

TRAFFIC SAFETY



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Traffic Safety in York Region



The Regional Municipality of York is responsible for the safe operation and maintenance of approximately 3,399 lane kilometres of road handling almost 15,900,000 vehicle kilometres of traffic per day.

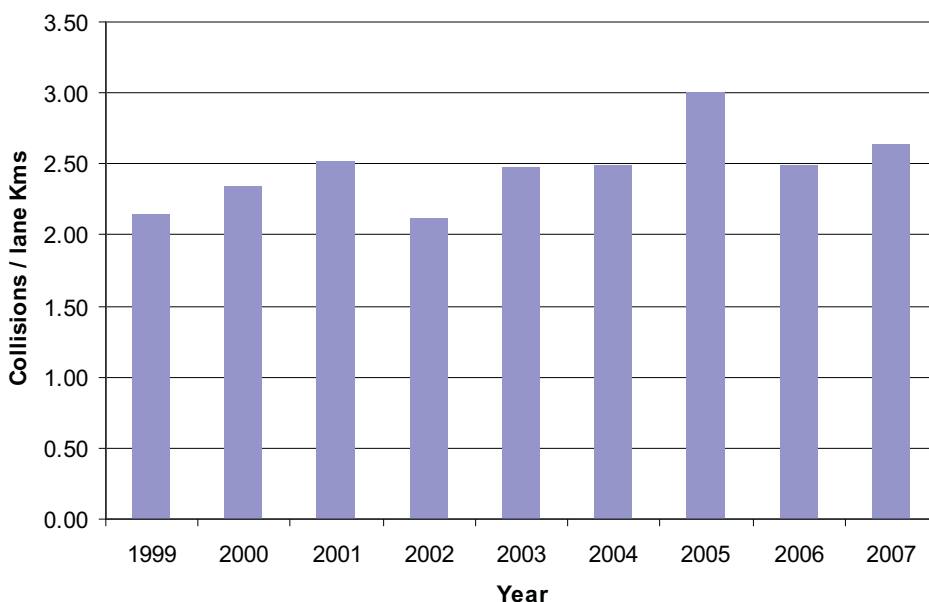
In 2008, the Road Safety and Traffic Data Management unit responded to over 650 requests and concerns from the public and stakeholders regarding traffic safety and operational concerns, traffic volume inquiries along Regional roads and at Regional intersections, engineering and design reviews, and updates to the traffic by-laws throughout the Region.

The following section provides a general overview of the traffic safety in York Region. Unless otherwise noted, the figures presented are an average of 2006 and 2007 data. For more detailed information on Traffic Safety in York Region please contact the Road Safety and Traffic Data Management Branch at 905-830-4444 ext. 5212.

The Region's Road Safety and Traffic Data Management unit promotes safe and efficient traffic operations on the Regional road System. Its primary activities are:

- Traffic By-Laws
- Traffic Safety Improvement Program
- Traffic Data Collection Management
- Customer Service Requests
- Capital and Development Reviews
- Collision Data Management

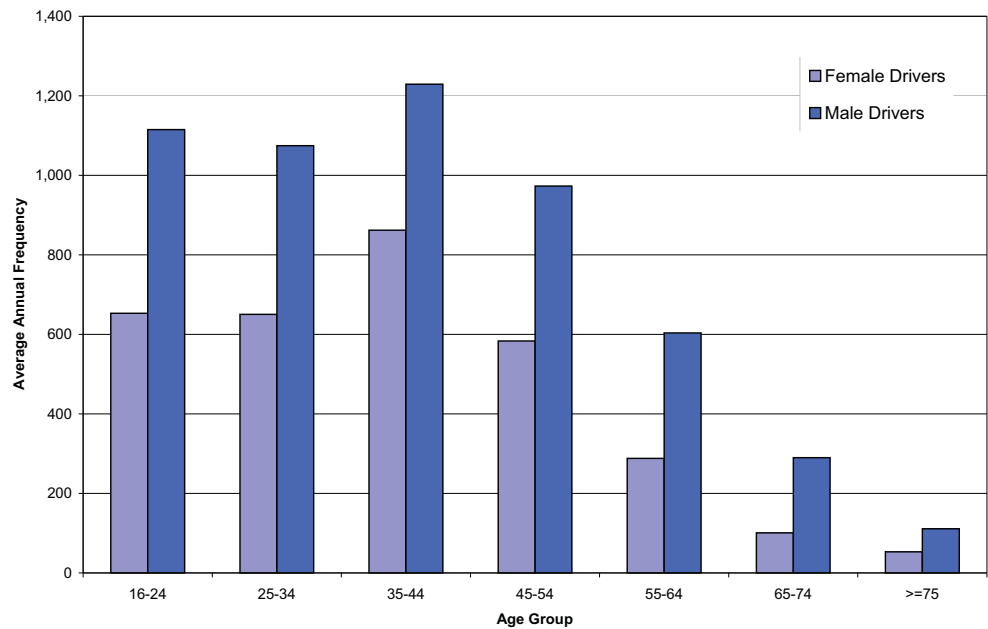
Collisions on Regional Roads



Note: The reduction in collisions in 2006 and 2007 are in part attributed to a change in accident reporting requirements and collection methodologies.

