

AVZ Briefing - Drink drive crashes: Who's getting hurt?

19 Feb 2026

Key points

- Tackling drink-driving is a priority in [DfT's new Road Safety Strategy](#) and here AVZ reviews which road users are affected by this focus.
- Car occupants account for the highest share of drink drive related fatal and serious injuries (KSIs) (72%), and are very much over-represented as they make up only 37% of total KSIs (including non-drink drive related).
- Cyclists are very rarely the victims of drink drive collisions, whilst pedestrians have a higher share but are also under-represented (only 8% drink drive related KSIs but 22% of total KSIs).
- **AVZ conclusion: Drink driving is a threat to car occupants but it is not a lead source of harm to active road users, especially not cyclists.**

As shown in Table 1, in the statistics available for 2024 for Great Britain, [DfT reported](#) that:

- The most likely person killed or seriously injured (KSI) in a drink drive related collision is a car occupant (72%), with 1,330 car occupant KSIs.
- Motor vehicle users accounted for a total of 91% of drink drive related KSIs, when motorcyclists (12%) and other vehicle occupants (8%) were included.
- With only 20 KSIs, cyclists made up only 1% of drink drive related KSIs, whilst the 140 pedestrian KSIs accounted for 8% drink drive related KSIs.

Table 1: Drink drive KSI related and total KSI casualties by road user mode

Casualty type – mode of travel	Drink drive related KSIs (%)	Total KSIs (%)
Pedestrians	140 (8%)	6,454 (22%)
Pedal cyclists	20 (1%)	4,016 (14%)
Car occupants	1,330 (72%)	10,930 (37%)
Motorcyclists	230 (12%)	5,783 (20%)
Other vehicle occupants	140 (8%)	2,445 (8%)
Total	1,860 (100%)	29,628 (100%)

Source: DfT (2025a), [Reported road casualty statistics in Great Britain: interactive dashboard](#),
DfT (2025b), [RAS 20231 Estimated number of drink drive casualties](#)

Table 2 shows the same comparison with **slight injuries** also included. This shows a similar pattern with drink driving predominantly injuring motor vehicle occupants.

- Car occupants were over-represented and accounted for almost twice as many drink drive related KSIs (72%) than total KSIs (37%).
- The opposite was found with cyclists and pedestrians. Cyclists accounted for 11% of total casualties so 11 times their share of drink drive casualties (1%).
- Pedestrians were 15% of total KSIs, almost four times their share of drink drive related KSI (4%).

Table 2: Total casualties drink drive related and total casualties by road user mode

Casualty type – mode of travel	Drink drive related (%)	Total casualties (%)
Pedestrians	260 (4%)	19,623 (15%)
Pedal cyclists	70 (1%)	14,999 (11%)
Car occupants	5,140 (81%)	72,826 (55%)
Motorcyclists	420 (7%)	16,978 (13%)
Other vehicle occupants	420 (7%)	8,551 (6%)
Total	6,310 (100%)	132,977 (100%)

Source: : DfT (2025a), [Reported road casualty statistics in Great Britain: interactive dashboard](#),
DfT (2025b), [RAS 20231 Estimated number of drink drive casualties](#)