

Driver spotlight report: fatalities and serious injuries

2019-2023

Data is current as of 21 July 2024
Prepared by the Research Department of the RSA
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Background

- This presentation provides an overview of **fatalities and serious injuries among drivers** for the years 2019-2023.
- This report was prepared using data from the Irish Road Traffic Collision Database, which is based on collision records transferred from An Garda Síochána to the RSA.
- All information in this report is provisional and subject to change.
- This means that the fatality and serious injury statistics presented may change at a later date when new information becomes available.
- Note that the information in this report is based on **preliminary findings of the AGS investigation, at an early stage in the process**. It does not contain information on contributory factors from the final completed investigation process.

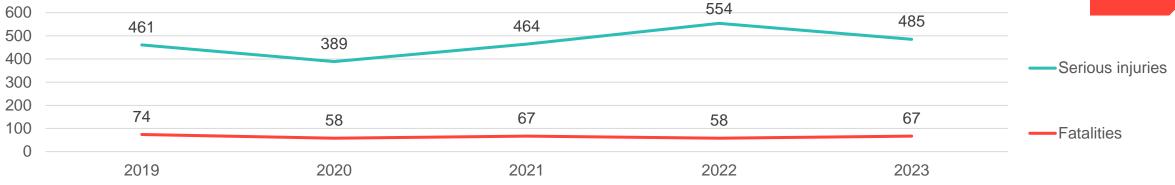


Definitions

- A **fatality** is one where death occurs within 30 days of the date of the collision and is not the result of a medical cause or that of a deliberate act (e.g. suicide).
- A **serious injury** is one for which the person is detained in hospital as an in-patient, or any of the following injuries whether or not detained in hospital:
 - Fractures
 - Concussion
 - Internal Injuries
 - Crushing
 - Severe Cuts and Lacerations
 - Severe general shock requiring medical treatment

Trend of Driver fatalities and serious injuries





Injury (% of total)	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Fatalities	53%	40%	50%	38%	36%
Serious injuries	31%	32%	34%	33%	33%

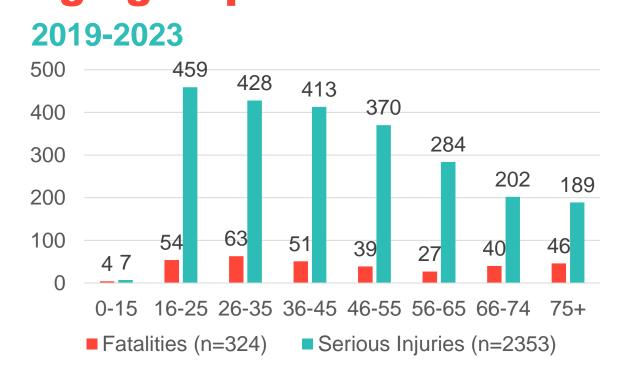
- Between 2019 and 2023, 324 drivers were killed, and 2,353 drivers were seriously injured.
- An average of 65 drivers were killed and an average of 471 drivers were seriously injured each year during this five-year period.
- Drivers represent 43% of fatalities and 33% of serious injuries during this time period
- For every driver fatality there were approximately 7 drivers seriously injured.
- There was a decline in the percentage share of fatalities among drivers in 2022 and 2023 compared to the previous three years.

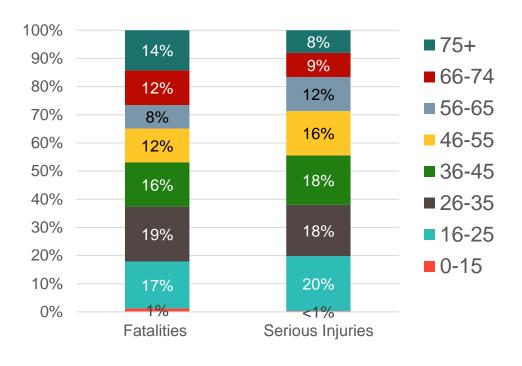
Note, figures for 2020-2023 are provisional and subject to change. There can be fluctuations in serious injury numbers until such a time as the data is deemed to be final.



Driver fatalities and serious injuries by age group







One in two driver fatalities (52%) were aged 16-45 years and one in two (55%) seriously injured drivers were aged 16-45 years.

A quarter (27%) of fatalities were aged 66+ years compared to 17% of seriously injured drivers.

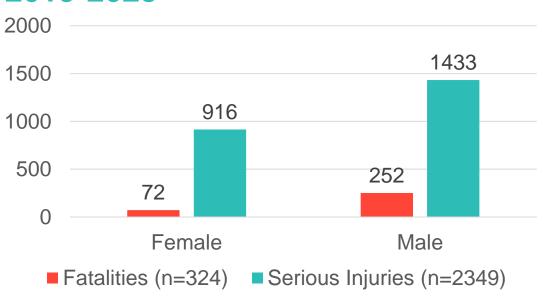
Note, figures are provisional and subject to change. Age of one seriously injured driver is currently unknown. Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding of percentages.

