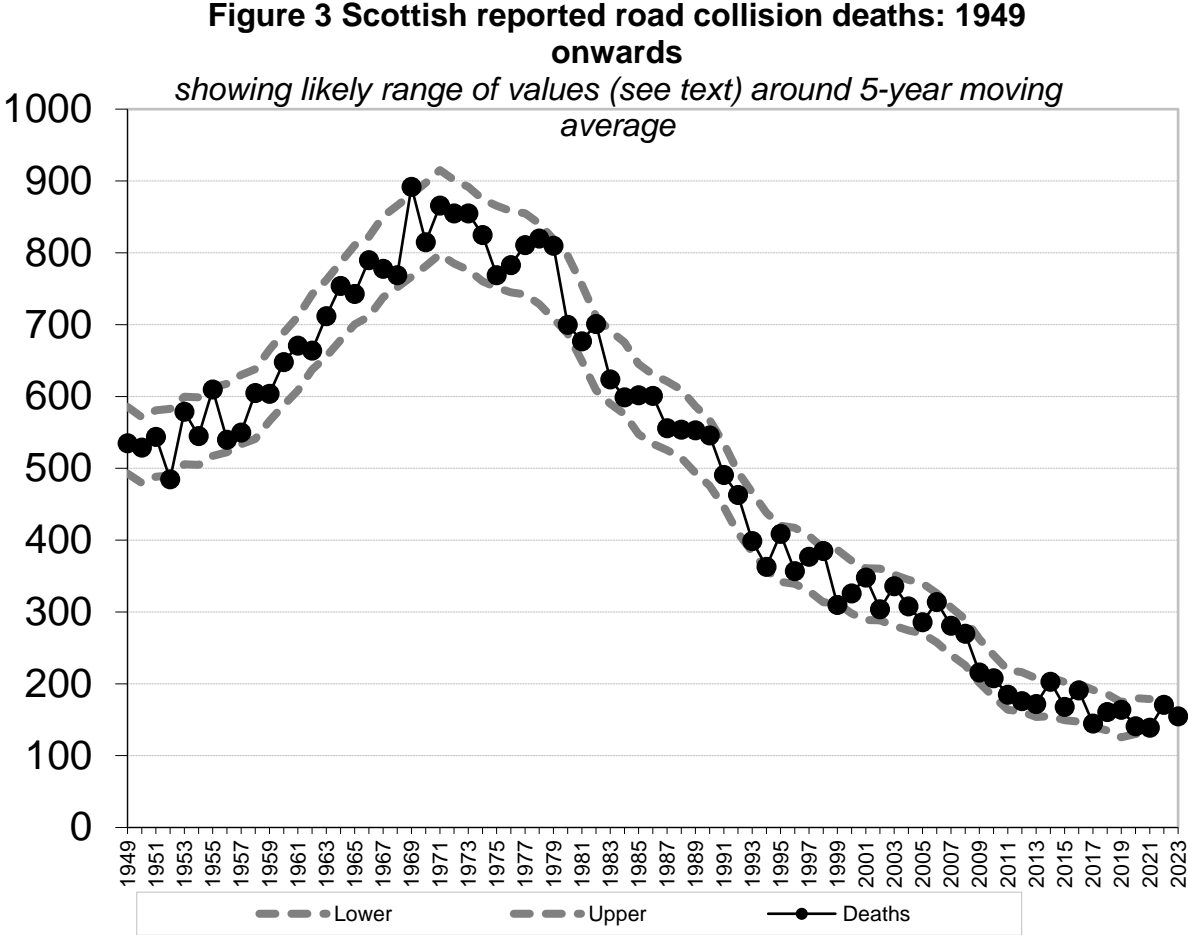
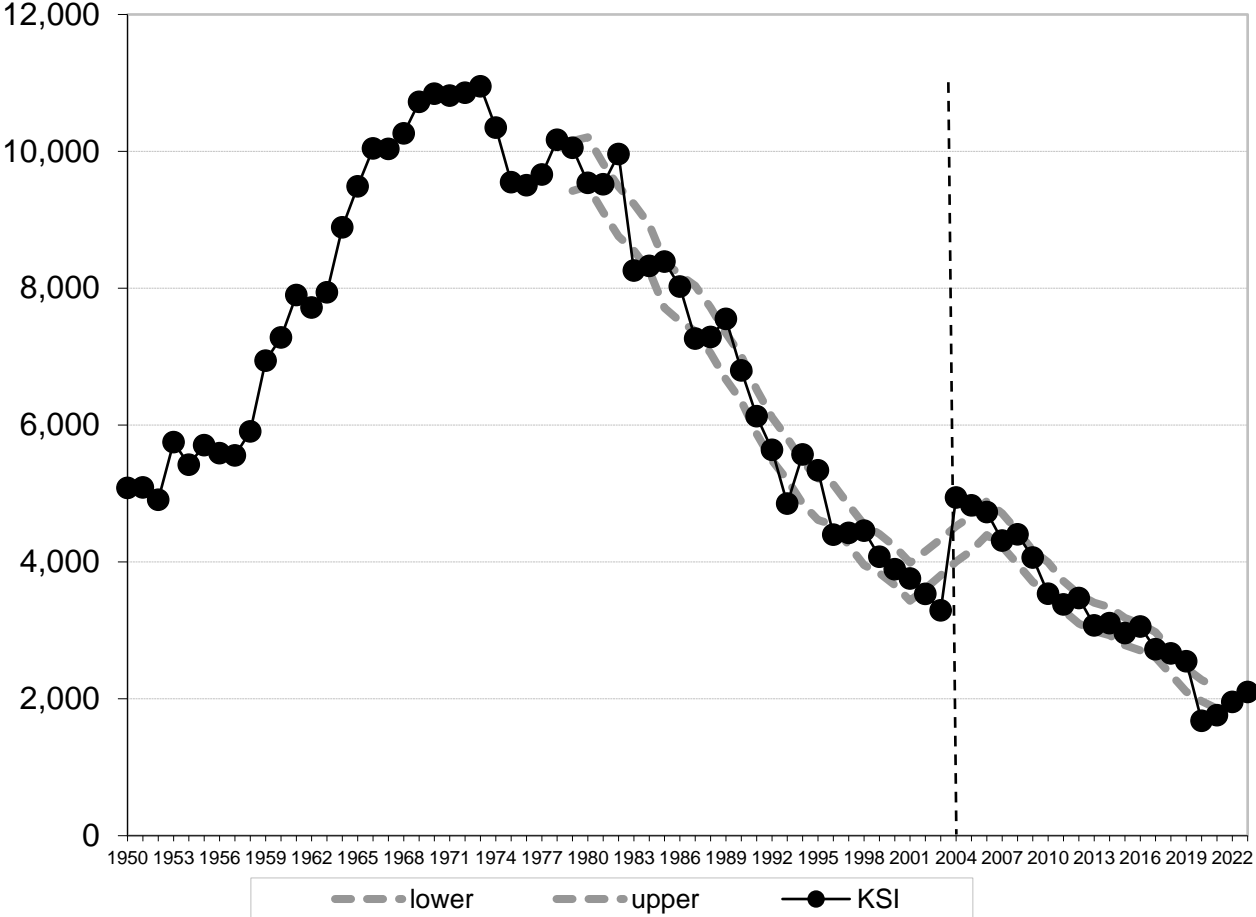


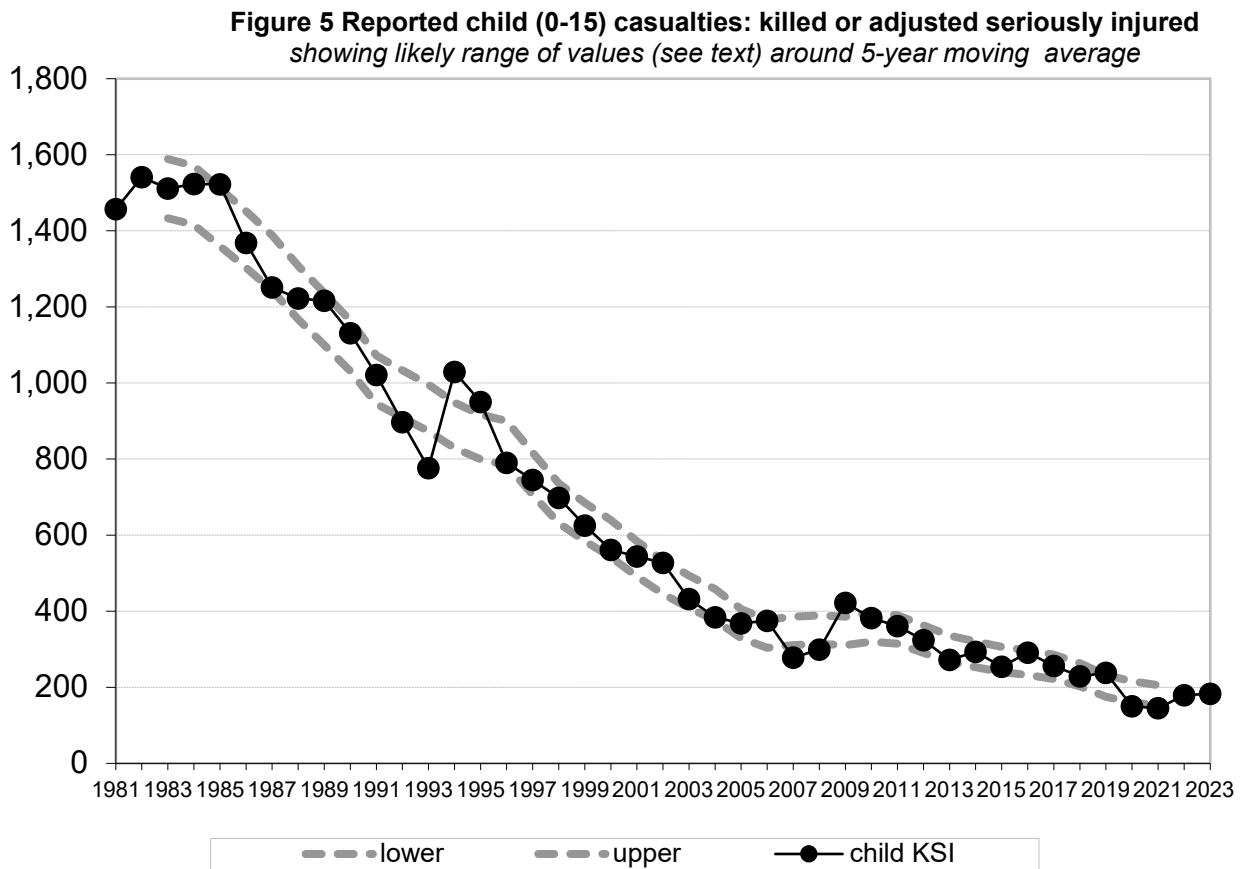
Figure 4 Killed and seriously injured reported casualties

Figure 4 Killed and adjusted seriously injured reported casualties
showing likely range of values (see text) around 5-year moving average



Note for figure 4: Due to changes in the way casualty severities are recorded, serious figures in 2004 are not comparable with previous years.

