



2016 Road Fatalities and Serious Injuries In South Australia

There were 86 fatalities recorded on South Australian roads in 2016 this is 16 fewer than the 102 fatalities recorded in 2015 and is 15 fewer than the previous 5 year average (2011 – 2015) of 101 fatalities.

Serious injuries have decreased from 759 in 2015 to 692 in 2016, the lowest recorded total of serious injuries in a given year. The number is also 12% lower than the previous 5 year average (2011 – 2015) of 790 serious injuries per year.

Table 1 - Fatalities and serious injuries, South Australia, 2011-2016

Year	Fatalities	Serious injuries
2011	103	931
2012	94	761
2013	97	790
2014	108	711
2015	102	759
2016	86	692

South Australia’s fatality rate for 2016 is 5.01 per 100,000 population and is below the 6.0 recorded at the end of 2015.

Table 2 – SA Fatalities 2016 compared to 2015

Fatalities	2016	2015	Difference
Total fatalities	86	102	-16
Fatality rate per 100,000 population	5.01	6.00	-0.9
Drivers	36	51	-15
Heavy vehicle drivers	5	1	+4
Passengers	23	17	+6
Motorcyclists	8	11	-3
Cyclists	5	4	+1
Pedestrians (includes gopher & wheelchair users)	9	18	-9
Older road users (70+)	23	23	0
Young road users (16-24)	15	16	-1
Fatalities in the Greater Adelaide Region	34	43	-9
Rural fatalities	52	59	-7
Speed a contributing factor in fatal crash	30%	30%	0%
Driver and passenger fatalities not wearing a seatbelt	14%	28%	-14%
Drivers/riders killed with an illegal BAC	19%	22%	-3%
Drivers/riders killed tested positive to drugs	30%	24%	+6%

Table 3 – SA serious injuries 2016 compared to 2015

Serious injuries	2016	2015	Difference
Total serious injuries	692	759	-67
Drivers	316	340	-24
Heavy vehicle drivers	9	18	-9
Passengers	140	132	+8
Motorcyclists	109	145	-36
Cyclists	52	74	-22
Pedestrians (includes gopher & wheelchair users)	66	50	+16
Older road users (70+)	87	80	+7
Young road users (16-24)	167	155	+12
Serious injuries in the Greater Adelaide Region	382	428	-46
Rural serious injuries	310	331	-21

Key Points – 2016 Fatalities and Serious Injuries:

- > **Greater Adelaide Area** - Fatal and serious injury crashes decreased in 2016 compared to 2015. There were 32 fatal crashes, 11 fewer than in 2015 (43). This continues the decline of fatal crashes in the Greater Adelaide area over the last 5 years (2011-2015 average of 42). There were 339 serious injury crashes in 2016 compared to 391 in 2015, and also fewer than the previous 5 year average of 393 (2011-2015). 41% of fatal crashes in Greater Adelaide were at intersections, a slight increase from 35% in 2015.
- > **Rural areas** – Fatal and serious injury crashes have also decreased in rural areas in 2016 compared to 2015. The decline has been similar to that of crashes in the Greater Adelaide Area. Rural fatal crashes have decreased from 53 in 2015 to 45 in 2016 (5 year average of 50). Serious injury crashes have declined from 266 in 2015 to 235 in 2016 (5 year average of 274). 56% of fatal crashes in rural areas were single vehicle crashes such as the vehicle rolling over or hitting objects such as trees, a slight decrease from 57% in 2015.
- > **Young road users** - The number of 16-19 year old fatalities dropped from 7 in 2015 to 3 in 2016, while the number of 20-24 year old fatalities increased from 9 in 2015 to 12 in 2016, also above the previous 5 year average of 10 (2011-2015). In contrast, the number of serious injuries in the 16 -19 year age group increased to 81 in 2016 compared to 71 in 2015, and above the 5 year average of 74 (2011-2015). There was a slight increase in serious injuries for the 20-24 year old age group to 86 in 2016 compared to 84 in 2015, but still well below the 5 year average of 100 (2011-2015).
- > **Older road users** – while fatalities and serious injuries for older road users aged 70+ remained relatively stable in 2016 compared to 2015, there was a notable increase in the 90+ age group with 4 fatalities and 11 serious injuries in 2016 compared to 1 fatality and 5 serious injuries in 2015 and an average of 2 fatalities and 2 serious injuries (2011-2015).
- > **Drivers** – fatalities and serious injuries decreased in 2016 compared to 2015. The number of fatalities of light vehicle drivers dropped significantly to 36 in 2016 compared to 51 in 2015 and an average of 47 (2011-2015). In contrast there were 5 heavy vehicle driver deaths compared to just one in 2015 and a 5 year average of 2 per year (2011-2015). The number of drivers seriously injured for both light and heavy vehicles also fell in 2016 compared to 2015.

