

ALBERTA TRAFFIC COLLISION FACTS REGION 1 – Chinook 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 Chinook 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.

ALBERTA TRAFFIC COLLISION FACTS

REGION 1 – Chinook Region

2007

WHAT HAPPENED ON CHINOOK'S ROADWAYS IN 2007?

During 2007...

- 19 people were killed as a result of traffic collisions.
- 1171 people were injured in traffic collisions
- A total of 5806 collisions occurred.

In 2007 approximately...

- One person was killed every 19 days.
- 3 people were injured daily.
- 16 traffic collisions were reported daily.

CHINOOK TRAFFIC COLLISIONS 2003-2007

Severity of Collision	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
Fatal	17	21	22	24	17
Non-Fatal Injury	822	784	733	695	686
Property Damage	4967	4507	4061	3423	3780
Total Reportable Collisions	5806	5312	4816	4142	4483
Number Killed	19	24	25	28	22
Number Injured	1171	1151	1096	1067	1024
Total Number of Casualties	1190	1175	1121	1095	1046

WHO WERE THE VICTIMS?

Traffic Fatalities (%)		Traffic Injuries (%)	
63.2	Drivers	59.4	Drivers
21.1	Passengers	28.8	Passengers
5.3	Pedestrians	5.6	Pedestrians
--	Bicyclists	2.6	Bicyclists
10.5	Motorcyclists	2.3	Motorcyclists
--	Other road user class/unspecified	1.3	Other road user class/unspecified

SPECIAL ROAD USER CLASSES

Pedestrians

There were 62 casualty collisions involving pedestrians, resulting in 66 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, one quarter had consumed alcohol before the crash.

Motorcycles

There were 28 casualty collisions involving motorcycles. These collisions resulted in 29 motorcyclist casualties. Motorcycle collisions were more likely to occur during the summer months on Tuesdays during the afternoon and evening in urban areas. One in five motorcyclists had consumed alcohol before the crash. In casualty collisions, over half of motorcyclists made an improper driving action most commonly running off the road. Over four in five motorcyclists were wearing a helmet at the time of the crash.

Truck Tractors

In 2007, there were 35 casualty collisions involving truck tractors. Truck tractor collisions were likely to occur in November on Tuesday during the afternoon. Almost three quarters of these collisions were in rural areas. The most common error made by truck tractor drivers was running off the road. Truck tractor drivers were less likely to have consumed alcohol before a crash than all drivers.

Bicycles

There were 31 casualty collisions involving bicyclists, resulting in 31 bicyclist casualties. Collisions involving bicyclists tended to occur in summer and fall, on Fridays during the afternoon almost exclusively in urban areas. Three quarters of bicyclists in casualty collisions made an improper driving action, most commonly disobeying a traffic signal. Almost one in ten bicyclists had been drinking before the crash. Approximately one quarter of bicyclists were wearing a helmet at the time of the crash.

WHEN DID THE COLLISIONS OCCUR?

March and September saw the most fatal collisions. June recorded the highest number of injury collisions. The highest number of property damage collisions occurred during December. 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?

Nearly 18% of fatal collisions and 40% of injury collisions occurred at intersections. Almost three quarters of all collisions occurred in urban areas. In 2007, the top three urban collision locations were Lethbridge, Taber and Pincher Creek with 59%, 3% and 2% of total collisions, respectively.

Urban (%)		Rural (%)	
0.2	Fatal Collisions	0.6	Fatal Collisions
14.3	Injury Collisions	13.7	Injury Collisions
85.5	Property Damage Collisions	85.6	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	4.5	1.2
16-17	--	5.8
18-19	4.5	7.5
20-24	18.2	17.5
25-34	13.6	18.6
35-44	13.6	15.3
45-54	27.3	14.7
55-64	9.1	9.2
65+	9.1	10.4

WHAT DRIVER ACTIONS CONTRIBUTED TO CASUALTY COLLISIONS?

Of drivers involved in fatal collisions, three quarters made an improper action that contributed to the collision. The most common driver error in fatal crashes was running off the road. 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, 37% had consumed alcohol before the crash, compared to 7% 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 March and July on the weekends and during the evening and early morning hours. 62% 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 (18%) than occupants who were not using restraints (48%). 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, 15% 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, 36% 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, over two thirds of casualty collisions occurred when surface conditions were dry. Roughly one in five collisions occurred on a surface condition of snow, slush or ice. Four fifths of casualty collisions occurred during clear weather conditions.

DEMOGRAPHICS

	Region	Alberta
Drivers ¹	116,212	2,601,517
Vehicles ²	140,800	2,922,033
Population	157,000 ³	3,473,984 ⁴

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

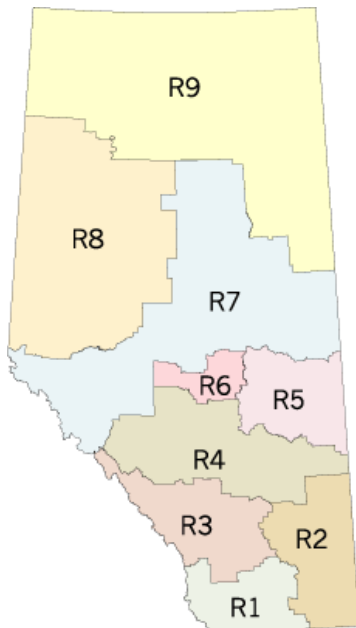
²Number of registered motorized vehicles as of December 31, 2007 - Source: Alberta Transportation, Office of Traffic Safety.

³Source: Chinook Health Region

http://www.chr.ab.ca/bins/content_page.asp?cid=5072-5094

⁴July 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