Figure 5 Reported child (0-15) casualties: killed or seriously injured



Note for figure 5: Due to changes in the way casualty severities are recorded, serious figures in 2004 are not comparable with previous years.

Fatal collisions, and deaths in road collisions

Figures 2 and 3 show that the number of fatal collisions is within its likely range of values in every year, and the number of road deaths is within its likely range of values in all but three years. These results are reasonable: one would expect a few years' figures to be outside the likely range of random year-to-year variation, given that there are over 40 years' figures for fatal collisions and over 60 years' figures for road collision deaths. Figures 2 and 3 therefore show that, despite the large percentage changes such as the falls in deaths of 19% between 1998 and 1999, and of 13% between 2001 and 2002, the figures almost always remain within the expected ranges. Hence, one should not put too much weight on a single large percentage change.

Killed or seriously injured (KSI) casualties

Figure 4 has many years' figures (around a third) outwith the calculated likely range of values. The reason for this is that *statistical variability is not the only reason for year-to-year changes* – other factors have contributed to sharp falls and rises in KSI casualty numbers. For example, the sharp fall shown in 1983 may be partly due to the introduction of seat belt wearing (for drivers and front seat passengers in most cars and light vans). Similarly, the sharp rise in 1994 may be due in part to the change in hospital practices where more casualties were kept in overnight for observation.

Such factors change the underlying rate of occurrence of collisions and/or casualties, and therefore, in effect, introduce a break into the series of moving average values. The method used to calculate the likely range of random variation cannot take account of the effect of such changes.

Only Figure 4 has figures outwith the calculated interval due to the likely ranges of random year-to-year variation calculated for small numbers being quite wide in percentage terms. This is because, for a Poisson process (see Appendix G), by definition, the greater the frequency of occurrence of events, the smaller the proportion that the standard deviation of the frequency (which is the square root of that number) represents of that number. For example:

- with 100 cases, the square root is 10 – or 10% of the value;
- with 400 cases, the square root is 20 – 5% of the value;
- with 10,000 cases, the square root is 100 – only 1% of the value.

As a result, if a factor (like the introduction of the compulsory wearing of front seat belts) were to cause the same percentage fall in each of the four types of collision and casualty numbers used in the charts, the following might be observed. The percentage fall could be *within* the relatively wide percentage range of likely random variation around the *smaller* numbers, but *outwith* the relatively narrow percentage range of likely random variation around the *larger* numbers. The ranges in Figures 2, 3 and 5 appear to be sufficiently wide to encompass the effects of changes such as those mentioned above. That is, the effects of the changes in their first years may fall within the likely range of random variation.

Of course, over the longer-term, such changes should make significant contributions to the reductions in casualty numbers and their severity. However, the intervals in Figure 4 include a much smaller than expected proportion of the figures. This is because the likely range of random variation for KSI casualties represents only a

small percentage of the total, and factors like those mentioned above appear to have had a greater percentage effect than was seen in their first years.

Children killed or seriously injured

Figure 5 shows the year-to-year fluctuations in the numbers of children killed or seriously injured (for the years for which figures are readily available) are generally within the expected ranges. The exceptions are around 1994, when health boards' policies changed, with the result that more child casualties were admitted to hospitals for overnight observation. This changed the classification of many injuries from slight to serious.

When changes in operational practice or to administrative processes have a marked effect on the statistics, the resulting year-to-year changes can be much greater than those expected due to normal random year-to-year variation – so it is not surprising there are figures outwith the expected ranges around 1994.

Contributory factors to reported road collisions

The most recent review of the **STATS19** data collection resulted in a number of changes to the data collection that were anticipated to effect in calendar year 2024.

In practice, these changes were implemented on the collision recording system used by Police Scotland in November 2023, meaning that collisions entered after this date were entered using the new format of the **STATS19** data collection.

The most significant area of change within the data collection was the contributory factors. The existing set of contributory factors was replaced by a new set of 'Road Safety Factors'.

The contributory factors figures for 2023 presented within this publication are for collisions recorded using the old **STATS19** format and are therefore only for collisions recorded prior the change in November 2023.

More information on the **STATS19** review can be found in the full [STATS19 review report](#).

Summary

This section describes the scope and limitations of the information on contributory factors collected as part of the road collision reporting system and presents Scottish results from the eighteenth year of collection.

- Driver/rider errors or reactions were reported in 51% of all reported collisions with failed to look properly the most common type (involved in 25%).
- Travelling too fast for the conditions or excessive speed was reported in 8% of all reported collisions and 18% of fatal collisions.
- Pedestrian only factors were reported in 17% of fatal collisions whilst failed to look properly and careless, reckless or in a hurry were the most frequently reported driver/rider factors (involved in 25% and 23% of fatal collisions respectively).

Introduction

From 2005, all police forces across Great Britain reported contributory factors as part of the stats19 collection. These were developed to provide insight into why and how road collisions occur. Their aim is to help identify the key actions and failures that led directly to the actual impact, to aid investigation of how it might have been prevented. Care should always be taken when interpreting the factors as they:

- reflect the reporting officer's opinion at the time of reporting the collision (or the opinion of a person whose duties include deciding which CFs should be recorded based on the officer's report).
- are based on the information which was available at that time, so may not be the result of subsequent extensive investigation (indeed, subsequent enquiries could result in the reporting officer opinion changing).

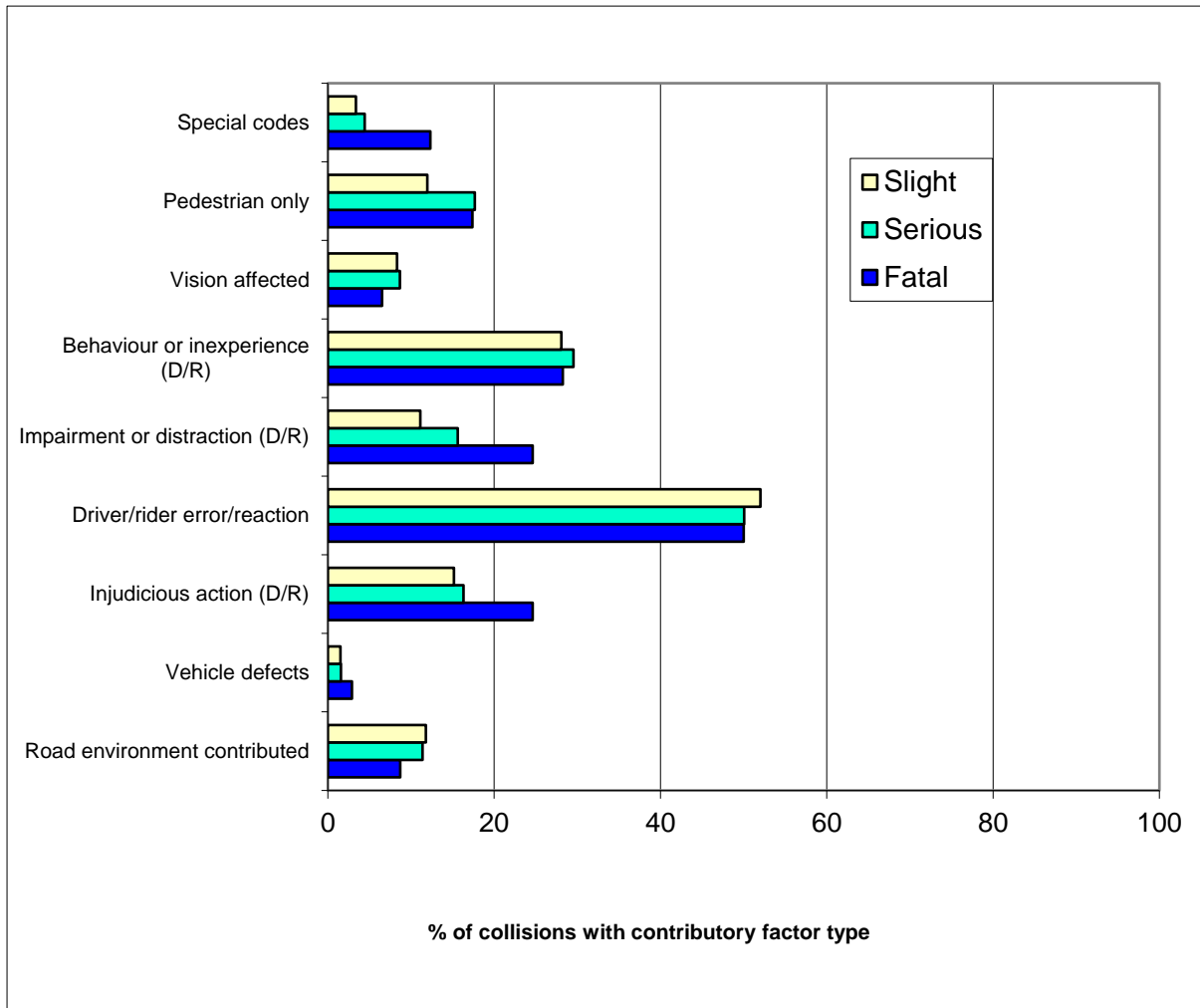
A reporting office attending the scene of a road collision may select up to 6 contributory factors (from a list of 77) to assign to that collision. Multiple factors may be listed against any participant or vehicles in the collision, (therefore percentages in the tables provided may not sum to 100).

