

Statistical Report No. 5

INJURY ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISIONS

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Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

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Injury Road Traffic Collisions - Definitions

A National Statistics Publication

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5. Injury Road Traffic Collisions and Casualties

Summary

Overview

- In 2005/06 there were 5,098 injury road traffic collisions that resulted in 8,377 casualties. Eleven per cent (895) of the casualties in 2005/06 were children aged under 16.

Number of Collisions

- The total number of injury road traffic collisions dropped from 5,240 in 2004/05 to 5,098 in 2005/06 (a decrease of 2.7%). This represents the lowest annual level of injury road traffic collisions recorded in the last 10 years;
- Around one in seven (13.8%) collisions resulted in child casualties.

Causes of Collisions

- The most common causes of injury collisions in 2005/06 were 'inattention' (1,157 collisions), 'excessive speed having regard to conditions' (645 collisions) and 'emerging from a minor road/driveway without care' (580 collisions).

Number and Severity of Casualties

- Of the 8,377 casualties, 134 were killed, 1,115 were seriously injured and 7,128 were slightly injured. Sixteen of the fatalities were children. Overall there was a 4.2% reduction in casualties resulting from injury road traffic collisions (from 8,746 in 2004/05 to 8,377 in 2005/06);
- The overall reduction in casualties in Northern Ireland was reflected across all severities of injury with 6 fewer fatalities (down 4.3%), 13 fewer serious injuries (down 1.2%) and 350 fewer slight injuries (down 4.7%) in 2005/06 compared with the previous year.

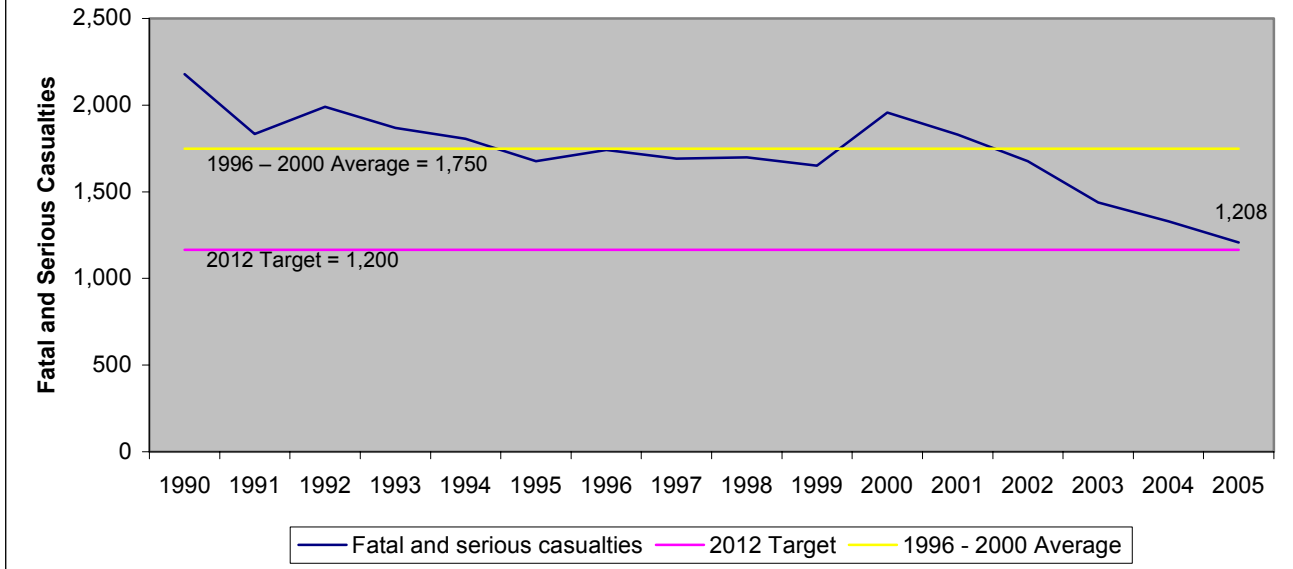
Casualties by Type of Road User

- In 2005/06 drivers of motor vehicles were the single largest casualty class, accounting for just over half (51.1%) of all casualties, followed by passengers (33.3%), pedestrians (8.4%), motor cyclists (4.7%) and pedal cyclists (1.8%);
- Two thirds (65.6%) of all child casualties were passengers, 27.0% were pedestrians and a further 5.5% were pedal cyclists.

