



OIA-21856 - Crash data - medical events and drugs 2023-2025

Report Date: 5/05/2026
Data extract date: 5/05/2026
Requester: Nigel Gray

Request:

A. Medical Event Crashes (2023, 2024, 2025) [...] please provide:
The number of fatal crashes where the primary contributing factor was recorded as a medical event.
The number of serious injury crashes where the primary contributing factor was a medical event.
The number of minor injury crashes where the primary contributing factor was a medical event.
The number of fatal crashes removed from the official road toll dataset because they were determined to be caused by a medical event.
The exact Police or CAS factor codes, definitions, or descriptors used to classify a crash as a medical event.
The number of cases currently coded as “suspected medical event” or equivalent where coronial findings are pending.

B. Drug Related Crashes (2023, 2024, 2025) For each of the last three calendar years, please provide:
The number of fatal crashes where drugs were recorded as a contributing factor.
The number of serious injury crashes where drugs were recorded as a contributing factor.
The number of minor injury crashes where drugs were recorded as a contributing factor.
The number of fatal crashes where both alcohol and drugs were contributing factors.
The factor codes, definitions, or descriptors used to classify drug involvement.
The number of cases initially coded as “pending toxicology” that were later updated to “drug related.”

C. Classification and Data Handling Procedures Please provide:
The internal Police guidance, instructions, or criteria used to determine when a crash is classified as:
a medical event
drug related
alcohol related
excluded from the official road toll
Any procedures or thresholds used when updating crash records following coronial findings or toxicology results.

Source database: Crash Analysis System (CAS)
Report produced by: Statistical Services
Peer reviewed by: Statistical Services

Please note the following concerning the data contained in this spreadsheet:

- This data is provided from the road traffic crash database; Crash Analysis System (CAS) version 2.14.2.
- NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) maintains CAS which is updated once a Traffic Crash Report (TCR) is received from New Zealand Police sometime after the crash.
- Data is limited to all crashes for the years 2023 to 2025 as recorded in CAS to date - as at 5 May 2026.
- A crash, to be recorded in CAS must have occurred on a road. The CAS definition of a road is any street, motorway or beach, or a place to which the public have access with a motor vehicle, whether as of right or not - for example, a public car park.
- Due to New Zealand Police reporting time frame and subsequent data processing there is a lag from the time of a crash to full and correct crash records within CAS.
- Due to the nature of non-fatal crashes, it is believed that these are under-reported, with the level of under-reporting decreasing with the increasing severity of the crash.
- Data relating to fatal, serious injury and minor injury crashes is usually recorded in CAS within one working day of the NZTA receiving it from New Zealand Police. Data relating to non-injury crashes is usually recorded in CAS within six weeks of receipt.
- Crash severity is the severity of the worst injury in the crash. There may be more than one injury in a crash, so the crash and injury tables may have different numbers.
- The cause of a crash cannot necessarily be attributed to any one factor (for example, fatigue) as a crash may have multiple factors.
- Where Alcohol/Drugs are a contributing factor to a crash, this factor has been separated into either "Proven" or "Suspected". A factor is only counted once against a crash.
- Where a crash has both a proven and suspected factor against it, only the factor "Proven" is counted.
- CAS is continually updated as new information is provided, therefore data regarding injuries, and factors attributed to crashes, may change from previous releases.
- Due to an increased focus by Police to update TCRs with additional information, particularly the outcome of blood test results, the numbers of crashes with Alcohol and/or Drugs proven or suspected may change from other data released previously.

For further information, please contact statisticalAnalysis@nzta.govt.nz

This information must be read in conjunction with the Caveats on the first page of this spreadsheet.

2023-2025 crashes					
Year	Fatal crashes	Serious injury crashes	Minor injury crashes	Non-injury crashes	Total crashes
2023	305	2,086	8,568	20,548	31,507
2024	249	2,090	8,306	18,689	29,334
2025	260	2,062	8,220	18,467	29,009
Total	814	6,238	25,094	57,704	89,850

Injuries from crashes 2023-2025				
Year	Deaths	Serious injuries	Minor injuries	Total injuries
2023	342	2,459	11,307	14,108
2024	291	2,465	10,999	13,755
2025	272	2,423	10,976	13,671
Total	905	7,347	33,282	41,534

2023-2025 crashes involving a medical event*					
Year	Fatal crashes	Serious injury crashes	Minor injury crashes	Non-injury crashes	Total crashes
2023	4	61	287	418	770
2024	6	77	317	419	819
2025	3	76	320	385	784
Total	13	214	924	1,222	2,373

