



Road Casualties in Great Britain: 2007 estimates for accidents involving illegal alcohol levels

Logo: National Statistics This release includes provisional statistics on accidents involving drinking and driving in Great Britain in 2007, according to the arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority. Figures show that:

- Fatalities resulting from drink drive accidents fell by 18 per cent from 560 in 2006 to 460 in 2007, whilst seriously injured casualties fell by 11 per cent from 1,970 to 1,760. Slight casualties, however, rose by 4 per cent from 11,840 to 12,260. Total casualties rose by 1 per cent from 14,370 to 14,480.
- Fatal accidents fell by 16 per cent from 490 to 410, although there was an overall increase of 2 per cent in drink drive accidents from 9,400 to 9,620.

Notes

1. A more comprehensive analysis of drinking and driving statistics will be published on 25 September 2008 in *Road Casualties in Great Britain: 2007*.

2. The statistics refer to personal injury accidents on public roads (including footways) which became known to the police. Figures for deaths refer to persons who sustained injuries which caused death less than 30 days after the accident. This is the usual international definition, and differs from that used in other contexts by the Registrars General, whose published statistics cover all deaths on public roads, generally by date of registration.

3. For the purposes of these drink drive statistics, a drink drive accident is defined as being an incident on a public road in which someone is killed or injured and where one or more of the motor vehicle drivers or riders involved either refused to give a breath test specimen when requested to do so by the police (other than when incapable of doing so for medical reasons), or one of the following:

- failed a roadside breath test by registering over 35 micrograms of alcohol per 100 millilitres of breath.
- died and was subsequently found to have more than 80 milligrams of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood.

Drink drive casualties are defined as all road users killed or injured in a drink drive accident.

4. Drink drive estimates are based on data from the Police and Coroners. Both these sources are incomplete and therefore in recognition of this uncertainty associated with the estimates produced from this data, the numbers of accidents and casualties are rounded to the nearest 10.

5. First estimates for 2007 are provisional due to coroners' data being available for analysis a year later than the main road accident data. Around 58 per cent expected to be available ultimately were available for inclusion in the 2007 provisional estimates. The estimates for fatalities depend mainly on coroners' data and are particularly susceptible to revision between the provisional and final figures.

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