Because of this, analysis of contributory factor information requires careful consideration; figures will differ depending on the focus of the analysis. Care should be taken when interpreting tables provided here which consider different aspects of the data (i.e. collisions, vehicles/participants, casualties and frequencies).

This section presents analysis from collisions in Scotland reported to the police in 2023, with the following background note describing the collection of the contributory factor system in more detail.

Note that most tables are by individual contributory factor so care needs to be taken when carrying out analysis. Adding together numbers for individual contributory factors will result in some double counting e.g. some collisions will have 'exceeding speed limit' and 'driving too fast for the conditions' recorded as a factor.

Figure 11 - Contributory factor type: Reported collisions by severity, 2023



Collisions

Categories

Each of the 77 contributory factors fits into one of nine categories. Figure 11 shows the percentage of collisions reported to the police with associated contributory factors in each these categories.

- Driver/rider error was the most frequently reported category for each type of severity of collision and was reported in 51% of collisions reported to the police).
- Pedestrian contributory factors (where the factor has been attributed to an injured or uninjured pedestrian involved in the collision), were reported in 15% of reported collisions, rising to 17% of fatal collisions.

- Injudicious action (including travelling too fast for conditions, following too close or exceeding speed limit) was involved in 16% of all reported collisions and 25% of fatal collisions.
- Road environment factors were reported in 11% of reported collisions.

Factors

On average there were 1.8 contributory factors listed per reported collision with more factors recorded for fatal collisions and fewer for slight collisions. Table M shows the numbers (and percentages) of reported collisions in which each contributory factor was reported.

- Failed to look properly was the most frequently reported contributory factor, involved in 25 % of all reported collisions. This was followed by careless / reckless or in a hurry (23%), failed to judge other person's speed (13%), loss of control (12%), poor turn/manoeuvre (8%), pedestrian failed to look properly (7%) were also in the top six.
- Travelling too fast for the conditions or excessive speed was reported in 8% of all reported collisions and 18% of fatal collisions (Note that the individual percentages for each of these factors cannot simply be added together to obtain combined totals.)
- For fatal collisions, careless/reckless or in a hurry was the most frequently reported driver/rider factor involved in 24% of collisions. Failed to look properly was reported in 22%, loss of control in 20% and exceeding the speed limit in 12%. Pedestrian wearing dark clothing at night were involved in 1% and pedestrians who failed to look properly were involved in 7% of fatal collisions.

Table M also shows how the incidence of some CFs varies with the severity of the collision. For example: *loss of control* is cited in 12% of all collisions for which CFs were recorded but 20% of fatal collisions and *exceeding speed limit* is cited in 5% of all collisions but 12% of fatal ones.

Note that repeats of the same contributory factor within an collision are excluded from the table, however an collision will appear more than once if more than one different contributory factor is reported.

Changes over time

Table N compares the top ten contributory factors listed in 2023 against previous years. These top ten factors remained the same in all five years, though the order and frequency changed over the 17 years of collection.

Vehicle & pedestrians

Table O shows the number and percentage of vehicles assigned each type of contributory factor (for each vehicle involved in an collision reported to the police). Table P shows this for pedestrians only.

Tables O & P show that:

- Failed to look properly was the most frequently reported factor both overall (reported in 14% of all vehicles' factors), and for every vehicle except motorcycles.
- Loss of control (17%) was the most commonly reported factor for motorcycles.
- Careless/reckless or in a hurry (D/R) was the second most common factor reported for cars or taxis (14%).
- Careless, reckless or in a hurry and loss of control were the second most common factors associated with cyclists (both 4%).
- Careless, reckless or in a hurry was the second most common factor reported for goods vehicles (reported in 15%).
- Careless, reckless or in a hurry was associated with a total of 13% of all vehicles involved in reported collisions.
- Pedestrians involved in collisions were most likely to have failed to look properly as an associated contributory factor (recorded in 36% of all pedestrian collisions), followed by careless / reckless /in a hurry (16%) and failed to judge vehicles path or speed and crossed road masked by stationary/parked vehicle (both 10%).

Table O also shows that many contributory factors were rarely recorded for most vehicles, for example:

- loss of control was recorded for 17% of motorcycles but only 2% of vehicles in the bus/coach/minibus grouping;
- sudden braking was recorded for 6% of buses but for only 1% of all vehicles involved.

On average, fewer contributory factors were recorded for pedal cycles (an average of 0.45 per pedal cycle involved in a reported collision) and bus or coaches (an average of 0.50), compared to an overall average of 0.88 factors per all vehicles.

Note that percentages differ from Tables M & N which presents the percentage of collisions_with each contributory factor. As more than one vehicle may be involved in

an collision, the average number of factors associated with an individual vehicle is generally lower.

Pairing of factors

Table Q shows the most frequent pairs of contributory factors assigned to the same reported road collision participant in 2023.

- The most frequently-occurring combination is driver/rider failed to look properly + (driver/rider) failed to judge other person's path/speed, which was recorded on 156 occasions.
- As would be expected, the CFs identified (earlier) as most frequent to appear in several of the most frequently-occurring combinations – for example, (driver/rider) failed to look properly occurs in the first two of the most frequently-occurring combinations.

However, the numbers indicate that even the most frequently-occurring combination of CFs arose in only a small proportion of all collisions.

Casualties

Tables R & S show the number (and percentage) of fatal and seriously injured casualties involved in collisions where each contributory factor was reported. Unsurprisingly the pattern is similar to that seen in Tables M & N showing the number of collisions with each factor reported

Note a casualty will appear in the tables against each (unique) factor associated with the collision (resulting in the casualty) and therefore may appear more than once. As with the collision tables, repeats of the same contributory factor within an collision are excluded.

Fatalities

Table R shows the Contributory Factors associated with the largest numbers of deaths were:

- Careless / reckless /in a hurry (D/R) – 36 deaths (representing 25% of all deaths in collisions for which CFs were recorded);
- (driver/rider) failed to look properly– 31 deaths (22%);
- Loss of control– 28 deaths (20%);
- Exceeding the speed limit – 18 deaths (13%);
- Other – 16 deaths (11%)

- Illness or disability (mental/physical) (D/R)– 15 deaths (11%);
- Failed to judge other persons path/speed (D/R)– 13 deaths (9%)
- Pedestrian failed to look properly– 10 deaths (7%);

Seriously injured

Table S shows the CFs associated with the largest numbers of serious injured were:

- (driver/rider) careless / reckless / in a hurry – 422 (representing 25% of all serious injuries in collisions for which CFs were recorded);
- Failed to look properly (D/R) – 398 serious injuries (24%);
- Loss of control – 231 (14%)
- (driver/rider) failed to judge other persons path/speed –184 serious injuries (11%) ;
- Pedestrian failed to look properly – 128 (8%);
- Poor turn or manoeuvre – 112 (7%)
- Exceeding speed limit – 105 (6%)
- Slippery road (due to weather) – 101 (6%)

Overall frequencies of recording

In 2023 at least one contributory factor was recorded in 91.9% of reported collisions where a police officer attended the scene (3,384). This is a lower percentage than in previous years, as collisions recorded following the introduction of the new format of the STATS19 data collection in November 2023 do not have contributory factors recorded. Instead, Police Scotland record a new set of 'Road Safety Factors' for these collisions. Road Safety Factors will be the subject of analysis in future publications.

A total of 5,976 contributory factors were recorded, resulting in an average of 1.8 factors per collision.

Around 85% (4,921) of all factors listed related to vehicles (and their drivers/rider) and the road environment. Around 12% (690) related to pedestrians who were casualties. Relatively few related to uninjured pedestrians (20 or 0.3%).

Table T presents a ranking of all 77 factors by the frequency of reporting in 2023. (Note that figures differ from earlier tables as repeats of factors within the same

collision are counted). It is apparent that some CFs are not used often – many were used fewer than 100 times.

Note that data relating to all reported CFs were used to produce Tables O to T. In cases where the same CF applies to more than one vehicle in the same collision, it is counted once for each of them. These tables therefore differ from Tables M & N (which exclude repeats of the same CF within an collision).

Possible vs. Very likely

Reporting officers record whether it was thought **very likely** or just **possible** that a factor contributed to the occurrence of the collision. Table T also shows how often each CF was described as very likely, and how often as possible.

Overall, just under three quarters of CFs (72%) were described as very likely, but the percentage varied markedly between different CFs. Excluding those used fewer than 100 times, the following were described as **very likely** on at least 72% of occasions on which they were used:

- Aggressive driving (89%)
- Disobeyed Give Way or Stop sign or markings (88%)
- Pedestrian careless / reckless /in a hurry (87%)
- Pedestrian failed to look properly (84%)
- Impaired by alcohol (D/R) (82%)
- Loss of control (80%)
- Poor turn or manoeuvre (80%)
- Failed to look properly (D/R) (76%)
- Careless / reckless /in a hurry (D/R) (75%)
- Other (72%)

and the following were described as very likely between 60 and 71% of the occasions on which they were used:

- Failed to judge other persons path/speed (D/R) (71%)
- Dazzling sun (70%)
- Slippery road (due to weather) (67%)
- Travelling too fast for the conditions (65%)
- Exceeding speed limit (60%)

Conclusion

The collection of contributory factors has been part of the GB wide police reporting system for 17 years. It is clear contributory factor information can provide useful indications of the circumstances that may have led to a reported road collision. These can also be attributed to the different participants within the collision, which can help build a picture of how the collision may have occurred.

However, there are limitations to the system and care should be taken when both analysing and interpreting the results. This should help ensure the data is used in the correct manner and that consistent messages/results are achieved by users.

We welcome comments on the analysis presented here or any questions regarding the contributory factor system.

