

High-Risk Driving Behaviour

Trends

2005 high-risk driving collisions in B.C.

Factors* used to describe high-risk driving are:

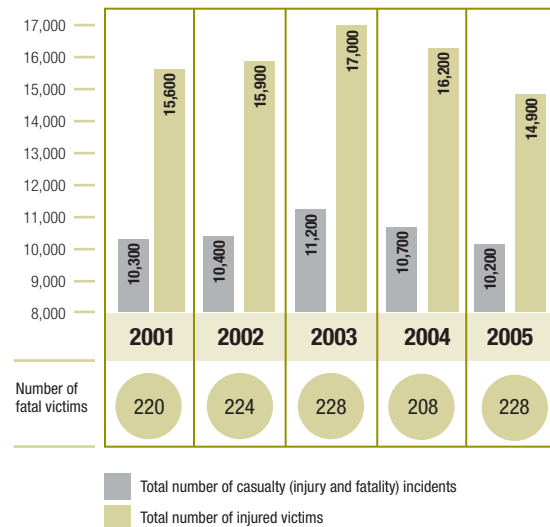
- Failing to yield right of way
- Following too closely
- Ignoring traffic control device
- Improper passing
- Speed

In high-risk-driving related crashes reported to police in 2005:

- Approximately 228 people were killed, up from 208 in 2004.
- Approximately 14,900 people were injured, down from approximately 16,200 in 2004.
- Fatalities are more likely to occur on a Saturday. Injuries are more likely to occur on a Friday.
- Drivers aged 16 to 25 were most likely to engage in high-risk behaviours that cause crashes in 2005, followed by drivers aged 36 to 45 and drivers aged 26 to 35. In terms of gender, male drivers outnumbered female drivers two-to-one.

* Not ranked in order of severity.

Incidents involving injuries and fatalities (2001 – 2005)



2005 fatality count is not fixed. Fatality data continues to settle over time.

High-risk driving behaviour

Research conducted on behalf of ICBC suggests that most drivers who engage in high-risk behaviour, such as speeding or running a light, don't consider themselves aggressive drivers. They also don't see a link between their behaviour and an increase in crash risk.

ICBC and police will focus on high-risk driving behaviours through education and enforcement campaigns, with added focus on intersections and the preventability of intersection crashes.

What is high-risk driving behaviour?

Public perceptions of “aggressive driving” generally focus on street racing, road rage and other extreme driving actions. On the other hand, high-risk driving behaviours are activities average drivers engage in and feel they can justify as “necessary” or “ordinary.”

Surveys of the driving public indicate that almost no drivers admit to aggressive driving but many more will admit to occasionally engaging in a high-risk behaviour because they feel it is “unavoidable,” such as tailgating to make another driver move out of the way or passing on the right.

Motorists are aggravated when there is a lot of congestion on the roads. The fast pace of life has placed more time-related issues on motorists. People have very busy schedules but do not leave enough time to get from one place to another or leave contingency time in case of crashes, stalls, weather, traffic conditions or other unforeseen occurrences. There are more vehicles on the road every year. When there is a lag in the traffic flow, some motorists become impatient and more willing to take greater risks i.e. improper passing or running yellow/red lights.

Drivers should use caution and drive safely at all times.

Top 10 crash sites in BC – 2006*

Rank	Location	City
1	Trans-Canada Hwy & Willingdon Ave	Burnaby
2	Knight St & SE Marine Dr	Vancouver
3	Knight St Bridge	Richmond
4	Brunette Ave & Trans-Canada Hwy	Coquitlam
5	Lions Gate Bridge	West Vancouver
6	Alex Fraser Bridge	Delta
7	152 nd St & Trans-Canada Hwy	Surrey
8	Gaglardi Way & Trans-Canada Hwy	Burnaby
9	88 th Ave & King George Hwy	Surrey
10	Pattullo Bridge	Surrey

*Based on number of incidents.

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Enforcement

Police forces recognize the scope and magnitude of harm created by high-risk driving behaviours. To emphasize their concern, the BC Association of Chiefs of Police has identified May 2007 as a dedicated campaign period for enhanced enforcement of high-risk driving behaviour, with particular attention on intersections. Police and ICBC will work together during the May enforcement campaign and continue to partner through June and July as the campaign focus shifts from enforcement to education.

High-risk driving behaviour public information and education awareness campaign June to July 2007.

Safety tips

Whether you're doing the daily commute, seeing the sights on a vacation trip, or just running to the neighbourhood grocery to shop, here are ways to avoid high-risk driving behaviours:

- Be realistic about your travel time. Allow time for possible delays because of traffic, construction or bad weather.
- If you're going to be later than you expected — deal with it. Take a deep breath and accept the delay. Like they say, better late than never.
- Set a good example, to other drivers and to the other people in your vehicle. This is especially important if some of your passengers are children who will learn their driving attitude from you.
- Give other drivers the benefit of the doubt. They might be from out of town, or distracted by things that have nothing to do with you.
- Slow down and keep your distance.
- If another driver is too close, safely move out of the way and let the vehicle pass.

For more facts and driving tips on unsafe speed, visit the road safety section of www.icbc.com.