

ROAD SAFETY IS A POLITICAL ISSUE

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"Your best bet in California for motorcycle cases"

BAY AREA MOTORCYCLE INJURIES AND FATALITIES BY THE NUMBERS

When it comes to the number of bikers who fall to injury or death on the road, there's a significant difference in the numbers among the nine Bay Area counties.

San Francisco is the "most dangerous" county in the Bay Area

According to State DMV data, there are 22,004 motorcycles registered in the City and County of San Francisco, which represents 4.4% of the total number of vehicles registered. But in San Francisco, home to 874,008 people, of the 5,250 vehicular injuries or deaths, 566 were motorcyclists. That means that bikers make up 10.7% of all vehicular injuries/deaths, the highest relative biker injury share of all the Bay Area counties. The next most dangerous county on this measure is Marin, where 8.6% of road injury/deaths are motorcyclists, *two full percent lower*.

When statisticians want to compare areas with different populations, they calculate a per capita rate based on incidents per 100,000 people. By that measure too, San Francisco tops the danger list: SF has the highest number of injuries in the Bay Area per capita, with 600.68 vehicular injuries/deaths per 100,000 people, and 64.76 motorcycle injuries/deaths per 100,000 people.

Santa Clara County is the "safest" county in the Bay Area

Santa Clara County has a total 2016 population of 1,937,473 – the largest county in the Bay Area by population – and a land area of 1,290 square miles – the largest by area in core Bay Area counties, and second largest of the nine counties after Sonoma. But the county had the lowest relative number of motorcyclist injuries/deaths in the nine counties: of 10,609 vehicular injuries and deaths, only 479 involved motorcyclists, or 4.5%. That's 87 fewer motorcycle injuries/deaths than in SF, which has *less than half* the population of Santa Clara. And Santa Clara had 39,349 DMV registered motorcycles in 2018, which is 17,345 *more* than in San Francisco.

Santa Clara County also had the lowest number of motorcycle injuries/deaths per capita of all nine Bay Area counties, with 547.57 vehicular injuries/deaths per 100,000 people, and just 24.72 motorcycle injuries/deaths per 100,000 people. That's 38% of the number in San Francisco or, put another way, the per capita motorcyclist injuries/deaths is 2.61 times high in San Francisco than it is in Santa Clara. Something to contemplate next time you're heading to SF for a ride.

Numbers for all nine counties of the larger Bay Area

<p><u>Alameda County</u> Population: 1,646,405 Vehicular injuries and deaths: 10,809 Motorcycle injuries and deaths: 702 Number as a percentage: 6.4% 656.52 vehicular injuries/deaths per 100k 42.69 motorcycle injuries/deaths per 100k</p>	<p><u>Contra Costa County</u> Population: 1,139,313 Vehicular injuries and deaths: 5,628 Motorcycle injuries and deaths: 328 Number as a percentage: 5.8% 493.10 vehicular injuries/deaths per 100k 28.79 motorcycle injuries/deaths per 100k</p>
<p><u>Marin County</u> Population: 263,262 Vehicular injuries and deaths: 1,522 Motorcycle injuries and deaths: 132 Number as a percentage: 8.6% 578.13 vehicular injuries/deaths per 100k 50.14 motorcycle injuries/deaths per 100k</p>	<p><u>Napa County</u> Population: 141,784 Vehicular injuries and deaths: 1,078 Motorcycle injuries and deaths: 71 Number as a percentage: 6.5% 760.31 vehicular injuries/deaths per 100k 50.08 motorcycle injuries/deaths per 100k</p>
<p><u>City and County of San Francisco</u> Population: 874,008 Vehicular injuries and deaths: 5,250 Motorcycle injuries and deaths: 566 Number as a percentage: 10.7% 600.68 vehicular injuries/deaths per 100k 64.76 motorcycle injuries/deaths per 100k</p>	<p><u>San Mateo County</u> Population: 770,256 Vehicular injuries and deaths: 3,654 Motorcycle injuries and deaths: 236 Number as a percentage: 6.4% 474.39 vehicular injuries/deaths per 100k 30.64 motorcycle injuries/deaths per 100k</p>
<p><u>Santa Clara County</u> Population: 1,937,473 Vehicular injuries and deaths: 10,609 Motorcycle injuries and deaths: 479 Number as a percentage: 4.5% 547.57 vehicular injuries/deaths per 100k 24.72 motorcycle injuries/deaths per 100k</p>	<p><u>Solano County</u> Population: 436,640 Motorcycle injuries and deaths: 3,082 Motorcycle injuries and deaths: 167 Number as a percentage: 5.4% 705.84 vehicular injuries/deaths per 100k 38.25 motorcycle injuries/deaths per 100k</p>
<p><u>Sonoma County</u> Population: 504,613 Vehicular injuries and deaths: 3,363 Motorcycle injuries and deaths: 197 Number as a percentage: 5.9% 666.45 vehicular injuries/deaths per 100k 39.04 motorcycle injuries/deaths per 100k</p>	<p><u>NOTE:</u> All numbers are taken from the California Office of Traffic Safety database's 2016 report, the most recent year of full publication.</p>

Road safety is a political issue

As much as I talk about the critical importance of making sure you're properly insured to protect yourself and your family, or the work we do together to get the cops to lay off, staying safe on the road is the most important issue of all. And we should be talking about it a lot more.

So that's where we stand!

Bill Weiss has long experience in personal injury and civil rights cases on behalf of the motorcycle community. He is one of the only attorneys in California that represents bikers in civil rights cases against law enforcement. He has recovered millions of dollars on behalf of his clients who have been injured in motorcycle collisions and other personal injury cases, as well as civil rights cases.