Transport Statistics
Transport Scotland
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh EH6 6QQ
Telephone: 0131 244 7254
Email: Transtat@transport.gov.scot

Background: The collection of Contributory Factor data

Guidance on recording road collisions is provided in the Department for Transport's *Stats20* document which includes the following points on CFs:

- CFs reflect the reporting officer's opinion at the time of reporting, and may not be the result of extensive investigation;
- subsequent enquiries could result in a change in the reporting officer's opinion;
- the CFs are largely subjective, and depend upon the skill and experience of the investigating officer to reconstruct the events which led directly to the collision;
- the need to exercise judgement when recording CFs is unavoidable;
- CFs should be identified on the basis of evidence from sources such as witness statements and vehicle and site inspections;
- the evidence may be of variable quality, so the officer should record very likely or possible for each CF;

- when there is conflicting evidence (e.g. conflicting witness statements), the reporting officer should decide on the most credible account of the collision and base the codes on this, taking into account all other available evidence.

Some CFs may be less likely than others to be recorded, since clear evidence of them may not be available, or may be very difficult to obtain, after an collision has occurred (e.g. in the case of the nervous, uncertain or panic factor). Participants and witnesses may provide incomplete or conflicting accounts of what happened. The CF data therefore depend upon the skill and experience of the reporting officer to reconstruct the events which led directly to the collision, and so are more subjective in nature than other Stats 19 data. This should be kept in mind when using these results.

Regardless of the number of vehicles involved in the collision, *at most six* sets of CF data can be recorded per collision. Each set contains three pieces of information:

- a factor which is thought to have contributed to the occurrence of the collision – selected from list of 77 , such as:
 - exceeding speed limit (CF code 306);
 - travelling too fast for the conditions (307);
 - failed to look properly (405);
 - impaired by alcohol (501);
 - impaired by drugs (illicit or medicinal) (502)
- the participant in the collision to whom the factor is related:
 - whether this is a:
 - Vehicle – in which case the factor may relate to the driver/rider or to the road environment;
 - Casualty – a pedestrian or a passenger in a vehicle; or
 - Uninjured pedestrian.
 - if a Vehicle or a Casualty, the relevant Stats 19 reference
- whether it was thought very likely or just possible this factor contributed to the occurrence of the collision

Therefore more than one factor may be recorded for the same participant and any given factor may be recorded for two or more different participants, subject to the limit of a maximum of six sets of CF data per collision.

Appendix B of this publication illustrates the CF codes and their descriptions, including a brief set of completion instructions for the reporting officer. More detailed

information is available in the DfT’s Stats 20 document (pages 10; 84 -101) and the procedure for allocating them – for example:

- the CFs may be recorded in any order (so nothing can be inferred from the order in which they appear);
- more than one CF may be related to the same road user; and
- the same CF may be related to more than one road user.

Worked example

Clearly, there could be a lot of CF information in the case of an collision which involved several vehicles, if it was thought that several of them contributed to its occurrence. The following is an example of the potential complexity of the CF data. Car 1 is rapidly travelling along a straight road when Car 2 suddenly appears in front of it, having emerged from a pub car park. The driver of Car 1 brakes sharply, to avoid a collision. As Car 2 drives off, Car 1 is hit from behind by a motorcycle, whose rider and passenger are both killed. The following *might* be recorded as the CF data for this collision:

CF no.	Participant	Contributory Factor	How likely?
1	Car 1	Exceeding speed limit	Possible
2	Car 2	Impaired by alcohol	Possible
3	Car 2	Failed to look properly	Very likely
4	Car 1	Sudden braking	Very likely
5	Motorcycle	Following too close	Very likely
6	Motorcycle	Exceeding speed limit	Possible

This collision has *three* participants and *six* CFs, two of which are the *same* (exceeding speed limit) but apply to *different* participants (Car 1 and Motorcycle). This example will be referred to from time to time, when describing some of the CF results.

Quality

As the CFs were added to the Stats 19 data specification at the start of 2005, the results for 2005 could have been affected by teething troubles. In June 2006, the Liaison Group on Road Collision Statistics (LGRAS) discussed a paper on aspects of the quality of the data. It also remains the case the recording of CFs varies between Police Forces. In 2009, there were around 2.1 CFs per collision for Scotland; varying between 1.5 and 2.6 between Forces. In addition, while most Police Forces’ CFs are allocated by the reporting officer, in one Force they are allocated by a small

team of specialist CRASH investigators. It may be that a higher degree of accuracy exists for fatal and serious collisions than for slight collisions, as the former may be attended by more experienced road policing officers.

On introduction inconsistencies arose between the CF code and the Type of Participant code (around 3-4% in 2005). The most frequent problem was the combination of the CF code for pedestrian failed to look properly with the Type of Participant code for a Vehicle. In such cases, it wasn't possible to deduce (from the data) which was incorrect. Since then additional quality assurance was introduced leading to an improvement in quality (currently around 1% of cases).

There may be other changes in some of the patterns of the reporting of CFs, as a result of such discussions, the introduction of additional computer cross-checks of the data, Police Forces' increasing experience of the collection and recording of such information, and the use of the data by the Police, local authorities and central government.

Collision Costs: Details of Calculations

Tables 9 to 11 refer.

The Department for Transport estimate the values assigned to the cost of road casualties and collisions in Great Britain, for use in cost-benefit analysis of the prevention of road casualties and collisions in road schemes.

The valuation of casualty costs calculated for Great Britain for all levels of severity are based on a willingness to pay human cost approach. This is intended to encompass all aspects of the costs of casualties including both the human cost and the direct economic cost.

Types of Costs

The human cost covers an amount to reflect the pain, grief and suffering to the casualty, relatives and friends, and, for fatal casualties, the intrinsic loss of enjoyment of life over and above the consumption of goods and services. The economic cost covers loss of output due to injury and medical costs.

The cost of an collision also includes:

- the cost of damage to vehicles and property; and
- the cost of police and insurance administration.

A summary of the DfT's latest findings can be found in [Reported Road Casualties GB: 2022](#)

Scotland analysis

The average cost per collision in Scotland and the total cost of all collisions in Scotland are presented in Tables 10 and 11. These are calculated using the GB casualty costs and the number of casualties by severity in collisions in Scotland. The average costs per collision for Great Britain and Scotland differ because of differences in the average numbers of casualties per collision, and the proportions of fatal and serious casualties in an collision.

Also estimated are the number of damage only collisions and their average costs.

Figures are presented in constant 2023 prices. Therefore estimates of values in earlier years have been calculated by applying 2023 values to previous years.

Further information on the methodology can be obtained from the DfT:

Integrated Transport Economics and Appraisal Division
Department for Transport

Zone 3/04
Great Minster House
76 Marsham Street
LONDON
SW1P 4DR
Email: itea@dft.gov.uk
Tel: 020 7944 6177

Drink-drive collisions and casualties

Table 22 refers

The numbers of drink-drive collisions and casualties both fell by 55% and 47% respectively between 2012 and 2022 (the latest year for which estimates are available): from a rounded estimate of 440 to roughly 200 (collisions) and from around 580 to some 310 (casualties). While fluctuating from year to year, the number of people killed as a result of drink-drive collisions is estimated have risen from 10 in 2012 to 30 in 2022. The number of adjusted serious casualties is estimated to have dropped by 50% (from roughly 180 in 2012 to some 90 in 2022).

Drink-drive estimates: background

The Department for Transport (DfT) annually estimates the number of reported drink drive collisions: i.e. those reported injury road collisions involving drivers with illegal alcohol levels (above the current drink-drive limit of 80 milligrams (mg) of alcohol per 100 millilitres (ml) of blood or 35 micrograms per 100ml of breath in England and Wales or 50 milligrams (mg) of alcohol per 100 millilitres (ml) of blood or 22 micrograms per 100ml of breath in Scotland from the 5th December 2014).

DfT published [GB final figures](#) in July 2024. Scotland estimates are presented in Reported Road Casualties GB [Table RAS 2013](#) which was updated with 2022 data in July 2024. Because of the uncertainty involved figures are rounded to the nearest ten.

The DfT's publication outlines the estimation methods in detail. It draws on Stats 19 reported road collision data (where motor vehicle drivers or riders failed or refused to provide a sample of breath) and Procurators Fiscal (and Coroners in England and Wales) data on blood alcohol levels of drivers who died within 12 hours of being injured in a road collision. The estimates include allowances for the numbers of cases where drivers or riders are not breath tested due to the collision being a hit and run collision. Drink drive casualties are defined here as any casualties resulting from a drink drive collision.

Estimates for 2023 are not yet available because of the timing of the provision of the data regarding blood alcohol levels of fatalities from Procurators Fiscal (and Coroners in England and Wales) to DfT. At this stage the sample of 2023 data is insufficient to allow a breakdown by country.

There are no estimates for Scotland of the number of alcohol-related injury road collisions which involve legal alcohol levels (i.e. alcohol levels up to and including the current drink-drive limit of 80mg of alcohol per 100ml of blood), nor are there any

estimates for Scotland of the numbers of *non*-injury (damage only) road collisions involving illegal alcohol levels.

The figures here differ from the number of drivers with positive (or refused) breath tests. While the Police aim to breath test all drivers involved in an collision this isn't always possible (e.g. hit and run drivers or due to severity of casualty). Recently, just under two thirds of motorists involved in injury road collisions in Scotland have been breath tested.

Appendix A – Calendar of events affecting road traffic

1964-65: Road Traffic Act 1964 – Wider powers for speed limits. Trial 70 mph speed limit on motorway and other previously de-restricted roads. 50 mph speed limit on selected roads during summer.

1967: Seat belts compulsory on new cars – Permanent 70 mph speed limit on all roads. An offence to drink and attempt to drive with over 80 mg of alcohol per 100 ml of blood.

1968-69: Transport Act 1968 allowed regulations on length of drivers' working hours – 3 year old vehicles need test certificate.

1970: New regulations on lorry and PSV drivers' hours of work.

1973: Reorganisation of local government in Scotland, 9 regions and 3 islands areas and 53 districts.

1973-74: Safety helmets compulsory for 2-wheeled motor vehicle users – 50 mph national maximum speed limit, later motorway 70 mph, dual carriageway 60 mph – Vehicle lighting regulations.

1974: Road traffic act 1974 placed a duty on authorities to study road collisions and take measures to prevent them.

1975: Temporary 50 and 60 mph limits extended.

