

## **ALBERTA TRAFFIC COLLISION FACTS REGION 6 – Capital Region 2007**

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the “who”, “what”, “when”, “where”, “why”, and “how” of traffic collisions which occurred in Capital Region during 2007. Although the report is general in nature, it pays particular attention to casualty collisions, that is, those collisions that result in death or injury.

We are providing this report to support you in rolling out the Alberta Traffic Safety Plan at the community level. The priority goals of the Plan are to reduce collision fatalities and injuries by addressing:

- Seat belt and child safety seat use for all vehicle occupants;
- Speeding
- Intersection safety; and
- Impaired driving.

In connection to the top priorities of the TSAP this report also includes collision information regarding restraint use of collision-involved individuals, intersection related casualty collisions, speed-related casualty collisions and alcohol-involved casualty collisions in your region.

The information in this fact sheet will also allow you to look at your region in relation to the province as a whole. The provincial Collision Facts report and the Alberta Annual Traffic Collision Statistics report are posted on our web site at: [www.transportation.alberta.ca/3121.htm](http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/3121.htm).

# ALBERTA TRAFFIC COLLISION FACTS

## REGION 6 – Capital Region

### 2007

#### WHAT HAPPENED ON CAPITAL'S ROADWAYS IN 2007?

##### During 2007...

- 87 people were killed as a result of traffic collisions.
- 10590 people were injured in traffic collisions
- A total of 51706 collisions occurred.

##### In 2007 approximately...

- One person was killed every 4 days.
- 29 people were injured daily.
- 142 traffic collisions were reported daily.

#### CAPITAL TRAFFIC COLLISIONS 2003-2007

Severity of Collision	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
Fatal	79	74	81	75	64
Non-Fatal Injury	7790	8367	7839	7464	8526
Property Damage	43837	38398	32167	28626	28595
<b>Total Reportable Collisions</b>	<b>51706</b>	<b>46839</b>	<b>40087</b>	<b>36165</b>	<b>37185</b>
Number Killed	87	78	88	80	79
Number Injured	10590	11434	10809	10412	12154
<b>Total Number of Casualties</b>	<b>10677</b>	<b>11512</b>	<b>10897</b>	<b>10492</b>	<b>12233</b>

#### WHO WERE THE VICTIMS?

Traffic Fatalities (%)		Traffic Injuries (%)	
48.3	Drivers	63.1	Drivers
13.8	Passengers	26.2	Passengers
19.5	Pedestrians	4.9	Pedestrians
5.7	Bicyclists	2.1	Bicyclists
6.9	Motorcyclists	2.5	Motorcyclists
5.7	Other road user class/unspecified	1.1	Other road user class/unspecified

#### SPECIAL ROAD USER CLASSES

##### Pedestrians

There were 523 casualty collisions involving pedestrians, resulting in 539 pedestrian casualties. Pedestrian collisions occur throughout the year and were most likely to occur during the afternoon in urban areas. Of pedestrians involved in casualty collisions, almost one in six had consumed alcohol before the crash.

##### Motorcycles

There were 267 casualty collisions involving motorcycles. These collisions resulted in 276 motorcyclist casualties. Motorcycle collisions were more likely to occur during the summer months on Fridays during the afternoon and evening in urban areas. One in thirteen motorcyclists had consumed alcohol before the crash. In casualty collisions, almost half of motorcyclists made an improper driving action most commonly running off the road. Nine in ten motorcyclists were wearing a helmet at the time of the crash.

##### Truck Tractors

In 2007, there were 140 casualty collisions involving truck tractors. Truck tractor collisions were likely to occur in August on Wednesday during the afternoon. Almost two thirds of these collisions were in urban areas. The most common error made by truck tractor drivers was following too closely. Truck tractor drivers were less likely to have consumed alcohol before a crash than all drivers.

##### Bicycles

There were 226 casualty collisions involving bicyclists, resulting in 226 bicyclist casualties. Collisions involving bicyclists tended to occur in summer, throughout the week during the afternoon almost exclusively in urban areas. Over half of bicyclists in casualty collisions made an improper driving action, most commonly disobeying a traffic signal. Less than one in ten bicyclists had been drinking before the crash. Approximately one third of bicyclists were wearing a helmet at the time of the crash.

## WHEN DID THE COLLISIONS OCCUR?

November saw the most fatal collisions. December recorded the highest number of injury and property damage collisions. There were more collisions on Friday than any other day of the week. The afternoon rush-hour period accounted for the highest number of crashes.

## WHERE DID THE COLLISIONS OCCUR?

Approximately 24% of fatal collisions and 47% of injury collisions occurred at intersections. Nine in ten collisions occurred in urban areas. In 2007, the top three urban collision locations were Edmonton, Sherwood Park and St. Albert with 77%, 3.8% and 2.9% of total collisions, respectively.

