



Press release

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Sharp fall in traffic deaths in 2004

Traffic fatality rate fell by 19 percent last year. According to figures published by Statistics Netherlands and the AVV Transport Research Centre of the Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management, 881 people were killed in traffic in 2004. In the previous year 1,088 people died on Dutch roads. Far fewer men and children died in road accidents.

Traffic fatality rate at historical low

In the early 1970s the annual traffic death toll exceeded 3 thousand. Subsequently, the number of deaths dropped to approximately 1,100 in 2003. In 2004 traffic death toll amounted to 881, unprecedented since the Second World War.

Fewer traffic deaths among children

In 2004 36 children under the age of fifteen perished in road accidents, a 44 percent decline compared to the previous year when 64 children in that age category died. There was no significant reduction in traffic mortality among older people. Just like in previous years, over 200 people aged 70 years and older died in traffic. With 182, the death toll was highest in the 20-29 age group.

The number of male traffic deaths amounted to 630 last year, 22 percent down on 2003. There were 251 female traffic deaths in 2004, a reduction of 12 percent compared to 2003. Despite the strong decline, men still account for 70 percent of all traffic deaths.

Half of traffic deaths are car passengers

Nearly half of traffic deaths are car passengers or drivers. The total amount of deaths among car passengers decreased by 76 in 2004. There was also a substantial reduction by 40 and 30 respectively, in the number of cyclists and pedestrians killed in traffic accidents. A noticeable decrease was recorded among van and lorry drivers and passengers.

Death toll high in North Brabant due to extensive road network

In 2004 20 percent of traffic deaths perished on roads in North Brabant. This province has had the highest traffic death toll for years. The extensive road network is partly due to this situation. Roads in North Brabant cover 16 percent of the total length of the Dutch road network, whereas roads in the province of Flevoland cover only 3 percent of the total length of the Dutch road

system. Indeed only more than 2 percent of all road deaths were registered in Flevoland.

Table 1. Traffic deaths in the Netherlands by gender, 2000-2004

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Total	1 166	1 083	1 066	1088	881
Men	861	816	790	804	630
Women	305	267	276	284	251

Source: Statistics Netherlands and AVV

Table 2. Traffic deaths in the Netherlands by age, 2000-2004

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Total	1 166	1 083	1 066	1088	881
0-14 yrs	59	50	41	64	36
15-19 yrs	138	104	138	115	85
20-29 yrs	256	218	231	214	182
30-39 yrs	157	177	149	162	103
40-49 yrs	126	117	125	120	104
50-59 yrs	121	112	89	98	94
60-69 yrs	97	93	73	110	72
70-79 yrs	134	124	109	105	104
80 yrs and older	78	88	111	100	101

Source: Statistics Netherlands and AVV

Table 3. Traffic deaths in the Netherlands by mode of transport, 2000-2004

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Total	1 166	1 083	1 066	1088	881
Car	543	504	503	496	420
Van/lorry	58	59	47	61	22
Bicycle	233	225	195	219	180
Light motorised bike	110	78	106	99	87
Pedestrian	114	115	108	107	77
Motorbike	95	92	101	96	91
Other/unknown	13	10	6	10	4

Source: Statistics Netherlands and AVV

Table 4. Traffic deaths in the Netherlands by province, 2000-2004

	2000 ¹	2001	2002	2003	2004
Total	1 166	1 083	1 066	1088	881
Groningen	34	43	57	57	42
Friesland	64	47	47	62	44
Drenthe	46	56	55	47	34
Overijssel	80	84	65	89	72
Flevoland	39	20	23	33	22
Gelderland	169	122	140	150	131
Utrecht	57	57	52	54	45
North Holland	166	151	138	141	103
South Holland	159	150	171	161	126
Zeeland	36	36	30	25	25
North Brabant	221	212	202	193	170
Limburg	93	105	86	76	67

¹ Including 2 victims whose location of death is not known.

Source: Statistics Netherlands and AVV