

## Bicyclist Injuries and Fatalities for Santa Cruz County 2009

The Santa Cruz County bicyclist injury/fatality rate per 100,000 population for 2009 was 74, which is a slight decrease from the 2008 rate of 75. This rate was higher than the average injury/fatality rate of 64 for the county since the year 2001. The county bicyclist injury/fatality rate is still more than twice the state injury/fatality rate of 33 for 2009. (Note: As of 2009, the number of California bicyclists injured and killed is reported by federal fiscal year rather than calendar year by the state Office of Traffic Safety.)

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

Calendar year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
<b>S.C. County Injuries+Fatalities</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>189</b>
Population, Santa Cruz County	258,100	258,900	258,900	260,200	261,345	249,705	251,747	253,137	256,218
<b>Injury/Fatality Rate</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>CA Injuries+Fatalities</b>	<b>11,528</b>	<b>9,178</b>	<b>10,795</b>	<b>11,092</b>	<b>10,605</b>	<b>10,507</b>	<b>10,714</b>	<b>11,890</b>	<b>12,059</b>
Population, California	34,431,000	35,049,000	35,612,000	35,991,326	36,132,147	36,457,549	35,553,215	36,756,666	36,961,664
<b>CA Injury/Fatality Rate</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>33</b>

The number of bicyclists injured and killed in Santa Cruz County dropped from 191 in 2008 to 189 in 2009. The number of bicyclists injured and killed decreased in Capitola and Santa Cruz while increasing in all other jurisdictions throughout the county. UC Santa Cruz is now listed as a jurisdiction in the collision data and had 12 reported bicyclist injuries in 2009. Bicyclist fatalities increased by one death from 2008 for a total of three fatalities in 2009, two in the unincorporated area of the county and one in Watsonville.

### Bicyclists Injured and Killed 2001 - 2009

<b>Injured</b>	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Capitola	8	10	11	20	7	5	6	8	4
Santa Cruz	59	58	77	63	71	82	64	91	68
Scotts Valley	4	4	4	6	2	0	14	4	8
Watsonville	22	20	7	17	12	13	3	16	18
Unincorporated	58	61	67	56	59	54	63	70	76
UC Santa Cruz	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	12
<b>S.C. County Total</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>186</b>

<b>Killed</b>	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Capitola	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Santa Cruz	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	0
Scotts Valley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Watsonville	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Unincorporated	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	2
<b>S.C. County Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>

The number of bicyclist injuries/fatalities remained the same or increased in all age categories from 2008 to 2009, except for those in the 15 to 24 and 25 to 34 year age groups, which both saw a decline in 2009. The most significant rise in injuries from 2008 was in the 5 to 14 year age group, from 16 in 2008 to 21 in 2009.

<b>Age Distribution of Bicyclists Injured and Killed 2002 - 2009</b>								
	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
0 - 4	1	0	0	0	2	2	0	1
5 - 14	26	15	26	19	12	20	16	21
15 - 24	35	48	53	41	29	47	71	61
25 - 34	36	34	22	19	32	23	33	26
35 - 44	21	28	25	19	21	18	17	18
45 - 54	18	26	21	28	37	22	27	27
55 - 64	9	12	8	15	10	17	19	23
65 and over	4	2	2	8	7	2	8	11
unknown	3	2	5	2	5	1	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>189</b>

When compared to other counties in California, Santa Cruz County again ranked second for bicyclists injured and killed in 2009 according to the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS); however, the number of those bicycling in Santa Cruz is known to be high. Although Santa Cruz County tends to rank at the top for bicyclists injured and killed, the number of those bicycling in Santa Cruz is also known to be high. The U.S. Census Bureau's 2009 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates predict that 2.7% 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.

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