

Data Dictionary and Methodology Notes

This file summarizes the public methodology and data dictionary for the aggregate archive data supporting the California Accident News & Traffic Safety Trends Report: 2023-2026.

The archive covers August 2023 through May 2026 and includes 10,357 traffic incidents appearing in 34 monthly reports. Archive findings measure serious accident-news visibility within Arash Law's internal accident-news archive. They do not measure official statewide crash frequency, crash rates, danger rankings, injury severity, county totals, roadway totals, or time-of-day patterns.

Core Terms

Term	Definition
Archive incident	A serious traffic incident appearing in California accident news coverage and selected for editorial coverage by Arash Law's content team.
Archive count	The number of appearances or classified incidents in the archive. It is not an official crash total.
City visibility count	Aggregated monthly top-location appearances. These values measure repeat visibility in the archive, not city crash rates or danger rankings.
Months listed	Number of monthly reports in which the city appeared in the archive's monthly top-location lists.
DUI-tagged incident	An archive incident tagged DUI only when the underlying news report specifically identified DUI or suspected DUI. These are not convictions.
Hit-and-run incident	An archive incident classified as hit-and-run based on the underlying public reporting.
Vulnerable road users	Pedestrians, motorcyclists, and bicyclists.
Official data	Traffic safety statistics published by California or national transportation safety agencies.
Archive findings	Findings from Arash Law's internal accident-news archive.

Inclusion and Limitations

- Incidents were selected for editorial coverage based on seriousness, newsworthiness, available public information, location relevance, and accident type.
- The archive was compiled through editorial monitoring rather than automated statewide crash-data collection.
- The archive is not a random sample, complete news database, or official government crash dataset.
- The archive does not calculate crash rates, population-adjusted risk, vehicle miles traveled, or total collision volume.
- The archive does not record injury severity, fatality counts per incident, counties, specific roadways, or time of day.
- Source-channel counts are available only for months where discovery-source information was recorded, beginning in May 2024.

Public Data Tables Included in the Aggregate CSV

- report_summary
- period_counts
- category_counts
- vulnerable_road_user_counts
- city_visibility_counts
- hit_and_run_city_counts
- dui_city_counts
- source_channel_counts

Citation Language

When citing archive values, describe them as archive findings or accident-news visibility findings, not official California crash statistics. Official traffic safety statistics should be cited to California OTS, NHTSA, or the relevant government source.