



2015 Road Fatalities and Serious Injuries In South Australia

There were 102 fatalities recorded on South Australian roads in 2015 this is six less than the 108 fatalities recorded in 2014 and is two less than the previous 5 year average (2010 – 2014) of 104 fatalities.

Serious injuries have seen an increase from 711 in 2014 to 759 in 2015. The number is down on the previous 5 year average (2010 – 2014) of 849 serious injuries per year.

Table 1 - Fatalities and serious injuries, South Australia, 2010-2015

Year	Fatalities	Serious injuries
2010	118	1050
2011	103	931
2012	94	761
2013	97	790
2014	108	711
2015	102	759

South Australia’s fatality rate for 2015 is 6.0 per 100,000 population and is below the 6.4 recorded at the end of 2014.

Key Points – 2015 Fatalities:

- > Fatal crashes in the Adelaide metropolitan area have increased from 37 in 2014 to 43 in 2015. Rural fatal crashes have decreased from 59 in 2014 to 53 in 2015.
- > Young road user fatalities aged 16-24 decreased from 17 in 2014 to 16 in 2015, and are also below the previous 5 year average of 18 fatalities (2010-2014) per year.
- > Older road user fatalities aged 70+ increased from 22 in 2014 to 23 in 2015, and 3 more than the previous 5 year average 2010-2014.
- > Motorcyclist fatalities are the same as in 2014 - 11, and 3 less than the previous 5 year average 2010-2014.
- > Cyclist fatalities are the same as in 2014 - 4, and same as the previous 5 year average 2010-2014.
- > Pedestrian fatalities have increased by one from 17 in 2014 to 18 in 2015, and 3 more than the previous 5 year average 2010-2014.
- > The number of gopher riders (includes wheelchairs) killed has increased from 1 in 2014 to 4 in 2015, the previous 5 year average is also 1 fatality per year.
- > The number of females killed has risen from 32 in 2014 to 36 in 2015 and is 5 more than the 5 year average of 31 fatalities.
- > 28% of driver and passenger fatalities in 2015 were not wearing a seatbelt at the time of the crash, a slight increase compared to 25% in 2014 but a decrease on the 32% for the previous 5 year average (2010-2014).
- > The number of fatal crashes on 110km/h roads has risen from 24 crashes in 2014 to 28 in 2015, and above the 5 year average of 21 crashes. Fatal crashes on 100 km/h roads decreased from 32 crashes in 2014 to 18 crashes in 2015 and below the 5 year average of 24; on 50km/h roads crashes increased from 7 in 2014 to 11 in 2015, yet still just below the previous 5 year average of 12 fatal crashes.

Key Points - Serious injuries:

- > Serious injuries have increased from 711 in 2014 to 759 in 2015 yet below the previous (2010 – 2014) average 849 serious injuries per year.
- > The number of pedestrian serious injuries has decreased from 62 in 2014 to 50 in 2015.
- > Cyclist serious injuries have increased by 3 from 64 in 2014 to 74 in 2015.
- > 16-19 year old serious injuries have decreased from 80 in 2014 to 71 in 2015.
- > The number of 20-24 year olds seriously injured has also decreased from 90 in 2014 to 84 in 2015.
- > Older road users aged 70+ seriously injured increased from 57 in 2014 to 80 in 2015.
- > Motorcyclist serious injuries have increased from 130 in 2014 to 145 in 2015.
- > Serious injury crashes increased on 60km/h roads from 163 in 2014 to 177 in 2015. They also increased from 111 crashes in 2014 to 125 crashes in 2015 on 100km/h roads and from 68 crashes in 2014 to 79 crashes in 2015 on 110km/h roads.

