

ALBERTA TRAFFIC COLLISION FACTS REGION 5 – East Central Region 2007

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the “who”, “what”, “when”, “where”, “why”, and “how” of traffic collisions which occurred in East Central Region during 2007. Although the report is general in nature, it pays particular attention to casualty collisions, that is, those collisions that result in death or injury.

We are providing this report to support you in rolling out the Alberta Traffic Safety Plan at the community level. The priority goals of the Plan are to reduce collision fatalities and injuries by addressing:

- Seat belt and child safety seat use for all vehicle occupants;
- Speeding
- Intersection safety; and
- Impaired driving.

In connection to the top priorities of the TSAP this report also includes collision information regarding restraint use of collision-involved individuals, intersection related casualty collisions, speed-related casualty collisions and alcohol-involved casualty collisions in your region.

The information in this fact sheet will also allow you to look at your region in relation to the province as a whole. The provincial Collision Facts report and the Alberta Annual Traffic Collision Statistics report are posted on our web site at: www.transportation.alberta.ca/3121.htm.

ALBERTA TRAFFIC COLLISION FACTS

REGION 5 – East Central Region

2007

WHAT HAPPENED ON EAST CENTRAL'S ROADWAYS IN 2007?

During 2007...

- 34 people were killed as a result of traffic collisions.
- 702 people were injured in traffic collisions
- A total of 5207 collisions occurred.

In 2007 approximately...

- One person was killed every 11 days.
- 2 people were injured daily.
- 14 traffic collisions were reported daily.

EAST CENTRAL TRAFFIC COLLISIONS 2003-2007

Severity of Collision	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
Fatal	31	16	27	17	14
Non-Fatal Injury	483	584	520	517	540
Property Damage	4693	4405	3751	3373	3035
Total Reportable Collisions	5207	5005	4298	3907	3589
Number Killed	34	18	32	19	15
Number Injured	702	836	737	767	860
Total Number of Casualties	736	854	769	786	875

WHO WERE THE VICTIMS?

Traffic Fatalities (%)		Traffic Injuries (%)	
61.8	Drivers	64.7	Drivers
17.6	Passengers	26.2	Passengers
5.9	Pedestrians	2.8	Pedestrians
--	Bicyclists	0.9	Bicyclists
5.9	Motorcyclists	2.6	Motorcyclists
8.8	Other road user class/unspecified	2.8	Other road user class/unspecified

SPECIAL ROAD USER CLASSES

Pedestrians

There were 22 casualty collisions involving pedestrians, resulting in 22 pedestrian casualties. Pedestrian collisions occur throughout the year and were most likely to occur during the afternoon in urban areas. Of pedestrians involved in casualty collisions, one in ten had consumed alcohol before the crash.

Motorcycles

There were 17 casualty collisions involving motorcycles. These collisions resulted in 20 motorcyclist casualties. Motorcycle collisions were more likely to occur during the summer months on Thursdays during the evening in urban areas. One in fourteen motorcyclists had consumed alcohol before the crash. In casualty collisions, over half of motorcyclists made an improper driving action most commonly running off the road. Seventeen in twenty motorcyclists were wearing a helmet at the time of the crash.

Truck Tractors

In 2007, there were 49 casualty collisions involving truck tractors. Truck tractor collisions were likely to occur in February during the week in the afternoon. Almost all of these collisions were in rural areas. The most common error made by truck tractor drivers was running off the road. Truck tractor drivers were less likely to have consumed alcohol before a crash than all drivers.

Bicycles

There were six casualty collisions involving bicyclists, resulting in six bicyclist casualties. Collisions involving bicyclists tended to occur in spring, throughout the week during afternoon exclusively in urban areas. One quarter of bicyclists in casualty collisions made an improper driving action, most commonly making a left turn across path of traffic. No bicyclists had been drinking before the crash. Approximately two thirds of bicyclists were wearing a helmet at the time of the crash.

WHEN DID THE COLLISIONS OCCUR?

September saw the most fatal collisions. May recorded the highest number of injury collisions. The highest number of property damage collisions occurred during December. There were more collisions on Friday than any other day of the week. The afternoon rush-hour period accounted for the highest number of crashes.

WHERE DID THE COLLISIONS OCCUR?

Nearly 23% of fatal collisions and 28% of injury collisions occurred at intersections. Nearly half of all collisions occurred in rural areas. In 2007, the top three urban collision locations were Lloydminster, Camrose and Vegreville with 19%, 14% and 3% of total collisions, respectively.

