

Royal Commission on Transport
1928.

FIRST REPORT

The Control of Traffic on Roads .

-1929.



ROYAL COMMISSION ON TRANSPORT.

FIRST REPORT.

The Control of Traffic on Roads.

*Presented by the Secretary of State for the Home
Department to Parliament by Command of His Majesty,
July, 1929.*

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APPENDIX.

TABLE A.

STREET ACCIDENTS IN GREAT BRITAIN IN YEARS 1909 TO 1928.

Year.	Number of Vehicles, etc., to which accident is attributed.										Total of all Accidents.
	Fatal Accidents.					Non-Fatal Accidents.					
	Mechanically Propelled Vehicles (excluding Trams).	Trams and Trackless Trolleys.	Pedal Cycles.	Horse-drawn Vehicles.	Total.	Mechanically Propelled Vehicles (excluding Trams).	Trams and Trackless Trolleys.	Pedal Cycles.	Horse-drawn Vehicles.	Total.	
1909	373	112		585	1,070	8,301	4,540		13,250	26,091	27,161
1910	539	105		597	1,241	10,940	4,848		13,162	28,950	30,191
1911	727	117		605	1,449	14,401	5,368		12,910	32,679	34,128
1912	916	128		620	1,664	17,751	5,226		12,764	35,741	37,405
1913	1,154	168		640	1,962	21,660	6,539		13,091	41,290	43,252
1914	1,329	147	160	584	2,220	25,290	6,909	12,714	12,713	57,628	59,846
1915	1,810	256	169	614	2,849	28,511	8,211	10,095	11,640	58,457	61,306
1916	1,551	344	149	534	2,678	23,439	8,996	7,963	9,582	49,980	52,658
1917	1,406	318	143	428	2,295	18,575	7,840	7,459	7,885	41,759	44,054
1918	1,280	260	117	437	2,094	14,053	7,152	6,490	6,896	34,591	36,685
1919	1,746	184	158	400	2,488	25,609	6,518	7,773	7,362	47,262	49,750
1920	2,010	185	166	343	2,704	31,219	6,288	9,331	6,896	53,734	56,438
1921	2,091	98	194	295	2,678	36,609	5,031	12,176	6,127	59,943	62,621
1922	2,222	111	170	265	2,768	42,058	5,175	13,623	6,635	67,491	70,259
1923	2,435	98	209	237	2,979	53,084	5,124	15,716	6,198	80,122	83,101
1924	3,019	113	241	258	3,631	64,318	5,615	18,363	6,288	94,584	98,215
1925	3,401	124	229	217	3,971	79,377	6,067	20,325	5,733	111,502	115,473
1926	4,155	110	311	227	4,803	86,890	5,587	22,018	4,989	119,484	124,287
1927	4,480	113	413	189	5,195	95,170	5,700	23,145	4,733	128,748	133,943
1928	5,223	111	426	218	5,978	106,753	5,907	24,439	4,505	141,604	147,582

Note.—Each accident causing death or personal injury is counted as one accident only, irrespective of the number of persons killed or injured thereby. An accident in which more than one vehicle is involved is also counted as one accident only. Cases in which only the driver or rider is killed or injured are included.

TABLE B.

Year.	Number of Persons Killed.					Number of Persons Injured.				
	Mechanically Propelled Vehicles (excluding Trams).	Trams and Trackless Trolleys.	Pedal Cycles.	Horse-drawn Vehicles.	Total.	Mechanically Propelled Vehicles (excluding Trams).	Trams and Trackless Trolleys.	Pedal Cycles.	Horse-drawn Vehicles.	Total.
1926 ...	4,234	112	312	228	4,886	99,417	5,994	23,191	5,286	133,888
1927 ...	4,606	113	417	193	5,329	112,324	6,111	24,990	5,150	148,575
1928 ...	5,378	111	429	220	6,138	126,975	6,456	26,483	4,924	164,838

TABLE C.

Year.	Approximate number of Motor Vehicles.	Total number of Accidents.
1921 ...	873,700	62,621
1922 ...	979,000	70,259
1923 ...	1,141,400	83,101
1924 ...	1,335,600	98,215
1925 ...	1,547,000	115,473
1926 ...	1,729,000	124,287
1927 ...	1,898,500	133,943
1928 ...	2,036,000	147,582

TABLE D.

FATAL MOTOR ACCIDENTS.

June and July, 1928.

Summarised from Returns furnished by H.M. Coroners to the National Safety First Association.