1976: Licensing Scotland Act 1976 – extension of licensing hours until 11pm – effective from 13 December 1976.

1977: 50 and 60 mph limits raised to 60 and 70 mph.

1977: Licensing Scotland Act 1976 – extension of Sunday opening – effective from October 1977.

1978: 60 and 70 mph limits permanent – New rules on maximum hours which may be worked by goods vehicle drivers.

1982: New 2-part motorcycle test from 29 March – Application of 2 year limit on provisional motorcycle licence took effect from 1 October.

1983: Transport Act 1981 introduced evidential breath testing and made seat belt wearing law for drivers and front seat passengers of most cars and light vans. Learner motorcyclists now only allowed to ride machines of up to 125 cc.

1984: Regulations introduced requiring spray reducing devices to be fitted to lorries and trailers.

1985: In December, Scottish Police Authorities introduced a policy of breath testing all drivers in an collision wherever possible.

1986: Deregulation of buses from 26 October 1986 as a result of the Transport Act 1985.

1986: All new cars manufactured from 1 October to be fitted with rear seat belts. Seat belt legislation made permanent. European Road Safety Year.

1987: Legal requirement introduced requiring all newly registered cars to be fitted with rear seat belts or child restraints from 1 April. Government sets a target to achieve a one-third reduction in road collision casualties by the year 2000.

1988: All coaches first used from 1 April 1974 using a motorway must have 70 mph limiters fitted by 1 April 1991.

1989: Penalty points increased for careless driving, driving without insurance and failing to stop after or to report an collision. Seat belt wearing by rear child passengers became law in cars where appropriate restraints have been fitted and are available. Accompanied motorcycle testing became mandatory.

1990: Compulsory basic training for motorcyclists introduced and learner drivers banned from carrying pillion passengers. High Risk Offenders Scheme for problem drink-drivers extended. New regulations requiring those accompanying learner drivers to be at least 21 years old and to have held a licence for 3 years. Scottish Road Safety Year.

1991: Seat belt wearing by rear adult passengers became law in cars where belts are fitted and available. New road hump regulations introduced to reduce traffic speed.

1992: Subsequent to the Road Traffic Act 1991, new road traffic offences and penalties came into force, including retesting of dangerous drivers. The Traffic Calming Act 1992 came into force enabling roads authorities to introduce a wide range of traffic calming measures. Requirement for minimum tread depth of 1.6 mm introduced for cars and light vans. All new goods vehicles over 7.5 tonnes fitted with 60 mph speed limiters.

1993: First speed enforcement cameras introduced in Scotland. The MOT test extended, including new checks on mirrors, windscreen condition, fuel tanks, seat and door security and number plates.

1994: First 20 mph zones introduced in Scotland. Traffic Calming (Scotland) Regulations came into force.

1995: Pass Plus scheme introduced for new drivers which encourages new drivers to take more lessons by offering discount on motor insurance.

1996: Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994 implemented with the creation of 32 unitary authorities replacing the previous regions and districts.

1996: Driving theory test introduced from 1 July for car and motorcycle learners. Road Traffic (New Drivers) Act 1996 – requires newly qualified drivers to retake the driving test if they acquire 6 or more penalty points within 2 years of passing their test – effective from 1 June 1997. Requirement for coaches and minibuses to be fitted with seat belts when carrying children on organised trips, including journeys between home and school – effective from February, 1997. End of concession, where seat belts are fitted, whereby 3 children could share a double seat.

1997: New Zebra, Pelican and Puffin crossing regulations introduced, with Puffin crossings prescribed for the first time.

1998: New Road Humps regulations came into force giving local authorities wider powers to establish road humps.

1999: Amendment to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 gave local authorities power to introduce traffic calmed 20 mph zones and 20 mph speed limits, with or without traffic calming measures, at suitable locations. Revised Highway Code published.

2000: The Government announced a new road safety strategy and casualty reduction targets for the period to 2010 in “Tomorrow’s Roads – Safer for Everyone”. A review of speed policy was conducted and reported in ‘New Directions in Speed Management’.

2001: Amendment to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 made it clear that school crossing patrols can stop traffic for children of all ages and adults and gave local authorities greater flexibility in the times that school crossing patrols can operate. Scottish Executive awarded nearly £15 million to local authorities for cycling, walking and safer streets projects, including safer routes to school schemes.

2002: New Home Zones (Scotland) Regulations came into force. These set out the procedures local authorities must follow when designating home zones.

2003: Revised guidance on school transport issued to local authorities. Scottish School Travel Advisory Group report published. Scottish Executive provided the funding to implement the report's key recommendation to create school travel co-ordinator posts within each Scottish local authority.

2004: Publication of the first three year review of the GB road safety strategy and casualty reduction targets, set out in "Tomorrow's Roads – Safer for Everyone".

2006: Road Safety Act passed. The Act made provision for a wide range of road safety matters, including drink driving, speeding, driver training and driver and vehicle licensing. Revised guidance on setting local speed limits issued to local authorities.

2007: Publication of the second three year review of the GB road safety strategy and casualty reduction targets, set out in "Tomorrow's Roads – Safer for Everyone". Publication of DfT Child Road Safety Strategy, which included measures by the Scottish Government to reduce child road casualties.

2008: GB consultation – Learning to Drive – published, on changes to the driver training and testing regime. GB consultation on Road Safety Compliance, covering speeding, drink driving, seat belts, drug driving and careless driving, published.

2009: Scotland's Road Safety Framework to 2020 published. The Framework sets Scottish specific targets for casualty reductions in the period to 2020, in line with an aspirational vision of a future where no-one is killed on Scotland's roads and the injury rate is greatly reduced.

2009/2010: ACPOS launched a Vehicle Forfeiture Scheme for Drink Drivers.

2010: Have You Clicked? Year long campaign launched on 19 April.

2010: 25 years of Road Safety Scotland. 2010 marks the 25th anniversary of Road Safety Scotland (RSS), previously operating as the Scottish Road Safety Campaign (SRSC)

2011: Launch of the United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020.

2011: Publication of National Debate on Young Drivers' Safety presenting the findings of a national debate on young driver issues undertaken across Scotland.

2011: Publication of the New Strategic Framework for Road Safety by the UK Government.

2014: Devolution of powers to the Scottish Parliament in relation to the Drink-Drive alcohol blood limit, and certain national speed limits

2013: UK Government introduced changes for drivers guilty of offences such as tailgating or middle lane hogging with fixed penalty notices of a £100 fine and three penalty points being issued. Existing fixed penalty fines for most driving offences, including mobile phone use and not wearing a seat belt rise from £60 to £100.

2013: Publication of a review of the Guide to Improving School Transport and its accompanying report were issued to all local authorities in Scotland.

2014: Transport Minister, Keith Brown, announced plans to legislate in the next Scottish Parliament to ensure that seatbelts are provided on all dedicated school transport in Scotland.

2014: Following consultation that showed overwhelming support, Ministers reduced the drink drive limit from 80 mg per 100 ml of blood to 50 mg per 100 ml

2014: The A9 average speed camera system went live on 28 October alongside an increase in the HGV speed limit on the single carriageway sections between Perth and Inverness.

2015: Publication of “Good Practice Guide on 20 mph Speed Restrictions”

2015: Scottish Road Safety Week pilot undertaken.

2015: British Road Safety Statement published by the UK Government.

2016: The output of the Mid-term Review of Scotland’s Road Safety Framework is published.

2016: An updated Strategic Road Safety Plan for the trunk road network is published

2016: Scotland Act 2016 devolves speed limit, traffic sign and parking regulation powers to the Scottish Parliament.

2017: The Scottish Government announces plans to create a new criminal offence of drug driving.

2017: The Seat Belts on School Transport (Scotland) Bill is introduced to the Scottish Parliament by Gillian Martin MSP, with support from the Scottish Government. This aims to make a legal requirement for fitting seat belts on all dedicated school transport. National guidance with information on seat belt fitting, wearing and monitoring is published in June 2018 ahead of the Act coming into effect on 1 August 2018.

2018: The Scottish Government announces commitment to bring forward the necessary secondary legislation that will specify 17 drug types to be included as part of the new offence and the associated limits for each drug type, in Scotland in 2019.

2018: Learner drivers can now take motorway driving lessons

2019: European Parliament approves new minimum EU vehicle safety requirements that will come into force from May 2022 for new models and from May 2024 for existing models. European Commission publishes its Staff Working Document EU Road Safety Policy Framework 2021-2030 - Next steps towards "Vision Zero". From 1 July vehicle manufacturers must install a noise-emitting device – which sounds like a traditional engine – in new electric and hybrid vehicles. In July DfT publishes its revised Road Safety Statement and two-year action plan. From 21 October, Scotland adopts a 'zero tolerance' approach to the eight drugs most associated with illegal use, with limits set at a level where any claims of accidental exposure can be ruled out. Meanwhile, a list of other drugs associated with medical use will have limits based on impairment and road safety risk.

2019: EU directive on road infrastructure safety management formally adopted in October.

2020: New general safety regulations published in December 2019 came into force in January, updating existing rules on car safety contained in the general safety regulation (EC) 661/2009 and the pedestrian safety regulation (EC) 78/2009. - new mandatory EU vehicle safety measures

2020: Stockholm Declaration is agreed by UN Member States in February. This is followed by the adoption of the UN resolution A/74/L.86 "Improving global road safety" on 30 August.

July 2020: New UK Government regulations allowing trials of rental e-scooters on UK roads came into force

February 2021: publication of Scotland's Road Safety Framework to 2030 by the Scottish Government

April 2021: UK Government Automated and Electric Vehicle Act 2018 came into force; it makes provisions for a list to be kept by the Secretary of State for Transport of motor vehicles that are able to safely and lawfully drive themselves. It introduced new provisions to compensate the victims of collisions caused by AVs. To reduce the need for victims to be involved in prolonged litigation, the insurer is liable to compensate the victim without proof of fault. The insurer may then reclaim damages from any other party liable for the collision.

April 2021: consultation outcome of the Automated Lane Keeping System (ALKS) Call for Evidence published by UK Government, setting out set out how vehicles fitted with ALKS technology could legally be defined as self-driving, as long as they receive GB type approval and that there is no evidence to challenge the vehicle's ability to self-drive.

