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How many people are killed by road crime?

More are killed in culpable road crashes (ie crashes involving law breaking by drivers) than by murder or manslaughter. Or so we think. The number of people killed by law breaking drivers is not currently collated so no one knows the exact total. But the available statistics indicate it could be higher than that for homicide.

We do know how many drivers are prosecuted for causing death. In 2010, 568 drivers were convicted of causing death. But the number of people killed by law breaking drivers will be greater because:

- **Multiple fatalities** Some of these crashes will involve the deaths of two or more innocent road users. In 2010, there were 110 fatal crashes in which more than one person died.
- **Culpable driver fatalities** The driver responsible for the crash may have been also killed in the crash so there would be no prosecution. In 2010 there were 87 fatal crashes where the driver was one of the fatalities.
- **Hit and run fatal crashes** A driver may have absconded and never been found and thus there would be no prosecution. In 2010 there were 57 fatal crashes initially reported as hit and run. Some of these drivers may have been caught at a later time and prosecuted, but this is not monitored.

Best estimate

Assuming 50-100% of the other crashes mentioned above included a death caused by law breaking, there would be 83 to 167 more culpable road deaths to be added to the 568. The best estimate of the number of people killed by law breaking drivers is 651-735.

Compared to homicide

In 2010/2011, there were 648 homicides initially reported. Suspicious deaths are presumed to be homicides until the contrary is proven. Whilst the ACPO Road Death Investigation Manual states that a road death is presumed to be an unlawful killing until the contrary is proven, this does not mean they are recorded as such.

Road Crash Victims: getting counted, getting included

RoadPeace is calling for those killed and injured by law breaking drivers to be counted and included in crime statistics. Because road crime is real crime.