Urban (%)		Rural (%)	
0.2	Fatal Collisions	1.0	Fatal Collisions
7.8	Injury Collisions	10.6	Injury Collisions
92.0	Property Damage Collisions	88.4	Property Damage Collisions

WHO WERE THE DRIVERS INVOLVED IN CASUALTY COLLISIONS?

% Drivers in Casualty Collisions by Age

Age	% Drivers in Fatal Crashes	% Drivers in Injury Crashes
Under 16	--	1.3
16-17	2.2	6.3
18-19	2.2	8.2
20-24	8.9	17.2
25-34	17.8	18.3
35-44	20.0	16.2
45-54	24.4	16.5
55-64	8.9	9.8
65+	15.6	6.3

WHAT DRIVER ACTIONS CONTRIBUTED TO CASUALTY COLLISIONS?

Of drivers involved in fatal collisions, two thirds made an improper action that contributed to the collision. The most common driver error in fatal crashes was running off the road. Half of the drivers in injury collisions committed an improper action; most commonly, running off the road.

WHAT ABOUT DRINKING AND DRIVING?

Of drivers involved in fatal collisions, 17% had consumed alcohol before the crash, compared to 8% of drivers in injury collisions. Over half of the drinking drivers were males under 35. Alcohol related casualty crashes were most likely to occur in the months of February and June on the weekends and during the evening and early morning hours. 72% of casualty collisions involving drinking drivers occurred in rural areas.

WHAT ABOUT SEAT BELTS?

The data shows that occupants who were using restraints at the time of the collision were injured less often (19%) than occupants who were not using restraints (53%). Occupants using a restraint reduce the likelihood of sustaining an injury and the severity of injury decreases. Visit <http://www.tc.gc.ca/roadsafety/stats/menu.htm#pqrs> for Transport Canada's latest seat belt use survey results.

WHAT ABOUT SPEEDING?

In 2007, 20% of drivers involved in casualty collisions were indicated by the police as having been travelling at a speed too great for the given conditions. However, 26% of drivers in fatal collisions were travelling at unsafe speed. Provincially, 13% of drivers involved in casualty collisions and 28% of drivers in fatal collisions were travelling at an unsafe speed. (Note: Unsafe speed applies when the speed was too great under the given conditions [e.g. road, weather and light conditions, traffic density, etc.] Whether or not the driver exceeded a legal speed limit is irrelevant.)

WHAT ABOUT ROAD AND WEATHER CONDITIONS?

In 2007, less than two thirds of casualty collisions occurred when surface conditions were dry. Over one in four collisions occurred on a surface condition of snow, slush or ice. Four fifths of casualty collisions occurred during clear weather conditions.

DEMOGRAPHICS

	Region	Alberta
Drivers ¹	88,021	2,601,517
Vehicles ²	118,641	2,922,033
Population	111,000 ³	3,473,984 ⁴

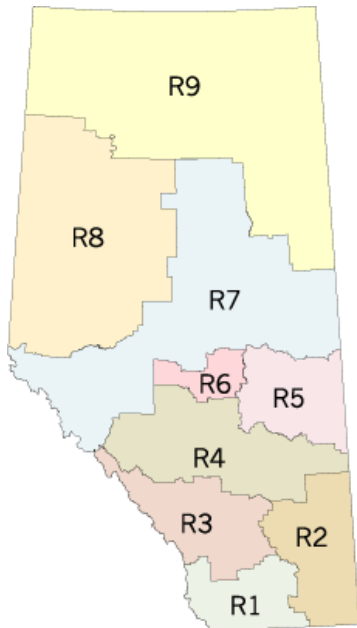
¹Number of licensed drivers as of December 31, 2007 -
Source: Alberta Transportation, Office of Traffic Safety

²Number of registered motorized vehicles as of December 31,
2007 - Source: Alberta Transportation, Office of Traffic Safety.

³Source: East Central Health Region
<http://www.ech.ab.ca/publications/Annual%20Report%2006-07%20July%2020-07.pdf>

⁴July 1, 2007 - Source: Stats Canada

WHERE ARE THE REGIONS?



Region 1 - Chinook Region

Region 2 - Palliser Region

Region 3 - Calgary Region

Region 4 - David Thompson Region

Region 5 - East Central Region

Region 6 - Capital Region

Region 7 - Aspen Region

Region 8 - Peace Country Region

Region 9 - Northern Lights Region