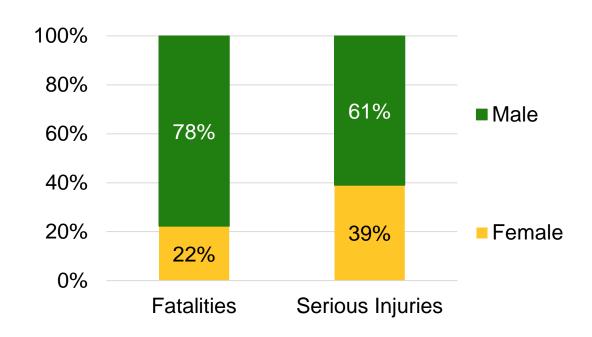


Driver fatalities and serious injuries by gender



2019-2023



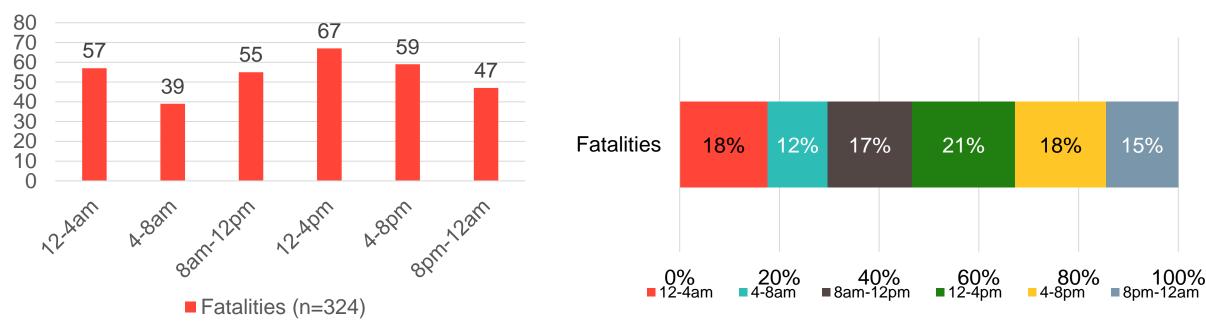


Almost eight in ten (252, 78%) of driver fatalities were male, while of seriously injured drivers six in ten (1433, 61%) were male.



Driver fatalities by time of day

2019-2023



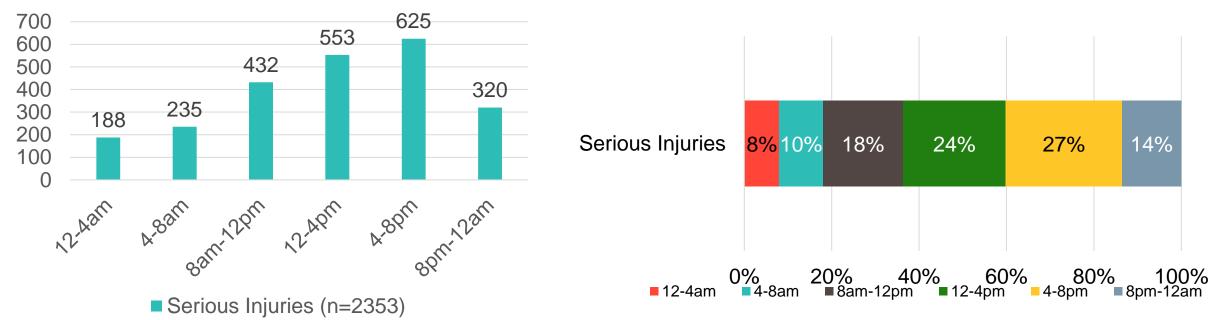
Almost two in five fatalities (126, 39%) occurred between 12pm and 8pm. A further 18% (57) of fatalities occurred between midnight and 4am, of which 36 fatalities occurred between midnight-2am (11%).





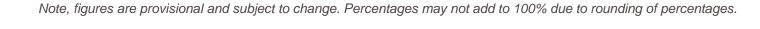
Driver serious injuries by time of day

2019-2023



Serious injuries peak in the early afternoon into the evening. Half of serious injuries (1178, 50%) occurred between 12pm and 8pm.

High percentage shares of serious injuries occurred during commuting time bands: 230 (10%) occurred between 7-9am and 369 (16%) between 4-6pm.

