



Statistics Netherlands

Press release

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Slightly fewer road deaths in 2002

In 2002, 1,066 people were killed in road traffic accidents in the Netherlands. This is 2 percent down on 2001. The largest fall was for the number of cyclists killed. The number of people killed on motorcycles and mopeds rose, however, according to provisional figures from Statistics Netherlands and the Traffic and Transport Advisory Board. The figures are based on a combination of three sources: cause of death forms, court records and accident reports.

Downward trend continues

The number of people killed in traffic accidents fell by 2 percent last year, from 1,083 in 2001 to 1,066. The decrease was smaller than in 2001 when the number of road deaths fell by 7 percent. As the number of traffic fatalities has fallen by an average 3 percent per year since the seventies, the decrease in 2002 was below average.

Men and young people most likely to be killed

Many more men than women are killed in road accidents. Men are three times as likely as women to be killed. In the age group 30-39 years as many as seven times as many men as women are killed on Dutch roads.

The proportion of young people among fatal victims is high: just over 30 percent of people killed in traffic accidents are aged between 15 and 30 years, while this age group accounts for less than twenty percent of the population. Traffic accidents are the main cause of death for people in this age group. One in three people who die between the ages of 15 and 19 are killed in traffic accidents.

The number of fatalities among children aged under 15 years has dropped considerably. In 2002 41 children in this age group were killed, in 2001 this figure was twice as high.

More deaths among people on motorcycles and mopeds

The joint figures from Statistics Netherlands and the Traffic and Transport Advisory Board further show that the number of people killed while riding a moped rose from 78 in 2001 to 106 in 2002, and was back at its 2000 level. The increase was especially large for young people aged 15-19 years and for the over 80s. Young and old people are the main high risk age groups for this

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type of transport. More motorcyclists, too, were killed in 2002.

Deaths among car drivers and passengers constant

Just as in the previous year nearly half of all fatal victims were car drivers or passengers. The number of people killed in cars remained constant at 503 in 2002 compared with 504 in 2001. Compared with 2001 more people aged 15-19 years and more people aged over 80 were killed in cars.

More than 40 percent of cyclists killed were over 65

For the first time in many years fewer than 200 cyclists were killed on Dutch roads in 2002. The number of deaths in this category fell from 225 in 2001 to 195 in 2002. Relatively many of these victims were older cyclists. Forty percent of cyclists killed on the roads were 65 years or older, while the share of this age group in the total population was less than 14 percent. One in five traffic deaths were cyclists.