In 2002 and 2006, the collision rate decreased significantly due to very favourable weather conditions. The decrease in 2002 was also due to increased police enforcement, a decrease in self reporting of minor collisions and roadway improvements to the Regional road network. In 2003, 2005 and 2007 the collision rate increased due to adverse winter weather conditions and increased road congestion.

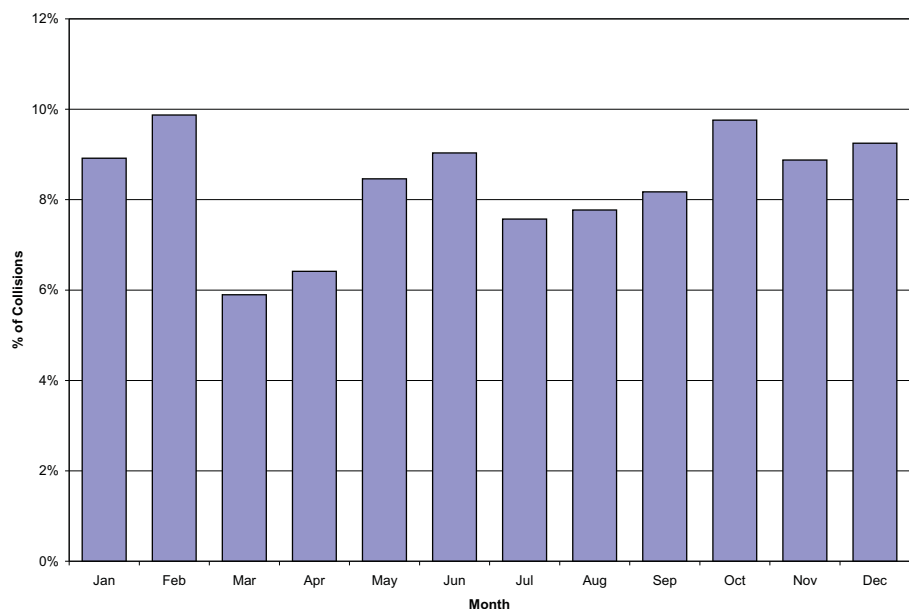
Collisions by Gender and Age



Approximately 62 % of all collisions involve male drivers. For both genders, collisions peak for the 35 to 44 year age. Drivers within this age group are typically more economically active and mobile, and on average travel more than drivers in other age groups.

Collisions by Month of Year

Approximately 35% of all motor vehicle collisions on York Region roads occur during the winter months.

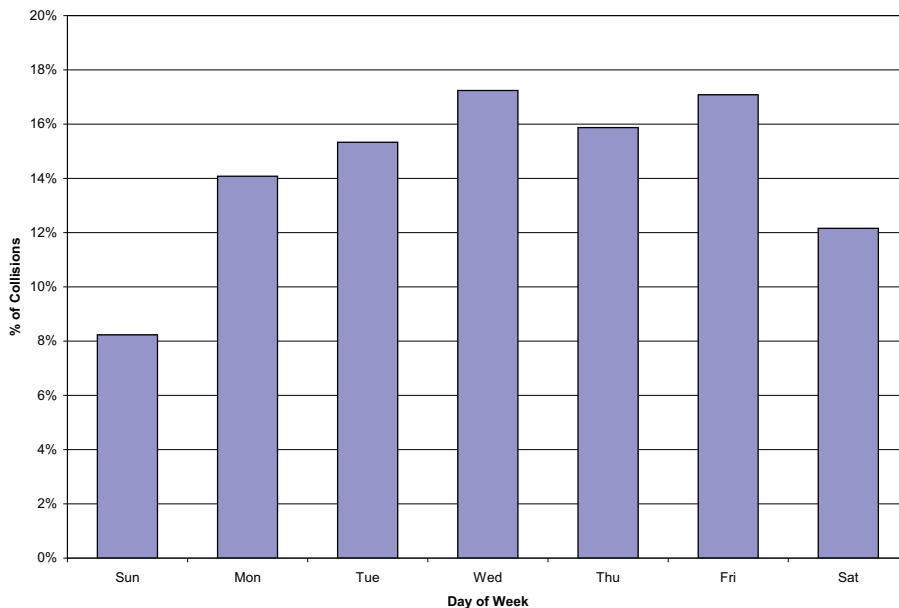


Collisions by Surface Condition

More than 50% of all collisions in the winter months occur where the road surface is covered with water, snow, slush or ice. Some drivers underestimate the level of control that is required on wet winter roads and drive at speeds inappropriate for the conditions.