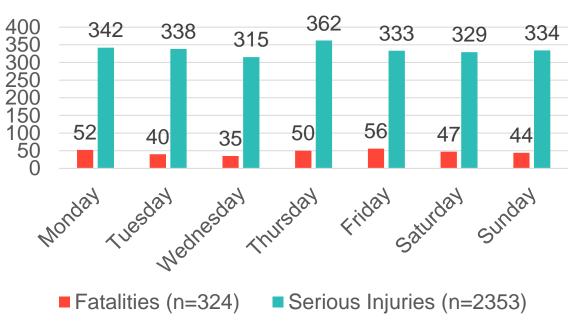


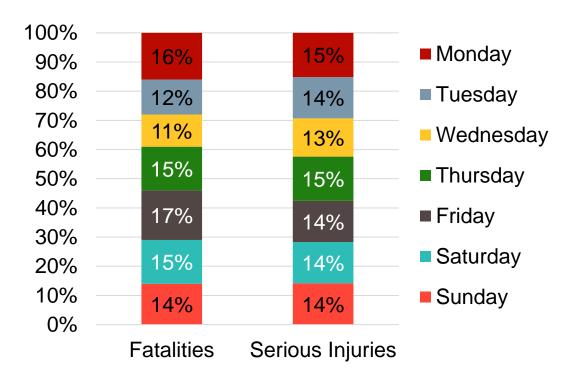
Driver fatalities and serious injuries by day of week









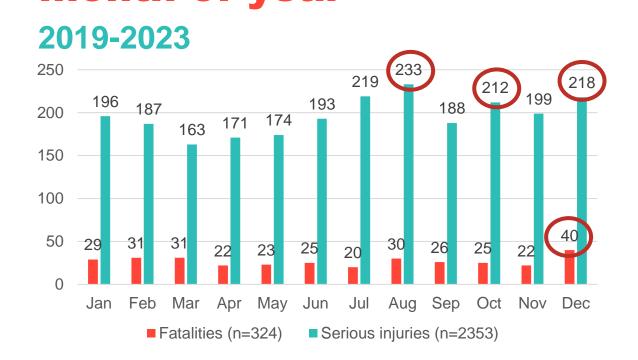


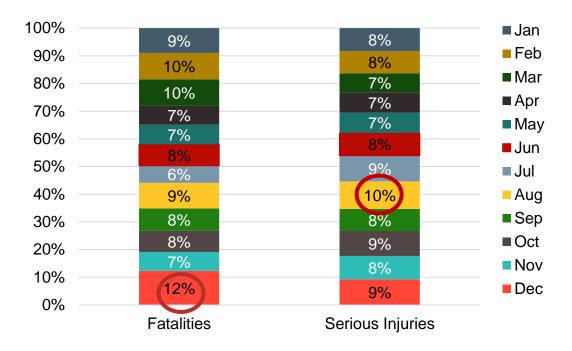
Over a quarter (91, 28%) of driver fatalities and over a quarter (663, 28%) of seriously injured drivers were injured on a weekend day (Saturday or Sunday).

Friday was the most dangerous (56, 17%) for fatalities, Thursday most dangerous (362, 15%) for seriously injured drivers

Driver fatalities and serious injuries by month of year







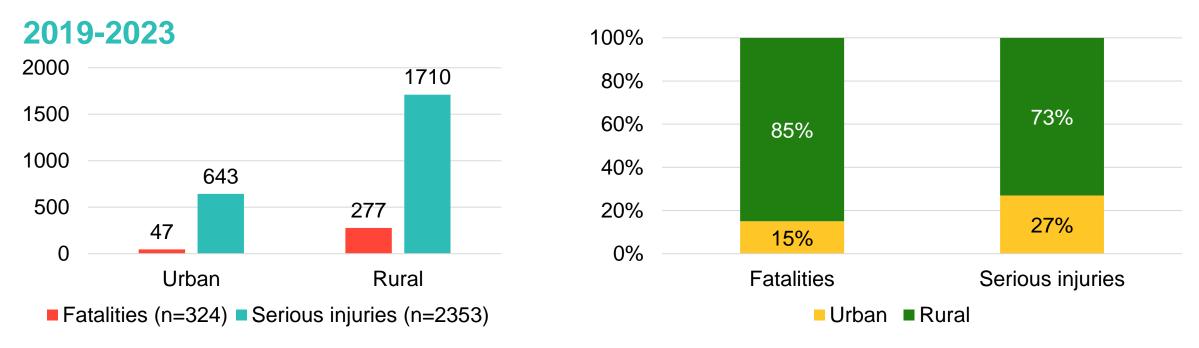
Highest proportion of fatalities (40, 12%) occurred in December, while high numbers of serious injuries occurred in August (10%, 233), October (9%, 212) and December (9%, 218).

A steady increase in serious injuries is seen from April to August, with the peak-time for serious injuries in August (233, 10%).

Note, figures are provisional and subject to change. Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding of percentages.

