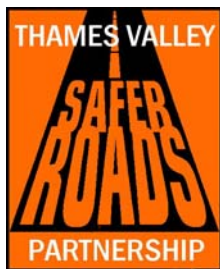


NEWS RELEASE



Thames Valley Safer Roads Partnership

PO BOX 142, Banbury, Oxfordshire, OX17 1UZ

Telephone 01295 731810

Fax 01295 731811

www.saferroads.org

From	Dan Campsall
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Casualty Figures Cause Concern

***** Media invite to Roadside Check on Thursday 28th June – see notes*****

Drink driving, mobile phone use & exceeding the speed limit have all led to a rise in the Thames Valley casualty figures for the second year in a row.

Police and local authorities are today expressing concern about the rising level of casualties in the region.

Since the year 2000 the overall reductions are still quite good, the number of people killed or seriously injured are still down 28.8%, and all casualties are down by over 14% for the period. However, there are a number of elements where the figures seem to be growing and drivers are being urged to take extra care.

Casualties recorded in crashes where the driver was on a mobile phone rose sharply in 2006 (up 43.9% on 2005) and collisions where the vehicle was exceeding the speed limit resulted in 20.9% more casualties. Alcohol related casualties have also risen in the last year by 8.7%.

The Thames Valley Safer Roads Partnership, who represent police and highway authorities in the region also point to a worrying trend among the '40-somethings' Casualty rates from this age group have risen by 8% since the year 2000; in fact the 2006 level is higher than anything that the partnership have since their records began in 1990.

There is also some good news in today's results; road deaths in 2006 were down on the number in 2005 by 4% to 143. The number of children killed or seriously injured has also fallen to its lowest level of just 72; that's 47.8% down on the level in the year 2000.

Further details from:

Dan CAMPSALL, Communications Manager

Tel: 01295 731812

Mob: 07967 446506

E-mail: prmgr@saferroads.org

Thames Valley Safety Partnership members :-

Thames Valley Police : Oxfordshire County Council : Buckinghamshire County Council : Milton Keynes Council : Slough Borough Council : Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead : Bracknell Forest Borough Council : Wokingham District Council : Reading Borough Council : West Berkshire Council : Thames Valley Magistrates Courts Services : Crown Prosecution Service :
The Highways Agency

Safety camera sites continue to outperform the rest of the region with a 2% reduction in the number of casualties. The numbers killed or seriously injured at camera sites are now down 56.8% since the year 2000 when the partnership was introduced.

Speaking for the police Superintendent Mick Doyle, said "The latest figures are a significant concern to us. We have been investing heavily in education and using intelligence led enforcement. In some areas we can see these efforts are being rewarded, but the overall picture still shows the casualty numbers rising for the last couple of years and we need to keep up our efforts, in partnership with the local highway authorities, if we are to get back on track."

Val Letheren, Portfolio Holder for Transportation at Buckinghamshire County Council also added "We have seen some real progress in Buckinghamshire in 2006, but we recognise that there is a great deal more to do. We are committed to working across the region with other authorities and the police to ensure that there is a safer environment for all our citizens"

Steve Howell, Partnership Chairman and Head of Transport at Oxfordshire County Council commented, "We simply cannot afford to be complacent. This year will see another rise in the number of drivers receiving education courses rather than just points on their licence, thousands more young people having their thinking challenged by our campaigns, and more dedicated police resources are available to work with local authorities on seatbelt and mobile phone checks. However, that is not enough, to reverse this trend requires all road users to think carefully about their driving behaviour and play their part by slowing down, hanging up the phone and wearing their seat belt at all times."

Notes to Editors:

Photo Opportunity: at a partnership road-side check, where officers will be looking to detect drink drive, mobile phone and seatbelt offences will be held from 8.30 – 10.30am Thursday 28th June at Aylesbury Road, Bierton, Aylesbury. There is a large lay-by available to accommodate necessary vehicles.

The following officers will be available for interview:

Malcolm Collis, Head of Specialist Units, Thames Valley Police
Chris Appleby, Road Safety Sergeant, Thames Valley Police
& officers from Buckinghamshire County Council

Pre-recorded interviews for radio can be arranged by calling Dan Campsall on 01295 731812.

Headline Casualty Data

Tables below are provided to give figures to support the percentages in the main release.

