

Methodological Information

Overview

This document contains information on the Research Department of the RSA's collaboration with the Central Statistics Office (CSO) to obtain Irish Statistical System Code of Practice (ISSCoP) certification for a number of reports produced using the road traffic collision database. The CSO has a formal coordination role to play across the public service in relation to Official Statistics and have developed this Code of Practice for the gathering and use of data for statistical purposes in the Public Service. ISSCoP was introduced in 2013 for compilers of Official Statistics in the Irish Statistical System. The National Statistics Board in its Strategic Priorities for Official Statistics 2021-2026 recommended that public sector bodies producing official statistics should aspire to ISSCoP certification. ISSCoP includes five principles for producing and disseminating Official Statistics:

1. Professional Independence
2. Timeliness and Punctuality
3. Accessibility and Clarity
4. Commitment to Quality
5. Confidentiality

Section 8 (1) of the Road Safety Authority Act 2006 provides the legislative basis for the production of road safety information and statistics using the road traffic collision database by the RSA.

The Minister may direct the Authority to collect, compile, prepare, publish or distribute to such persons (including the Minister) such information and statistics relating to road safety and the functions of the Authority, as the Minister considers appropriate, for national or international planning, policy research and development, monitoring and reporting purposes and may specify any matter concerning the collection, compilation, preparation, publication and distribution of such data and statistics, as the Minister considers appropriate.

Background Information

The information presented in this document relates to reports that are prepared using data from the Irish Road Traffic Collision database. This data is based on collision records transferred from An Garda Síochána (AGS) to the RSA. The records are subject to a thorough quality review process, whereby members of the RSA's Research Department perform a series of quality checks on the data received from AGS. This ensures that all resulting statistical outputs are accurate and reliable.

The data can be classified into three broad categories:

- Location details, including x and y coordinate points of the site of the collision and the speed limit of the road on which the collision occurred
- Person details, e.g., the role and injury status of the person involved in the collision
- Vehicle details, including the class and actions of the vehicle involved in the collision

The data in each published report is presented in aggregated format, which helps to protect against disclosure of information pertaining to an individual. In cases where a data protection risk is posed by small cell sizes, techniques, such as applying statistical disclosure control (SDC) measures may be employed to safeguard the confidentiality of the information pertaining to individuals.

Data in the spotlight reports is based on a 5-year time period and, as a result, some of the more recent years' data may not be final. In such cases, this information will be marked as provisional and subject to change. This means that the fatality and serious injury statistics presented may change at a later date when new information becomes available.

For all ISSCoP accredited reports, the Research Department will generate PX Stat tables to support these publications.

Finally, please note that the information in the reports is based on preliminary findings of the AGS investigation, at an early stage in the process. It does not contain information on contributory factors from the final completed investigation process.

Definitions of terminology used in the reports

Note, incidents that occur in car parks and other non-public roads are excluded from the RSA official figures per convention and consistent with all EU member states. However, AGS may include these collisions as they record incidents that have occurred in public places. This means RSA and AGS collision figures may differ.

Fatal Collision: where at least one person is killed as a result of the collision and death occurs within 30 days.

Serious Injury Collision: where there are no deaths but a person or persons are seriously injured.

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).

A **serious injury** is one 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
- Crushing
- Severe Cuts and Lacerations
- Severe general shock requiring medical treatment