

An Overview of New York City Car Accident Statistics

New York City is notorious for its high car accident rate, but how often do motor vehicle accidents really occur in NYC? Find out in this comprehensive overview of NYC car accident statistics.

What Causes Car Accidents in New York City?

Truth be told, most collisions are not accidental at all, but the result of a driver who negligently fails to obey the rules of the road. Let's examine some of the most common accident types.

The [New York State Vehicle and Traffic laws](#) were implemented for the safety of drivers and pedestrians, and the City of New York has additional rules and regulations for driving in the five boroughs. According to [data from the city](#), the majority of accidents that occur are the direct result of a driver violating one or more of these traffic laws.

For example, hitting a vehicle in the rear is usually the result of a driver not paying attention. Failing to keep a proper distance from other cars and speed in light of the traffic conditions is a violation of [Vehicle and Traffic Law § 1129\(a\)](#). A driver is prohibited from following another vehicle more closely than is reasonable and prudent in light of the speed of the vehicles ahead on the roadway; a violation of this will be labeled "following too closely," which follows driver distraction as one of the leading causes of car crashes in New York.

Many car accidents occur at intersections caused by a driver failing to obey the posted traffic control devices. For example, car accidents are commonly caused by a driver going through a red light or a stop sign. Proceeding through a red light is a violation of [Vehicle and Traffic Law § 1111](#).

Fatality Rate for New York City Car Accidents in 2021

While most people survive a car accident, some accidents result in fatalities. In fact, [according to the New York Department of Health](#), traffic crashes are the leading cause of injury-related death for residents of New York State, with an average of 1,098 deaths occurring throughout the state every year. These fatal accidents are often the result of head-on collisions.

New York City car accident statistics further break down these figures. According to the New York City Police Department's [Citywide Motor Vehicle Collision Report](#), 30 people were killed in NYC traffic accidents in May 2021. That month, a total of 10,094 traffic-related accidents occurred throughout the city. This means that approximately 0.3% of all collisions resulted in a fatality.

Although they constitute a significant minority of all cases, deadly car accidents remain all too prevalent in New York City.

Total Reported Collisions in New York City

As mentioned above, in May 2021, the New York City Police Department reported a total of 10,094 traffic collisions. This amounts to an average of 326 accidents every day.

Though these numbers are already striking, the total number of reported collisions reflects the true toll of New York City car accidents.

Since the City of New York began keeping a [public record](#) of traffic accidents within its five boroughs in 2014, a total of 1.8 million motor vehicle accidents have been reported. Of these, a total of 498,101 persons have been injured, and 2,314 have been killed. While some are minor, these injuries often have serious impacts on the lives of the victims and their loved ones, many of whom qualify for compensation for their losses.

Traffic Accidents Involving Pedestrians, Motorcycle Accidents, and Large Trucks in NYC

When people think of motor vehicle collisions, most picture an accident between two cars, but this is not always the case in a bicycle, motorcycle, and pedestrian-heavy city like New York.

New York City's Citywide Motor Vehicle Collision Report provides a clear view of the types of persons involved in accidents and the distribution of outcomes for each type of person. The types of persons involved in a New York City motor vehicle accident in May 2021 can be broken down as follows*:

- 20,053 motorists (2,331 injured; 11 killed)
- 1,424 passengers (1,421 injured; 3 killed)
- 562 cyclists (561 injured; 1 killed)
- 629 pedestrians (614 injured; 15 killed)

**Note that the reports of persons involved reflect all motorists but only reflect other persons involved if they were injured or killed.*

The type of vehicle involved also paints a picture of the varied nature of New York City traffic-related accidents. In May 2021, 187 bicycles, 65 motorcycles, and 116 large commercial vehicles with 6 or more tires were involved in accidents in New York City.

Which Boroughs Have the Most Accidents According to NYC Car Accident Statistics?

The number of motor vehicle accidents varies widely between each New York City borough. Based on data gathered from the [NYPD Motor Vehicle Collisions Summary](#), Brooklyn has the highest number of traffic accidents out of the five NYC boroughs. This is closely followed by Queens and Manhattan, with the Bronx and Staten Island taking hold of the remaining number of traffic accidents.

The most significant contributing factors to these differences are population and traffic volume, but other factors can also influence the prevalence of NYC car accidents in a specific area. For example, areas with active nightlife tend to see more drunk driving incidents, while poor sign placement or road maintenance can result in driver confusion or greater failures to yield.

When Do Most NYC Car Accidents Happen?

According to the NYPD Motor Vehicle Collisions Summary, the most common time for NYC car accidents to occur is 4:00 PM, closely followed by 5:00 PM, 3:00 PM, and 6:00 PM.

This data is not surprising given the number of people typically on the road at these times. However, a startling number of New York City car accidents occur at midnight. To illustrate the gravity of this statistic, a roughly equal number of accidents occur at 11:00 AM and 6:30 PM as at midnight despite fewer people being on the road then. Factors that may contribute to this disproportionate number of late-night accidents include intoxicated driving, poor visibility at night, and drowsiness.

If you or someone you love has sustained traffic-related injuries, these crash statistics can play an important role in understanding whether you may have a viable New York City car accident claim. However, no matter your circumstances, your best course of action is to contact an experienced New York, NY personal injury law firm.

When you consult with the trusted NYC car accident lawyers at _____, we will evaluate your situation and help you determine your next steps.

Call us today for a free consultation. We look forward to assisting you in any way we can.

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