



Road Safety Fact Sheet

What is road safety?

The primary aim of road safety is saving lives and prevent (often life-changing) injuries by:

- Targeted road safety education, training and campaigning in schools and colleges
- Delivering safety campaigns within communities and neighbourhoods
- Delivery of training schemes for vocational drivers including younger and older drivers
- Engaging with businesses to promote a safer road user culture
- Using a targeted approach to address the vulnerable road user population
- Promoting safer road use through community events, social media and websites

What is the issue?

Road safety is an issue that cuts across local councils, emergency services and health. Incidents can have a devastating far reaching and long-term impact on those involved and their families.

Why is it important?

The human cost of road casualties can never be fully quantified. However, using the Department for Transport's methodology we can attach an economic cost to the prevention of road casualties in County Durham and Darlington, and this is estimated at £89 million per annum which provides a further imperative to reduce road casualties.

Having a road network that encourages sustainable travel and road users that are safe is a priority of the council and its strategic partners. This is achieved through a targeted partnership approach to address those key road user groups who are over-represented in casualty statistics and those individuals or groups who engage in risk taking behaviours.

How does it impact people?

Road casualties have reduced in recent years which is to be welcomed. However, we need to continue to strive to reduce road casualties even further. Every fatality is a tragedy for the family and friends involved. Also, serious injuries can be life changing and far reaching in their consequences for the victim and their family and friends.

County Durham context?

- In the last 10 years (Jan-Dec 2010-2020) within County Durham there has been a:
 - 62% reduction in all recorded injury collisions
 - 12% reduction in serious injuries; and
 - 68% reduction in slight recorded injuries
 - 28% increase in fatalities.
- Through continued strategic working with partners in a targeted and intelligence led approach, the aim is to maintain the downward trend of casualties on the highway network in County Durham.
- Fatal injury collisions continue to be an area of concern within County Durham. In the last 10 years fatalities have increased by 28% although, 2018 saw the lowest total fatalities on record (9). The Council continues to investigate the circumstances involved in all fatalities and identify appropriate engineering, enforcement and education solutions to maintain a downward trend.
- In September 2020, County Durham saw its first child fatality since 2015. Child casualties, as vulnerable road users, continue to be key target group in County Durham and Darlington. A considerable amount of effort and resources are allocated to protecting children and to encourage safer road use, including developing schemes that directly engage with pupils and parents to help formulate positive actions and attitudes to road safety.
- Looking at casualties by road user group, in the last 10 years:
 - Car occupants constitute 66%
 - Pedestrians account for 12%
 - Motorcyclists account for 7%
 - Pedal cyclists account for 5%
 - Buses and goods vehicles account for 5% and 4% respectively.
- Over one fifth of all injury collisions involve a person aged between 17-24. These casualties are predominantly as drivers and passengers.
- The County Durham and Darlington Strategic Road Safety Partnership is responsible for providing strategic direction, performance monitoring and resource allocation to the County Durham and Darlington Road Safety Partnership while the County Durham and Darlington Road Safety Partnership Delivery Group is responsible for the co-ordination and delivery of road safety initiatives and projects aimed at encouraging safer road user behaviour.

- The Road Safety Team deliver a number of training and road safety awareness campaigns in the county, to help address local, regional and national road safety issues including:
 - **School road safety schemes:** a variety of [road safety training schemes](#) for schools
 - **Cycling safety schemes:** [cyclist training in schools](#) under the [Bikeability](#) (cycling proficiency) scheme
 - **Young drivers:** [EXCErate](#) designed to help make young drivers the safest drivers on our roads
 - **Older drivers:** [Safer Driving with Age](#) (SAGE) offers assessments for drivers over 55 years
 - **School crossing patrols:** a countywide [school crossing patrol service](#).

Resources

[EXCErate](#)

[Safer Driving with Age \(SAGE\)](#)

[Road safety training schemes](#)

[Bikeability](#)

[Road Safety GB](#)

[North East England Road User Casualty Dashboard](#)