

Road casualties in Kent

Annual review 2018

Published September 2019

Kent collision Summary 2018

Introduction

This report has been produced by using personal injury collision and casualty statistics, based on STATS 19 data provided by Kent Police. It gives the reader an overall picture of road casualties in Kent in 2018 and compares it with 2017.

We hold collision data going back over many years and in 2016 Kent Police moved to a new national reporting system called CRASH. The new system means there is a stricter categorisation of casualties defined as 'Serious injury', as per the definition provided by the Department for Transport (DfT). According to DfT, this has resulted in an average increase of 20% in recorded serious injury casualties for those police force areas using CRASH. Some casualties previously listed as Slight injury may now be classified Serious injury. Overall this makes comparisons of serious injuries between pre and post-CRASH implementation data impossible. Fatality and Total injury numbers will be unaffected.

This report shows collision statistics for all Kent roads (excluding Medway and including Highways England roads) throughout the whole report.

Terminology

In this report statistics are referred to across three locations;

<i>Kent:</i>	All roads in the County excluding those which are located in Medway but including Highways England roads. Kent (excluding Medway) collision statistics are those which the Department for Transport measure the County on.
<i>Kent County Council:</i>	Roads in Kent which are maintained by and are the responsibility of KCC.
<i>Highways England:</i>	<p>The strategic roads in Kent for which Highways England have responsibility. These are;</p> <p>The motorways – M20, M26, M25, M2 (excluding the section which runs through Medway)</p> <p>Strategic A Roads – A282</p> <p>A21</p> <p>A2 from the Greater London (GL) border to junction 1 of M2</p> <p>A2 from junction 7 of M2 to Townwall Street, Dover</p> <p>A249 north of junction 5 of M2 to the coast</p> <p>A20 from junction 3 of M25 to GL border</p> <p>A20 from junction 13 of M20 to Dover Eastern Docks</p> <p>A259 south from Brenzett roundabout to the East Sussex border</p>

Medway

Medway Council is a Unitary Authority and as such is a separate local authority from Kent County Council.

Definitions taken from Road Casualties Great Britain

Collisions which are reported in this document

All road collisions involving human death or personal injury occurring on the highway and notified to the police within 30 days of occurrence, and in which one or more vehicles are involved, are reported in this document.

Examples are:-

Collisions which commence on the highway, but which involve casualties off the highway (e.g. where a vehicle runs out of control while on the highway and causes casualties elsewhere).

Collisions involving the boarding and alighting of buses or coaches and collisions in which passengers already aboard a bus / coach are injured, whether or not another vehicle or a pedestrian is involved.

Collisions involving pedal cyclists, including where cyclists injure themselves or a pedestrian.

Collisions resulting from deliberate acts of violence but excluding casualties who are subsequently identified as confirmed suicides.

Examples of collisions which are not reported in this document include:-

Collisions which do not involve personal injury.

Collisions on private roads or in car parks.

Collisions reported to the police 30 days or more after they occurred.

Collisions involving confirmed suicides.

Vehicles which are referred to in this document:

Vehicles in which driver/rider/passenger was injured.

Vehicles which suffered damage in the accident.

Vehicles, which caused injury to a pedestrian (including parked vehicles on or off the carriageway into which a pedestrian walked).

Vehicles which were in collision with another vehicle in the accident.

Vehicles which did not suffer damage, nor caused nor contained casualties, but which in the opinion of the reporting officer contributed to the collision (includes parked, stationary, temporarily held-up or moving vehicles).

Excluding:-

Where a person has safely alighted from a vehicle but is subsequently injured when moving away from the vehicle from which the person alighted is to be excluded.

Casualties which are referred to in this document:

Reported casualties include any persons killed or injured in a road collision.

This includes:-

A person who moves quickly to avoid being involved in a collision, is successful in that, but in doing so incurs injury (e.g. twists an ankle). Also includes occupant of vehicle, which manoeuvres or brakes suddenly to avoid an impact, but in doing so sustains an injury.

A pedestrian who injures himself or herself on a parked vehicle.

A person who is injured after falling from a vehicle.

A person who is injured boarding or alighting a bus or coach.

A person who is injured whilst aboard a bus or coach, whether or not another vehicle is involved.

A person who is injured away from the carriageway as a result of a collision which commenced on the public highway.

All casualties in collisions arising from deliberate acts of violence.

Excluding:-

Death or injury to babies unborn up to the time of the collision.

Casualties injured in a road collision as a result of illness (e.g. fit) immediately prior to the accident, where injury is deemed to be a result of the illness rather than the road collision. All other casualties involved in the collision are included.

A person who dies in a road collision from natural causes (e.g. heart attack) and whose death is not ascribed by the Coroners Court to have been a result of the collision. Other casualties in these accidents are included.

Confirmed suicides. Other casualties in these accidents are reported. Injured persons suspected of having attempted suicide are included.

