



Statistics Netherlands

Press release

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Road deaths seven percent down in 2001

Seven percent fewer people died in road traffic accidents last year than in 2000. In 2001 road traffic claimed 1,085 lives, down from 1,166 in 2000. The largest fall was in the category of young people. Fatalities among 15-25 year-olds fell by nearly a quarter, according to provisional figures from Statistics Netherlands and the Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management. The figures are based on cause of death forms, court records and accident reports.

Downward trend

The number of road traffic deaths fell by seven percent in 2001, from 1,166 in 2000 to 1,085. This is the first time since the fifties that the number has dipped below the 1,100 mark. Following a strong increase in the number of road deaths in the course of the fifties and sixties, the number peaked in the early seventies, when more than three thousand people were killed in traffic. Since then, the number has been decreasing.

Most victims men

Many more men than women are killed in road accidents. Three quarters of fatal victims are men. The difference between men and women is largest for people in their early twenties. In this age group nearly six times as many men as women die in traffic accidents. The share of young people among fatal victims is relatively high: thirty percent of victims are aged between 15 and 30 years, while these ages account for less than twenty percent of the population. Indeed traffic accidents are the main cause of death among young people: one in three people aged 15-19 years who die do so in road traffic.

Substantial fall for moped riders

The decrease in the number of fatalities among moped riders was the largest relatively speaking in 2001: the number fell by twenty percent from 110 in 2000 to 87 in 2001. The decrease was particularly large for young people. The number of 15-19 year-old moped riders killed fell from 43 in 2000 to 25 in 2001.

In addition to young people, older people are also more at risk in this vehicle

For further information please contact Jan Latten; e-mail jltn@cbs.nl,
tel. +31 70 337 52 32, or the press office.

Tel. +31 70 337 58 16

Fax +31 70 337 59 71

E-mail: persdienst@cbs.nl

www.cbs.nl

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is a department of
the Ministry of
Economic Affairs

category. The decrease was smaller for older people, however.

Fewer young car drivers and passengers killed

Nearly half of people killed in road traffic were car drivers or passengers. The number of people killed in cars dropped from 543 in 2000 to 503 in 2001, a fall of seven percent. The decrease was largest for young people: the number of people between ages 18 and 30 killed in a car fell by nearly 20 percent.

Relatively many older cyclists killed

One in five deaths are cyclists. The number of cyclists killed hardly changed. In 2001 228 cyclists were killed in road traffic accidents. Relatively many victims were older: forty percent of those killed were over 65, while this age group accounts for only 14 percent of the population.

Pedestrians who died were even older on average. One in three pedestrians killed was 75 or older. The number of pedestrian deaths was about the same in 2001 as in 2000.