The Casualty Reduction Target for 2012

- The Northern Ireland Road Safety Strategy was introduced in 2002 with the aim of achieving a one third reduction in the number of deaths and serious injuries on Northern Ireland's roads by 2012 (based on the average number of fatal & serious injuries between the years of 1996 and 2000). Progress towards achieving that target is shown in Figure 5.1.

Figure 5.1: Progress towards the year 2012 Casualty Reduction Target ¹



¹ Based on calendar year figures.

Figure 5.2: Injury Road Traffic Collisions 1996/97 - 2005/06

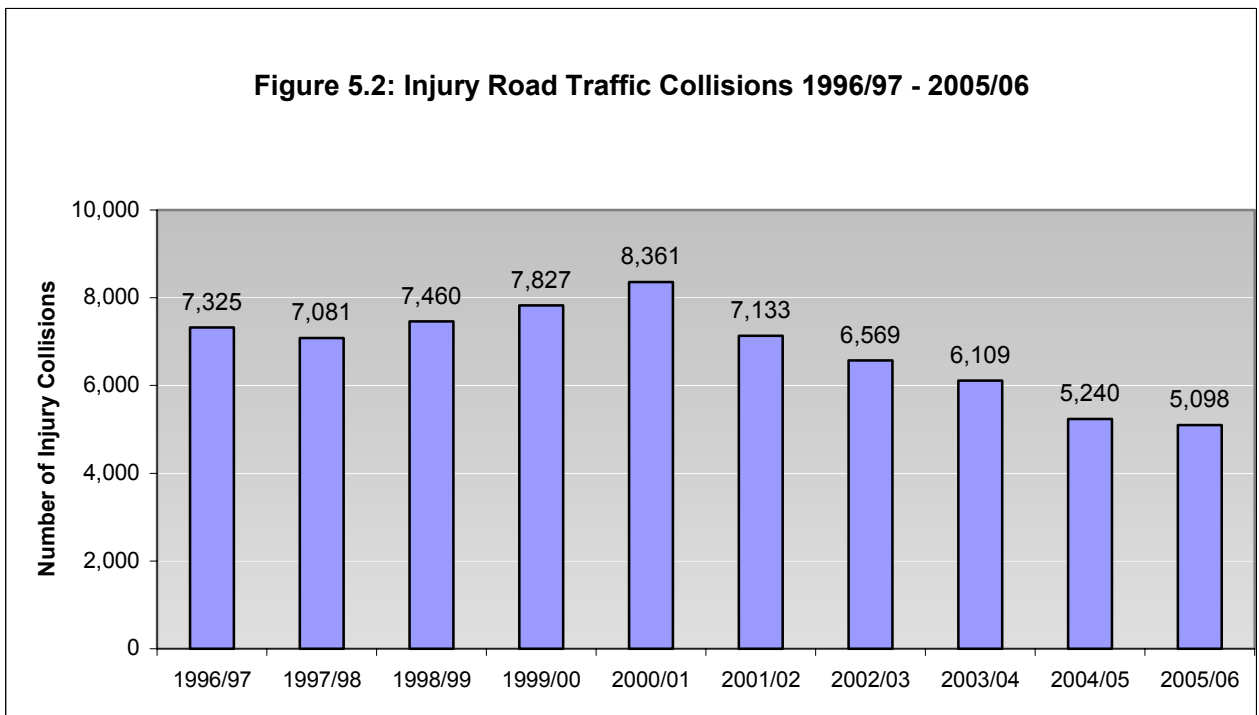


Figure 5.3 Persons Killed in Injury Road Traffic Collisions 1996/97 - 2005/06

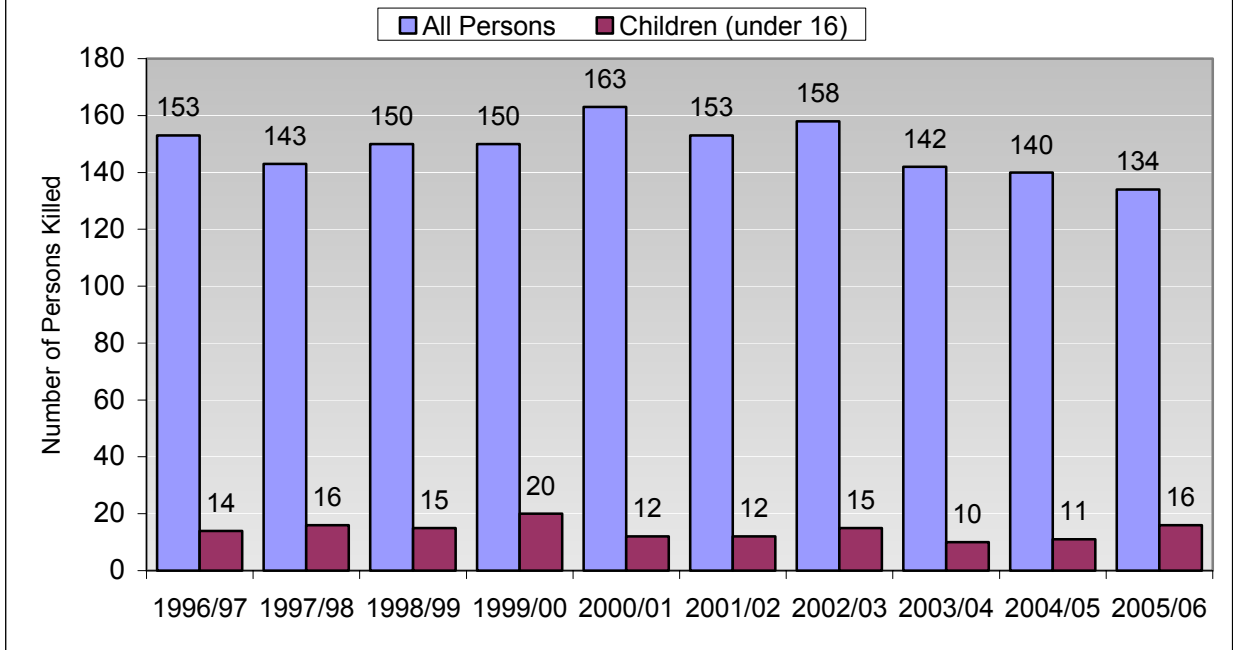
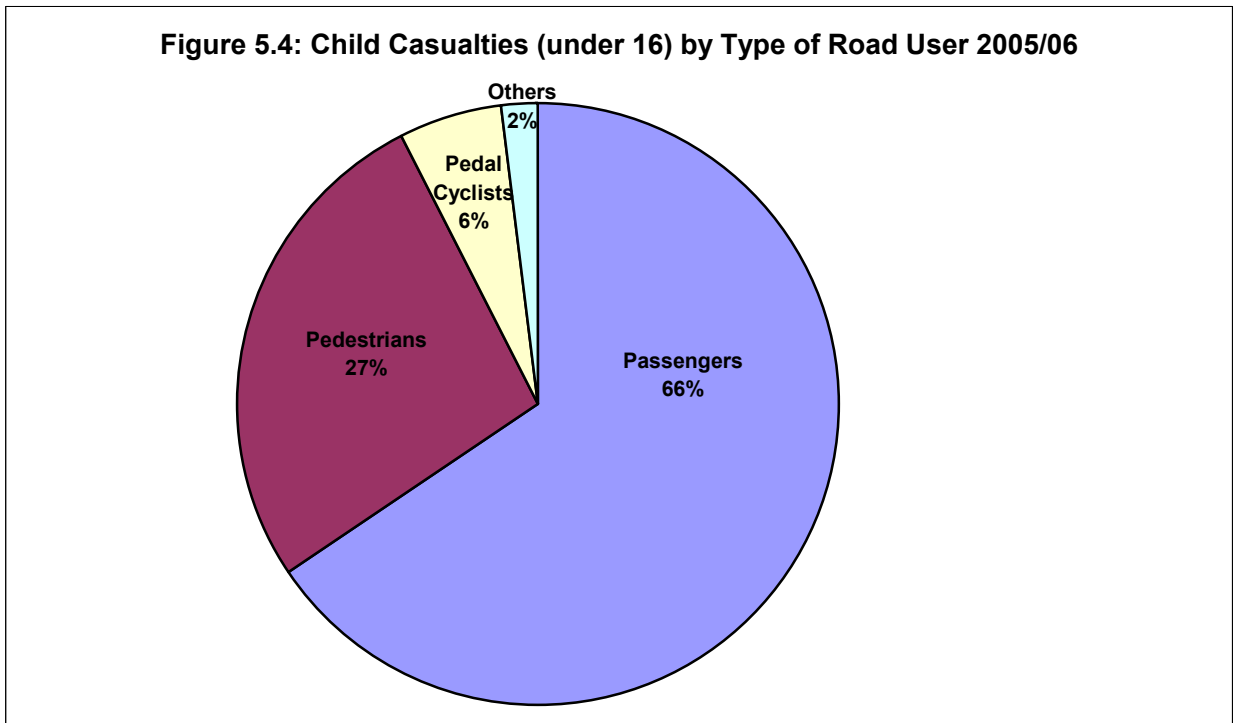