Injuries from crashes involving a medical event* 2023-2025				
Year	Deaths	Serious injuries	Minor injuries	Total injuries
2023	4	65	339	408
2024	7	87	399	493
2025	3	85	401	489
Total	14	237	1,139	1,390

* Crashes involving a 'medical event' are defined as those where one or more of the following factors were coded as contributing factors in CAS:

- Other illness
- Sudden illness
- Physical impairment
- Defective vision
- Medical illness (not sudden)
- Mental illness (depression, psychosis)
- Impaired ability due to old age
- Other disability

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

This information must be read in conjunction with the Caveats on the first page of this spreadsheet.

2023-2025 crashes where 'Drugs proven' was a contributing factor					
Year	Fatal crashes	Serious injury crashes	Minor injury crashes	Non-injury crashes	Total crashes
2023	105	202	173	72	552
2024	93	220	177	103	593
2025	90	276	218	114	698
Total	288	698	568	289	1,843

- Data is limited to crashes involving drugs.
- Drugs means 'Drugs proven' was a contributing factor to the crash.

2023-2025 crashes where both 'Drugs proven' and 'Alcohol test above limit or test refused' were contributing factors					
Year	Fatal crashes	Serious injury crashes	Minor injury crashes	Non-injury crashes	Total crashes
2023	38	15	16	1	70
2024	23	12	13	7	55
2025	43	21	19	6	89
Total	104	48	48	14	214

- Data is limited to crashes involving both drugs and alcohol.
- Drugs and alcohol means both 'Drugs proven' and 'Alcohol test above limit or test refused' were contributing factors to the crash.

Injuries from crashes where 'Drugs proven' was a contributing factor 2023-2025				
Year	Deaths	Serious injuries	Minor injuries	Total injuries
2023	117	294	375	786
2024	114	322	374	810
2025	95	393	446	934
Total	326	1,009	1,195	2,530

Injuries from crashes where both 'Drugs proven' and 'Alcohol test above limit or test refused' were contributing factors 2023-2025				
Year	Deaths	Serious injuries	Minor injuries	Total injuries
2023	41	36	43	120
2024	27	23	27	77
2025	45	46	56	147
Total	113	105	126	344

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

This information must be read in conjunction with the Caveats on the first page of this spreadsheet.

Crash Factors

The determination of the primary cause of a crash is complex and often crashes have multiple factors contributing to them.

Where multiple factors have been identified as contributing to a crash, it is difficult (if not impossible) to identify which of the factors was the primary cause of the crash.

It is also difficult to determine if any one factor had a stronger contribution to the injury outcome of the crash. For example, a crash has had the following contributing factors: alcohol test above limit or test refused, did not stop at steady red light, other lost control, speed at temporary speed limit, worn tread on tyre, and road under construction or maintenance.

All these factors contributed to the crash and no one factor can be confidently identified as the primary cause or for its impact on the injury outcome of the crash.

Factors are counted once against a crash - that is, two fatigued drivers count as one fatigue crash factor.

The numbers under the year headings are the number of crashes where that factor was a contributing factor to the crashes for that year. The Total is the sum of all the factors contributing to crashes.

Because a crash may have multiple factors there will be more total factors than crashes resulting in factors totalling more than 100% of all crashes

Where Alcohol and/or Drugs are a contributing factor to a crash, this factor has been separated into either "Proven" or "Suspected".

