



2017 Road Fatalities and Serious Injuries In South Australia

There were 100 fatalities recorded on South Australian roads in 2017 this is 14 more than the 86 fatalities recorded in 2016 and is four more than the previous 5 year average (2012 – 2016) of 97 fatalities.

Serious injuries have decreased from 692 in 2016 to 622 in 2017, the lowest recorded total of serious injuries in a given year. The number is also 16% lower than the previous 5 year average (2012 – 2016) of 743 serious injuries per year.

Table 1 - Fatalities and serious injuries, South Australia, 2012-2017

Year	Fatalities	Serious injuries
2012	94	761
2013	97	790
2014	108	711
2015	102	759
2016	86	692
2017	100	622

South Australia’s fatality rate for 2017 is 5.8 per 100,000 population and is above the 5.0 recorded at the end of 2016.

Table 2 – SA Fatalities 2017 compared to 2016

Fatalities	2017	2016	2012-2016 Average	Change from 2016 to 2017
Total fatalities	100	86	97	14
Fatality rate per 100,000 population	5.8	5.0	5.8	0.8
Drivers	45	36	46	9
Heavy vehicle drivers	1	5	3	-4
Passengers	11	23	19	-12
Motorcyclists	24	8	11	16
Cyclists	2	5	4	-3
Pedestrians (includes gopher & wheelchair users)	17	9	14	8
Older road users (70+)	25	23	23	2
Young road users (16-24)	20	15	16	5
Fatalities in the Greater Adelaide Region	56	34	40	22
Rural fatalities	44	52	57	-8
Driver and passenger fatalities not wearing a seatbelt	38%	14%	27%	24%
Speed a contributing factor in fatal crash	28%	30%	30%	-2%
Drivers/riders killed with an illegal BAC	21%	19%	22%	2%
Drivers/riders killed tested positive to drugs	25%	30%	23%	-5%

Table 3 – SA serious injuries 2017 compared to 2016

Serious injuries	2017	2016	2012-2016 Average	Change from 2016 to 2017
Total serious injuries	622	692	743	-70
Drivers	300	316	335	-16
Heavy vehicle drivers	13	9	13	4
Passengers	121	140	133	-19
Motorcyclists	108	109	127	-1
Cyclists	39	52	66	-13
Pedestrians (includes gopher & wheelchair)	41	66	68	-25
Older road users (70+)	110	87	76	23
Young road users (16-24)	99	167	163	-68
Serious injuries in the Greater Adelaide Region	359	382	415	-23
Rural serious injuries	263	310	327	-47

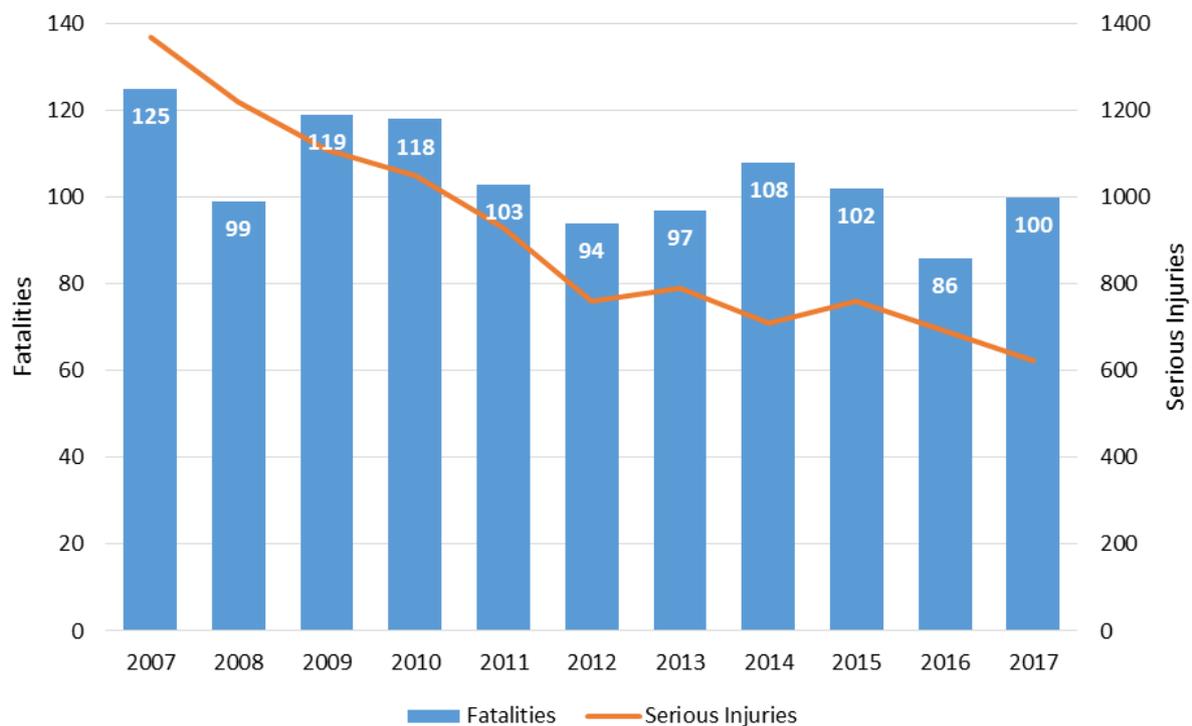
Key Points – 2017 Fatalities and Serious Injuries:

