

# Road traffic collisions 2023

Key findings for Lancashire-14

*If you have any comments about this monitor, please contact:*

[BusinessIntelligence.made@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:BusinessIntelligence.made@lancashire.gov.uk)

**October 2024**

For further information on the work of Business Intelligence, please contact us at:

Business Intelligence  
Lancashire County Council  
2nd floor Christ Church Precinct  
County Hall  
Fishergate Hill  
Preston  
PR1 8XJ

E: [BusinessIntelligence.insight@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:BusinessIntelligence.insight@lancashire.gov.uk)

W: [www.lancashire.gov.uk/lancashire-insight](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/lancashire-insight)



## Contents

	Key findings for Lancashire-14 .....	1
<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>The Lancashire picture .....</b>	<b>5</b>

# 1 Introduction

Road traffic collisions are defined by the Department for Transport as "All road accidents involving human death or personal injury occurring on the Highway ('road' in Scotland) and notified to the police within 30 days of occurrence, and in which one or more vehicles are involved. This is a wider definition of road accidents than that used in Road Traffic Acts."

Road traffic collisions (RTCs) lead to death and disability as well as significant financial costs to both society and the individual. In 2023, in the Lancashire-14 area, the police recorded 2,762 road traffic collisions; Lancashire Fire and Rescue attended 601 road traffic collisions. At least 5,213 attendances at Lancashire hospitals or other hospitals by Lancashire residents in 2023 were due to road traffic collisions.

This article is compiled from a variety of sources, primarily the Department for Transport Road Accident Statistics but also includes Lancashire Constabulary and accident data via the Lancashire Multi- Agency Data Exchange (MADE) and the Lancashire County Council Road Safety Team. The article looks at the number and rate of collisions by severity of accident, where a person was killed or seriously injured, and serious incidents involving a child. Contributory or causal factors are also examined, as these have important implications on what action local highway authorities and road safety teams should undertake to prevent accidents.

The [Lancashire Road Safety Partnership Strategy for 2016 - 2026](#) sets out evidence of the current road safety situation in Lancashire county council area and shows how that evidence has been used to form strategic objectives and priorities. It then outlines what the county council plans to do, and details district-based action plans.

The Reported Road Casualties in Great Britain (RRCGB) [Annual report](#) is published by the Department for Transport and details the national picture.

A key feature to note is that 2020 figures include periods of 'lockdown' due to the Covid-19 pandemic, with schools shut down, a shift towards more home working and a number of people placed on furlough, which meant significantly fewer cars on the road. More analysis of this can be found in '[The impact of lockdown on reported road casualties](#)', [Department of Transport](#).



## 2 The Lancashire picture

In the Lancashire-12 area, there were 2,186 reported road traffic collisions and 2,996 casualties during 2023. Regrettably 30 people were killed, and 769 people were seriously injured.

Within the wider Lancashire-14 area, there were 2,762 road traffic collisions, 3,753 casualties during 2023. 1 person was killed in Blackburn with Darwen and 5 people in Blackpool, total 35 in the area. A further 114 people in Blackburn with Darwen and 92 in Blackpool were seriously injured, total 975 across the area.

Table 1 shows that the number of people killed or seriously injured arising from road traffic collisions in the Lancashire-12 fell by 66 (-8%) between 2023 and 2022. The figures for Blackburn with Darwen increased by 22 (124%) and Blackpool decreased by 23 (-19%). The Lancashire-12 percentage decrease is better than the North West and England picture.

There has been a 28% reduction in people killed or seriously injured since 2014 in the Lancashire-12 area, with figures falling from 1,105 in 2014 to 799 in 2023. Blackburn with Darwen has seen a 7% and Blackpool a 5% reduction.

**Table 1: Numbers of people killed or seriously injured in a road traffic collision (adjusted), 2014 to 2023**

Area	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	change since 2014	Percent change since 2014	Numeric change since 2022	Percent change since 2022
Lancashire-12	1,105	1,069	1,008	945	957	812	648	749	865	799	-306	-28%	-66	-8%
Blackburn	123	127	121	107	109	116	86	81	93	115	-8	-7%	22	24%
Blackpool	102	107	134	109	112	106	51	116	120	97	-5	-5%	-23	-19%
Lancashire-14	1,330	1,303	1,263	1,161	1,178	1,034	785	946	1,078	1,011	-319	-24%	-67	-6%
North West	4,296	4,000	3,859	3,875	3,819	3,414	2,675	3,094	3,326	3,250	-1046	-24%	-76	-2%
England	31,492	30,222	28,995	28,230	28,777	27,881	22,180	25,335	27,755	27,627	-3865	-12%	-128	0%

Source: [Department of Transport: Accidents and Casualties Tables RAS0402/RAS0403](#)

The rates per thousand population and billion vehicle miles for Lancashire-12 and 14 are still above both the North West and England rates (see Table 2).

**Table 2: Rate of people killed or serious injured in a road traffic collision (adjusted) in Lancashire, 2023**

Area	Rate per thousand population	Rate per billion vehicle miles
Lancashire-12	0.63	111
Blackburn	0.73	265
Blackpool	0.68	296
Lancashire-14	0.64	
North West	0.43	90
England	0.45	92

Source: <sup>1</sup>[Population mid-year estimates](#) <sup>2</sup>[Department of Transport, Table RAS0402/RAS0403](#)

Table 3 shows that the percentage of children killed or seriously injured in the Lancashire-12 area varies around the 10% mark. The percentage of children killed or serious injured in Lancashire is around the North West average and higher than the England percentage.

**Table 4: Child (aged 0-15) KSI casualties(adjusted), as a percentage of all casualties**

Area	2022			2023		
	Child	All	%	Child	All	%
<b>Lancashire-12</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>865</b>	<b>9.0%</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>799</b>	<b>10.0%</b>
Blackburn	10	93	10.8%	15	115	13.0%
Blackpool	24	120	20.0%	19	97	19.6%
<b>Lancashire-14</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>1,078</b>	<b>10.4%</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>1,011</b>	<b>11.3%</b>
North West	381	3,336	11.4%	354	3,250	10.9%
England	2,157	26,461	8.2%	2,061	26,248	7.9%

**Source:** [Department for Transport](#) – this link can also be used to create custom data reports using DfT statistics road data.

Nearly a quarter of all road traffic collisions are due to driver or rider error or reaction. 100 collisions had a contributory factor of driver or rider impaired by alcohol, 44 driver or rider impaired by drugs (illicit or medicinal) and 12 where the driver was using a mobile phone. 92 collisions had a contributory factor of exceeding speed limit.