Key Points – 2016 Fatalities and Serious Injuries (continued):

- > **Motorcyclists** - fatalities and serious injuries decreased in 2016 compared to 2015 and the previous 5 years. The 8 fatalities in 2016 is the lowest number of motorcycle fatalities recorded in the last 5 years and almost half of the previous 5 year average of 14 (2011-2015). Serious injuries have also seen a decline in 2016 to 109 compared to 145 in 2015 and an average of 136 (2011-2015).
- > **Pedestrians** - fatalities have halved from 18 in 2015 to 9 in 2016 and is also 40% fewer than the previous 5 year average 2011-2015. Pedestrian serious injuries increased from 50 in 2015 to 66 in 2016, but still below the previous 5 year average of 71 (2011-2015).
- > **Seatbelts** - 14% of driver and passenger fatalities in 2016 were not wearing a seatbelt at the time of the crash. A significant drop compared to 28% in 2015 and a previous 5 year average of 30% (2011-2015).
- > **Drugs and alcohol** – 30% of driver and rider fatalities in 2016 tested positive to drugs, an increase compared to 24% in 2015 and a previous 5 year average of 22%. In contrast, the proportion of driver and rider fatalities with an illegal BAC dropped to 19% in 2016 compared to 22% in 2015 and a previous 5 year average of 23%.

> Results for 2016 - Road User Types:

Table 4 - Fatalities and serious injuries by road user type, 2011-2016

Road user type	Fatalities			Serious injuries		
	Average 2011-15	2015	2016	Average 2011-15	2015	2016
Drivers	47	51	36	357	340	316
Heavy vehicle drivers	2	1	5	14	18	9
Passengers	19	17	23	144	132	140
Motorcyclists ¹	14	11	8	136	145	109
Cyclists	4	4	5	68	74	52
Pedestrians ²	15	18	9	71	50	66
Total	101	102	86	791	759	692

Gender

Table 5 - Fatalities and serious injuries by gender, 2011-2016

Gender	Fatalities			Serious injuries		
	Average 2011-15	2015	2016	Average 2011-15	2015	2016
Male	72	66	58	512	502	430
Female	29	36	28	279	256	262
Total	101	102	86	791	758	692

Age

Table 6 - Fatalities and serious injuries by age, 2011-2016

Age	Fatalities			Serious injuries		
	Average 2011-15	2015	2016	Average 2011-15	2015	2016
0-15	5	5	5	33	28	33
16-19	6	7	3	74	71	81
20-24	10	9	12	100	84	86
25-29	7	7	9	76	60	76
30-39	13	13	11	118	128	82
40-49	18	13	15	120	106	94
50-59	10	11	3	102	105	97
60-69	10	14	5	70	78	51
70-79	9	10	10	41	55	47
80-89	11	12	9	29	20	29
90+	2	1	4	2	5	11
Unknown	-	-	-	24	19	5
Total	101	102	86	791	759	692

¹ Motorcyclists include scooter operators and pillion passengers

² Pedestrians include gopher & wheelchair users

Results for 2016 - Location:

Table 7 - Fatalities and serious injuries by location, 2011-2016

Location	Fatalities			Serious injuries		
	Average 2011-15	2015	2016	Average 2011-15	2015	2016
Greater Adelaide Area	43	43	34	441	428	382
Rural Areas	58	59	52	350	331	310
Total	101	102	86	791	759	692

Table 8 - Fatal and serious injury crashes by location, 2011-2016

Location	Fatal crashes			Serious injury crashes		
	Average 2011-15	2015	2016	Average 2011-15	2015	2016
Greater Adelaide Area	42	43	32	393	391	339
Rural Areas	50	53	45	274	266	235
Total	92	96	77	667	657	574

Most common crash types in the Greater Adelaide and rural areas in 2016:

- 41% of fatal crashes in Greater Adelaide were at intersections, an increase from 35% in 2015.
- 25% of fatal crashes in the Greater Adelaide area were due to hitting a pedestrian, a decrease from 33% in 2015.
- 56% of fatal crashes in rural areas were single vehicle crashes such as the vehicle rolling over or hitting objects such as trees, a slight decrease from 57% in 2015.
- 16% of fatal crashes in rural areas were at intersections compared to 13% in 2015.
- 18% of fatal crashes in rural areas were vehicles colliding head on, a decrease from 21% in 2015.