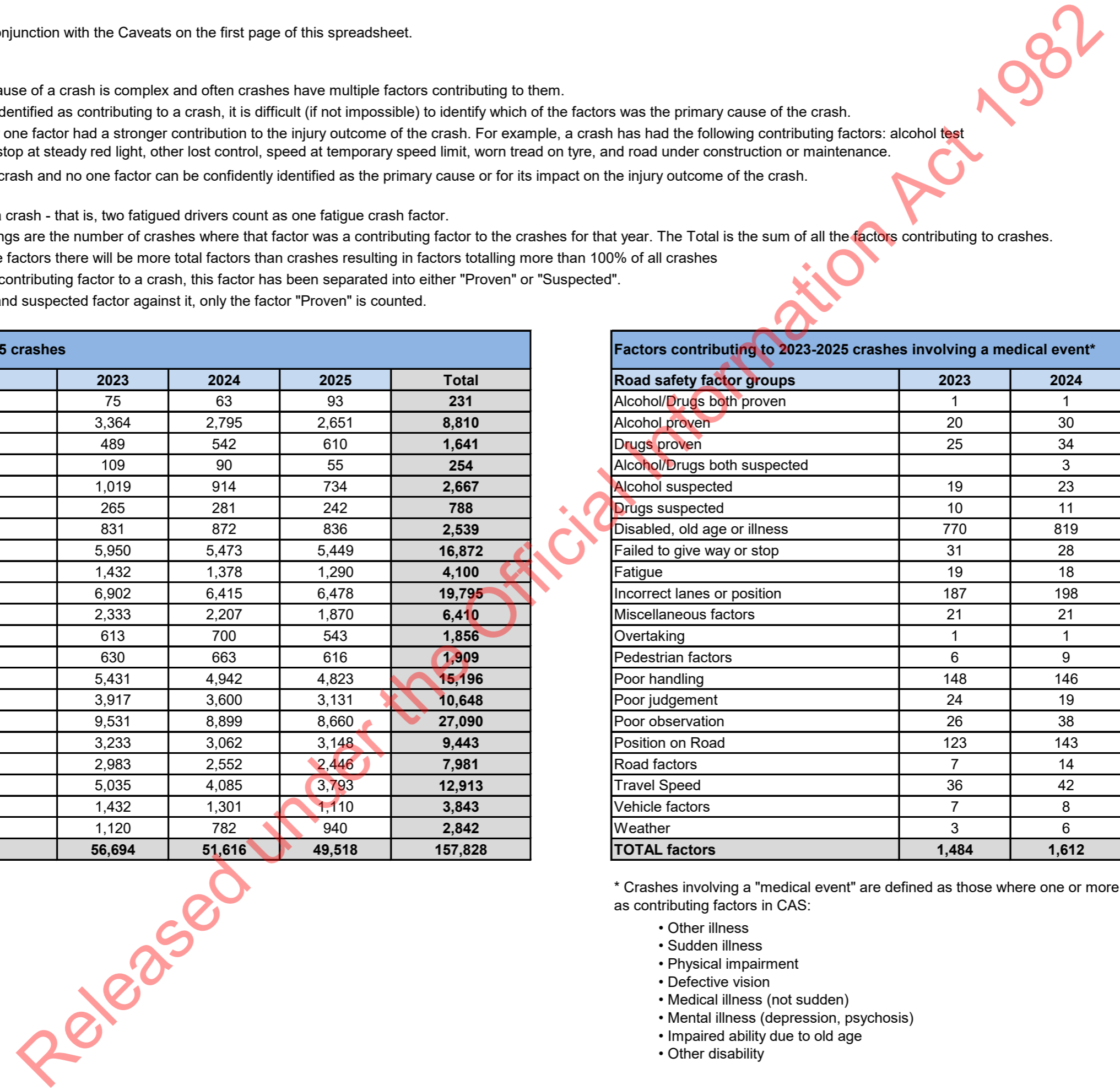
Where a crash has both a proven and suspected factor against it, only the factor "Proven" is counted.

Factors contributing to 2023-2025 crashes				
Road safety factor groups	2023	2024	2025	Total
Alcohol/Drugs both proven	75	63	93	231
Alcohol proven	3,364	2,795	2,651	8,810
Drugs proven	489	542	610	1,641
Alcohol/Drugs both suspected	109	90	55	254
Alcohol suspected	1,019	914	734	2,667
Drugs suspected	265	281	242	788
Disabled, old age or illness	831	872	836	2,539
Failed to give way or stop	5,950	5,473	5,449	16,872
Fatigue	1,432	1,378	1,290	4,100
Incorrect lanes or position	6,902	6,415	6,478	19,795
Miscellaneous factors	2,333	2,207	1,870	6,410
Overtaking	613	700	543	1,856
Pedestrian factors	630	663	616	1,909
Poor handling	5,431	4,942	4,823	15,196
Poor judgement	3,917	3,600	3,131	10,648
Poor observation	9,531	8,899	8,660	27,090
Position on Road	3,233	3,062	3,148	9,443
Road factors	2,983	2,552	2,446	7,981
Travel Speed	5,035	4,085	3,793	12,913
Vehicle factors	1,432	1,301	1,110	3,843
Weather	1,120	782	940	2,842
TOTAL factors	56,694	51,616	49,518	157,828

