

2020 California Quick Crash Facts

During 2020, California had a total of 147,148 fatal and injury traffic crashes: 3,672 fatal and 143,476 injury. Fatal crashes were higher than 2019 where there were 3,438 fatal crashes. Injury crashes were lower than 2019 where there were 187,211 injury crashes.

There were 2,164 vehicle occupants killed (excluding pedestrian, bicyclist, emergency vehicle, and bus); of these, 453 were not using safety equipment. There were 167,502 vehicle occupants injured; of these, 7,956 were not using safety equipment.

The number of vehicle occupants killed increased by 11.0 percent over 2019 and the number of vehicle occupants injured decreased by 29.5 percent over the same year.

On average, a fatal or injury traffic crash was reported every 4 minutes.

On average, 1 person was killed every 2 hours and 11 minutes as a result of a traffic crash.

On average, 1 person was injured every 2 minutes and 34 seconds as a result of a traffic crash.

Children under the age of 15 accounted for 7 percent of pedestrian victims and 8.1 percent of bicycle victims (killed and injured).

For each person killed, there were 51 persons injured.

Speed was indicated as the primary crash factor in 27.4 percent of the fatal and injury crashes.

Fatal truck crashes where the truck driver was at fault have increased from 83 in 2019, to 88 in 2020. Injury truck crashes where the truck driver was at fault have decreased from 3,038 in 2019, to 2,447 in 2020.

In 2020, there was no indication of safety equipment use in 74 of the 565 motorcyclist fatalities. Also, there was no indication of safety equipment use in 2,064 of the 10,553 motorcyclist injuries.

In 2019, there were 484 motorcyclists killed and 12,935 motorcyclists injured. Motorcyclists killed in 2020 increased by 16.7 percent from 2019 and those injured decreased 18.4 percent over that same year. Licensed motorcycle drivers in 2020 decreased 1.7 percent over 2019.

There were 589 motorcyclists involved in fatal crashes, of which 386 were the fault of the rider. This indicates 65.5 percent of motorcyclists involved in fatal crashes were at fault.

Of the 589 motorcyclists involved in fatal crashes, 187 (31.7 percent) were involved in fatal crashes where no other party was involved. The motorcyclist was at fault 95.7 percent of the time in solo motorcycle fatal crashes.

In 2020, alcohol involved fatal crashes increased 5.2 percent. Persons killed when alcohol was involved also increased 6.7 percent over the previous year.

Since 2011, the number of licensed drivers in California has increased 12.2 percent. Of the licensed drivers in California, 20.4 percent were under 30 years of age; however, drivers under 30 years of age comprised 32.1 percent of all drivers in fatal and injury crashes. Drivers at fault under 30 years of age comprised 36.9 percent of all drivers at fault in fatal and injury crashes.

Since 2011, California's population has increased 5.2 percent. On average, 1 out of every 9,930 persons living in California was killed in a traffic crash; 1 out of every 194 persons was injured; and 1 out of every 102 licensed drivers was involved in a fatal or injury traffic crash.

As a result of the 3,672 fatal crashes, 3,982 (2,177 drivers, 609 passengers, 1,043 pedestrians, and 153 bicyclists) persons were killed. This is an average of 1.1 deaths per fatal crash.

There were 1.33 persons killed and 68 persons injured for every 100 million vehicle miles of travel (these are more commonly known as the mileage death and mileage injury rates). Since 2011, the estimated vehicle miles of travel has decreased 8 percent.

Hit-and-run was indicated in 12.6 percent of the fatal and injury crashes.

In 2020, California did not have a day without a traffic fatality. The last recorded dates or times without motor vehicle traffic fatalities were on June 30, 2015; August 13, 2013; and in 2009 when there were three such days: March 30, June 10, and September 5.