Driver fatalities and serious injuries by urban/rural area



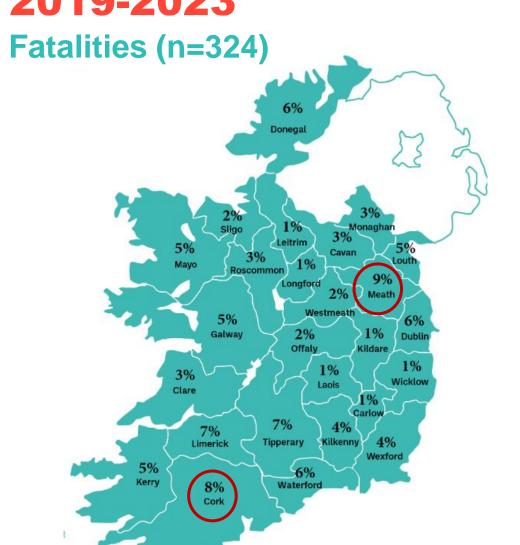


An urban road has a speed limit of 60km/h or less, while a rural road has a speed limit of 80km/h or more.

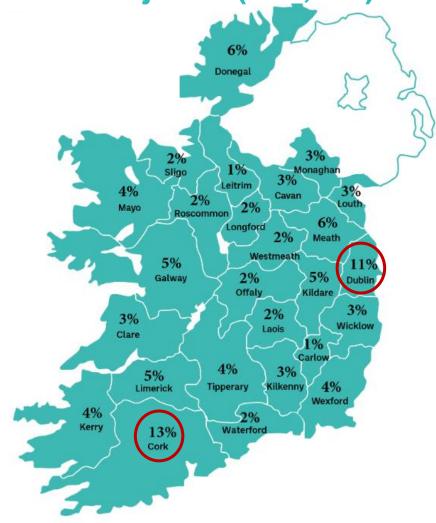
Over eight in ten driver fatalities occurred on rural roads (277, 85%), and over seven in ten drivers were seriously injured on rural roads (1710, 73%).

Driver fatalities and serious injuries by county 2019-2023



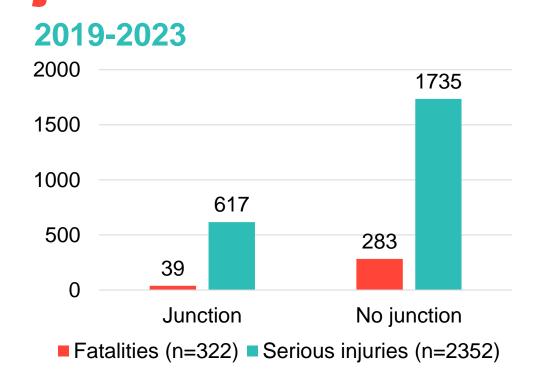


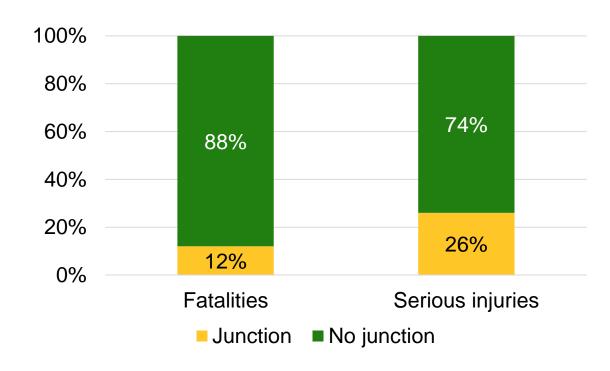
Serious injuries (n=2,353)



Driver fatalities and serious injuries by junction



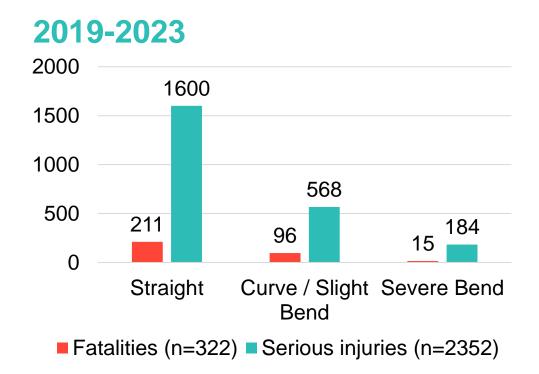


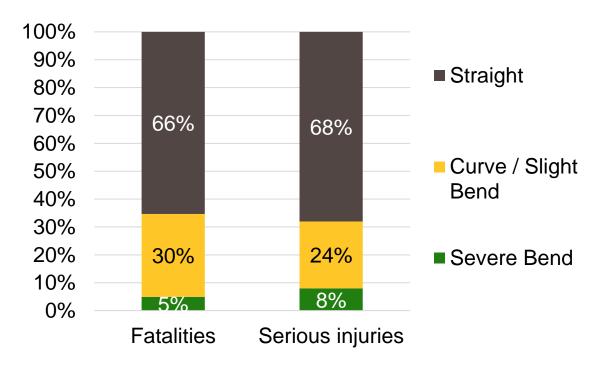


Of fatalities, 12% occurred at a junction, while 26% of serious injuries occurred at a junction. Of those injured at a junction, the junction type was most likely to have been a T-junction (49% fatalities and 48% serious injuries at a junction occurred at a T-junction).