By Local Authority

Fatal casualties

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Thames Valley	173	141	154	157	129	149	143
Bracknell Forest	4	3	3	5	4	4	5
Buckinghamshire	33	40	50	43	42	40	25
Milton Keynes	17	13	17	11	15	25	16
Oxfordshire	63	49	37	64	33	40	68
Reading	12	7	5	2	2	0	4
Slough	7	5	6	4	8	7	3
West Berkshire	15	8	17	13	14	15	6
Windsor/Maidenhead	12	11	9	9	5	7	6
Wokingham	10	5	10	6	6	11	10

KSI casualties

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Thames Valley	1641	1600	1536	1366	1260	1088	1169
Bracknell Forest	63	58	41	38	42	35	62
Buckinghamshire	396	432	398	392	401	325	291
Milton Keynes	195	130	149	109	111	122	138
Oxfordshire	517	522	501	481	381	339	372
Reading	77	61	78	56	57	31	47
Slough	88	73	76	59	45	50	52
West Berkshire	126	131	123	111	98	78	72
Windsor/Maidenhead	99	109	87	63	55	60	72
Wokingham	80	84	83	57	70	48	63

Child KSI casualties

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Thames Valley	138	127	120	98	102	81	72
Bracknell Forest	9	8	2	3	3	3	4
Buckinghamshire	28	27	29	17	32	17	10
Milton Keynes	24	10	21	14	11	19	11
Oxfordshire	40	46	32	31	28	25	19
Reading	11	5	6	7	5	6	2
Slough	12	11	9	5	9	2	7
West Berkshire	7	5	5	8	5	2	8
Windsor/Maidenhead	6	8	7	7	3	5	4
Wokingham	1	7	9	6	6	2	7

By Age Group

KSI casualties

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
All road users	1641	1600	1536	1366	1260	1088	1169
0-15	138	127	120	98	102	81	72
16	29	42	50	23	30	29	29
17-24	396	370	360	350	316	268	274
25-30	223	252	188	190	163	131	165
31-40	305	301	307	279	233	198	207
41-50	179	158	170	169	135	141	181
51-60	143	134	145	104	117	107	112
>60	228	216	183	131	149	115	120

All PIC casualties

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
All road users	11771	11543	10884	10027	9502	9812	10090
0-15	1119	1138	945	895	838	882	774
16	230	228	220	189	175	202	189
17-24	2642	2627	2557	2416	2281	2367	2458
25-30	1732	1688	1536	1347	1287	1295	1413
31-40	2277	2273	2141	2002	1813	1832	1891
41-50	1334	1321	1289	1276	1225	1333	1439
51-60	909	935	866	799	788	837	921
>60	1527	1332	1192	813	780	812	800

By Road Users

KSI casualties

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
All road users	1641	1600	1536	1366	1260	1088	1169
Pedestrians	242	206	208	180	177	140	162
Pedal cyclists	108	98	103	79	103	69	119
Motorcycle users	312	295	322	297	250	223	246
Car users	893	900	796	738	655	595	579
All goods vehicles	63	73	68	50	45	40	47
Bus/coach users	9	16	24	10	9	6	7
Other road users	14	12	15	12	21	15	9

At Camera Sites

KSI casualties

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2006 v 2005	2006 v 2000
All Thames Valley casualties	1641	1600	1536	1366	1260	1088	1169	7.4%	-28.8%
Camera sites active in 2006	220	187	147	135	113	94	95	1.1%	-56.8%

All PIC casualties

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2006 v 2005	2006 v 2000
All Thames Valley casualties	11771	11543	10884	10027	9502	9812	10090	2.8%	-14.3%
Camera sites active in 2006	1237	1214	1082	1007	901	896	878	-2.0%	-29.0%

Causation Factors Affecting Collisions

KSI casualties

	2005	2006	2006 v 2005
All road users	1088	1169	7.4%
Alcohol	116	134	15.5%
Exceeding speed limit	82	80	-2.4%
Mobile phones	4	10	150.0%
Fatigue	58	37	-36.2%
Drugs	23	22	-4.3%

All PIC casualties

	2005	2006	2006 v 2005
All road users	9812	10090	2.8%
Alcohol	589	640	8.7%
Exceeding speed limit	473	572	20.9%
Mobile phones	41	59	43.9%
Fatigue	249	217	-12.9%
Drugs	72	70	-2.8%