

MALES AND FEMALES INVOLVED IN ROAD CRASHES IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

OVERVIEW While casualty numbers have seen a significant drop over the past decades, males remain over represented in fatalities and serious injuries in South Australia, but not in minor injuries. This trend is reflected across Australia. In the past 5 years males have represented 69% of all fatalities, 65% of serious injuries yet only 48% of minor injuries.

Since 2000 the overall number of road casualties has declined. Figure 1 below illustrates the number of total casualties per year for both males and females since 2000. From here we can see that the fall in numbers of male and female casualties has followed a similar trend and the proportion of gender is almost equal. This trend of equal proportions of casualties is only apparent because of increased female involvement in minor injuries, when we consider serious injuries and fatalities, males are clearly over-represented as illustrated in Table 1 and Figure 2.

Figure 1: Number of casualties (fatal, serious and minor) per year by sex, South Australia, 2000-2016

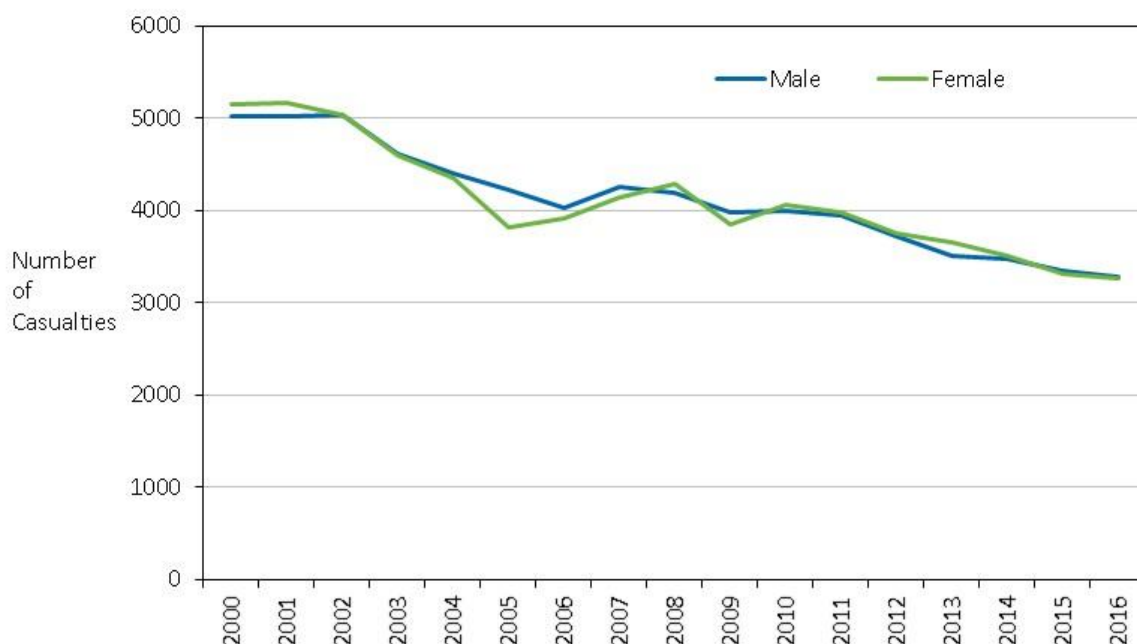


Table 1: Percent of casualties by severity and gender, South Australia, 2012-2016

Year	Minor injuries		Serious injuries		Fatalities	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
2012	48%	52%	66%	34%	77%	23%
2013	47%	53%	64%	36%	70%	30%
2014	47%	53%	66%	34%	70%	30%
2015	48%	52%	66%	34%	65%	35%
2016	48%	52%	65%	35%	69%	31%

