

Bicyclist Injuries and Fatalities for Santa Cruz County 2008

The Santa Cruz County bicyclist injury/fatality rate per 100,000 population for 2008 is 75, which is an increase from the 2007 rate of 60. The average injury/fatality rate for the county since the year 2000 is 62. The county bicyclist injury/fatality rate is more than twice the state rate of 32 for 2008.

State and County Bicyclist Injury/Fatality Rates Per 100,000 Population

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
S.C. County Injuries+Fatalities	156	153	153	167	162	152	155	152	191
Population, Santa Cruz County	255,602	258,100	258,900	258,900	260,200	261,345	249,705	251,747	253,137
Injury/Fatality Rate	61	59	59	65	62	58	62	60	75
CA Injuries+Fatalities	12,261	11,528	9,178	10,795	11,092	10,605	10,507	10,714	11,890
Population, California	33,873,086	34,431,000	35,049,000	35,612,000	35,991,326	36,132,147	36,457,549	35,553,215	36,756,666
CA Injury/Fatality Rate	36	33	26	30	31	29	29	30	32

The number of bicyclists injured and killed in Santa Cruz County rose from 152 in 2007 to 191 in 2008. The number of bicyclists injured and killed decreased in Scott's Valley while increasing in all other jurisdictions throughout the county. Bicyclist fatalities remained the same as 2007 with two deaths in 2008, both in the City of Santa Cruz.

Bicyclists Injured and Killed 2000 - 2008

Injured	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Capitola	11	8	10	11	20	7	5	6	8
Santa Cruz	60	59	58	77	63	71	82	64	91
Scotts Valley	2	4	4	4	6	2	0	14	4
Watsonville	17	22	20	7	17	12	13	3	16
Unincorporated	65	58	61	67	56	59	54	63	70
S.C. County Total	155	151	153	166	162	151	154	150	189

Killed	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Capitola	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Santa Cruz	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
Scotts Valley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Watsonville	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unincorporated	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0
S.C. County Total	1	2	0	1	0	1	1	2	2

The number of bicyclist injuries/fatalities increased in the 15 to 34 year and the 45 and older age groups and declined in the 0 to 14 and 35 to 44 year age groups between 2007 and 2008. In 2008, the most significant rise in injuries from 2007 was in the 15 to 24 year age group, from 47 in 2007 to 71 in 2008.

Age Distribution of Bicyclists Injured and Killed 2001 - 2008								
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
0 - 4	0	1	0	0	0	2	2	0
5 - 14	25	26	15	26	19	12	20	16
15 - 24	33	35	48	53	41	29	47	71
25 - 34	36	36	34	22	19	32	23	33
35 - 44	21	21	28	25	19	21	18	17
45 - 54	20	18	26	21	28	37	22	27
55 - 64	10	9	12	8	15	10	17	19
65 and over	2	4	2	2	8	7	2	8
age unknown	6	3	2	5	2	5	1	0
Total	153	153	167	162	151	155	152	191

When compared to other counties in California, Santa Cruz County again ranked second for bicyclists injured and killed in 2008 according to the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS); however, the number of those bicycling in Santa Cruz is known to be high. The 2000 U.S. Census states that 2.0% of commute trips to work in Santa Cruz County are by bicycle. The OTS rankings are based on daily vehicle miles traveled and average population. If the rankings were based on bicycle use, the relative safety or risk indicated would be more accurate. An effort is underway through the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC) to include bicyclists in their regular traffic counts, which would provide valuable local data on bicycle trips.

Production of this report was a collaborative effort funded by the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission through the Community Traffic Safety Coalition and by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, with data from the Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System (SWITRS). For more information, please contact the Community Traffic Safety Coalition c/o the Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention Unit of the County of Santa Cruz Health Services Agency at 1070 Emeline Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, (831) 454-4312.