- > **Greater Adelaide Area** – The number of fatal crashes increased in 2017 compared to 2016, and the number of serious injury crashes decreased. There were 54 fatal crashes, 22 more than in 2016 (32) and above the previous 5 year average of 39. This is a reversal from the previous 5 years which saw a decline of fatal crashes in the Greater Adelaide area. There were 322 serious injury crashes in 2017 compared to 339 in 2016, and also fewer than the previous 5 year average of 370 (2012-2016). 31% of fatal crashes in Greater Adelaide were at intersections, a decrease from 41% in 2016.
- > **Rural areas** – Fatal and serious injury crashes have decreased in rural areas in 2017 compared to 2016. Rural fatal crashes have decreased from 45 in 2016 to 39 in 2017 and also well below the 5 year average of 50. Serious injury crashes have declined from 235 in 2016 to 211 in 2017 (5 year average of 255). 59% of fatal crashes in rural areas were single vehicle crashes such as the vehicle rolling over or hitting objects such as trees, a slight increase from 56% in 2016.
- > **Young road users** – The number of 16-19 year old fatalities increased from 3 in 2016 to 8 in 2017, and the number of 20-24 year old fatalities remained the same, 12 were killed in 2017. In contrast, the number of serious injuries in the 16 -19 year age group decreased from 81 in 2016 to 43 in 2017, and below the 5 year average of 72 (2012-2016). There was also a decrease in serious injuries for the 20-24 year old age group from 86 in 2016 to 56 in 2017, but still well below the 5 year average of 91 (2012-2016).
- > **Older road users** –The number of fatalities of people aged 70 or over has remained somewhat stable over the past 5 years. 25 people in this age group were killed in 2017 two more than in 2016 and the 5 year average of 23 fatalities. In contrast, the number of people seriously injured has increased in 2017, 110 serious injuries were recorded well above the 87 in 2016 and again above the 5 year average of 76 serious injuries.
- > **Drivers** – Driver fatalities increased in 2017 compared to 2016 and serious injuries have decreased. The number of fatalities of light vehicle drivers increased to 45 in 2017 compared to 36 in 2016 and an average of 46 (2012-2016). In contrast, there was one heavy vehicle driver death compared to 5 in 2016 and a 5 year average of 3 per year (2012-2016). The number of drivers seriously injured fell in 2017 compared to 2016, however there was a slight increase in the number of heavy vehicle drivers seriously injured.

Key Points – 2017 Fatalities and Serious Injuries (continued):

- > **Motorcyclists** – Fatalities increased substantially in 2017 compared to previous years and serious injuries declined slightly. 24 motorcyclists were killed in 2017, this is the highest number of fatalities seen for this group since 1993. 8 fatalities were recorded in 2016 and the 5 year average is 11 deaths. Serious injuries have seen a very slight decline in 2017 to 108 compared to 109 in 2016 and an average of 127 (2012-2016).
- > **Pedestrians** – Fatalities have increased from 9 in 2016 to 17 in 2017 and is also just above the previous 5 year average (2012-2016) of 14 fatalities. Pedestrian serious injuries decreased from 66 in 2016 to 41 in 2017, also below the previous 5 year average of 68 (2012-2016).
- > **Seatbelts** – 38% of driver and passenger fatalities in 2017 were not wearing a seatbelt at the time of the crash. A significant increase compared to 14% in 2016 and a previous 5 year average of 27% (2012-2016).