Driver fatalities and serious injuries by road character





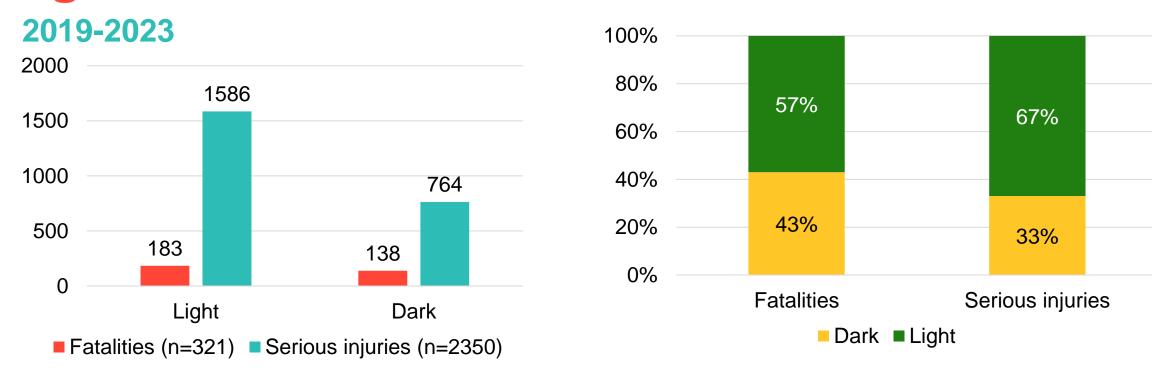


High proportions of fatalities (211, 66%) and serious injuries (1600, 68%) occurred on a straight road. Three in ten (96, 30%) fatalities and almost one in four (568, 24%) serious injuries occurred on a road with a curve or slight bend.

Note, figures are provisional and subject to change. Road character unknown for two fatally injured drivers and one seriously injured driver at present. Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding of percentages.

Driver fatalities and serious injuries by light conditions



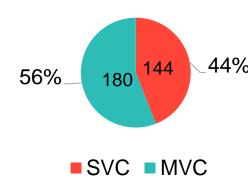


Almost three in five driver fatalities (57%) and two in three driver serious injuries (67%) occurred in day light.

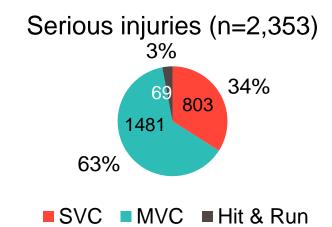
Driver fatalities and serious injuries by collision type



2019-2023



- Of fatalities, 44% were involved in a single vehicle collision and 56% were involved in a multiple vehicle collision.
- Of those in drivers killed in single vehicle collisions, 47 (33%) collided with a wall, 29 (20%) collided with a road edge ditch and 26 (18%) collided with a tree.
- Of those killed in multiple vehicle collisions, 133 (74%) were injured in a head-on collision



- Of seriously injured drivers, 34% were involved in a single vehicle collision, 63% were involved in a multiple vehicle collision and 3% were involved in a hit and run collision.
- Of those drivers injured in single vehicle collisions, 237 (30%) collided with a road edge ditch, 185 (23%) collided with a wall, and 54 (7%) collided with a pole/post
- Of those injured in multiple vehicle collisions, 720 (46%) were injured in a headon collision.

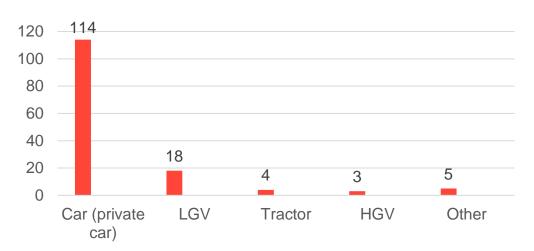
Note, figures are provisional and subject to change. A single vehicle collision involved the driver's vehicle only, while a multiple vehicle collision involved at least one other vehicle.

Driver fatalities and serious injuries in single vehicle collisions (SVCs) by vehicle type



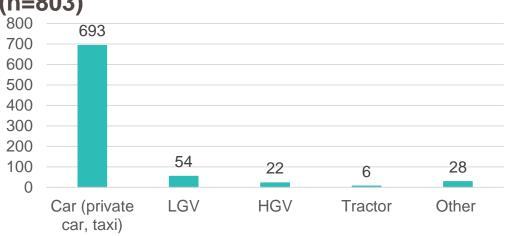
2019-2023

Drivers killed in SVCs by vehicle type (n=144)



Of driver fatalities involved in single vehicle collisions, the driver was most likely to be driving a car (114, 79%).

