

Bicyclist Injuries and Fatalities for Santa Cruz County 2006

The Santa Cruz County bicyclist injury/fatality rate per 100,000 population for 2006 is 62, which is a rise from the 2005 rate. The average injury/fatality rate since the year 2000 is 61. The county rate still remains at twice the state rate of 29 for 2006.

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

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

The number of bicyclists injured and killed in Santa Cruz County increased slightly from 152 in 2005 to 155 in 2006. The number of bicyclists injured and killed decreased over the past year in several jurisdictions of the county, except for the cities of Santa Cruz and Watsonville. These two jurisdictions rose by 11 injuries and one injury respectively from 2005 to 2006. Similar to 2005, the only bicyclist fatality in the county was in the unincorporated area in 2006.

Bicyclists Injured and Killed 2000 - 2006

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

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

The number of bicyclist injuries/fatalities declined in the 5 to 24 year and the 55 and over age groups and rose for ages 0 to 4 years and 25 to 54 years between 2005 and 2006. In 2006, the most significant rise from 2005 was in the 45 to 54 year age group.

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

When compared to other counties in California, Santa Cruz County again ranked second for bicyclists injured and killed in 2006; however, the percent of bicycle use 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 Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System (SWITRS) 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 with the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC) to include bicyclists in their regular traffic counts, which would provide this valuable data locally.

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