

Increasing Number of Hit and Runs

Hit-and-run crashes in California have reached record highs, with the state leading the nation in both total incidents and fatalities. Recent data shows a persistent increase, with **one in ten California crashes involving a driver fleeing the scene**, frequently occurring at night or affecting pedestrians and cyclists. [YouTube +2](#)


Current Trends and Statistics

- **Worsening Trend:** Hit-and-run fatalities in California increased by 3.5% over a one-year period, according to the California Highway Patrol.
- **National Lead:** California consistently leads the country in fatal hit-and-run accidents.
- **High Incidence Cities:** Los Angeles has seen a persistent issue with high numbers of hit-and-runs, although figures have shown some stabilization below 8,000 annually in recent years.
- **Targeted Victims:** Over 60% of people killed in hit-and-run crashes are pedestrians or bicyclists. [YouTube +3](#)


Why Hit-and-Runs are Increasing

- **Lack of Licenses/Insurance:** Approximately 40% of drivers in fatal hit-and-run cases did not have a valid driver's license.
- **Drunk Driving/Fear:** Drivers fleeing often do so to avoid detection for other crimes, such as driving under the influence or driving stolen vehicles.
- **Detection Avoidance:** Many incidents occur at night with few witnesses.
- **Low Solve Rate:** Roughly 80% of hit-and-run cases in California go unsolved. [Attorney at Law Magazine +4](#)

Factors Contributing to Inaction

- **Slow Legislative Response:** Critics state that state leaders have failed to act on rising roadway deaths, with some DUI-related legislation being weakened, according to [a CalMatters investigation](#).
- **Limited Penalties:** Although felony hit-and-runs can result in 4 years in prison, many drivers receive probation or plea deals if they turn themselves in later.  Attorney at Law Magazine +1

Potential Solutions

- **Technology Upgrades:** Increased use of traffic cameras, automatic crash sensors in cars, and phone alert systems to aid in catching fleeing drivers.
- **Increased Patrols:** Enhanced law enforcement presence, particularly at night to deter hit-and-run incidents.  KTVU +4