Drivers seriously injured in SVCs by vehicle type (n=803)



Of seriously injured drivers involved in single vehicle collisions the driver was most likely to be driving a car (693, 86%).





Driver actions and vehicle actions

Drivers killed and seriously injured in single vehicle collisions

2019-2023

Fatalities in single vehicle collisions (n=144)

- The most noted action among these driver fatalities was lost control (63, 44%)
- Of these drivers, the majority were driving forward (138, 96%)
- 104 (72%) of these drivers were the sole occupant of their vehicle

Seriously injured drivers in single vehicle collisions* (n=803)

- The most noted action among these seriously injured drivers was lost control (404, 50%)
- Of these drivers, the majority were driving forward (763, 95%)
- 616 (77%) of these drivers were the sole occupant of their vehicle

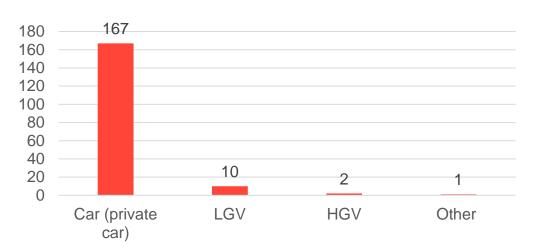
Note, figures are provisional and subject to change.

Driver fatalities and serious injuries in multiple vehicle collisions (MVCs) by vehicle type



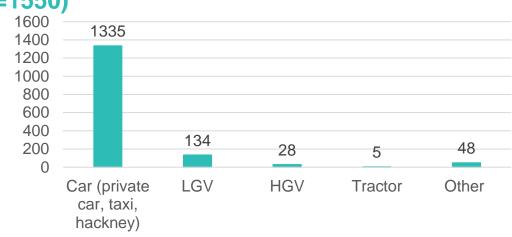
2019-2023

Drivers killed in MVCs by vehicle type (n=180)



Of driver fatalities involved in multiple vehicle collisions, the driver was most likely to be driving a car (167, 93%).

Drivers seriously injured in MVCs by vehicle type (n=1550)



Of seriously injured drivers involved in multiple vehicle collisions the driver was most likely to be driving a car (1335, 86%).





Driver actions and vehicle actions

Drivers injured in multiple vehicle collisions (n=324)

2019-2023

Fatalities in multiple vehicle collisions (n=180)

- The most noted action among these driver fatalities was 'went to wrong side of road' (52, 29%)
- A large proportion of these drivers were driving forward at the time of the collision (150, 83%)

Seriously injured drivers in multiple vehicle collisions (n=1550)

- The most noted actions among these drivers were 'failed to observe' (283, 18%), and 'went to wrong side of road' (130, 8%)
- A large proportion of these drivers were driving forward at the time of the collision (1209, 78%) and a lesser proportion were turning right (124, 8%)

Licence Type of driver fatalities and serious injuries

Total



2019-2023

- Of driver casualties:
 - 8 in 10 had a full licence.
 - > 5% had a foreign licence
 - > 5% had no licence
 - > 5% had a learner permit

Licence type of killed and se	riously inj	ured drive	rs			
	Fata	lities	Seriousl	y injured_	То	tal
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Full licence	236	73%	1921	82%	2157	81%
Foreign licence	20	6%	117	5%	137	5%
No licence	24	7%	112	5%	136	5%
Learner unaccompanied	13	4%	94	4%	107	4%
Learner accompanied	1	<1%	23	1%	24	<1%
Disqualified	9	3%	21	1%	30	<1%
Exempt Driver	0	<1%	4	<1%	4	<1%
Novice Driver Licence	0	<1%	3	<1%	3	<1%
At present unknown	21	6%	58	2%	79	3%

100%

2353

100%

Note, figures are provisional and subject to change. While some values in the table above are not actual licence categories, please note, the data is recorded in this way in the collision database.

100%

Summary of driver fatalities and serious injuries, 2019-2023



Age and gender

Over half were **aged 16-45 years.**

Almost eight in ten fatalities and six in ten seriously injured drivers were **male**.



Time, day, month

Almost two in five fatalities and half of serious injuries between **12pm-8pm**.

Friday most dangerous (17%) for fatalities, **Thursday** most dangerous (15%) for seriously injured drivers

Steady increase in serious injuries from April to August, with the peak-time for serious injuries in August (10%). Highest number of driver fatalities in December (12%)



Location

Over eight in ten driver fatalities and over seven in ten seriously injured drivers injured on **rural roads**.