Fatal and Serious Injuries, South Australia 2007 – 2017



Results for 2017 - Road User Types:

Table 4 - Fatalities and serious injuries by road user type, 2012-2017

Road user type	Fatalities			Serious injuries		
	Average 2012-16	2016	2017	Average 2012-16	2016	2017
Drivers	46	36	45	335	316	300
Heavy vehicle drivers	3	5	1	13	9	13
Passengers	19	23	11	133	140	121
Motorcyclists ¹	11	8	24	127	109	108
Cyclists	4	5	2	66	52	39
Pedestrians ²	14	9	17	68	66	41
Total	97	86	100	743	692	622

Gender

Table 5 - Fatalities and serious injuries by gender, 2012-2017

Gender	Fatalities			Serious injuries		
	Average 2012-16	2016	2017	Average 2012-16	2016	2017
Male	68	58	80	481	430	391
Female	30	28	20	262	262	231
Total	97	86	100	743	692	622

Age

Table 6 - Fatalities and serious injuries by age, 2012-2017

Age	Fatalities			Serious injuries		
	Average 2012-16	2016	2017	Average 2012-16	2016	2017
0-15	5	5	3	31	33	26
16-19	5	3	8	72	81	43
20-24	11	12	12	91	86	56
25-29	7	9	8	73	76	54
30-39	10	11	10	105	82	81
40-49	17	15	11	111	94	83
50-59	9	3	11	101	97	88
60-69	10	5	12	65	51	60
70-79	9	10	9	45	47	64
80-89	11	9	12	27	29	38
90+	2	4	4	4	11	8
Unknown	0	0	0	19	5	21
Total	97	86	100	743	692	622

¹ Motorcyclists include scooter operators and pillion passengers

² Pedestrians include gopher & wheelchair users

Results for 2017 - Location:

Table 7 - Fatalities and serious injuries by location, 2012-2017

Location	Fatalities			Serious injuries		
	Average 2012-16	2016	2017	Average 2012-16	2016	2017
Greater Adelaide Area	40	34	56	415	382	359
Rural Areas	57	52	44	327	310	263
Total	97	86	100	743	692	622

Table 8 - Fatal and serious injury crashes by location, 2012-2017

Location	Fatal crashes			Serious injury crashes		
	Average 2012-16	2016	2017	Average 2012-16	2016	2017
Greater Adelaide Area	39	32	54	370	339	322
Rural Areas	50	45	39	255	235	211
Total	89	77	93	626	574	533

Most common crash types in the Greater Adelaide and rural areas in 2017:

- 31% of fatal crashes in Greater Adelaide were at intersections, a decrease from 41% in 2016.
- 28% of fatal crashes in the Greater Adelaide area were due to hitting a pedestrian, an increase from 25% in 2016.
- 59% 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 56% in 2016.
- 21% of fatal crashes in rural areas were at intersections compared to 16% in 2016.
- 13% of fatal crashes in rural areas were vehicles colliding head on, a decrease from 18% in 2016.

Speed Limit

Table 9 - Fatal and serious injury crashes by speed limit, 2012-2017

Speed limit	Fatal crashes			Serious injury crashes		
	Average 2012-16	2016	2017	Average 2012-16	2016	2017
40 km/h or below	1	1	7	9	9	11
50 km/h	12	13	15	135	121	99
60 km/h	19	9	22	182	159	172
70-90 km/h	14	18	15	105	100	73
100 km/h	22	19	16	117	106	112
110 km/h	20	17	18	78	79	66
Total	89	77	93	626	574	533

- 37% of fatal crashes in 2017 were on roads with a speed limit of 100 or 110km/h compared to 47% in 2016 (also 48% for the 5 year average 2012-2016).
- 24% of fatal crashes in 2017 occurred on roads with a speed limit of 60km/h compared to 12% in 2016 and a 5 year average of 21% (2012-2016).

