

Collisions involving scramblers, 2021-2025

Research Department, RSA

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1.1 Introduction

The RSA has conducted an analysis of scramblers involved in fatal and serious injury collisions over the last 5 years. The below analyses have been taken from the RSA collision database based on collision records transferred from AGS to the RSA for 2021-2025 concerning collisions on public roads only. The data provided in this document for the years 2022 onwards is provisional and subject to change until such time as the validation of these collisions has been completed by the RSA.

1.2 Analysis

Over the course of 2021-2025, 3 road users were killed and 54 road users were seriously injured in a collision where at least one scrambler was involved (see table 1).

Table 1, Fatalities and serious injuries in collisions where at least one scrambler was involved						
Injury	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
Fatal	0	0	1	0	2	3
Serious	8	8	15	9	14	54
Total	8	8	16	9	16	57

During this time, 42 killed and seriously injured road users were scrambler users (2 were killed and 40 were seriously injured (see table 2).

Table 2, Killed and seriously injured Scrambler users						
Injury	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
Fatal	0	0	1	0	1	2
Serious	7	7	8	8	10	40
Total	7	7	9	8	11	42

All 42 scrambler users were male. Thirty-one were aged 25 years or less and the remaining 11 were aged 26-50 years (see table 3).

Table 3, Killed and seriously injured Scrambler users by age 2021-2025	
Age Group	KSIs
0-25 years	31
26-35 years	7
35+ years	4
Total	42

Of the 42 scrambler users, 31 were injured in Dublin (see table 4).

Table 4, Killed and seriously injured Scrambler users by county of collision 2021-2025	
County	KSIs
Clare	1
Cork	4
Dublin	31
Kerry	1
Limerick	3
Roscommon	1
Westmeath	1
Total	42

Of the 42 scrambler users:

- 25 were involved in collisions over the weekend (Friday to Sunday)
- 30 were involved in collisions between 11am and 6pm, and 12 involved in collisions between 6pm and midnight.

During this time, 15 other road users were killed or seriously injured in collisions with scramblers (1 was killed and 14 were seriously injured (see table 5). Of the 15 other KSIs, 9 were pedestrians, 2 were pedal cyclists, 2 were drivers and 2 were passengers.

Table 5, Killed and seriously injured non-scrambler users						
Injury	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
Fatal	0	0	0	0	1	1
Serious	1	1	7	1	4	14
Total	1	1	7	1	5	15

1.3 Conclusion

In terms of implications of the above analysis, it is clear that there is a road safety issue associated with scrambler use on public roads. This issue is most prevalent in Dublin, and during the weekend. Young people, and men in particular, were most likely to be injured while using scramblers. In addition, pedestrians were most likely to be injured in collisions with scramblers compared to other road user groups.

1.4 Appendix

Definitions

Fatality

A fatality is one where death occurs within 30 days of the date of the collision and is not the result of a medical cause or that of a deliberate act (e.g. suicide).

Serious injury

A “serious injury” is an injury for which the person is detained in hospital as an ‘in-patient’, or any of the following injuries whether or not detained in hospital: fractures, concussion, internal injuries, crushings, severe cuts and lacerations, or severe general shock requiring medical treatment.

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