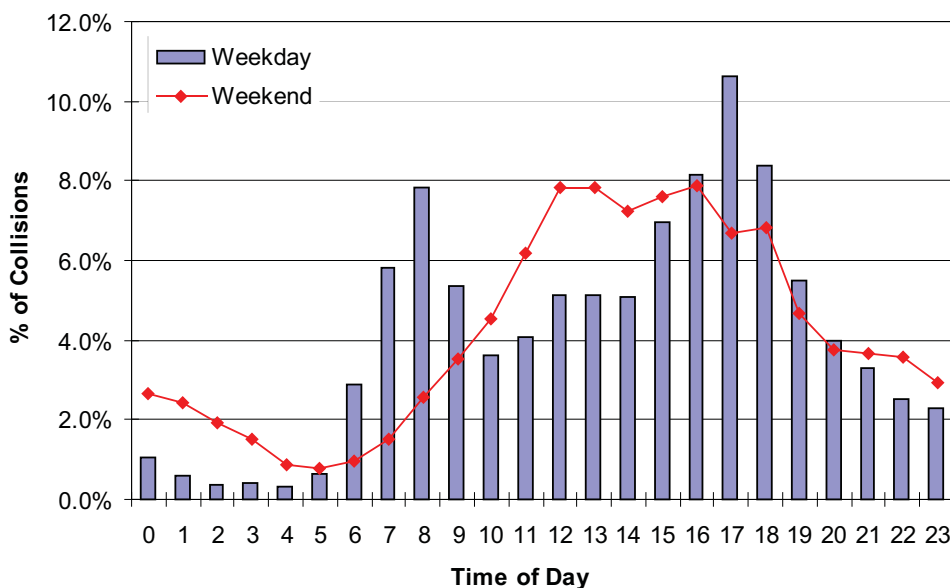
The collision trend in York Region follows a clear seasonal pattern with peaks in the early fall, winter and early summer.

Collisions by Day of the Week



The 'day-of-week' collision trend correlates closely with the traffic volume pattern across an average week with lower rates during the weekends when traffic is typically not as busy. 80% of all collisions occur Monday through Friday. Wednesdays, followed by Fridays consistently have the highest number of collisions.

Collisions by Time of Day



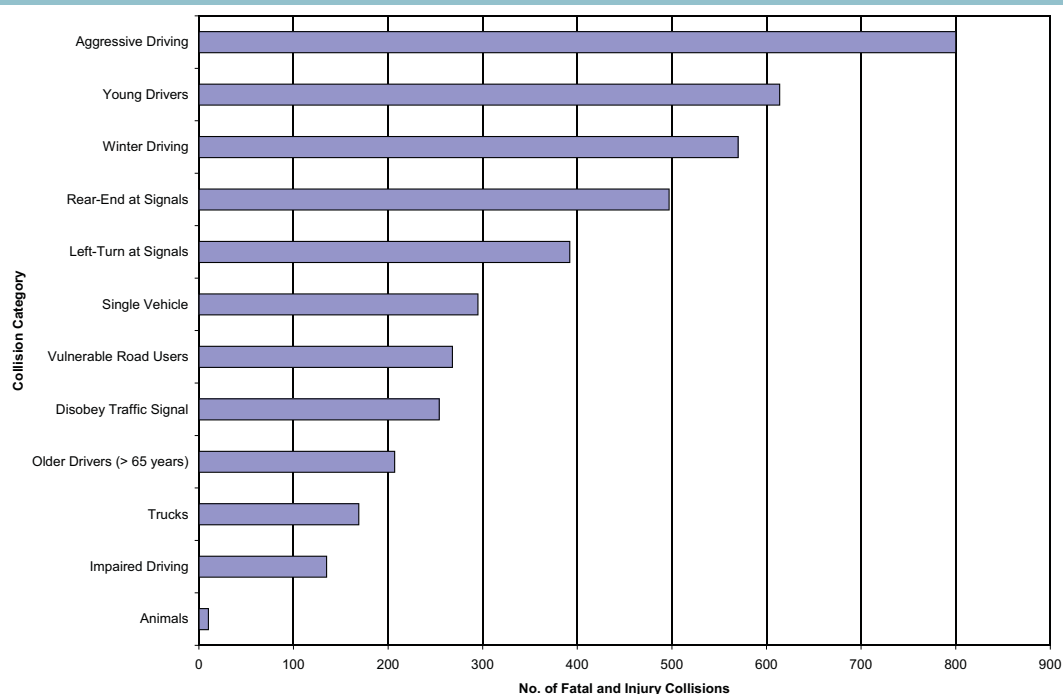
The 'time-of-day' collision trend correlates closely with the typical traffic volume pattern on an average weekday. The afternoon peak is higher due to larger traffic volumes travelling on Regional roads during this period. Whereas the morning peak consists mostly of commuter traffic, the afternoon peak consists of commuter, commercial and recreational traffic.