Results for 2015 - Road User Types:

Table 2 - Fatalities and serious injuries by road user type, 2010-2015

Road user type	Fatalities			Serious injuries		
	Average 2010-14	2014	2015	Average 2010-14	2014	2015
Drivers	48	49	51	385	309	340
Heavy vehicle drivers	2	3	1	15	11	18
Passengers	20	24	17	160	135	132
Motorcyclists ¹	15	11	11	138	130	145
Cyclists	4	4	4	70	64	74
Pedestrians ²	15	17	18	82	62	50
Total	104	108	102	849	711	759

Gender

Table 3 - Fatalities and serious injuries by gender, 2010-2015

Gender	Fatalities			Serious injuries		
	Average 2010-14	2014	2015	Average 2010-14	2014	2015
Male	73	76	66	544	472	502
Female	31	32	36	305	239	256
Total	104	108	102	849	711	758³

Age

Table 4 - Fatalities and serious injuries by age, 2010-2015

Age	Fatalities			Serious injuries		
	Average 2010-14	2014	2015	Average 2010-14	2014	2015
0-15	5	7	5	37	26	28
16-19	8	6	7	82	80	71
20-24	10	11	9	109	90	84
25-29	7	9	7	89	71	60
30-39	13	13	13	122	99	128
40-49	20	21	13	130	122	106
50-59	12	6	11	104	93	105
60-69	9	13	14	69	54	78
70-79	8	9	10	43	30	55
80-89	10	10	12	35	24	20
90+	2	3	1	3	3	5
Unknown	0	0	0	27	19	19
Total	104	108	102	849	711	759

¹ Motorcyclists include scooter operators and pillion passengers

² Pedestrians include gopher users

³ Gender is unknown for one serious injury in 2015

Results for 2015 - Location:

Table 5 - Fatalities and serious injuries by location, 2010-2015

Location	Fatalities			Serious injuries		
	Average 2010-14	2014	2015	Average 2010-14	2014	2015
Metropolitan Areas	46	38	43	470	376	428
Rural Areas	58	70	59	378	335	331
Total	104	108	102	849	711	759

Table 6 - Fatal and serious injury crashes by location, 2010-2015

Location	Fatal crashes			Serious injury crashes		
	Average 2010-14	2014	2015	Average 2010-14	2014	2015
Metropolitan Areas	44	37	43	417	346	391
Rural Areas	50	59	53	296	248	266
Total	94	96	96	713	594	657

Most common crash types in metropolitan and rural areas in 2015:

- 33% of fatal crashes in metropolitan Adelaide were due to hitting a pedestrian, a decrease from 43% in 2014.
- 35% of fatal crashes in metropolitan Adelaide were at intersections, an increase from 27% in 2014.
- 60% of fatal crashes in rural areas were single vehicle crashes such as the vehicle rolling over or hitting objects such as trees, an increase from 54% in 2014.
- 21% of fatal crashes in rural areas were vehicles colliding head on, a decrease from 25% in 2014.

Speed Limit

Table 7 - Fatal and serious injury crashes by speed limit, 2010-2015

Speed limit	Fatal crashes			Serious injury crashes		
	Average 2010-14	2014	2015	Average 2010-14	2014	2015
40 km/h or below	1	1	2	8	13	11
50 km/h	12	7	11	150	147	149
60 km/h	21	24	25	227	163	177
70-90 km/h	16	8	12	105	92	116
100 km/h	24	32	18	123	111	125
110 km/h	21	24	28	100	68	79
Total	94	96	96	713	594	657

Road user and behavioural issues:

Young Road Users

- > There were 16 fatalities and 155 serious injuries in 2015 recorded in the 16 -24 year age group. This is lower than the previous five year average for both groups.

Age	Fatalities						
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Average 2010-14	2015
16-19	19	6	7	2	6	8	7
20-24	12	5	10	13	11	10	9
Total	31	11	17	15	17	18	16

Age	Serious injuries						
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Average 2010-14	2015
16-19	110	94	76	50	80	82	71
20-24	131	127	104	93	90	109	84
Total	241	221	180	143	170	191	155

- > In 2015 young people aged 16 – 24 represented 16% of all fatalities and 20% of all serious injuries. This age group make up 13% of licensed drivers and 12% of the total population in South Australia.
- > 16 – 24 year old fatalities and serious injuries for 2015 include:
 - 86 drivers
 - 44 passengers
 - 27 motorcyclists,
 - 8 pedestrians
 - 6 cyclists
 - 62% were male
- > Of the 16-24 year old driver/rider fatalities and serious injuries:
 - 6 were learner drivers (6 serious injuries)
 - 33 were P1 licence holders (6 fatalities, 27 serious injuries)
 - 14 were P2 licence holders (3 fatalities, 11 serious injuries)
 - 39 held Full licences (4 fatalities, 35 serious injuries)
 - 10 had an unknown licence status

Motorcyclists

- > There were 11 motorcycle rider fatalities in 2015 and a further 130 motorcycle riders seriously injured. In addition there were 9 scooter operators and 6 pillion passengers seriously injured in 2015.