Urban (%)		Rural (%)	
0.1	Fatal Collisions	0.8	Fatal Collisions
14.8	Injury Collisions	17.4	Injury Collisions
85.1	Property Damage Collisions	81.9	Property Damage Collisions

## WHO WERE THE DRIVERS INVOLVED IN CASUALTY COLLISIONS?

### % Drivers in Casualty Collisions by Age

Age	% Drivers in Fatal Crashes	% Drivers in Injury Crashes
Under 16	--	0.5
16-17	0.9	3.0
18-19	2.6	5.6
20-24	22.4	15.1
25-34	16.4	22.3
35-44	20.7	20.0
45-54	13.8	17.5
55-64	14.7	10.0
65+	8.6	6.3

## WHAT DRIVER ACTIONS CONTRIBUTED TO CASUALTY COLLISIONS?

Of drivers involved in fatal collisions, three in five made an improper action that contributed to the collision. The most common driver error in fatal crashes was running off the road. Almost half of the drivers in injury collisions committed an improper action; most commonly, following too closely.

## WHAT ABOUT DRINKING AND DRIVING?

Of drivers involved in fatal collisions, 17% had consumed alcohol before the crash, compared to 3% of drivers in injury collisions. Over half of the drinking drivers were males under 35. Alcohol related casualty crashes were most likely to occur in the months of July and August on the weekends and during the evening and early morning hours. 80% of casualty collisions involving drinking drivers occurred in urban areas.

## WHAT ABOUT SEAT BELTS?

The data shows that occupants who were using restraints at the time of the collision were injured less often (10%) than occupants who were not using restraints (26%). Occupants using a restraint reduce the likelihood of sustaining an injury and the severity of injury decreases. Visit <http://www.tc.gc.ca/roadsafety/stats/menu.htm#pqrs> for Transport Canada's latest seat belt use survey results.

## WHAT ABOUT SPEEDING?

In 2007, 10% of drivers involved in casualty collisions were indicated by the police as having been travelling at a speed too great for the given conditions. However, 24% of drivers in fatal collisions were travelling at unsafe speed. Provincially, 13% of drivers involved in casualty collisions and 28% of drivers in fatal collisions were travelling at an unsafe speed. (Note: Unsafe speed applies when the speed was too great under the given conditions [e.g. road, weather and light conditions, traffic density, etc.] Whether or not the driver exceeded a legal speed limit is irrelevant.)

## WHAT ABOUT ROAD AND WEATHER CONDITIONS?

In 2007, nearly three in five casualty collisions occurred when surface conditions were dry. Roughly one in five collisions occurred on a surface condition of snow, slush or ice. Three quarters of casualty collisions occurred during clear weather conditions.

## DEMOGRAPHICS

	Region	Alberta
<b>Drivers</b> <sup>1</sup>	774,780	2,601,517
<b>Vehicles</b> <sup>2</sup>	842,768	2,922,033
<b>Population</b>	1,000,000 <sup>3</sup>	3,473,984 <sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Number of licensed drivers as of December 31, 2007 - Source: Alberta Transportation, Office of Traffic Safety

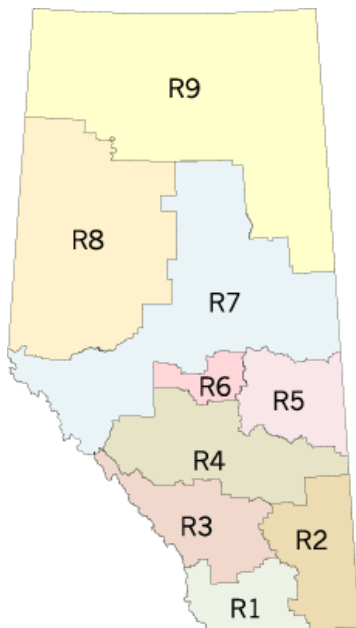
<sup>2</sup>Number of registered motorized vehicles as of December 31, 2007 - Source: Alberta Transportation, Office of Traffic Safety.

<sup>3</sup>Source: Capital Health Region

<http://www.capitalhealth.ca/AboutUs/default.htm>

<sup>4</sup>July 1, 2007 - Source: Stats Canada

## WHERE ARE THE REGIONS?



Region 1 - Chinook Region

Region 2 - Palliser Region

Region 3 - Calgary Region

Region 4 - David Thompson Region

Region 5 - East Central Region

**Region 6 - Capital Region**

Region 7 - Aspen Region

Region 8 - Peace Country Region

Region 9 - Northern Lights Region