May 2021: UK first media reporting guidelines for crashes published

July 2021: DfT published their response to Review of The Highway Code to improve road safety for cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders. Subject to Parliamentary approval, DfT will work with the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency to update The Highway Code. Online and hard copy versions of the revised code will be produced before the end of 2021.

Sept 2021: School transport guidance 2021 published by the Scottish Government

Sept 2021: review of INDG382 Driving for Work complete and published by HSE

Sept 2021: Scottish Government commits to ensure all appropriate roads in built up areas have a safer speed limit of 20 mph by 2025

October 2021: Traffic Regulation Order Regulations laid before Scottish parliament

Appendix C - Consultation & reviews

Introduction

This Appendix describes the arrangements for consulting users and providers of the road collision statistics. It also discusses the regular reviews of the Stats 19 road collision statistics specification, describing the changes to the Stats 19 specification in 2005 and the future recommendations resulting from the recent (2008) review.

The Liaison Group on Road Accident Statistics (LGRAS)

Transport Scotland (TS) consults the Liaison Group on Road Accident Statistics (LGRAS), whose members include representatives of each Police Force and of the Association of Chief Police Officers (Scotland), of some individual local authorities and of the Society of Chief Officers of Transportation in Scotland, and of other types of user of the statistics, including the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, the Institute of Road Safety Officers in Scotland, a transport consultant, and an academic researcher. LGRAS meets, on average, once a year. It discusses matters such as the arrangements for the supply of the road collision statistics data, the quality of the information collected and implications of using the data for certain purposes, the likely availability of other information, proposals for changes to the Stats 19 road collision statistics specification, and improvements.

Further details of LGRAS (including papers and minutes) are available on the [Transport Scotland website](#).

The Standing Committee on Road Accident Statistics (SCRAS)

Users and providers of reported road collision statistics across Great Britain are consulted via the Standing Committee on Road Accident Statistics (SCRAS), chaired by the Department for Transport (DfT). Its members include representatives Police Scotland, TS, and other interested parties from across Great Britain. SCRAS is responsible for reviewing the GB-wide Stats 19 road collision statistics specification (see below) and discusses other aspects of the collection and use of the road collision statistics.

Further information is available from Anil Bhagat at the DfT (Tel: 020 7944 3078).

Reviews of the Stats 19 road collision statistics specification

National & local government police forces across Great Britain work closely to achieve an agreed standard for the system for collecting & processing statistics on road collisions involving personal injury. The statistics are subject to regular reviews (led by SCRAS) as part of the continued drive to improve quality and meet user needs whilst minimising the burden of collection.

The most recent STATS19 review started in autumn 2018 and has made a number of recommendations on changes to STATS19 going forward. These were based on evidence and detailed discussion with the review group.

Key recommendations can be found in the full [STATS19 review report](#).

For further information please contact: STATS19REVIEW@dft.gov.uk

Appendix D - Definitions and points to note

The definition of severity used in the Road Collision statistics

The classification of the severity of an collision (as fatal, serious or slight) is determined by the severity of the injury to the most severely injured casualty. The police usually record this information soon after the collision occurs. However, if further information becomes available which would alter the classification (for example, if a person dies within 30 days of the collision, as a result of the injuries sustained in the collision) the police change the initial classification of the severity.

For the purposes of the Road Collisions statistical returns:

a ***fatal injury*** is one which causes death less than 30 days after the collision;

a ***fatal collision*** is an collision in which at least one person is fatally injured;

a ***serious injury*** is one which does *not* cause death less than 30 days after the collision, *and* which is in one (or more) of the following categories:

(a) an injury for which a person is detained in hospital as an in-patient

or (b) any of the following injuries (whether or not the person is detained in hospital): fractures, concussion, internal injuries, crushings, severe cuts and lacerations, severe general shock requiring treatment

or (c) any injury causing death 30 or more days after the collision;

a ***serious collision*** is one in which at least one person is seriously injured, but no-one suffers a fatal injury;

a ***slight injury*** is any injury which is neither fatal nor serious – for example, a sprain, bruise or cut which is not judged to be severe, or slight shock requiring roadside attention;

a ***slight collision*** is one in which at least one person suffers slight injuries, but no-one is seriously injured, or fatally injured.

From the middle of 2019 Police Scotland started to use the new CRaSH system for recording details of an collision. This provides a more detailed definition of the severity of casualties. The following table lists the options for determining how severe an injury is. It should be noted that in some cases in 2020 although the most

severe injury appears to be slight, if the casualty was subsequently admitted to hospital the casualty severity was classed as serious. The introduction of CRaSH has meant that the severity of injuries is recorded more accurately and has led to an increase in the number of serious injuries. Figures are therefore not directly comparable with those for the previous years.

Classification of injury severity using the CRASH reporting system

Injury in CRASH	Detailed severity	Severity classification
Deceased	Killed	Killed
Broken neck or back	Very Serious	Serious
Severe head injury, unconscious	Very Serious	Serious
Severe chest injury, any difficulty breathing	Very Serious	Serious
Internal injuries	Very Serious	Serious
Multiple severe injuries, unconscious	Very Serious	Serious
Loss of arm or leg (or part)	Moderately Serious	Serious
Fractured pelvis or upper leg	Moderately Serious	Serious
Other chest injury (not bruising)	Moderately Serious	Serious
Deep penetrating wound	Moderately Serious	Serious
Multiple severe injuries, conscious	Moderately Serious	Serious
Fractured lower leg or ankle or foot	Less Serious	Serious
Fractured arm or collarbone or hand	Less Serious	Serious
Deep cuts or lacerations	Less Serious	Serious
Other head injury	Less Serious	Serious

Injury in CRASH	Detailed severity	Severity classification
Whiplash or neck pain	Slight	Slight
Shallow cuts or lacerations or abrasions	Slight	Slight
Sprains and strains	Slight	Slight
Bruising	Slight	Slight
Shock	Slight	Slight

Over the years, improvements in vehicle design, and the provision and use of additional safety features, together with changes in the law (eg on the fitting and wearing of seat belts), will all have helped to reduce the severity of the injuries suffered in some collisions. Road safety measures should also have reduced the levels of injuries sustained. For example, if traffic calming schemes reduce average speeds, people may suffer only slight injury in collisions that previously would have taken place at higher speeds and so might previously have resulted in serious injury.

However, it is also possible that some of the changes shown in the statistics of serious injuries and slight injuries may be due to changes in administrative practices, which may have altered the proportion of collisions which is categorised as serious. For example, the distinction between serious and slight injuries could be affected by factors such as changes in hospitals' admission policies. All else being equal, the number of serious injury cases would rise, and the number of slight injury cases would fall, if it became standard procedure for a hospital to keep in overnight, for precautionary reasons, casualties with a particular type of injury.

The increase in the number of serious injury collisions in 1994 was partly attributed to a change in the health boards' policies in admitting more child casualties for overnight observation, which in turn changed the classification of many injuries from slight to serious. The number of child casualties recorded as having serious injuries in 1994 was 35% higher than in the previous year. There could also be changes in hospitals' procedures that would reduce the numbers of serious injury cases. In addition, there is anecdotal evidence that changes in procedures for assigning severity codes may affect the categorisation of injuries. For example, different severity codes might be assigned by a police officer who was at the scene of an collision and by a clerk who bases the code on a police officer's written description of the collision.

Other definitions

Collision: The statistical returns include only those collisions which result in personal injury, which occur on roads (including footways), in which a vehicle is

concerned, and which become known to the police. The vehicle need not be moving and it need not be in collision. The statistics are therefore of injury road collisions only: damage-only collisions are not included in the figures.

Adults: People aged 16 and over.

Built-up roads: collisions which occur on built-up roads are those which occur on roads which have speed limits of up to 40 miles per hour (*ignoring* temporary speed limits on roads for which the normal speed limit is over 40mph). Therefore, an collision on a motorway in an urban area would *not* be counted as occurring on a built-up road, because the speed limit on the motorway is 70mph. An collision on a stretch of motorway with a temporary speed limit of 30mph would *not* be counted as occurring on a built-up road, because the normal speed limit is 70mph.

Buses and coaches: Include works' buses and (in past years) trams and trolley buses. Vehicles are coded according to their construction, irrespective of their use at the time of the collision. Thus, vehicles of bus construction which are privately licensed are included under 'buses and coaches', while Public Service Vehicle licensed minibuses are included under minibuses.

Cars: Include estate cars and three-wheeled cars.

Casualty: A person killed or injured in an collision. One collision may give rise to several casualties.

Children: People under 16 years old.

Darkness: From half an hour after sunset to half an hour before sunrise, ie 'lighting-up time'.

Drivers: Persons in control of vehicles other than pedal cycles and two-wheeled motor vehicles.

Goods vehicles: Vans, lorries, tankers, milk floats, tractor units travelling without their trailer units.

Heavy goods vehicles: From 1994, heavy goods vehicles have been defined as goods vehicles with a maximum permissible gross vehicle weight of more than 3.5 tonnes. Prior to 1994, they were defined as those with an *unladen* weight of more than 1.5 tons (1.52 tonnes).

Junction: A place at which two or more roads meet, whatever the angle of the axes of the roads (including roundabouts), or within 20 metres of such a place.

Killed: Sustained injuries which caused death less than 30 days after the collision.

Light goods vehicles: From 1994, light goods vehicles have been defined as goods vehicles with a maximum permissible gross vehicle weight of up to 3.5 tonnes. Prior to 1994, they were defined as those with an *unladen* weight of 1.5 tons (1.52 tonnes) or less.

Major roads: Motorways and A roads.

Minor roads: B roads, C roads and unclassified roads.

Motorcycles: Includes all two wheeled motor vehicles.

Motorists: The drivers or riders of motor vehicles (including, for example, motorcyclists).

Motorways: Include A(M) roads.

Non built-up roads: Roads for which the normal speed limit (*ignoring* any temporary speed limits) is more than 40mph.