	Fatalities						
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Average 2010-14	2015
Motorcyclist	15	20	13	12	11	14	11
Scooter operator	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pillion passenger	0	1	2	0	0	1	0
Total	16	21	15	12	11	15	11
	Serious injuries						
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Average 2010-14	2015
Motorcyclist	138	130	105	109	116	120	130
Scooter operator	8	13	8	20	11	11	9
Pillion passenger	7	9	6	5	3	3	6
Total	153	152	119	134	130	134	145

- > Of the 156 motorcyclist fatalities and serious injuries:
 - 90% were male
 - 6 were not wearing a helmet at the time of the crash.

Age of motorcyclists killed or seriously injured in 2015 were:

Age group	Fatalities	Serious injuries
0-15	0	0
16-19	1	10
20-24	2	14
25-29	2	8
30-39	1	34
40-49	2	25
50-59	3	30
60-69	0	17
70+	0	4
Unknown	0	3
Total	11	145

Pedestrians and Cyclists

- > 18 pedestrians were killed in 2015 and 50 were seriously injured in 2015.
- > Four cyclists were killed in 2015 and 74 were seriously injured in 2015.

	Fatalities						
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Average 2010-14	2015
Pedestrian	16	15	9	14	16	14	14
Gopher/Wheelchair	0	2	1	1	1	1	4
Cyclist	5	3	3	5	4	4	4
Total	21	20	13	20	21	19	22
	Serious injuries						
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Average 2010-14	2015
Pedestrian	103	80	77	83	60	81	46
Gopher	1	1	0	4	2	2	4
Cyclist	82	61	78	63	64	70	74
Total	186	142	155	150	126	152	124

Age of pedestrians (includes gopher operators/wheelchairs) killed or seriously injured:

Age group	Fatalities	Serious injuries
0-15	0	9
16-19	0	4
20-24	0	4
25-29	1	3
30-39	0	3
40-49	3	4
50-59	0	4
60-69	4	9
70-79	4	7
80+	6	2
Unknown	0	1
Total	18	50

Of the 18 pedestrian fatalities, 14 occurred in metropolitan Adelaide.

Age of cyclists killed or seriously injured:

Age group	Fatalities	Serious injuries
0-15	0	4
16-19	0	0
20-24	0	6
25-29	0	5
30-39	1	16
40-49	1	23
50-59	1	9
60-69	1	5
70-79	0	2
80-89	0	1
Unknown	0	3
Total	4	74

Of the 4 cyclist fatalities, 3 occurred in rural areas of SA.

Older Road Users

- > Twenty three people aged 70 and over were killed in 2015 and a further 80 were seriously injured.
- > Fatalities and serious injuries in this age group include:
 - 59 drivers (9 fatalities, 50 serious injuries)
 - 18 passengers (4 fatalities, 14 serious injuries)
 - 3 motorcyclists, 1 scooter operator (all serious injuries)
 - 13 pedestrians & 6 gopher/wheelchair riders (10 fatalities, 9 serious injuries)
 - 3 cyclists (all serious injuries)
 - 52% were male
 - 66% of serious casualties occurred in Metropolitan Adelaide
 - 40% of the driver / rider serious casualties occurred at an intersection

Age	Fatalities						
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Average 2010-14	2015
70-79	7	7	7	11	9	8	10
80-89	4	9	14	11	10	10	12
90+	3	3	1	2	3	2	1
Total	14	19	22	24	22	20	23

Age	Serious injuries						
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Average 2010-14	2015
70-79	64	30	38	53	30	43	55
80-89	49	41	35	27	24	35	20
90+	7	2	0	2	3	3	5
Total	120	73	73	82	57	81	80

Drink driving

- > Forensic results show 22% of drivers/riders killed in fatal crashes in 2015 had an illegal blood alcohol concentration (BAC). This compares to 22% in 2014 and a 5 year average of 24%.