Speed Limit

Table 9 - Fatal and serious injury crashes by speed limit, 2011-2016

Speed limit	Fatal crashes			Serious injury crashes		
	Average 2011-15	2015	2016	Average 2011-15	2015	2016
40 km/h or below	1	2	1	8	11	9
50 km/h	12	11	13	142	149	121
60 km/h	20	25	9	201	177	159
70-90 km/h	14	12	18	106	116	100
100 km/h	23	18	19	123	125	106
110 km/h	22	28	17	88	79	79
Total	92	96	77	667	657	574

- 47% of fatal crashes in 2016 were on roads with a speed limit of 100 or 110km/h compared to 48% in 2015 (also 48% for the 5 year average 2011-2015).
- Only 12% of fatal crashes in 2016 occurred on roads with a speed limit of 60km/h compared to 26% in 2015 and a 5 year average of 22% (2011-2015).

Road user and behavioural issues:

Young Road Users

- > There were 15 fatalities and 158 serious injuries in 2016 recorded in the 16 -24 year age group. The 16-19 year old age group has decreased from 7 fatalities in 2015 to 3 fatalities in 2016, while the number of 20-24 year olds has increased from 9 fatalities in 2015 to 12 fatalities in 2016.

Age	Fatalities						
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Average 2011-15	2016
16-19	6	7	2	6	7	6	3
20-24	5	10	13	11	9	10	12
Total	11	17	15	17	16	15	15

Age	Serious injuries						
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Average 2011-15	2016
16-19	94	76	50	80	71	74	81
20-24	127	104	93	90	84	100	86
Total	221	180	143	170	155	174	167

- > In 2016 young people aged 16 – 24 represented 17% of all fatalities and 24% 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 2016 include:
 - 83 drivers
 - 46 passengers
 - 34 motorcyclists,
 - 13 pedestrians
 - 6 cyclists
 - 64% were male
- > Of the 16-24 year old driver/rider fatalities and serious injuries:
 - 21 were learner drivers (1 fatality, 20 serious injuries)
 - 16 were P1 licence holders (1 fatality, 15 serious injuries)
 - 16 were P2 licence holders (all serious injuries)
 - 49 held Full licences (7 fatalities, 42 serious injuries)
 - 7 had an unknown licence status

Motorcyclists

- > There were 7 motorcycle rider fatalities in 2016 and a further 93 motorcycle riders seriously injured. In addition there was 1 scooter fatality and 12 scooter operators and 4 pillion passengers seriously injured in 2016.

	Fatalities						
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Average 2011-15	2016
Motorcyclist	20	13	12	11	11	13	7
Scooter operator	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Pillion passenger	1	2	0	0	0	1	0
Total	21	15	12	11	11	14	8
	Serious injuries						
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Average 2011-15	2016
Motorcyclist	130	105	109	116	130	118	93
Scooter operator	13	8	20	11	9	12	12
Pillion passenger	9	6	5	3	6	6	4
Total	152	119	134	130	145	136	109

- > Of the 117 motorcyclist fatalities and serious injuries:
 - 88% were male
 - 7 riders were not wearing a helmet at the time of the crash.

Age of motorcyclists killed or seriously injured in 2016 were:

Age group	Fatalities	Serious injuries
0-15	0	2
16-19	1	18
20-24	1	14
25-29	0	12
30-39	3	12
40-49	2	16
50-59	1	24
60-69	0	8
70+	0	3
Total	8	109

Pedestrians and Cyclists

- > 9 pedestrians were killed and 66 were seriously injured in 2016.
- > Five cyclists were killed and 52 were seriously injured in 2016.

	Fatalities						
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Average 2011-15	2016
Pedestrian	15	9	14	16	14	14	7
Gopher/Wheelchair	2	1	1	1	4	2	2
Cyclist	3	3	5	4	4	4	5
Total	20	13	20	21	22	19	14
	Serious injuries						
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Average 2011-15	2016
Pedestrian	80	77	83	60	46	69	64
Gopher	1	0	4	2	4	2	2
Cyclist	61	78	63	64	74	68	52
Total	142	155	150	126	124	139	118

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

Age group	Fatalities	Serious injuries
0-15	1	5
16-19	0	5
20-24	1	7
25-29	1	8
30-39	0	6
40-49	1	4
50-59	1	9
60-69	1	9
70-79	2	6
80+	1	6
Unknown	0	1
Total	9	66

Of the 9 pedestrian fatalities, 8 occurred in the Greater Adelaide Region.

