Analysis of Fatalities over Christmas Period 2008-2016

Christmas Launch
30th November 2017
Objective & Approach

- **Objective:** to provide data on who, when, where and why fatalities have occurred in recent years in November/December, to inform the An Garda Síochána enforcement strategy, and public awareness, in the high risk end of year period

- **Approach:** Analysis of An Garda Síochána collision data 2008-2016*:
  - Time of day & day of week
  - County & Road Type
  - Road User Profile
  - Contributory Factors

*Note: 2015 and 2016 data is provisional and subject to change*
MONTHLY AVERAGE

• Across 2008-2016, a total of **292 road users were killed** in the months November and December. The average number of fatalities each month for this nine year period was 16 in November and 16 in December.

WHERE

• **Dublin, Cork and Galway** had the highest number of RTC fatalities in November and December and accounted for almost a third (32%) of the total number of fatalities that occurred during this time period.

WHEN

• The most dangerous times of day were between 4pm-8pm (33%) and 12pm-4pm (23%), followed by 12am-6am (22%).

• RTC fatalities were most prevalent on **Sundays (21%)**. The most dangerous time of day on Sundays was midnight-6am (24% of Sunday fatalities).
Fatalities Nov/Dec 2008-2016*: Road User Type Killed

- Drivers represent almost half (47%) of all road users killed in Nov/Dec;
- Pedestrians represent over a quarter (26%) of fatalities, while passengers account for almost one fifth (18%)

Annual Average Nov/Dec**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Road User Type</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Driver</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passenger</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pedestrian</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motorcyclist</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pedal Cyclist</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Rounded up to nearest whole number

**Note: 2015 and 2016 data is provisional and subject to change
Fatalities Nov/Dec 2008-2016*:
Most Dangerous Counties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>No. of fatalities</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dublin</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cork</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galway</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*2015 and 2016 data is provisional and subject to change

Dublin
• Majority of those killed were pedestrians (44%), followed by car users (25%) and motorcyclists (19%).
• Urban roads** were higher risk (81% of fatalities).

Cork
• Majority killed were car users (65%), followed by pedestrians (29%).
• 87% of fatalities occurred on rural roads.

Galway
• Majority killed were car users (62%), followed by pedestrians (15%).
• 65% of fatalities occurred on rural roads.

** urban roads are roads with a posted speed limit <=60km/h; whereas rural roads have a posted speed limit of >=80km/h
Main Contributory Factors
Nov/Dec 2008-2012

Top 5 Contributory Factors
(Source: Garda fatal investigation files, Pre-Crash Study n=128)

- **Alcohol**: 38%
- **Speed**: 33%
- **Dangerous behaviour***: 31%
- **Drugs****: 12%
- **Dark clothing (VRU visibility)**: 9%

*Examples include: unsafe overtaking/undertaking manoeuvres, poor observation by motorists/VRUs, non-compliance with traffic signage, other dangerous behaviour.

**Includes prescription and/or illicit drugs. Preliminary data. No analysis conducted to ascertain if levels are within therapeutic range. Results should be interpreted with caution in the context of these caveats.

Alcohol:
- 24% of collisions involved a **driver/motorcyclist** who had consumed alcohol, while 13% involved a **pedestrian** who had consumed alcohol. Note, 46% of **pedestrians killed** had consumed alcohol.
- In general, the ‘morning after’ is a high risk period for alcohol related collisions. From the Pre-Crash Study (full year analysis 2008-2012), it was found that 11% of the 222 fatal collisions in which a driver had consumed alcohol, occurred between the hours of **7am and 11am**.
Main Contributory Factors
Nov/Dec 2013-2016*

2013-2014:
• 25% of RTC fatalities in Nov/Dec tested positive for alcohol
(Source: NDRDI** Coroner’s data 2013-2014, n=56)

Preliminary information on potential contributory factors 2015-2016
(AGS/RSA Collision Data, n=60):
• Environment – e.g. wet road, fog or ice (8 collisions: 13%)
• Driver lost control (6 collisions: 10%)
• Driver went to wrong side of road (5 collisions: 8%)
• Sun glare/headlights (4 collisions: 7%)

*Note: 2015 and 2016 data is provisional and subject to change

**National Drug-Related Deaths Index.
Note: NDRDI Coroner’s data on RTCs is collected by the Health Research Board (HRB) on behalf of the RSA. Includes cases from closed coroner files where available.
• **Danger times**
  • Afternoons and early evenings
  • Sunday morning midnight-6am

• **Danger factors**
  • Alcohol (Motorists & Pedestrians)
  • Speeding
  • Dangerous behaviour
  • Dark clothing/visibility for vulnerable road users

• **Highest risk groups**
  • Motorists
  • Pedestrians
  • Passengers
Thank you