	Number of driver and rider fatalities	Number of driver and rider fatalities tested	Number that tested with BAC level 0.05+			Percentage of those tested that were above 0.05
			0.05-0.079	0.08-0.149	0.15+	
2010	73	71	1	3	15	27%
2011	60	57	2	1	10	23%
2012	65	60	0	2	11	22%
2013	60	57	1	4	9	25%
2014	63	58	0	5	8	22%
5 year avg 2010-2014	64	60	1	3	11	24%
2015	63	58	2	1	10	22%

Drug driving

- > Forensic results show 24% of drivers/riders killed in 2015 tested positive for the presence of cannabis, methamphetamine or ecstasy or a combination of these drugs. This compares to 25% in 2014 and a 5 year average of 22%.

	Number of driver and rider fatalities	Number of driver and rider fatalities tested	Number that tested positive to cannabis, meth or ecstasy	Percentage of those tested that were positive
2010	73	71	15	21%
2011	60	58	13	22%
2012	65	59	13	22%
2013	60	56	10	18%
2014	63	61	15	25%
5 year average 2010-2014	64	61	13	22%
2015	64	58	14	24%

Speed

- > The identification of speeding as a contributing factor in road traffic crashes cannot always be directly determined and is often underreported in road crash data. However analysis suggests that in 30% of fatal crashes in 2015 speeding was considered a contributing factor. This is the same as the 5 year (2010-2014) average of 30% of fatal crashes being considered as speed related. In 2014 this figure was 28%.
- > 48% of fatal crashes and 31% of serious injury crashes in 2015 occurred on roads with a speed limit of 100km/h or above.

	Fatal crashes						
	Below 50km/h	50km/h	60km/h	70-90km/h	100km/h	110km/h	% on roads 100km/h+
2010	0	9	27	18	25	26	49%
2011	1	14	17	18	21	24	47%
2012	1	9	17	22	18	19	43%
2013	2	19	18	12	24	14	43%
2014	1	7	24	8	32	24	58%
5 year average 2010-14	1	12	21	16	24	21	48%
2015	2	11	25	12	18	28	48%

	Serious injury crashes						
	Below 50km/h	50km/h	60km/h	70-90km/h	100km/h	110km/h	% on roads 100km/h+
2010	12	188	307	112	128	139	30%
2011	1	155	254	107	136	127	34%
2012	6	115	207	98	126	85	33%
2013	6	143	204	116	115	82	30%
2014	13	147	163	92	111	68	30%
5 year average 2010-14	8	150	227	105	123	100	31%
2015	11	149	177	116	125	79	31%

Non restraint use

- > Of the drivers and passengers killed in 2015, 28% were not wearing a seatbelt at the time of the crash, in 2014, 25% were not restrained and the previous 5 year average (2010-2014) is 32%.
- > Of the 19 drivers and passengers killed not wearing a seatbelt 14 were male.
- > The 14 male drivers and passenger killed not wearing a seatbelt were in the 30-59 age group.

Driver and rider fatigue

- > Fatigue is often ranked as a factor in road crashes, although its contribution in individual cases is hard to measure and is often not reported as a cause of the crash. Preliminary analysis of fatal crashes in 2015 shows that at least 10 crashes were likely to be due to fatigue; this is the same as 2014.

Age of passenger vehicles involved in crashes

- > In 2015 of the passenger vehicles involved in fatal crashes 58% were 10 years old or greater, just below the 5 year average (2010-2014) of 60% of passenger vehicles involved in fatal crashes. In addition 61% of passenger vehicles involved in serious injury crashes in 2015 were 10 years or older.