Road user and behavioural issues:

Young Road Users

- > There were 20 fatalities and 99 serious injuries in 2017 recorded in the 16 -24 year age group. The 16-19 year old age group has increased from 3 fatalities in 2016 to 8 fatalities in 2017, while the number of 20-24 year olds remained the same at 12 fatalities in 2016 and 2017.

Age	Fatalities						
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Average 2012-16	2017
16-19	7	2	6	7	3	5	8
20-24	10	13	11	9	12	11	12
Total	17	15	17	16	15	16	20
Age	Serious injuries						
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Average 2012-16	2017
16-19	76	50	80	71	81	72	43
20-24	104	93	90	84	86	91	56
Total	180	143	170	155	167	163	99

- > In 2017 young people aged 16 – 24 represented 20% of all fatalities and 16% 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 2017 include:
 - 62 drivers
 - 27 passengers
 - 23 motorcyclists,
 - 4 pedestrians
 - 3 cyclists
 - 63% were male
- > Of the 16-24 year old driver/rider fatalities and serious injuries:
 - 11 were learner drivers (2 fatalities, 9 serious injuries)
 - 13 were P1 licence holders (3 fatalities, 10 serious injuries)
 - 17 were P2 licence holders (3 fatalities, 14 serious injuries)
 - 28 held Full licences (5 fatalities, 23 serious injuries)
 - 8 had an unknown licence status

Motorcyclists

- > There were 24 motorcycle rider fatalities in 2017 and a further 105 motorcycle riders seriously injured. In addition there was 3 pillion passengers seriously injured in 2017.

	Fatalities						
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Average 2012-16	2017
Motorcyclist	13	12	11	11	7	11	24
Scooter operator	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Pillion passenger	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	15	12	11	11	8	11	24
	Serious injuries						
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Average 2012-16	2017
Motorcyclist	105	109	116	130	93	111	105
Scooter operator	8	20	11	9	12	12	0
Pillion passenger	6	5	3	6	4	5	3
Total	119	134	130	145	109	127	108

- > Of the 132 motorcyclist fatalities and serious injuries:
 - 93% were male
 - 4 riders were not wearing a helmet at the time of the crash.

Age of motorcyclists killed or seriously injured in 2017 were:

Age group	Fatalities	Serious injuries
0-15	0	1
16-19	1	9
20-24	5	8
25-29	3	7
30-39	4	14
40-49	3	23
50-59	2	22
60-69	3	13
70+	3	6
Unknown	0	5
Total	24	108

Pedestrians and Cyclists

- > 17 pedestrians were killed and 41 were seriously injured in 2017.
- > Two cyclists were killed and 39 were seriously injured in 2017.

	Fatalities						
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Average 2012-16	2017
Pedestrian	9	14	16	14	7	12	16
Gopher/Wheelchair	1	1	1	4	2	2	1
Cyclist	3	5	4	4	5	4	2
Total	13	20	21	22	14	18	19
	Serious injuries						
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Average 2012-16	2017
Pedestrian	77	83	60	46	64	66	40
Gopher	0	4	2	4	2	2	1
Cyclist	78	63	64	74	52	66	39
Total	155	150	126	124	118	135	80

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

Age group	Fatalities	Serious injuries
0-15	2	3
16-19	0	1
20-24	0	3
25-29	0	5
30-39	2	3
40-49	4	5
50-59	0	3
60-69	3	5
70-79	1	10
80+	5	3
Total	17	41

Of the 17 pedestrian fatalities, 15 occurred in the Adelaide metro region.

Age of cyclists killed or seriously injured:

Age group	Fatalities	Serious injuries
0-15	0	1
16-19	0	1
20-24	0	2
25-29	0	4
30-39	0	6
40-49	0	6
50-59	1	12
60-69	1	6
70-79	0	1
80 +	0	0
Unknown	0	0
Total	2	39

Both cyclist fatalities occurred in metro area.