Other vehicles: Include ambulances, fire engines, pedestrian-controlled vehicles with motors, railway trains or engines, refuse vehicles, road rollers, tractors, excavators, mobile cranes, tower wagons, army tanks, etc – and from 1999, motor caravans. Other non-motor vehicles include those drawn by an animal, ridden horses, invalid carriages without motor, street barrows, etc.

Passengers: Occupants of vehicles, other than the person in control, including pillion passengers.

Pedal cycles: Including toy cycles ridden on the carriageway, tandems and tricycles. Pedal cyclists includes any passengers of pedal cycles.

Pedestrians: Includes people riding toy cycles on the footway, people pushing bicycles, people pushing or pulling other vehicles or operating pedestrian-controlled vehicles, those leading or herding animals, occupants of prams or wheelchairs, and people who alight safely from vehicles and are subsequently injured.

Riders: People in control of pedal cycles or two-wheeled motor vehicles.

Road users: Pedestrians and vehicle riders, drivers and passengers.

Trunk roads: Roads for whose upkeep Scottish Government Ministers are responsible.

Users of a vehicle: All occupants, ie driver (or rider) and passengers, including persons injured while boarding or alighting from the vehicle.

Vehicles involved in collisions: Any vehicle directly involved in an collision where at least one injury is sustained by a pedestrian or vehicle driver, rider or passenger. Vehicles which collide after the initial collision which caused injury are not included, unless they aggravate the degree of injury or lead to further casualties.

Some other points to note

Driver and casualty postcodes, and estimated distances between homes and the locations of collisions

Postcodes were added to the Stats 19 returns in 1999. It was accepted that their collection would have to be phased in, as they became readily available from police administrative systems. Indeed, the Stats 20 instructions state if the postcode is not immediately available, leave blank. As a result, blank (or the not known code) is used more often than should be the case in future. There are also codes for non-UK residents and for parked and unattended vehicles.

The straight line (or as the crow flies) distance between the location of the collision and the home of a driver, rider or casualty was estimated using the postcode of the person's home. The grid co-ordinates of the centre of the postcode were obtained from the General Register Office for Scotland's postcode directory file. These were taken as an approximation to the grid co-ordinates of the person's home, and used in conjunction with the grid co-ordinates of the location of the collision (as reported by the police) to estimate the distance. A similar approach was used in the small proportion of cases where there was only the start of a postcode (eg the police might record EH10 if they knew that someone lived in Edinburgh 10, but they could not provide the full postcode) or where only the postal district or postcode sector could be matched with the postcode directory. A distance could not be estimated if the postcode were blank, coded not known or non-UK resident, did not contain a valid postal district, or were for a place outwith Scotland.

Vehicle type: coding of motor caravans

The vehicle type code formerly used for 'Minibus/motor caravan' (code 10) was changed in 1999:

- **Minibus:** the code 10 category now covers only minibuses;
- **Motor caravans** are not identified as a separate category – they are now included with 'Other motor vehicles' (code 14)

As a result, the figures for the categories described in the tables as minibus and other are on different bases for (a) 1998 and earlier years and (b) 1999 and later years. The scale of the discontinuity is not known, because motor caravans have not been identified separately in the statistical returns. However, it is likely that this change has contributed to the fall in the minibus figures between 1998 and 1999, and the rise in the other figures.

Estimates of the total volume of road traffic

Some tables include estimates of traffic volumes, or collision or casualty rates calculated from them. The traffic estimates were provided by the Department for Transport (DfT), which produces estimates of the total volume of road traffic for Scotland and for other parts of Great Britain.

DfT's estimates are based on an urban/rural classification of roads, *not* on the built-up/non built-up classification of roads used in the traffic estimates that were made up to 2002 (which is still used for the collision and casualty statistics). In general:

- an urban road is a road (other than a Motorway) that lies within the boundaries of an urban area with a population of 10,000 or more in 2001;
- a built-up road is one that has a speed limit of 40 m.p.h. or less

As traffic on a particular road can be classed as rural whilst collisions occurring on it classed as built-up, it would be incorrect to estimate an area's collision rate for built-up roads by dividing its number of collisions on built-up roads by its estimated volume of traffic on urban roads. Therefore, estimates of built-up and non built-up collision rates are provided in Table 5 *only* for Scotland as a *whole* – and these estimates may *not* be precise, due to the nature of the classifications.

The DfT traffic estimates provide only a rough indication of the likely total volume of traffic in each Council area. These are not National Statistics. For example, DfT believes that its estimates of the volume of traffic on minor roads (i.e. B, C and unclassified roads) for Scotland as a whole are of acceptable quality. However, the 320 or so counts now taken per year at minor road sites across Scotland represent an average of 10 per local authority per year – clearly too few to be the basis of reliable estimates for individual local authority areas for each year. DfT therefore estimate the total volume of traffic on minor roads in individual local authority areas in other ways (outlined in *Scottish Transport Statistics*). The resulting estimates, which are consistent with the overall totals for Scotland as a whole, provide only a broad indication of the likely total volume of traffic on minor roads in each local authority area. As a result:

- it is not possible for DfT to quantify the possible margins of error around them;

- they are not classed as National Statistics;
- more detailed breakdowns of the estimates for individual local authority areas (e.g. separately for B, C and unclassified roads; or for urban roads and rural roads) are not published

In addition, DfT's estimates of traffic on major roads in each local authority area are also not classed as National Statistics. They too are based on limited data: as manual traffic counts are taken on a rotating census basis, there may be several years between successive counts at a particular site. Therefore, DfT notes that there could be large errors in its traffic estimates for the major roads in some of the smaller local authority areas. Similar considerations apply to DfT's estimates of the total volume of traffic on all roads in each area, which are produced by adding together its estimates of traffic on major roads and on minor roads.

In conclusion: DfT provides its estimates of the volume of traffic in each local authority area as the best that it can produce from the limited amount of data available to it – rough indications of the likely volume of traffic in each area, for use with caution, as no better estimates are available.

Appendix E - Local Government Reorganisation and the Trunk Road Network

Introduction

This Appendix explains how statistics for the areas of the new Councils were produced for the period prior to local government reorganisation on 1 April 1996. It then describes the trunk road network the changes made to it then, and their effect on the statistics. The next section is about identifying collisions which occurred prior to 1 April 1996 on the roads which formed the post- 1 April 1996 trunk road network, so that figures could be produced on a consistent basis pre- and post-1996. Subsequent sections explain how the effect of the change for individual Council areas can be assessed, how the 1994-98 averages for trunk roads and local authority roads were calculated, and how collision and casualty rates for 1995 and earlier years were calculated. The final section mentions how the statistics for some types of road in some areas may be affected by the opening of new roads.

Local Government re-organisation

The reorganisation of local government established new Councils with effect from 1st April 1996, to replace the former Regions, Districts and Island Areas. Statistics for the areas covered by the new Councils for earlier years (back to 1981) were derived in three ways:

- In the case of the former Island Areas, by allocating all the collisions which occurred in each Island Area to the relevant Council.
- In those cases where a whole District fell in a new Council's area, by allocating all the collisions which occurred in that District to the area of the new Council.
- In the case of collisions occurring in the five Districts which had major parts falling in several new Councils' areas, by a special exercise, which used the grid co-ordinates recorded for each individual collision to allocate it to the area of one of the new Councils, using a computer mapping system. This was successful for 99% of collisions for these five Districts, consistently over all years from 1981. The remaining 1% of the collisions in the five Districts were assigned to the new Council in which the majority of the District's collisions fell. This should cause only a very small error (considerably less than 1%) for any of the new Councils, in any year.

The Trunk Road Network

Trunk roads are those roads for whose upkeep Scottish Ministers are responsible. The Government's view, when it reviewed the trunk road network in 1994, was that the trunk road network should:

- provide the road user with a coherent and continuous system of routes which serve destinations of importance to industry, commerce, agriculture and tourism;
- define nationally important routes which will be developed in line with strategic national transport demands; and
- ensure that those roads which are of predominantly local importance are managed locally.

Currently, the trunk road network in Scotland consists of all the Motorways plus some (but not all) of the A roads. In some cases, the trunk road network may include the whole of a particular road; in other cases, only certain stretches of a road may be part of the trunk road network. For example, only that part of the A7 which runs south of the junction with the A6091 near Galashiels is part of the current trunk road network: the northern part is *not* a trunk road.

Changes to the trunk road network in April 1996, and their effect on the statistics

Following the review of the trunk road network, several changes were made with effect from 1st April 1996 (coinciding with the reorganisation of local government). Some roads (or stretches of road) which had previously been part of the trunk road network were transferred to local authority control: examples include the A7 from near Edinburgh to near Galashiels, and the A91 from the M90 to St Andrews. Some roads which had previously been the responsibility of local authorities became part of the new trunk road network: examples include the A720 Edinburgh City bypass east of the M8 extension and the A95 from Aviemore to Keith. The overall result was that, on 1st April 1996, about 214 miles of road ceased to be trunk road, and about 361 miles of road became trunk road.

Because of these changes to the trunk road network, the original figures for the numbers of collisions which occurred on trunk roads before and after 1st April 1996 were on different bases, and a comparison could be misleading. Comparisons of the figures for local authority roads could also be misleading, particularly when one looked at the figures for the areas covered by certain Councils, because they may relate to significantly different road networks before and after 1 April 1996.

Identifying collisions which occurred before April 1996 on the roads which formed the post- 1 April 1996 trunk road network, to enable comparison of the numbers before and after 1996

In order to get figures for some of the years before 1996 which were on the basis of the post- 1 April 1996 road network, a special exercise was undertaken. This identified, from among the collisions which took place between 1st January 1992 and 31st March 1996, those which occurred on the stretches of road which form the new trunk road network (i.e. the trunk road network that took effect from 1st April 1996). As a result, the information that is available in the Transport Statistics branch database enables figures to be produced for the numbers of road collisions on trunk roads, and on local authority roads, using the following definitions of the status of the road:

- a. status *at the time* of the collision - these figures are available for all years
- b. status in terms of the *old* network - available up to 31 March 1996 only
- c. status in terms of the *new* network - available for all years from 1992

It should be noted that the definitions under (b) and (c) above should, strictly speaking, be expanded:

- i. For collisions which occurred *before* 31st March 1996, (b) is actually the status *at the time* of the collision (rather than the status *at 31 March 1996*): the two will differ in the case of any roads whose status changed *before* 31 March 1996. For example, if a road ceased to be a trunk road on (say) 15 May 1994, then definition (b) would show it as a trunk road for collisions before that date, and would show it as a local authority road thereafter.
- ii. For collisions which occurred *after* 1st April 1996, © is actually the status *at the time* of the collision (rather than the status *at 1 April 1996*): the two will differ in the case of any roads whose status changed *after* 1 April 1996. For example, if a road ceased to be a trunk road on (say) 8 July 1996, then definition © would show it as a trunk road for collisions before that date, and would show it as a local authority road thereafter.