Age of cyclists killed or seriously injured:

Age group	Fatalities	Serious injuries
0-15	0	4
16-19	0	4
20-24	0	2
25-29	0	3
30-39	0	4
40-49	1	11
50-59	0	14
60-69	1	7
70-79	1	1
80-89	2	2
Total	5	52

Of the 5 cyclist fatalities, 3 occurred in rural areas.

Older Road Users

- > Twenty three people aged 70 and over were killed in 2016 and a further 87 were seriously injured.
- > Fatalities and serious injuries in this age group include:
 - 54 drivers (9 fatalities, 45 serious injuries)
 - 32 passengers (7 fatalities, 25 serious injuries)
 - 3 motorcyclists (all serious injuries)
 - 16 pedestrians & 3 gopher/wheelchair riders (3 fatalities, 13 serious injuries)
 - 4 cyclists (3 fatalities and 1 serious injuries)
 - 56% were female
 - 55% of serious casualties occurred in the Greater Adelaide Region
 - 40% of the driver / rider serious casualties occurred at an intersection

Age	Fatalities						
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Average 2011-15	2016
70-79	7	7	11	9	10	9	10
80-89	9	14	11	10	12	11	9
90+	3	1	2	3	1	2	4
Total	19	22	24	22	23	22	23
Age	Serious injuries						
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Average 2011-15	2016
70-79	30	38	53	30	55	41	47
80-89	41	35	27	24	20	29	29
90+	2	0	2	3	5	2	11
Total	73	73	82	57	80	73	87

Drink driving

- > Forensic results show 19% of drivers/riders killed in fatal crashes in 2016 had an illegal blood alcohol concentration (BAC). This compares to 22% in 2015 and a 5 year average of 23%.

	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+	
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%
2015	63	58	2	1	10	22%
5 year avg 2011-2015	62	58	1	3	10	23%
2016	49	47	0	3	6	19%

Drug driving

- > Forensic results show 30% of drivers/riders killed in fatal crashes in 2016 tested positive for the presence of cannabis, methamphetamine or ecstasy or a combination of these drugs. This compares to 24% in 2015 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
2011	60	58	13	22%
2012	65	59	13	22%
2013	60	56	10	18%
2014	63	61	15	25%
2015	64	58	14	24%
5 year average 2011-2015	62	58	13	22%
2016	49	47	14	30%

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 2016 speeding was considered a contributing factor. This is slightly above the 5 year (2011-2015) average of 29% of fatal crashes being considered as speed related. In 2015 this figure was also 30%.
- > 45% of fatal crashes and 32% 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+
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%
2015	2	11	25	12	18	28	48%
5 year average 2011-15	1	12	20	14	23	22	48%
2016	1	13	9	18	19	17	47%

	Serious injury crashes						
	Below 50km/h	50km/h	60km/h	70-90km/h	100km/h	110km/h	% on roads 100km/h+
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%
2015	11	149	177	116	125	79	31%
5 year average 2011-15	7	142	201	106	123	88	32%
2016	9	121	159	100	106	79	32%

Non restraint use

- > Of the drivers and passengers killed in 2016, 14% were not wearing a seatbelt at the time of the crash, in 2015, 28% were not restrained and the previous 5 year average (2011-2015) is 30%.
- > Of the 8 drivers and passengers killed not wearing a seatbelt 5 were male.

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 2016 shows that at least 13 crashes were likely to be due to fatigue; this is compared to 10 crashes in 2015.

Age of passenger vehicles involved in crashes

- > In 2016 of the passenger vehicles involved in fatal crashes 61% were 10 years old or greater, above the 5 year average (2011-2015) of 58% of passenger vehicles involved in fatal crashes. In addition 63% of passenger vehicles involved in serious injury crashes in 2016 were 10 years or older.

Age	Passenger vehicles involved in fatal crashes						
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Average 2011-15	2016
Less than 5 years	17	16	16	22	18	18	22
Over 5 but less than 10 years	20	24	24	20	24	22	20
10 years or more	52	53	59	58	59	56	67
Total	89	93	99	100	101	96	109
Age	Passenger vehicles involved in serious injury crashes						
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Average 2011-15	2016
Less than 5 years	142	112	134	116	134	128	100
Over 5 but less than 10 years	215	135	168	165	137	164	140
10 years or more	483	399	414	342	423	412	400
Total	840	646	716	623	694	704	640

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
2015	102	6.0	1,212,113	1,400,536	13 (22%)	14 (24%)	19 (28%)	59	43
2016	86	5.0	1,219,238	1,736,785	8 (19%)	13 (30%)	8 (14%)	52	34

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 – 2016

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
			2016	86	692

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.

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, Tumby 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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