Any person who witnesses a collision and suffers shock but who is not directly involved.

DEFINITIONS**VEHICLES**

Pedal Cycle – this refers to pedal cycles being ridden in the carriageway or on the pavement and also applies to toy cars and toy tricycles in the carriageway. It also includes electrically assisted pedal cycles as defined in the Electrically Assisted Pedal Cycles Regulations 1983 No 1168.

Moped – a moped registered after 1977 carries a plate identifying it as such. For registration suffix 'A' to 'R' and registrations without a suffix letter, a moped is defined as a motorcycle of which the capacity of the engine does not exceed 50cc, being equipped with pedals by means of which it is capable of being powered. For registration suffix 'S' or later, a moped is defined as a motorcycle of

which the cylinder capacity of the engine does not exceed 50cc and which has a maximum design speed of 30mph and a kerbside weight not exceeding 250kg.

Motorcycle – also called **Powered two Wheelers** - includes motor scooters and motorcycle combinations, these are further broken down in to 125cc and under and over 125cc.

Car – includes three wheeled cars, estate cars, family vans/multiple-people carriers, Land Rovers and similar 4-wheeled drive vehicles, and private hire cars.

Goods Vehicles – (19) Goods vehicle 3.5 tonnes maximum gross weight (mgw) and under
(20) Goods vehicle over 3.5 tonnes and under 7.5 tonnes mgw
(21) Goods vehicle 7.5 tonnes mgw and over

The above categories include three wheeled goods vehicles (provided they are not controlled by a pedestrian), tankers, HGV tractors travelling without their semi-trailers, trailers, and articulated vehicles, but excluding caravans and 'other tows' which are not goods vehicles.

(19) applies to vans (including car based vans) or small goods vehicles (including pick up trucks) which are licences for private and light goods use (PLG), vehicles in this category are up to 3.5 tonnes maximum gross weight.

(20 and 21) apply to larger vehicles licensed as over 3.5 tonnes maximum gross weight. This information is normally given as a taxable weight on the vehicle tax disc or on the DETR plate.

Other vehicles: other motor vehicles include ambulances, fire engines, trams, refuse vehicles, agricultural vehicles, excavators, electric scooters and motorised wheelchairs. Other non-motor vehicles include those drawn by animal, ridden horse, wheelchairs without a motor. In certain tables other vehicles may also include buses and coaches, and/or goods vehicles.

CASUALTY

Driver or Rider – includes the following:-

- A person riding a toy cycle, tricycle or pedal car on the carriageway and the rider of a tandem bicycle who is controlling the machine.
- A person who, having been in control of a vehicle, falls from it (or is injured in the course of dismounting from it), should be recorded as 'driver or rider' of that vehicle.
- A pedal cyclist riding across a pedestrian crossing.

Vehicle or pillion passenger – include any occupant of a tandem bicycle who is not controlling the machine and passengers on combination machines whether occupying sidecar or pillion. Persons riding on the roof or bonnet are also included. Any person, not having been in control of a vehicle, who falls from it (or was injured in the course of alighting or dismounting from it), are also included.

Pedestrian – This includes the following:-

- Person on a toy scooter, roller skates or skateboard
- Person riding a toy cycle, tricycle or pedal car on footpath
- Person wheeling or holding a bicycle
- Person pushing or pulling a vehicle or operating a pedestrian controlled vehicle
- Person leading or herding animals
- Occupant of a pram or pushchair
- A driver or passenger who has alighted safely from a vehicle and then sustains an injury in a collision, whether injured by his own or some other vehicle
- Person other than a cyclist holding on to the back of another vehicle
- A person involved in a collision after safely alighting from a bus/ coach and who is injured by some other vehicle (which would then be recorded as the vehicle involved)

- A person involved in a collision away from the highway (e.g. house or garden) by a vehicle, which has lost control on the highway

SEVERITY OF CASUALTY

Fatal injury – includes only those cases where death occurs in less than 30 days as a result of the collision. It does not include death from natural causes or suicide.

Serious injury – Examples of serious injury are:-

Fracture

Internal injury

Severe cuts

Crushing

Burns (excluding friction burns)

Concussion

Severe general shock requiring hospital treatment

Detention in hospital as an in-patient, either immediately or later

Injuries to casualties who die 30 or more days after the accident from injuries sustained in that accident

Slight Injury – examples of slight injury are:

Sprains, including neck whiplash injury

Bruises

Slight cuts or slight shock requiring roadside attention

OTHER DEFINITIONS

Built-up roads: Collisions on “built-up roads” are those which occur on roads with speed limits of 40mph or less. **Non-built up roads** refer to speed limits over 40mph. In the case of this report, non-built up roads exclude motorways.

Manoeuvres: Any manoeuvre description relates to actions immediately before the collision.

Children: Persons under 16 years of age.

KSI: Killed or Seriously Injured.

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