Figure 5.4: Child Casualties (under 16) by Type of Road User 2005/06



¹ 'Passengers' include pedal cycle passengers. 'Others' include drivers of motor vehicles, riders and pillion passengers on motorcycles and drivers/riders and passengers of 'other vehicles' (e.g. tractors, invalid carriages and horse-drawn vehicles etc.).

Table 5.5: Injury Road Traffic Collisions and Casualties 1996/97 – 2005/06

	Number of Injury Collisions	Casualties			
		Killed	Seriously Injured	Slightly Injured	Total Casualties
1996/97	7,325	153	1,645	11,237	13,035
1997/98	7,081	143	1,526	10,912	12,581
1998/99	7,460	150	1,462	11,682	13,294
1999/00	7,827	150	1,573	12,170	13,893
2000/01	8,361	163	1,801	12,620	14,584
2001/02	7,133	153	1,638	10,812	12,603
2002/03	6,569	158	1,487	9,901	11,546
2003/04	6,109	142	1,258	9,022	10,422
2004/05	5,240	140	1,128	7,478	8,746
2005/06	5,098	134	1,115	7,128	8,377

Table 5.6: Injury Road Traffic Collisions Involving Child Casualties (under 16) 1996/97 - 2005/06

	Number of Injury Collisions	Child Casualties			
		Killed	Seriously Injured	Slightly Injured	Total Casualties
1996/97	1,419	14	273	1,578	1,865
1997/98	1,398	16	248	1,488	1,752
1998/99	1,472	15	218	1,641	1,874
1999/00	1,402	20	201	1,546	1,767
2000/01	1,376	12	226	1,566	1,804
2001/02	1,201	12	219	1,297	1,528
2002/03	1,039	15	173	1,248	1,436
2003/04	947	10	158	1,086	1,254
2004/05	790	11	124	873	1,008
2005/06	701	16	127	752	895

Table 5.7: Most Common Principal Factors in Injury Road Traffic Collisions - 2005/06

Principal Factor	Number of Injury Collisions	Casualties			
		Killed	Seriously Injured	Slightly Injured	Total Casualties
Inattention	1,157	12	126	1,667	1,805
Excessive speed having regard to the conditions	645	34	231	926	1,191
Emerging from minor road/driveway without care	580	8	112	865	985
Alcohol or drugs (all road users)	321	26	121	424	571
Turning right without care	273	3	63	437	503
Crossing or entering road junction without care	262	7	52	403	462
Driving too close	230	0	10	397	407
Pedestrian heedless of traffic	223	11	76	158	245

Table 5.8: Most Common Principal Factors in Injury Road Traffic Collisions Involving Child Casualties (under 16) 2005/06

