



News

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Dramatic reduction in people killed and seriously injured in North Yorkshire

The number of people killed and seriously injured on roads in North Yorkshire was cut by 25% last year.

Road casualties are now lower than at any time in the past twenty years.

In 2008..... 43 people were killed and 493 seriously injured, in 2007....77 people died and 640 were seriously injured.

The news of this reduction has been welcomed by North Yorkshire County Council and its road safety partners who have worked hard to bring down the number of casualties on the County's roads.

There have been reductions in casualties among almost every road user group.

- The biggest cut has been in deaths involving motorcyclists. In 2007 there were 19, last year there were 8.
- The number of 16 to 24 year olds killed or seriously injured in cars went down by 28% from 138 in 2007 to 100 last year, but they are still more likely to be badly injured than any other age group.
- The number of children killed or seriously injured was down from 51 in 2007 to 34 this year, a drop of 33%. One youngster was killed in 2008, a 15 year old pedal cyclist, in 2007 five children died on the County's roads.
- Slight injury casualties were also reduced, from 2,471 in 2007 to 2,246 in 2008.

Chairman of the 95 Alive Road Safety Partnership Chris Anderson, Deputy Chief Fire Officer for North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service said: "This is a fantastic achievement, and a credit to all those people that have worked so hard to reduce the number of casualties occurring on our roads. However, there's no room for complacency, the statistics are still shocking with far too many families having to cope with the loss and injury of loved ones.

"The tragic reality is that the vast majority of these collisions were preventable. Drivers and riders need to pay attention, keep speed down and drive responsibly.

"95 Alive was launched in 2005 to save an additional 95 lives on our roads by 2011 and we're on target to do that, but if we are to build on the achievements of 2008 we will need public support to ensure our campaigns influence and protect those most at risk, such as our young and inexperienced road users ."

Dave Bowe, Assistant Director for Highways and Transportation at North Yorkshire County Council said: "The reduction in deaths and serious injuries is a real boost for the campaign. But we have to be careful, casualty statistics are complicated and can involve lots of different factors. The poor summer weather, increases in fuel prices and the credit crunch may all have played a part.

“North Yorkshire has 5,500 miles of roads, many winding through beautiful countryside, and while we want people to make the most of this, we want them to get where they’re going safely. Over the next two years our aim is to challenge perceptions and change driver and rider behaviour, so we can carry on driving down the numbers of people killed and seriously injured.”

Inspector Dave Brown, Head of Strategic Roads Policing for North Yorkshire Police added: “This is excellent news and testament to the hard work and dedication of the partnership.

“Each of these casualties represents untold heartache and devastation to many people. The figures demonstrate why our enforcement campaign is so important, why we target dangerous and inappropriate driving. Our efforts under Operation Anvil are continuing on a daily basis and will do so for the foreseeable future.”

For more information contactHonor Byford, Team Leader Road Safety and Travel Awareness at North Yorkshire County Council on 01609 532616

Note to Editors – Please note these casualty figures do not include the City of York.

95 ALIVE

The 95 Alive York and North Yorkshire Road Safety Partnership is a partnership of local authorities, emergency services and other agencies that have a common interest and duty to reduce the number of people who are killed and injured on the roads of York and North Yorkshire. They have set themselves a target to save an additional 95 lives by the end of 2010. This is over and above the 40 per cent reduction in casualties that is already demanded of them by Government.