The majority of traffic collision occur through the week (Monday to Friday) with notable declines on both Saturday and Sunday. This trend correlates closely with the number of work trips during the week compared to weekend travel.

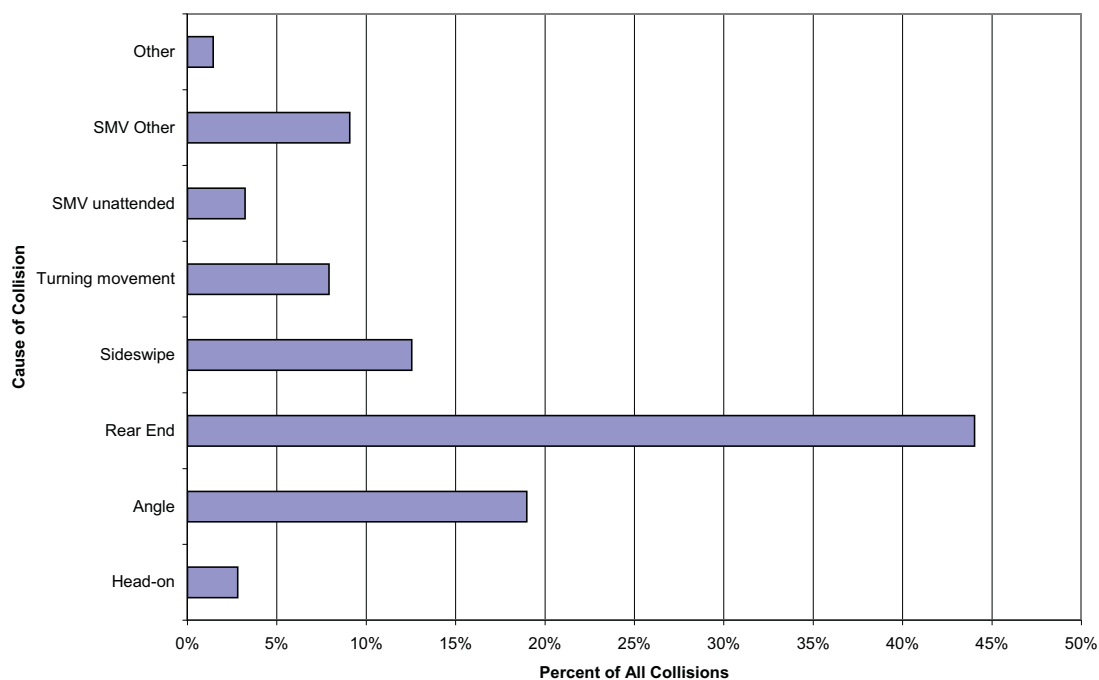
This figure depicts the number of fatal and injury collisions in 2006 and 2007 that were recorded for several collision categories.

Note that these collision categories are not mutually exclusive. For example, a large proportion of aggressive driving collisions may involve young drivers, and a large proportion of rear-end collisions at signals may be the result of aggressive driving, etc.

