

# STATISTICAL PRESS NOTICE

## Road Traffic Collision Statistics

### Annual Report 2008

Further to the summary report published in May for the 2008/09 financial year period, the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) today (Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2009) published its more detailed statistical report on injury road traffic collisions covering the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008. The key findings of this National Statistics publication are as follows;

#### **Key Findings**

##### **Overview**

- During 2008 there were 6,223 injury road traffic collisions reported to the police. These collisions resulted in 107 fatalities, 990 people seriously injured and 8,454 people slightly injured.
- Ten per cent (952) of the casualties in 2008 were children aged under 16. Of these 7 were killed, 94 were seriously injured and 851 were slightly injured.

##### **Collisions**

- The total number of injury road traffic collisions increased from 5,990 in 2007 to 6,223 in 2008 (an increase of 3.9%).
- The number of collisions resulting in individuals being killed or seriously injured fell by 3.3% (943 in 2007, 912 in 2008).
- The total number of injury road traffic collisions involving child casualties increased slightly from 785 in 2007 to 790 in 2008 (an increase of 0.6%).
- The number of collisions resulting in a child being killed or seriously injured increased by 3.4% (89 in 2007, 92 in 2008).
- The most common causes of all injury road traffic collisions in 2008 were 'inattention or attention diverted' (15.0%, 932 collisions), 'driving too close' (10.6%, 659 collisions) and 'emerging from a minor road/driveway without care' (10.2%, 637 collisions).
- The most common causes of fatal and serious injury road traffic collisions in 2008 were 'excessive speed having regard to conditions' (15.9%, 145 collisions), 'alcohol or drugs (driver/rider)' (11.3%, 103 collisions) and 'emerging from a minor road/driveway without care' (7.7%, 70 collisions).

##### **Casualties**

- Overall there was a 1.2% increase in casualties resulting from injury road traffic collisions (from 9,436 in 2007 to 9,551 in 2008).
- During the year there were 6 fewer fatalities (down 5.3%) and 107 fewer people seriously injured (down 9.8%).

- Drivers of motor vehicles were the single largest casualty class in 2008, accounting for just over half (51.7%) of all casualties, followed by passengers (31.8%), pedestrians (8.8%), motorcyclists (4.8%) and pedal cyclists (2.2%).
- Just under two-thirds (65.1%) of all child casualties were passengers, 25.9% were pedestrians and a further 6.7% were pedal cyclists.

## **Notes for Editors**

The PSNI reports key injury road traffic collision statistics on a financial year basis and a report covering the period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009 was released on 8 May 2009. However we realise that most interested parties prefer to have information on a calendar year basis and as a result have produced this more detailed report.

## **Data Limitations**

It should be recognised that the statistics contained in this report only reflect the number of injury collisions that were reported to the police. It is possible that some injury collisions were not brought to the PSNI's attention for a variety of reasons and recent research conducted in England & Wales has identified discrepancies between collision casualty data recorded by the police compared with that sourced from Hospitals.

The PSNI can only report on those collisions that are brought to their attention.

Furthermore, the differentiation of a slight collision from a serious collision is not always a straightforward decision, especially for the more minor 'serious injury' types. It should be remembered that the data is collected by operational police officers whose main priority at the scene of the collision is to assist the injured, prevent other collisions from occurring and to gather evidence for a prosecution if any offence has been committed. As a result, there may be a small proportion of collisions that are incorrectly classified in these statistics. This would have been the case in previous years also.

This report is available in PDF format from the PSNI web-site ([www.psni.police.uk](http://www.psni.police.uk)).

Press queries about this publication should be directed to the PSNI Media and PR Dept. tel. 0845 600 8000 ext.21084 or ext. 21085

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