



Road Safety

Issue

In British Columbia, motor vehicle collisions are the leading cause of unintentional injury deaths¹. In most cases, motor vehicle collisions result in injury to the driver, however injuries have also been seen amongst pedestrians, cyclists, and motorcyclists¹. The leading cause of motor vehicle collisions are a result of human condition, for example driving under the influence, followed by driving without due care¹. In the 2013-2014 year, \$8.8 billion healthcare dollars were spent as a result of motor vehicle collisions due to impaired or distracted driving. Both impaired driving and distracted driving are the main risk factors for motor vehicle collisions. Progress has been made in regards to motor vehicle collisions as the BC Trauma Registry records that the use of protective devices such as seat belts, has increased in the past year. Despite this increase, motor vehicle collisions are still a leading cause of injury in Vancouver, and therefore a main priority for Vancouver Coastal Health.

Statistics

- Transport-related injuries are among the top three causes of hospitalizations in the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority³
- When looking at motor vehicle collisions that have led to fatalities, 26% were attributed to alcohol, 6% were attributed to drugs, and 3% were attributed to a combination of alcohol and drugs¹
- Males aged 20-24 experience the highest number of deaths and hospitalizations due to motor vehicle collisions¹
- There are roughly 35 deaths each year due to motor vehicle collisions with motorcycles¹ and roughly 66 deaths per year due to motor vehicle collisions with pedestrians¹
- There are roughly 430 deaths per year due to motor vehicle collisions in BC¹

Tools

- **BC Injury Research and Prevention Unit** website contains facts, reports, publications, educational components and additional resources available to the public to inform and educate on injury prevention - <http://www.injuryresearch.bc.ca/quick-facts/motor-vehicle/>
- **BC Sector-Wide Road Safety Calendar** includes key provincial road safety campaigns, events and activities taking place throughout the year in BC - http://www.injuryresearch.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/BC_RoadSafety_Calendar.pdf
- **Youth and Road Safety Action Kit** was created by the Youth for Road Safety and the International Union for Health Promotion and Education, which introduces youth and organizations to road safety specific for youth. It is a three part kit which includes information on global road safety, information and ideas for how to implement your own road safety project, and information on how to make a project successful - http://www.youthforroadsafety.org/uploads/tekstblok_bijlagen/printable_yours_youth_and_road_safety_action_kit_1.pdf
- **ICBC Quick Statistics Report – April 2015** contains general information about crashes, injured and fatal victims, auto crime and vehicle and driver populations - <http://www.icbc.com/about-icbc/newsroom/Documents/quick-statistics.pdf>

References

1: BC Injury Research and Prevention Unit: Motor Vehicle 2: BC Trauma Registry Annual Data Summary Report 2013-2014 3: VCH Injury Profile 2014 4: Icon made by Freepik from www.flaticon.com