Assessing the effect of the April 1996 changes on the figures for trunk roads and for local authority roads, for individual local authority areas

Because data for 1992 to 1995 are available both on the basis of the old trunk road network and on the basis of the new trunk road network, one can see the extent of the change in the number of collisions on the trunk road network that was caused by the transfer of roads (or stretches of roads) between the trunk road network and the local authority road network. Similarly, one can compare the figures on the two bases for the local authority road network to see the extent of the change in the total number of collisions on that network that was caused by the transfers.

1992-95 averages on both bases were included in, for example, Tables 4 and 40© of *Road Collisions Scotland 2000*. The figures in the first of these tables showed that the April 1996 changes had little effect on the trunk road network's overall share of the total number of collisions in Scotland as a whole. However, the figures in the second table showed that the changes did have a noticeable effect on the trunk road network's share in some parts of Scotland. For example, the 1992-95 annual average number of casualties, on all types of road, in the area which is now covered by Highland Council was 1,079. Of these, an average of 423 (39%) occurred on the roads which formed the pre- 1 April 1996 trunk road network, and 495 (46%) occurred on the roads which formed the post- 1 April 1996 trunk road network. Therefore, the April 1996 changes could have a noticeable effect on the 1994-98 averages for trunk roads and local authority major roads for some local authority areas.

How the statistics for some types of road in some areas may be affected by the opening of new roads

Finally, it should be noted that analysis by type of road does *not* take account of changes in the numbers of collisions which result from *traffic* transferring from one kind of road to another when a new road opens. For example, when a new road is built, the majority of the traffic which uses it may be traffic that previously used another road. In some cases (eg when a motorway is constructed to replace an existing trunk road) the original road which carried the traffic may cease to be a trunk road when the new road opens, because the new road replaces it as a trunk road. However, the records of the collisions which occurred on the original road will continue to show that they occurred on the original road: they will *not* be amended to be counted against the new road. In such a case, when the statistics are analysed on the basis of the new networks, those collisions which occurred on the original road will be counted as occurring on what is now part of the new local authority road network, and those collisions which occurred on the new road will be counted as

occurring on the new trunk road network. When one looks at series of figures for the new networks for a number of years, which span the year of the change, the figures for the new local authority network would fall, and the figures for the new trunk road network might rise, in the year in which the new road was opened, because of the transfer of traffic from the original road (which was a trunk road then, but is now part of the local authority road network) to the new road (which is part of the new trunk road network).

Appendix G - Calculations of the likely range of random year-to-year variation in road collision and casualty numbers

Introduction

This Appendix describes the methods that were used to calculate the likely range of random year-to-year variation in road collision and casualty numbers for Scotland as a whole that are shown in Figures 2, 3, 4 and 5. Two different methods were used: a simple method for Figures 2, 3 and 5, and a more complex method for Figure 4.

Calculating the likely ranges of values for Figures 2, 3 and 5

In the case of Figures 2, 3 and 5, the likely ranges of values were calculated on the assumption that the numbers are the outcome of a Poisson process. This is a process in which events occur at random, with the probability of an event occurring depending upon the underlying rate of their occurrence (*not* upon how long it has been since a previous event, *nor* upon the number of events that have occurred in a recent period). For the purpose of producing these charts, it was assumed that the underlying rate of occurrence in each year is the same as the value of the 5-year moving average centred on that year. (That is why there are no grey dashed lines for the last two years: one cannot calculate a 5-year moving average centred on 2020 until one has the values for 2021 and 2022).

A characteristic of a Poisson distribution is that the mean and the (statistical) variance are the same. Because the numbers are all much larger than 100, the assumption of asymptotic normality applies, and one would expect only about 5% of cases to fall outwith a 95% confidence interval range of plus or minus two standard deviations. Therefore, the upper and lower limits shown on the chart were calculated simply as the moving average plus and minus twice the standard deviation (for smaller numbers, exact ranges could have been calculated using the inverse Chi-square distribution). In the case of Figures 2, 3 and 5, the standard deviation was taken to be the square root of the assumed variance (i.e. the square root of the assumed underlying rate, and therefore the square root of the moving average).

In terms of statistical theory, this approach is appropriate for the number of fatal collisions (shown in Figure 2). However, it is a simplification in the case of the numbers of casualties of various types (shown in Figures 3, 4 and 5), because they have *two* random elements: the occurrence of an collision, and the number of casualties in it. The numbers of casualties would therefore be expected to have a greater range of statistical variability than that resulting from a simple Poisson

process. However, as it happens, the simple approach appears to suffice for Figures 3 and 5 (probably because the numbers involved are relatively small, and therefore, as discussed in Section 1.4 of the Commentary, the calculated ranges are quite wide in percentage terms) – but the larger numbers in Figure 4 require a more complex method of calculation of the likely range of values.

Calculating the likely range of values for Figure 4

An initial version of Figure 4 was produced using the approach described above – i.e. the numbers of casualties were assumed to be the result of a Poisson process whose underlying rate for each year was the moving average for that year. The standard deviation was simply calculated from the square root of the moving average, and the ranges were simply +/- twice this standard deviation. However, the initial version of the chart showed that this approach under-estimated greatly the variability of the figures, as over half the years (53%) had values which were outwith the calculated ranges.

It was noted earlier that the variation in the number of casualties is likely to be greater than that which would result from a simple Poisson process. A method to deal with this extra-Poisson variation is discussed in a paper by Washington State Department of Health, [Guidelines for using Confidence Intervals for Public Health Assessment](#).

The paper discussed the statistical problem of multiple admissions. For example, an asthma patient may be admitted many times, so that multiple admissions for an individual person are not likely to be independent of each other. A person who is hospitalised once for asthma is more likely to be hospitalised for asthma again than someone who has never been hospitalised for asthma. Therefore, the total count of admissions may not follow a Poisson distribution, and it is typical for the total count in such a situation to exhibit greater variability than would be expected from a Poisson process. As a result, simple methods of estimation (like those used to produce Figures 2, 3 and 5) will produce intervals which are too narrow.

The method proposed for calculating the variance in such a case is set out at section 4.6.2 of the Washington State Department of Health paper.

There is a clear analogy here with the road casualty figures. In our terms:

- d is the number of killed and seriously injured casualties;
- d_j is the number of killed and seriously injured casualties for collision j ; and
- P is the total number of injury collisions (including slight collisions)

We want to calculate the variance of d .

Because $R = d / P$ it follows that $d = R * P$ and the variance of d can be calculated from the variance of R .

The calculation of the variance of R requires one to sum the squares of the d_j s – i.e. the squares of the numbers of people who were killed or seriously injured in each injury collision. These numbers were extracted from the Transport Scotland's computer database, which holds details of individual injury collisions back to 1979. For example, in 1979 there were 23,064 injury collisions. 14,800 of these had only slight casualties, 7,077 had one KSI casualty, 843 had two KSI casualties, 195 had three KSI casualties, and so on. The sum of the squares of the d_j s is then simply $(7,077 * 1^2) + (843 * 2^2) + (195 * 3^2) +$ and so on. The variance of R can therefore be calculated for each year for 1979 onwards. Because figures for the numbers of casualties in each injury collision are not available for earlier years, it is not possible to calculate variances on this basis for years before 1979.

There is an added complication in our case as the total number of injury collisions (our P), which was assumed to be the result of a Poisson process, is *also* subject to random year-to-year variation, and therefore also has a variance associated with it. The standard deviation here can be calculated in the simple way, just the square root of the moving average value.

Then, because $d = R * P$, the variance of d is calculated as the variance of R plus the variance of P . (There is no covariance between the d_j and the P_j , because the value of P_j is equal to one for every value of d_j , since each P_j is a single injury collision).

The likely ranges of values are then calculated in the usual way, with the interval being +/- twice the standard deviation.

Figure 4 was prepared on this basis. This method appears to produce more realistic measures of the variability of the number of KSI casualties, but there are many years' figures (around a third) outwith the calculated ranges. The likely reason for this is that *statistical variability is not the only reason for year-to-year changes* – other factors have contributed to sharp falls and rises in KSI casualty numbers, as discussed in the publication Commentary. As the Commentary mentioned, in effect, *such factors change the Poisson process's underlying rate of occurrence of collisions and/or casualties*, and therefore, in effect, introduce a break into the series of moving average values. The method used to calculate the likely range of random year-to-year variation cannot take account of the effect of such changes.

Errors in the previous edition

This list covers errors which occurred in the preparation of the tables or the commentary in *Reported Road Casualties Scotland*.

We apologise for the following errors, which we have found in the previous edition.

Table 1b: The table with the heading 'Reported children (0-15) killed by mode of transport' shows 'Percent change 18-2022 on 2014-18 average' This should have been '20-2022 on 2014-18 average' However, the calculations were correct.

Table 31: The 2014-18 average casualty rates for males and females were calculated using data for an incorrect range of years.

If there are time-series tables that include years for which the previous edition's figures were wrong, these are correct in the current publication.

Data

The data collected for this statistical bulletin:

- are available as part of a GB dataset on data.gov.uk
- may be made available on request, subject to consideration of legal and ethical factors. Please contact Transtat@transport.gov.scot for further information.

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For enquiries about this publication please contact:

Andrew Knight
Transport Scotland Analytical Services
E-mail: transtat@transport.gov.scot

For general enquiries about Scottish Government statistics please contact:

Office of the Chief Statistician
e-mail: statistics.enquiries@gov.scot

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