	1928.	1927.	1926.
Number of Coroners who sent returns ...	241	223	193
" " " nil returns ...	81	68	68
" Inquests reported ...	723	617	529
" Deaths recorded ...	732	625	543
" Contributory causes recorded ...	933	774	669

TABLE D.—*cont.*

(C) Causes due to pedestrians, cyclists, and others than the driver. 1928. 1927. 1926.
43·2% 48·1% 48·6%

Order of frequency.	Cause.	No. of times recorded.	Per cent. of total causes.		
			1928.	1927.	1926.
	Children—				
3	Running into road (e.g., chasing toy, etc.)	61	6·5	4·5	} 9·4
6	Crossing road carelessly or confusedly.	45	4·8	4·9	
11	Crossing from behind vehicle	22	2·4	1·5	2·5
22	Playing games in street ...	11	1·2	1·5	1·8
25	Crossing in front of vehicle...	9	1·0	0·8	0·3
39	Stealing rides on vehicles ...	4	0·4	0·9	0·7
	Total children ...	152	16·3	14·1	14·7
	Adults—				
	Crossing road carelessly or confusedly.	73	7·8	6·7	8·4
	Stepping off footway without looking.	35	3·8	3·8	5·7
14	Crossing from behind vehicles	20	2·2	2·3	2·5
17	Physically infirm ...	15	1·6	1·7	1·2
17	Boarding or alighting from moving vehicles.	15	1·6	1·5	1·6
25	Crossing in front of vehicles	9	1·0	1·8	1·3
39	Boarding or alighting from stationary vehicles without looking out for other traffic.	4	0·4	0·8	1·0
39	Intoxicated ...	4	0·4	0·5	0·6
45	Failing to use footpath ...	3	0·3	0·8	1·1
	Total adults ...	178	19·1	19·9	23·4
	Total pedestrians	330	35·4	34·0	38·1
	Pedal Cyclists—				
13	Swerving in front of vehicle	21	2·3	3·1	not recorded.
17	Careless riding other than as specified.	15	1·6	3·0	8·7
25	Lost control ...	9	1·0	2·2	} not recorded.
25	Cornering carelessly ...	9	1·0	1·8	
37	Failed to signal ...	5	0·5	0·5	} not recorded.
45	Overtaking on wrong side ...	3	0·3	0·1	
50	Holding on to vehicles ...	2	0·2	0·8	0·7
55	No rear illumination at night	1	0·1	1·3	0·5
55	Riding too many abreast ...	1	0·1	0·1	not recorded.
	Total cyclists	66	7·1	12·9	9·9
	Animals—				
39	Animals (other than dogs) not under control.	4	0·4	0·8	} 0·6
45	Dogs not under proper control.	3	0·3	0·4	
	Total animals	7	0·7	1·2	0·6
	Total other road users	403	43·2	48·1	48·6

TABLE D.—*cont.*

	1928.	1927.	1926.
(D) Causes due to the road	6.2%	7.6%	6.6%

Order of frequency.	Cause.	No. of times recorded.	Per cent. of total causes.		
			1928.	1927.	1926.
10	Restricted view at corners ...	25	2.7	3.2	2.5
23	Tramlines—cycle wheels caught, skidding, etc.	10	1.1	2.2	1.2
31	Lack of warning sign	7	0.8	0.1	not recorded.
31	Defective road surface ...	7	0.8	1.4	0.3
35	Inadequate lighting of street or obstruction.	6	0.6	0.3	0.6
50	Level crossing	2	0.2	0.1	1.3
57	Lack of proper footway ...	0	0.0	0.3	0.7
57	Permanently slippery road surface.	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Total	57	6.2	7.6	6.6

	1928.	1927.	1926.
(E) Weather Conditions	4.2%	4.1%	3.2%

Order of frequency.	Cause.	No. of times recorded.	Per cent. of total causes.		
			1928.	1927.	1926.
11	Temporarily greasy road ...	22	2.3	2.2	2.4
16	Rain	16	1.7	1.8	0.3
50	Mist or fog	2	0.2	0.1	0.5
	Total	40	4.2	4.1	3.2

	1928.	1927.	1926.
(F) Fire	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%

Order of frequency.	Cause.	No. of times recorded.	Per cent. of total causes.		
			1928.	1927.	1926.
45	Fire	3	0.3	0.3	0.2
	Total	3	0.3	0.3	0.2

TABLE D.—*cont.*

II.—VEHICLES INVOLVED. (Motor accidents only.)

	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.
<i>Private Passenger Vehicles—</i>						
Private Motor Cars	287	29.1				
Motor Cycles (Solo)	181	18.4				
Motor Cycles (Pillion)	83	8.4				
Motor Cycles (Combinations)	47	4.7				
TOTAL, Motor Cycles	311	31.5				
TOTAL, Motor Cars and Cycles					598	60.6
<i>Public Passenger Vehicles—</i>						
Motor Omnibuses	85	8.6				
Tramcars and Trackless Trolleys	16	1.6				
Motor Coaches	17	1.8				
Motor Cabs	10	1.0				
TOTAL, Public Passenger Vehicles					128	13.0
<i>Goods-Carrying Vehicles—</i>						
Motor Lorries	104	10.6				
Heavy Motor Tractors	18	1.8				
Motor Vans	34	3.5				
TOTAL, Goods-Carrying Vehicles					156	15.9
<i>Other Vehicles—</i>						
Pedal Cycles	83	8.4				
Horse Drawn Vehicles	16	1.6				
Miscellaneous	5	0.5				
TOTAL, Other Vehicles					104	10.5
GRAND TOTAL					986	100.0

III.—DAYLIGHT OR DARK.