Principal Factor	Number of Injury Collisions	Child Casualties			
		Killed	Seriously Injured	Slightly Injured	Total Casualties
Inattention	133	3	11	151	165
Pedestrian heedless of traffic	95	3	34	62	99
Excessive speed having regard to conditions	82	2	17	98	117
Emerging from minor road/driveway without care	80	3	7	98	108
Walk/run movement masked	52	0	12	40	52

Table 5.9: Injury Road Traffic Collision Casualties by Severity of Injury and Type of Road User 2001/02 – 2005/06

Type of Road User ¹	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
Fatalities:					
Pedestrians	37	26	29	24	25
Drivers of motor vehicles	59	62	54	62	63
Motor cyclists	12	21	17	24	12
Pedal cyclists	1	3	2	2	4
Passengers	43	43	37	26	30
Pillion passengers	0	1	1	1	0
Other road users	1	2	2	1	0
Totals	153	158	142	140	134
Serious Injuries:					
Pedestrians	276	236	205	180	198
Drivers of motor vehicles	710	643	522	479	467
Motor cyclists	148	166	145	151	126
Pedal cyclists	40	27	32	27	30
Passengers	439	395	334	275	283
Pillion passengers	7	14	8	9	6
Other road users	18	6	12	7	5
Totals	1,638	1,487	1,258	1,128	1,115
Slight Injuries:					
Pedestrians	652	607	569	474	484
Drivers of motor vehicles	5,532	5,073	4,580	3,905	3,754
Motor cyclists	254	284	305	292	257
Pedal cyclists	156	141	155	131	120
Passengers	4,134	3,739	3,378	2,633	2,473
Pillion passengers	28	19	12	10	12
Other road users	56	38	23	33	28
Totals	10,812	9,901	9,022	7,478	7,128
All Casualties:					
Pedestrians	965	869	803	678	707
Drivers of motor vehicles	6,301	5,778	5,156	4,446	4,284
Motor cyclists	414	471	467	467	395
Pedal cyclists	197	171	189	160	154
Passengers	4,616	4,177	3,749	2,934	2,786
Pillion passengers	35	34	21	20	18
Other road users	75	46	37	41	33
Totals	12,603	11,546	10,422	8,746	8,377

¹ 'Passengers' include pedal cycle passengers. 'Other road users' include drivers/riders and passengers of 'other vehicles' (e.g. tractors, invalid carriages, horse-drawn vehicles).

Table 5.10: Child Casualties (under 16) in Injury Road Traffic Collisions by Severity of Injury, Type of Road User and Age Group 2004/05 and 2005/06

Type of Road User ¹	2004/05				2005/06			
	Under 5	5 – 10	11 – 15	Totals	Under 5	5 – 10	11 – 15	Totals
Fatalities								
Pedestrians	2	0	1	3	1	1	5	7
Pedal cyclists	0	0	1	1	0	3	0	3
Passengers	2	1	2	5	0	1	3	4
Others	1	1	0	2	0	0	2	2
Totals	5	2	4	11	1	5	10	16
Serious Injuries								
Pedestrians	14	29	28	71	10	21	34	65
Pedal cyclists	0	7	1	8	0	4	4	8
Passengers	8	11	20	39	4	23	20	47
Others	0	1	5	6	0	1	6	7
Totals	22	48	54	124	14	49	64	127
Slight Injuries								
Pedestrians	13	82	75	170	24	60	86	170
Pedal cyclists	1	32	35	68	3	24	11	38
Passengers	110	248	269	627	112	195	229	536
Others	0	0	8	8	1	0	7	8
Totals	124	362	387	873	140	279	333	752
All Child Casualties								
Pedestrians	29	111	104	244	35	82	125	242
Pedal cyclists	1	39	37	77	3	31	15	49
Passengers	120	260	291	671	116	219	252	587
Others	1	2	13	16	1	1	15	17

¹ 'Passengers' include pedal cycle passengers. 'Others' include drivers of motor vehicles, riders and pillion passengers on motorcycles and drivers/riders and passengers of 'other vehicles' (e.g. tractors, invalid carriages and horse-drawn vehicles etc.).