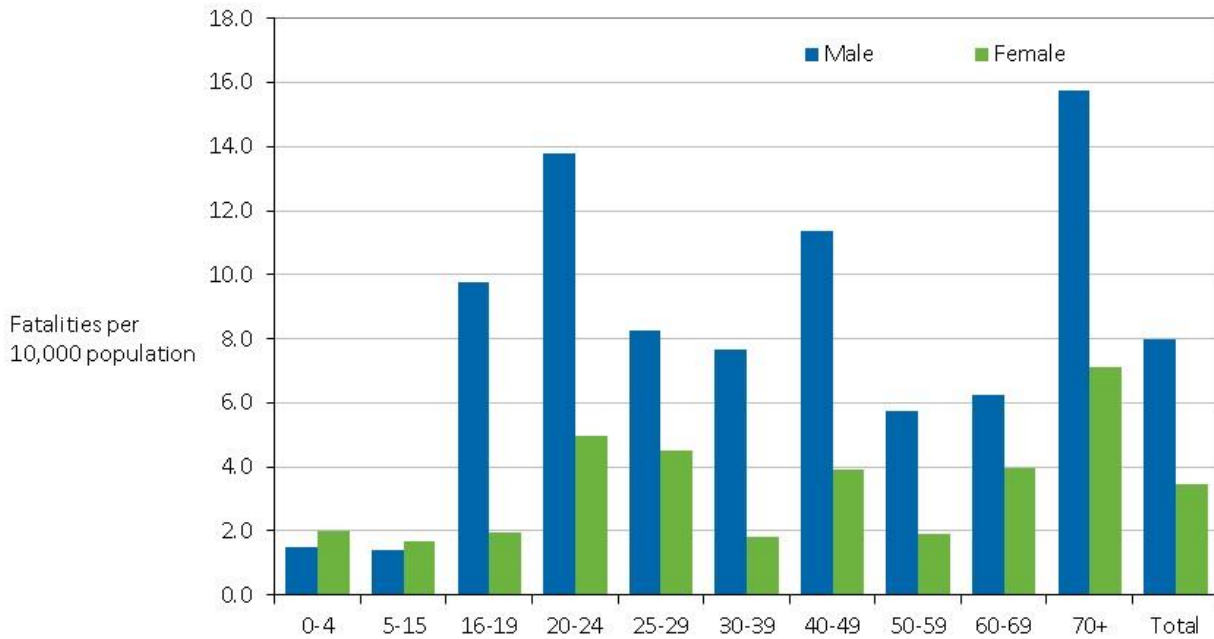
Figure 2: Number of serious injuries and fatalities by gender, South Australia, 2000-2016



Males are almost two and a half times more likely to be killed in a car crash than females. During 2012-2016, 338 (69%) males were killed on South Australian roads, compared to 149 (31%) females.

This is also reflected in the rate of fatalities. The fatality rate per 100,000 of the male population is 8.0 compared with females at 3.4 on average for the same five year period, 2012 to 2016. Seen in figure 3 below.

Figure 3: Fatality rate per 10,000 population by age & gender, South Australia, 2012-2016¹



Location

Table 2 shows little difference in location of fatalities between the sexes. 43% of males and 39% of females were killed in the metropolitan Adelaide area in the 5 year period 2012 to 2016.

Table 2: Fatalities by location and gender, South Australia, 2012-2016

Location ²	Sex of fatality	
	Male	Female
Adelaide metropolitan area	43%	39%
Rural area	57%	61%

¹ 3101.0 Australian Demographic Statistics, Australian Bureau of Statistics, June 2016.

² Rural and metro boundaries changed on 1 January 2013 to align with new ABS Greater Adelaide City Statistical Area boundaries, new boundaries have been used in calculations and will not be comparable with previous editions of this report. 3

