



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

PR00-208
12 September 2000
9.30 hrs

Nearly 1,200 deaths on Dutch roads in 1999

According to figures from Statistics Netherlands 1,186 people were killed in road traffic accidents in the Netherlands in 1999, 3% more than the 1,149 in 1998.

The number of victims aged under 18 and over 75 has increased particularly strongly. Nearly half of the victims were in a car, over a quarter were cyclists and people on mopeds.

Road deaths decreasing in the long term

The number of people killed in traffic accidents was at its highest in the seventies. Since then it has dropped to one third of the number in 1972, at an average rate of 4% a year. The decrease has been slowing down in recent years. The rise between 1998 and 1999 does not necessarily mean that this downward trend has come to an end. Interim increases have occurred before now.

More younger and older victims

The number of road deaths is not spread evenly across age categories. In 1999 146 victims were younger than 18, over 40% more than in 1998. Among children under 10 years of age the number of deaths even more than doubled: from 23 in 1998 to 50 in 1999.

The number of victims among the elderly - people aged over 75 - also rose by a substantial 20%: from 136 in 1998 to 165 in 1999.

In 1999 12% of victims were younger than 18, and 14% older than 75. The young victims travelled six times as many kilometres as the elderly ones.

Statistics Netherlands
Press Office

P.O. Box 4000
2270 JM Voorburg
The Netherlands
tel. +31 70 337 58 16
fax +31 70 337 59 71
e-mail:
persdienst@cbs.nl

Statistics Netherlands
is a department of
the Ministry of
Economic Affairs

Risk by mode of transport

The increase in the number of deaths in 1999 was greatest in the category of people on bicycles and mopeds. The number of victims using these forms of transport rose by over 12% from 297 in 1998 to 333 in 1999.

However, nearly half of those killed were in a car: with 587 road deaths this is by far the largest group. People travelled over 140 billion kilometres in cars in 1999, so that is four deaths per billion kilometres.

Cyclists and people on mopeds covered 14 billion person-kilometres. With nearly 24 deaths per billion kilometres, this means the risk of being killed on a bike or moped is six times greater than in a car.

The risk of a pedestrian being killed is 7.5 times that for a car driver or passenger: pedestrians walked over four billion kilometres, and 130 of them were killed in 1999 (30 deaths per billion kilometres).

Most victims in central part of the country

Nearly half of all victims were killed in the provinces Noord-Brabant, Gelderland and Zuid-Holland. In 1999 544 people were killed on roads in these provinces alone, compared with 524 in 1998. The large share of these provinces in the total number of victims is accounted for by the fact that 40% of Dutch roads are located here. These provinces also have relatively more through traffic routes than the rest of the country.

The number of road deaths per province has fluctuated strongly through the years. In 1999 the number of deaths in Friesland rose particularly strongly, by 64%. The provinces Overijssel, Flevoland and Gelderland also had substantially more victims, with numbers increasing by 21, 24 and 29% respectively.

Limburg had the largest fall, with 25% fewer victims, followed by Groningen and Drenthe with 17%, and Zuid-Holland with 13% fewer deaths.

For further information, please contact H. Coninx, tel. +31 45 570 64 37; e-mail: hcnx@cbs.nl