Older Road Users

- > Twenty five people aged 70 and over were killed in 2017 and a further 110 were seriously injured.
- > Fatalities and serious injuries in this age group include:
 - 76 drivers (14 fatalities, 62 serious injuries)
 - 30 passengers (2 fatalities, 28 serious injuries)
 - 9 motorcyclists (3 motorcyclists, 6 serious injuries)
 - 19 pedestrians including gopher/wheelchair riders (6 fatalities, 13 serious injuries)
 - 1 cyclist (1 serious injuries)
 - 56% were male
 - 61% of serious casualties occurred in the Greater Adelaide Region
 - 41% of the driver / rider serious casualties occurred at an intersection

Age	Fatalities						
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Average 2012-16	2017
70-79	7	11	9	10	10	9	9
80-89	14	11	10	12	9	11	12
90+	1	2	3	1	4	2	4
Total	22	24	22	23	23	23	25
Age	Serious injuries						
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Average 2012-16	Oct 2016 – Sept 2017
70-79	38	53	30	55	47	45	64
80-89	35	27	24	20	29	27	38
90+	0	2	3	5	11	4	8
Total	73	82	57	80	87	76	110

Drink driving

- > Forensic results show 21% of drivers/riders killed in fatal crashes in 2017 had an illegal blood alcohol concentration (BAC). This compares to 19% in 2016 and a 5 year average of 22%.

	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+	
2012	65	60	0	2	11	22%
2013	60	57	1	4	9	25%
2014	63	58	0	5	8	22%
2015	63	58	2	1	10	22%
2016	49	47	0	3	6	19%
5 year avg 2012-2016	60	56	1	3	9	22%
2017	70	70	2	4	9	21%

Drug driving

- > Forensic results show 25% of drivers/riders killed in fatal crashes in 2017 tested positive for the presence of cannabis, methamphetamine or ecstasy or a combination of these drugs. This compares to 30% in 2016 and a 5 year average of 23%.

	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
2012	65	59	13	22%
2013	60	56	10	18%
2014	63	61	15	25%
2015	64	58	14	24%
2016	49	47	14	30%
5 year avg 2012-2016	60	56	13	23%
2017	70	69	17	25%

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 28% of fatal crashes in 2017 speeding was considered a contributing factor. This is below the 5 year (2012-2016) average of 30% of fatal crashes being considered as speed related. In 2016 this figure was also 30%.
- > 37% of fatal crashes and 33% of serious injury crashes in 2016 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+
2012	1	9	17	22	18	19	43%
2013	2	19	18	12	24	14	43%
2014	1	7	24	8	32	24	58%
2015	2	11	25	12	18	28	48%
2016	1	13	9	18	19	17	47%
5 year avg 2012-2016	1	12	19	14	22	20	48%
2017	7	15	22	15	16	18	37%

	Serious injury crashes						
	Below 50km/h	50km/h	60km/h	70-90km/h	100km/h	110km/h	% on roads 100km/h+
2012	6	115	207	98	126	85	33%
2013	6	143	204	117	115	81	29%
2014	13	147	163	92	111	68	30%
2015	11	149	177	116	125	79	31%
2016	9	121	159	100	106	79	32%
5 year avg 2012-2016	9	135	182	105	117	78	31%
2017	11	99	172	73	112	66	33%

Non restraint use

- > Of the drivers and passengers killed in 2017, 38% were not wearing a seatbelt at the time of the crash, in 2016, 16% were not restrained and the previous 5 year average (2012-2016) is 27%.
- > Of the 20 drivers and passengers killed not wearing a seatbelt 17 were drivers and 3 passengers.

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 2017 shows that at least nine crashes were likely to be due to fatigue; this is compared to 13 crashes in 2016.

Age of passenger vehicles involved in crashes

- > In 2017 of the passenger vehicles involved in fatal crashes 62% were 10 years old or greater, just above the 5 year average (2012-2016) of 59% of passenger vehicles involved in fatal crashes. In addition 57% of passenger vehicles involved in serious injury crashes in 2017 were 10 years or older.