Factors contributing to 2023-2025 crashes involving a medical event*				
Road safety factor groups	2023	2024	2025	Total
Alcohol/Drugs both proven	1	1		2
Alcohol proven	20	30	24	74
Drugs proven	25	34	32	91
Alcohol/Drugs both suspected		3		3
Alcohol suspected	19	23	12	54
Drugs suspected	10	11	8	29
Disabled, old age or illness	770	819	784	2,373
Failed to give way or stop	31	28	27	86
Fatigue	19	18	11	48
Incorrect lanes or position	187	198	204	589
Miscellaneous factors	21	21	13	55
Overtaking	1	1		2
Pedestrian factors	6	9	10	25
Poor handling	148	146	134	428
Poor judgement	24	19	17	60
Poor observation	26	38	35	99
Position on Road	123	143	129	395
Road factors	7	14	12	33
Travel Speed	36	42	26	104
Vehicle factors	7	8	3	18
Weather	3	6	8	17
TOTAL factors	1,484	1,612	1,489	4,585

* Crashes involving a "medical event" are defined as those where one or more of the following factors were coded as contributing factors in CAS:

- Other illness
- Sudden illness
- Physical impairment
- Defective vision
- Medical illness (not sudden)
- Mental illness (depression, psychosis)
- Impaired ability due to old age
- Other disability



This information must be read in conjunction with the Caveats on the first page of this spreadsheet.

Crash Factors

The determination of the primary cause of a crash is complex and often crashes have multiple factors contributing to them.

Where multiple factors have been identified as contributing to a crash, it is difficult (if not impossible) to identify which of the factors was the primary cause of the crash.

It is also difficult to determine if any one factor had a stronger contribution to the injury outcome of the crash. For example, a crash has had the following contributing factors: alcohol test above limit or test refused, did not stop at steady red light, other lost control, speed at temporary speed limit, worn tread on tyre, and road under construction or maintenance.

All these factors contributed to the crash and no one factor can be confidently identified as the primary cause or for its impact on the injury outcome of the crash.

Factors are counted once against a crash - that is, two fatigued drivers count as one fatigue crash factor.

The numbers under the year headings are the number of crashes where that factor was a contributing factor to the crashes for that year. The Total is the sum of all the factors contributing to crashes.

Because a crash may have multiple factors there will be more total factors than crashes resulting in factors totalling more than 100% of all crashes

Where Alcohol and/or Drugs are a contributing factor to a crash, this factor has been separated into either "Proven" or "Suspected".

Where a crash has both a proven and suspected factor against it, only the factor "Proven" is counted.

Factors contributing to 2023-2025 crashes where 'Drugs proven' was a contributing factor				
Road safety factor groups	2023	2024	2025	Total
Alcohol/Drugs both proven	71	57	89	217
Alcohol proven				0
Drugs proven	481	536	609	1,626
Alcohol/Drugs both suspected				0
Alcohol suspected				0
Drugs suspected				0
Disabled, old age or illness	29	37	38	104
Failed to give way or stop	62	55	67	184
Fatigue	45	43	39	127
Incorrect lanes or position	109	108	157	374
Miscellaneous factors	66	77	64	207
Overtaking	22	20	21	63
Pedestrian factors	2	1	2	5
Poor handling	135	146	159	440
Poor judgement	61	60	77	198
Poor observation	85	80	85	250
Position on Road	135	152	159	446
Road factors	46	49	41	136
Travel Speed	188	162	175	525
Vehicle factors	44	33	40	117
Weather	19	17	14	50
TOTAL factors	1,600	1,633	1,836	5,069

Factors contributing to 2023-2025 crashes where both 'Drugs proven' and 'Alcohol test above limit or test refused' were contributing factors				
Road safety factor groups	2023	2024	2025	Total
Alcohol/Drugs both proven	70	55	89	214
Alcohol proven				0
Drugs proven				0
Alcohol/Drugs both suspected				0
Alcohol suspected				0
Drugs suspected				0
Disabled, old age or illness	1	1		2
Failed to give way or stop	6	2	4	12
Fatigue	6	4	1	11
Incorrect lanes or position	18	12	19	49
Miscellaneous factors	15	11	11	37
Overtaking	3	1		4
Pedestrian factors				0
Poor handling	26	17	30	73
Poor judgement	7	5	9	21
Poor observation	7	5	5	17
Position on Road	18	18	23	59
Road factors	7	4	5	16
Travel Speed	40	23	38	101
Vehicle factors	7	3	10	20
Weather	4	1	2	7
TOTAL factors	235	162	246	643

Released under the Official Information Act 1982