Table 5.11: Casualties in Injury Road Traffic Collisions by Severity of Injury and District Command Unit 2004/05 and 2005/06

	2004/05				2005/06			
	Killed	Seriously Injured	Slightly Injured	Total	Killed	Seriously Injured	Slightly Injured	Total
Antrim	5	34	204	243	6	24	190	220
Ards	8	65	279	352	6	48	310	364
Armagh	8	45	241	294	4	52	272	328
Ballymena	2	54	321	377	8	55	250	313
Ballymoney	6	26	149	181	3	16	89	108
Banbridge	5	32	164	201	1	28	206	235
Carrickfergus	1	10	83	94		24	129	153
Castlereagh	1	22	213	236	3	11	189	203
Coleraine	4	39	158	201	4	37	150	191
Cookstown	3	28	206	237	4	37	156	197
Craigavon	0	51	317	368	2	49	352	403
Down	3	40	284	327	6	32	236	274
Dungannon and South Tyrone	8	52	255	315	6	51	277	334
East Belfast	0	39	347	386	1	34	323	358
Fermanagh	10	54	279	343	13	61	275	349
Foyle	8	61	491	560	7	52	370	429
Larne	4	24	121	149	2	24	82	108
Limavady	7	45	144	196	6	41	199	246
Lisburn	11	63	460	534	7	87	513	607
Magherafelt	8	22	205	235	10	36	168	214
Moyle	2	15	72	89		11	51	62
Newry and Mourne	13	54	239	306	10	30	152	192
Newtownabbey	2	29	278	309	5	45	323	373
North Belfast	4	52	372	428	2	45	565	612
North Down	3	37	316	356	4	40	274	318
Omagh	5	29	209	243	7	36	210	253
South Belfast	5	45	424	474	2	43	333	378
Strabane	2	26	165	193		31	120	151
West Belfast	2	35	482	519	5	35	364	404
Totals	140	1,128	7,478	8,746	134	1,115	7,128	8,377

Injury Road Traffic Collisions - Definitions

Collisions

Collisions involving personal injury occurring on the public highway (including footpaths) in which a vehicle is involved. Collisions are categorised as either 'Fatal', 'Serious' or 'Slight' according to the most severely injured casualty.

Killed

Died within 30 days from injuries received in a collision.

Serious Injury

An injury for which a person is detained in hospital as an 'in-patient', or any of the following injuries whether or not the person is detained in hospital: fractures, concussion, internal injuries, crushings, burns, severe cuts and lacerations or severe general shock requiring medical treatment.

Slight Injury

An injury of a minor character such as a sprain, bruise or cut not judged to be severe, or slight shock requiring roadside attention.

Casualty

A person who sustains a slight, serious or fatal injury.

Children

Persons under 16 years of age.

Drivers of motor vehicles

Drivers of hackneys, cars, motor caravans, LGVs, HGVs, cars used as taxis, minibuses and buses.

Motorcyclists

Drivers/riders of mopeds and motorcycles. Includes riders of two-wheeled motor vehicles, motorcycle combinations, scooters and mopeds.

Pedal cyclists

Drivers/riders of pedal cycles. Includes children riding toy cycles on the carriageway and the first rider of a tandem.

Passengers

Occupants of vehicles other than the driver or rider. Passengers of hackneys, cars, motor caravans, LGVs, HGVs, cars used as taxis, minibuses, buses and pedal cycles.

Pillion passengers

Passenger on a moped or motorcycle.

Other road users

Drivers and passengers of invalid/3 wheelers, tractors, ridden horses, other motor vehicles and other non motor vehicles.

Pedestrians

Include:

- Children on scooters, roller skates or skateboards;
- Children riding toy cycles on the footpath;
- Persons pushing bicycles or other vehicles or operating pedestrian-controlled vehicles;
- Persons leading or herding animals;
- Occupants of prams or wheelchairs;
- People who alight safely from vehicles and are subsequently injured;
- Persons pushing or pulling a vehicle;
- Persons other than cyclists holding on to the back of a moving vehicle.