Age	Passenger vehicles involved in fatal crashes						
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Average 2010-14	2015
Less than 5 years	17	17	16	16	22	18	18
Over 5 but less than 10 years	22	20	24	24	20	22	24
10 years or more	84	52	53	59	58	61	59
Total	123	89	93	99	100	101	101
Age	Passenger vehicles involved in serious injury crashes						
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Average 2010-14	2015
Less than 5 years	158	142	112	134	116	132	134
Over 5 but less than 10 years	230	215	135	168	165	183	137
10 years or more	602	483	399	414	342	448	423
Total	990	840	646	716	623	763	694

Results from previous years

Year	Fatalities ¹	Fatality Rate per 100,000 population ²	Licences ²	Vehicle Registrations ²	BAC above legal limit	No Seatbelt ⁴	Location ⁵	
							Rural	Metro
1974 - Highest Road Toll	382	30.77	636,604	577,600	n/a	n/a	207	175
1980's	252	20.56	757,974	708,600	46 (56%) ³	n/a	135	117
1990's	179	15.78	923,309	883,500	30 (35%)	26 (36%) ⁴	104	75
2000's	137	11.03	1,025,260	1,011,100	24 (32%)	24 (32%)	82	55
2014	108	6.4	1,196,568	1,353,829	13 (22%)	16 (26%)	70	38
2015	102	6.0	1,212,113	1,400,536	13 (22%)	19 (28%)	59	43

¹ Average per year over the decade where appropriate

² Data is taken from the beginning of the decade

³ Legal BAC limit was below .08 during the 1980's

⁴ Seatbelt data only available from 1992

⁵ The boundary used for defining the Adelaide metropolitan area has been changed in this report to be consistent with the ABS Greater Adelaide Statistical Area definition (ABS Australian Statistical Geography Standard). For comparison purposes within this report, all crash and casualty data by region since 2010 have been updated to reflect the boundaries defining the metropolitan and rural regions. Data by region prior to 2010 cannot be directly related as it uses the previous metro/rural boundaries. For the same reason, data by region presented in previous reports cannot be compared to data in this report.

Fatalities & Serious Injuries, South Australia, 1950 – 2015

Year	Fatalities	Serious Injuries	Year	Fatalities	Serious Injuries
1950	170	-	1983	265	3069
1951	197	-	1984	232	3123
1952	172	-	1985	269	3198
1953	136	-	1986	288	2954
1954	153	-	1987	256	2912
1955	173	-	1988	223	2590
1956	167	-	1989	222	2492
1957	185	-	1990	225	2397
1958	200	-	1991	184	2058
1959	185	-	1992	164	1600
1960	234	-	1993	218	1549
1961	203	-	1994	163	1514
1962	194	-	1995	182	1521
1963	223	-	1996	181	1721
1964	238	-	1997	149	1511
1965	243	-	1998	168	1604
1966	270	-	1999	153	1607
1967	253	-	2000	166	1627
1968	275	3468	2001	154	1603
1969	251	4055	2002	154	1538
1970	349	3799	2003	156	1470
1971	292	3573	2004	139	1331
1972	312	3256	2005	147	1297
1973	329	3431	2006	117	1358
1974	382	3762	2007	125	1369
1975	339	3928	2008	99	1219
1976	307	3830	2009	119	1109
1977	306	3775	2010	118	1050
1978	291	3587	2011	103	931
1979	309	3116	2012	94	761
1980	271	2723	2013	97	790
1981	222	3165	2014	108	711
1982	270	3079	2015	102	759

Definitions of police reported casualty types:

Casualty Crash - A crash where at least one fatality, serious injury or minor injury occurs.

Casualty – A fatality, serious injury or minor injury.

Fatal Crash - A crash for which there is at least one fatality.

Fatality - A person who dies within 30 days of a crash as a result of injuries sustained in that crash.

Serious Injury Crash - A non-fatal crash in which at least one person is seriously injured.

Serious Injury - A person who sustains injuries and is admitted to hospital as a result of a road crash and who does not die as a result of those injuries within 30 days of the crash.

Data sources

The data presented in this reports was obtained from the Department or Planning, Transport and Infrastructure Road Crash Database. The information was compiled from police reported road casualty crashes only.

Enquiries

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