Age	Passenger vehicles involved in fatal crashes						
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Average 2012-16	2017
Less than 5 years	16	16	22	18	14	17	22
Over 5 but less than 10 years	24	24	20	24	17	22	16
10 years or more	53	59	58	59	55	57	62
Total	93	99	100	101	86	96	100
Age	Passenger vehicles involved in serious injury crashes						
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Average 2012-16	2017
Less than 5 years	114	134	116	134	100	120	123
Over 5 but less than 10 years	136	167	165	137	140	149	144
10 years or more	399	414	342	423	400	396	353
Total	649	716	623	694	640	664	620

Results from previous years

Year	Fatalities ¹	Fatality Rate per 100,000 population ²	Licences ²	Vehicle Registrations ²	BAC above legal limit	Tested positive to drugs	No Seatbelt ⁴	Location ⁵	
								Rural	Greater Adelaide
1974 - Highest Road Toll	382	30.77	636,604	577,600	n/a	n/a	n/a	207	175
1980's	252	20.56	757,974	708,600	46 (56%) ³	n/a	n/a	135	117
1990's	179	15.78	923,309	883,500	30 (35%)	n/a	26 (36%) ⁴	104	75
2000's	137	11.03	1,025,260	1,011,100	24 (32%)	n/a	24 (32%)	82	55
2016	86	5.0	1,219,238	1,419,302	9 (19%)	13 (30%)	8 (14%)	52	34
2017	100	5.8	1,238,239	1,442,520	15 (21%)	17 (25%)	19 (38%)	44	56

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. Percent is of those with a known seatbelt status.

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 – 2017

Year	Fatalities	Serious Injuries	Year	Fatalities	Serious Injuries
1950	170	-	1984	232	3123
1951	197	-	1985	269	3198
1952	172	-	1986	288	2954
1953	136	-	1987	256	2912
1954	153	-	1988	223	2590
1955	173	-	1989	222	2492
1956	167	-	1990	225	2397
1957	185	-	1991	184	2058
1958	200	-	1992	164	1600
1959	185	-	1993	218	1549
1960	234	-	1994	163	1514
1961	203	-	1995	182	1521
1962	194	-	1996	181	1721
1963	223	-	1997	149	1511
1964	238	-	1998	168	1604
1965	243	-	1999	153	1607
1966	270	-	2000	166	1627
1967	253	-	2001	154	1603
1968	275	3468	2002	154	1538
1969	251	4055	2003	156	1470
1970	349	3799	2004	139	1331
1971	292	3573	2005	147	1297
1972	312	3256	2006	117	1358
1973	329	3431	2007	125	1369
1974	382	3762	2008	99	1219
1975	339	3928	2009	119	1109
1976	307	3830	2010	118	1050
1977	306	3775	2011	103	931
1978	291	3587	2012	94	761
1979	309	3116	2013	97	790
1980	271	2723	2014	108	711
1981	222	3165	2015	102	759
1982	270	3079	2016	86	692
1983	265	3069	2017	100	622

Definitions of police reported casualty types:

Casualty Crash – 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 for a minimum period of an overnight stay as a result of a road crash and who does not die as a result of those injuries within 30 days of the crash.

Areas:

Greater Adelaide - Greater Adelaide City Statistical Area. Comprises of the following local government areas: Adelaide, Burnside, Campbelltown, Charles Sturt, Holdfast shores, Marion, Mitcham, Norwood, Payneham & St Peters, Onkaparinga, Playford, Port Adelaide & Enfield, Prospect, Salisbury, Tea Tree Gully, Unley, Walkerville, West Torrens, Adelaide Hills, Mount Barker, Gawler and part of Barossa, Light and Mallala councils.

Rural - Area outside of metropolitan Adelaide. Comprises of the following local government areas: Ceduna, Cleve, Elliston, Franklin Harbor, Kimba, Lower Eyre Peninsula, Port Lincoln, Streaky Bay, Tumbly Bay, Whyalla, Cooper Pedy, Finders Rangers, Port Augusta, Roxby Downs, Alexandrina, Kangaroo Island, Victor Harbor, Yankalilla, Grant, Mount Gambier, Naracoorte Lucindale, Robe, Tatiara, Wattle Range, Berri & Barmera, Karoonda East Murray, Loxton Waikerie, Mid Murray, Murray Bridge, Renmark Paringa, Southern Mallee, The Coorong, Barunga West, Clare & Gilbert Valleys, Copper Coast, Goyder, Mount Remarkable, Northern Areas, Orroroo/Carrieton, Peterborough, Port Pirie, Wakefield, Yorke Peninsula and part of Barossa, Light and Mallala councils.

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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