



Press release

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Traffic death toll further down

- ***791 people killed on Dutch roads in 2007***
- ***More 15 to 20-year-olds killed, mainly (light) moped drivers***
- ***More road deaths aged between 20 and 30, increase among cyclists***
- ***Fewer traffic deaths in their forties and sixties***
- ***People in their eighties constitute highest risk group***
- ***Substantial increase in traffic deaths in Limburg***

Last year, 791 people were killed on Dutch roads, 20 (2.5 percent) down on 2006, when 811 people were killed. Half a decade ago, 1,088 lives were lost in traffic accidents. Despite the downward trend, the death toll among young people and young adults increased last year, according to figures released by Statistics Netherlands and the Department of Traffic and Shipping (DVS) of the Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management.

In the 1970s, the annual number of traffic fatalities topped 3 thousand. In the early twenty-first century; approximately 1,100 people annually died in traffic accidents. In 2007, the number had dropped to below 800 for the first time and the downward trend continues.

The total number of road deaths is declining marginally, but this does not apply to all age categories and types of transport. The death toll among 15 to 20-year-olds rose, in particular among (light) moped drivers. More people in their twenties died in traffic accidents after a gradual reduction in recent years. Nationwide, the traffic death toll has been highest in the age category 20-30 for years. Six in every people aged between 20 and 30 who died in road accidents were car drivers or passengers. Cyclists also account for part of the increase in traffic deaths in this age group.

The traffic death toll declined among people in their forties and sixties. In previous years, the number of deaths among people aged between 40 and 50 has never been under one hundred. Car drivers and passengers account for half of the reduction. Among 60 to 70-year-olds, the decline largely concerned cyclists.

Proportionally, most traffic fatalities are recorded among over-80s. Last year, 15 in every 100 thousand over-80s were involved in fatal road accidents. This

rate is three times as high as in the entire population (5 in every 100 thousand).

In the province of Limburg, the traffic death toll rose considerably in 2007 relative to 2006. Just like in previous years, the province of North Brabant has the highest traffic death toll, accounting for 20 percent of all road deaths. This is partly due to the fact that this province has the most extensive road network.

Table 1. Traffic deaths in the Netherlands by gender, 2002-2007

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Total	1 066	1088	881	817	811	791
Men	790	804	630	594	576	574
Women	276	284	251	223	235	217

Source: Statistics Netherlands and DVS

Table 2. Traffic deaths in the Netherlands by age, 2002-2007

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Total	1 066	1 088	881	817	811	791
0-14 yrs	41	64	36	31	37	36
15-19 yrs	138	115	85	71	64	79
20-29 yrs	231	214	182	140	137	149
30-39 yrs	149	162	103	115	91	95
40-49 yrs	125	120	104	102	113	85
50-59 yrs	89	98	94	99	80	88
60-69 yrs	73	110	72	66	90	71
70-79 yrs	109	105	104	110	101	99
80 yrs and older	111	100	101	83	98	89

Source: Statistics Netherlands and DVS

Table 3. Traffic deaths in the Netherlands by type of transport, 2002-2007

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Total	1 066	1088	881	817	811	791
Cars	503	496	420	356	340	317
Vans/lorries	47	61	22	26	30	43
Bicycles	195	219	180	181	216	189
(Light) mopeds	106	99	87	78	87	80
Pedestrians	108	107	77	89	73	91
Motorcycles	101	96	91	78	59	65
Other/unknown	6	10	4	9	6	6

Source: Statistics Netherlands and DVS

Table 4. Traffic deaths in the Netherlands by province, 2002-2007

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Total	1 066	1088	881	817	811	791
Groningen	57	53	42	21	31	23
Friesland	47	64	44	48	39	34
Drenthe	55	49	34	32	42	40
Overijssel	65	89	72	70	61	50
Flevoland	23	34	22	20	12	16
Gelderland	140	148	131	116	131	116
Utrecht	53	55	45	50	45	54
North Holland	137	142	103	113	105	109
South Holland	171	157	126	95	120	113
Zeeland	30	25	25	24	39	21
North Brabant	202	193	170	169	130	140
Limburg	86	79	67	59	56	75

Source: Statistics Netherlands and DVS