Category of Collisions 2006-2007



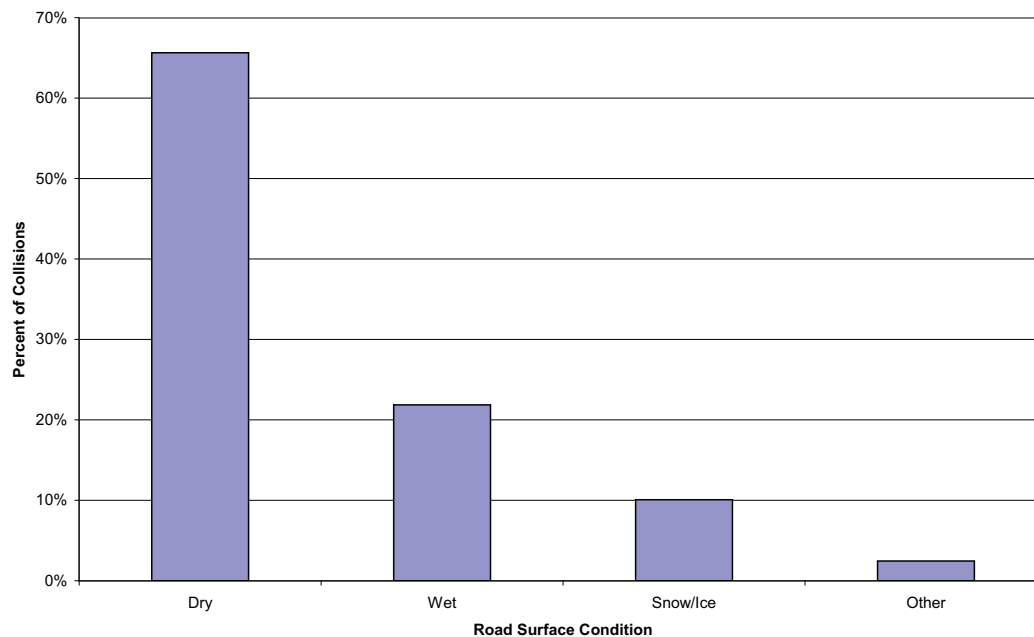
Collision Involvement by Driver Action



Acts of aggressive driving i.e. improper passing, improper lane change, failure to yield right-of-way, improper turn, excessive speed and following too closely, account for approximately 50% of all collisions

The average collision in York Region is a property damage only, rear-end type collision, at a signalized intersection, during peak hour traffic conditions, as a result of a driver following too closely.

Pavement Conditions as a Factor in Collisions

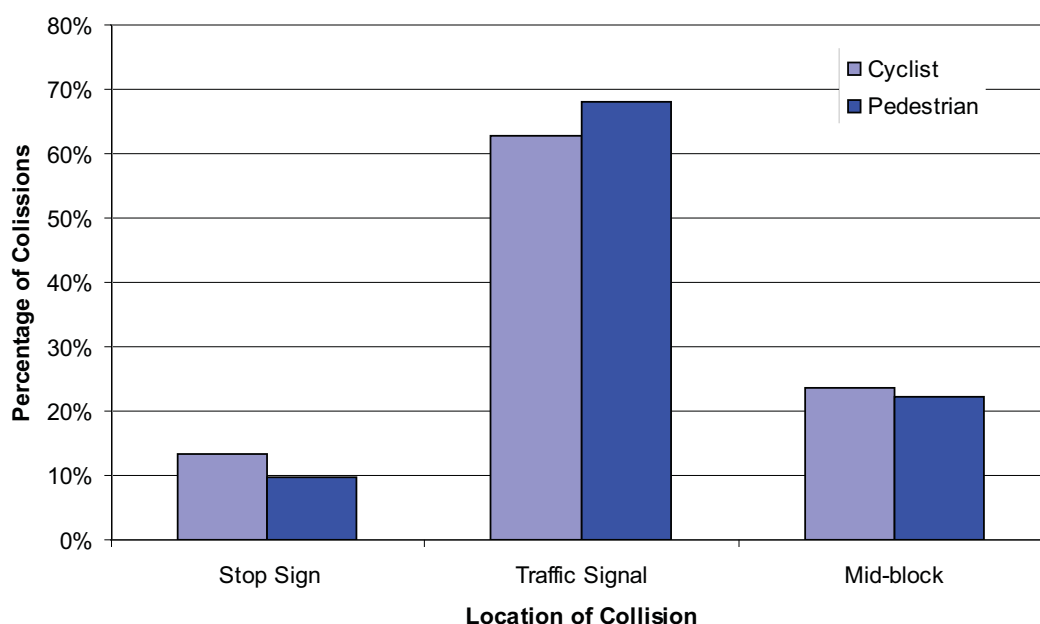


DID YOU KNOW?

Approximately a third of all collisions occur when the road surface is either wet, or covered with snow and ice.

Collisions Involving Pedestrians/Cyclists

More than two thirds of all collisions involving pedestrians and cyclists occur at signalized intersections.



Collisions involving pedestrians tend to be more frequent during the period October to December. Longer hours of darkness and increased pedestrian volumes due to school and commercial activities are likely factors contributing to this finding.

Collisions involving cyclists may occur during any day of the week. The high incidence of cyclist collisions over the weekend, when traffic volumes are typically lower, can be explained by an increase in recreational cycling over weekends.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Transportation Services Department

 905-830-4444 ext. 5212