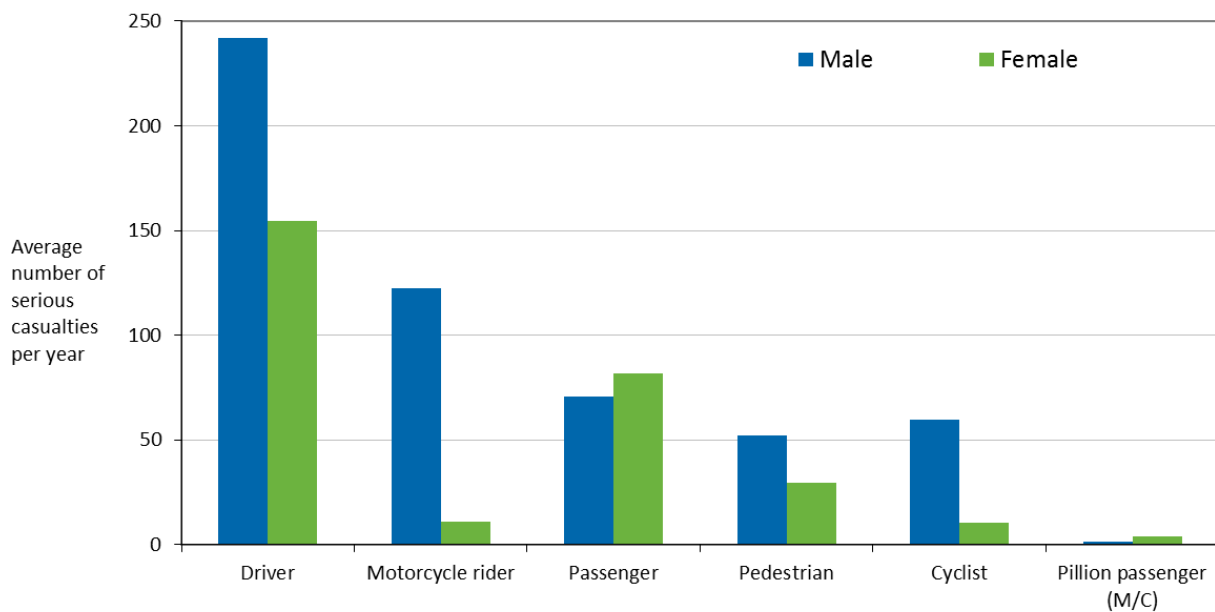
Table 3: Average number of fatalities per year in South Australia, 2012-2016 and ratio³ of males to females

User Type	Male	Female	Total	M:F Ratio
Driver	35	14	49	2 : 1
Passenger	9	10	19	1 : 1
Motorcyclist (M/C)	11	0	11	26 : 1
Pillion passenger (M/C)	0	0	0	0 : 1
Cyclist	3	1	4	4 : 1
Pedestrian	10	4	14	3 : 1
Total	68	30	98	2 : 1

Table 3 highlights that overall males are more likely to suffer a fatality. The most striking difference is the male to female ratio involving motorcyclists, there are exceptionally higher numbers of males compared to females. These findings are partly attributable to exposure; that is more males than females are licensed to ride motorcycles.

Road user types

Figure 4: Average number of fatalities and serious injuries by road user, South Australia, 2012-2016



Males are over-represented in those categories where the road user is most likely to be in control of their own situation, i.e. drivers, motorcyclists, cyclists and pedestrians. This could be a reflection of risk taking behaviour in males. High-risk behaviours such as drink driving and speeding play a major role in serious casualty crashes.

³ Ratios have been rounded

Drug and Alcohol Involvement

Males have a much higher number of reported incidences of drink driving related fatal crashes compared to females. In the past 5 years, 87% of driver or rider fatalities that had a blood alcohol level above the legal limit were male.

Furthermore 84% of driver or rider fatalities with a positive reading for methamphetamine, THC or ecstasy or a combination of these drugs were male.

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 duration of at least 24 hours as a result of a road crash and who does not die as a result of those injuries within 30 days of the crash.

Minor Injury Crash – A crash in which at least one person sustains injury but no person is admitted to hospital or dies within 30 days of the crash.

Minor Injury – A person who sustains injuries requiring medical treatment, either by a doctor or in a 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.

Property Damage Only Crash – A crash resulting in property damage in excess of the prescribed amount in which no person is injured or dies within 30 days of the crash.

Data sources

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

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