High proportions of fatalities and serious injuries were **not** sustained **at a junction**, and **high proportions** were sustained on **straight road**.



Collision type

Almost three in five fatalities and two in three driver serious injuries occurred in daylight hours.

Over half of drivers killed, and two in three drivers seriously injured were injured in multiple vehicle collisions.



Drivers involved in fatal and serious injury collisions

Supplementary analysis



All drivers involved in fatal collisions

Injury status of all drivers involved in fatal collisions (n=903 drivers)



- There were 903 drivers involved in fatal collisions between 2019-2023.
- Not all drivers involved in fatal collisions were fatally injured.
- Of those 903 drivers involved, 36% (324) were fatally injured, 8% (76) seriously injured, 15% (133) minorly injured and 41% (370) were not injured.

		2019		20	20	20	21	20	22	20	23	То	tal
Injury of driver involved	n	%		n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Fatal	7	'4 4	4%	58	35%	67	39%	58	30%	67	33%	324	36%
Serious		9	5%	17	10%	14	8%	15	8%	21	10%	76	8%
Minor	2	25 1	5%	19	11%	23	14%	40	21%	26	13%	133	15%
Not Injured	6	s2 3	6%	74	44%	66	39%	80	41%	88	44%	370	41%
Total	17	0 10	0%	168	100%	170	100%	193	100%	202	100%	903	100%

Age profile of all drivers involved in fatal collisions (n=903 drivers)



- There were 903 drivers involved in fatal collisions between 2019-2023 (an average of 181 drivers involved annually)
- Of those involved 19% were 46-55, 19% were 36-45 and 17% were 26-35 years.
- Of those involved 78% were male and 22% were female.

	Killed	driver	Serio injured		Mino injured		Not inj driv		Tot	al
Age group of driver involved	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n '	%
0-15	4	1%	0	0%	2	2%	0	0%	6	1%
16-25	54	17%	14	18%	25	19%	54	15%	147	16%
26-35	63	19%	16	21%	17	13%	59	16%	155	17%
36-45	51	16%	11	14%	28	21%	79	21%	169	19%
46-55	39	12%	17	22%	25	19%	94	25%	175	19%
56-65	27	8%	11	14%	18	14%	45	12%	101	11%
66-74	40	12%	6	8%	11	8%	25	7%	82	9%
75+	46	14%	1	1%	7	5%	12	3%	66	7%
Unknown	0			0%		0%		1%		<1%
Total	324	100%	76	100%	133	100%	370	100%	903	100%

All drivers involved in fatal collisions by licence type (n=903 drivers)



2019-2023

Of those 903 drivers involved in fatal collisions:

- > 78% had a full licence
- > 7% had a foreign licence
- 4% were a learner permit holder
- 6% had no licence

Licence type of driver involved	Total	% Total
Full licence	704	78%
Foreign licence	63	7%
Learner permit holder	38	4%
No licence	50	6%
Disqualified	13	1%
At present unknown*	35	4%
Total	903	100%

^{*&#}x27;At present unknown' includes "Under Investigation", "Documents Demanded" and "After Investigation – Unknown"

Note, figures are provisional and subject to change. Drivers involved in fatal collisions may have been fatally injured, seriously injured, minorly injured or not injured. While some values in the table above are not actual licence categories, please note, the data is recorded in this way in the collision database.



Drivers with learner permits involved in fatal collisions

Profile of drivers with learner permits involved in fatal collisions (n=38)



2019-2023

- Not all drivers with learner permits involved in fatal collisions were fatally injured.
- Of those 38 drivers with learner permits involved, 37% (14) were fatally injured, 24% (9) seriously injured, and 37% (14) minorly injured.
- 24 other road users were killed in collisions where a driver with a learner permit was driving.
- 31 of the 38 drivers with a learner permit were unaccompanied and 7 were accompanied at the time of the collision.
- 34 were driving a car, 2 were driving a van and 2 were driving an agricultural vehicle.

Injury of the driver with learner permits	Total	% Total
Fatal	14	37%
Serious	9	24%
Minor	14	37%
Not Injured	1	3%
Total	38	100%

Note, figures are provisional and subject to change. Learner drivers involved in fatal collisions may have been fatally injured, seriously injured, minorly injured or not injured. Please note, the fact that a learner driver was involved in a collision does not infer that the learner driver was at fault in contributing to the collision. The collision data does not contain information on culpability.

Age profile of drivers with learner permits involved in fatal collisions (n=38)



- Between 2019 and 2023, there were 38 drivers with a learner permit involved in fatal Collisions, of which 15 were involved in collisions in 2023 alone.
- Of those drivers with learner permits involved, 24 were aged 16-25 years, 11 were aged 26-35 years and 3 were aged 36+ years.
- 29 were male and 9 were female.

driver with	Number of learner drivers	% Total
16-25	24	63%
26-35	11	29%
36+	3	8%
Total	38	100%



All drivers involved in serious injury collisions

Injury status of all drivers involved in serious injury collisions (n=7,362 drivers)



- There were 7,362 drivers involved in serious injury collisions between 2019-2023.
- Not all drivers involved in serious injury collisions were seriously injured.
- Of those 7,362 drivers involved, 31% (2,277) were seriously injured, 12% (859) minorly injured and 57% (4,214) were not injured.