	1928.	1927.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
In daylight	85.5	87.7
During hours of darkness	14.5	12.3

IV.—POPULOUS PLACES OR OPEN COUNTRY.

In populous places	66.3	68.5
In open country	33.7	31.5

V.—MUCH OR LITTLE TRAFFIC.

Much traffic on road	20.9	22.4
Little traffic on road	79.1	77.6

VI.—STRAIGHT ROAD, BEND, OR JUNCTION.

On straight road	66.7	67.9
At a road junction	19.4	20.1
On a bend	13.9	12.0

VII.—SEX OF MOTOR DRIVERS INVOLVED.

	No.	Per cent.
Male	802	97.8
Female	18	2.2

TABLE D.—*cont.*

VIII.—SUMMARY.

	Percentage.			Percentage.			
	1928.	1927.	1926.	1928.	1927.	1926.	
1. Pedestrians, Cyclists, members of the public other than the motor driver, etc.	Adults	19.1	19.9	23.4	43.2	48.1	48.6
	Children	16.3	14.1	14.7			
	Cyclists	7.1	12.9	9.9			
	Animals	0.7	1.2	0.6			
2. Motor Drivers...	...	...	...	39.1	36.0	36.6
3. Defects in the motor vehicle	...	...	...	7.0	3.9	4.8
4. Road conditions	...	...	...	6.2	7.6	6.6
5. Weather Conditions	...	...	...	4.2	4.1	3.2
6. Fire	...	...	...	0.3	0.3	0.2
				100			

IX.—PRINCIPAL FAULTS (1928 as compared with 1927 and 1926).

	Percentage.		
	1928.	1927.	1926.
1. <i>Motor driver</i> —travelling at excessive speed having regard to all circumstances.	15.1	12.9	10.9
2. <i>Adult</i> —crossing road carelessly	7.7	6.7	8.4
3. <i>Motor driver</i> —Inattentive, confused, or lacking in judgment, other than as specified.	6.0	6.2	7.0
4. <i>Children</i> —crossing road carelessly	4.8	4.9	9.4
5. <i>Children</i> —running into road (e.g., chasing toy)	6.5	4.5	
6. <i>Motor driver</i> —lack of caution at road junctions	5.8	4.3	2.9
7. <i>Adults</i> —stepping off footway without looking	3.8	3.8	5.7
8. <i>Motor driver</i> —failing to keep to near side	3.1	3.6	2.1
9. <i>Road</i> —restricted view at corners	2.7	3.2	2.5
10. <i>Pedal Cyclist</i> —swerving in front of vehicle	2.3	3.1	8.7
11. <i>Pedal Cyclist</i> —miscellaneous careless riding	1.6	3.0	
12. <i>Motor Driver</i> —improperly overtaking, cutting in, etc.	4.0	2.5	2.7
Total	63.4	58.7	60.3

TABLE E.

Year.	Percentage increase, as compared with 1921, in the number of :—			
	Children killed in London.	Adults killed in London.	Mechanical Vehicles licensed in Great Britain.	Street Accidents in Great Britain.
1921	—	—	—	—
1922	26	14.5	12	12
1923	13.5	18.5	31	33
1924	25	59	53	57
1925	18.5	61	77	84
1926	26	99.5	98	98.5
1927	19.5	116	118	114
1928	40	153	134	135

TABLE F.

RETURN OF THE ESTIMATED RATE OF SPEED OF VEHICLES (INCLUDING BICYCLES) CONCERNED IN FATAL ACCIDENTS IN STREETS IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DISTRICT DURING THE YEARS 1920-1926.

Year.	Rates of Speed.														Total.
	1 to 5 miles per hour.		5 to 10 miles per hour.		10 to 15 miles per hour.		15 to 20 miles per hour.		Over 20 miles per hour.		Unknown.		Stationary.		
	Number of Fatalities.	Percentage of Total.	Number of Fatalities.	Percentage of Total.	Number of Fatalities.	Percentage of Total.	Number of Fatalities.	Percentage of Total.	Number of Fatalities.	Percentage of Total.	Number of Fatalities.	Percentage of Total.	Number of Fatalities.	Percentage of Total.	
1920	248	38.87	250	39.19	79	12.38	21	3.29	9	1.41	28	4.39	3	0.47	638
1921	204	35.73	231	40.45	79	13.83	27	4.73	3	0.53	22	3.85	5	0.88	571
1922	219	32.44	285	42.22	94	13.93	28	4.15	11	1.63	31	4.59	7	1.04	675
1923	185	27.69	282	42.22	119	17.81	39	5.84	13	1.95	26	3.89	4	0.60	668
1924	227	26.9	339	40.17	150	17.77	39	4.62	17	2.01	65	7.7	7	0.83	844
1925	206	24.53	364	43.33	132	15.72	50	5.96	25	2.98	57	6.76	6	0.72	840
1926	208	20.74	366	36.49	221	22.03	98	9.77	45	4.49	55	5.48	10	1.00	1003