	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023		Total	
Injury of driver involved	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Serious	452	29%	372	31%	450	33%	539	31%	464	31%	2277	31%
Minor	200	13%	133	11%	140	10%	214	12%	172	12%	859	12%
Not Injured	915	58%	706	58%	782	57%	969	56%	842	57%	4214	57%
Unknown	9	1%	1	0%	1	0%	1	0%	0	0%	12	<1%
Total	1576	100%	1212	100%	1373	100%	1723	100%	1478	100%	7362	100%

Age profile of all drivers involved in serious injury collisions (n=7,362 drivers)



- There were 7,362 drivers involved in serious injury collisions between 2019-2023 (an average of 1,473 drivers involved annually)
- Of those involved, 20% were aged 36-45, 19% were aged 26-35, 18%, were aged 16-25 and 18% were aged 46-55
- Of those involved 67% were male, 32% were female, and for the remaining 1% gender is unknown.

	Serio injur		Minorly i driv	_	Not inj driv		Unkno injury to		То	tal
Age group of driver involved	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
0-15	7	0%	1	0%	2	0%	0	0%	10	<1%
16-25	445	20%	195	23%	677	16%	0	0%	1317	18%
26-35	412	18%	166	19%	791	19%	0	0%	1369	19%
36-45	402	18%	194	23%	890	21%	0	0%	1486	20%
46-55	353	16%	135	16%	806	19%	0	0%	1294	18%
56-65	273	12%	73	8%	517	12%	0	0%	863	12%
66-74	196	9%	49	6%	291	7%	0	0%	536	7%
75+	188	8%	46	5%	210	5%	0	0%	444	6%
Unknown	1	0%	0	0%	30	1%	12	100%	43	1%
Total	2277	100%	859	100%	4214	100%	12	100%	7362	100%

All drivers involved in serious injury collisions by licence type (n=7,362 drivers)



2019-2023

Of those 7,362 drivers involved in fatal collisions:

- 83% had a full licence
- 6% had a foreign licence
- > 5% were a learner permit holder
- 3% had no licence

Licence Type of driver involved	Total	% Total
Full licence	6110	83%
Foreign licence	440	6%
Learner permit holder	352	5%
No licence	241	3%
Disqualified	41	<1%
Novice licence	15	<1%
Exempt driver	14	<1%
At present unknown*	149	2%
Total	7362	100%

^{260 (4%)} unaccompanied
92 (1%) accompanied

Note, figures are provisional and subject to change. Drivers involved in serious injury collisions may have been seriously injured, minorly injured or not injured. While some values in the table above are not actual licence categories, please note, the data is recorded in this way in the collision database.

^{*&#}x27;At present unknown' includes "Under Investigation",

[&]quot;Documents Demanded" and "After Investigation – Unknown"



Drivers with learner permits involved in serious injury collisions

Profile of drivers with learner permits involved in serious injury collisions (n=352)



2019-2023

- Not all drivers with learner permits involved in serious injury collisions were seriously injured.
- Of those 352 drivers with learner permits involved, 33% (116) were seriously injured, 15% (54) minorly injured and 52% (182) were not injured.
- 312 other road users were seriously injured in serious injury collisions where a driver with a learner permit was driving.
- 260 of the 352 drivers with a learner permit were unaccompanied and 92 were accompanied at the time of the collision.
- 332 were driving a car, 8 were driving an agricultural vehicle/tractor, 7 were driving a LGV, 2 were driving a HGV, and 3 driving other vehicle types.

Injury of the drivers with		%
learner permits	Total	Total
Serious	116	33%
Minor	54	15%
Not Injured		52%
Total	352	100%

Note, figures are provisional and subject to change. Learner drivers involved in serious injury collisions may have been seriously injured, minorly injured or not injured.

Age profile of drivers with learner permits involved in serious injury collisions (n=352)



- Between 2019 and 2023, there were 352 drivers with a learner permit involved in serious injury collisions.
- Of those drivers with learner permits involved, 60% were aged 16-25 years and 20% were aged 26-35 years.
- Of those drivers with learner permits involved, 66% were male and 34% were female.

Age group of drivers with learner permits	Number of learner drivers	% Total
16-25	212	60%
26-35	72	20%
36-45	42	12%
46-55	15	4%
56-65	8	2%
66+	3	1%
Total	352	100%



Driver spotlight report: fatalities and serious injuries

