



2014 Road Fatalities and Serious Injuries in South Australia

There were 108 fatalities recorded on South Australian roads in 2014 this is eleven more than the 97 fatalities recorded in 2013 and is two more than the previous 5 year average (2009 – 2013) of 106 fatalities.

Serious injuries have seen a decrease from 790 in 2013 to 711 in 2014. The previous 5 year average (2009 – 2013) is 928 serious injuries per year.

Table 1 - Fatalities and serious injuries, South Australia, 2009-2014

Year	Fatalities	Serious injuries
2009	119	1109
2010	118	1050
2011	103	931
2012	94	761
2013	97	790
2014	108	711

South Australia’s fatality rate for 2014 is 6.4 per 100,000 population and is above the 5.8 recorded at the end of 2013.

Key Points – 2014 Fatalities:

- > Fatal crashes in the Adelaide metropolitan area have decreased from 35 in 2013 to 34 in 2014. Rural fatal crashes have increased from 54 in 2013 to 62 in 2014.
- > Young road user fatalities aged 16-24 increased from 15 in 2013 to 17 in 2014, but are below the previous 5 year average of 23 fatalities (2009-2013). The number of younger road user fatalities has been decreasing in the last 5 years and remains at much lower levels than a decade ago.
- > Older road user fatalities aged 70+ decreased from 24 deaths in 2013 to 21 in 2014, and three more than the previous 5 year average 2009-2013.
- > The number of motorcyclists killed has decreased from 12 in 2013 to 11 in 2014.
- > Passenger fatalities increased from 17 in 2013 to 24 (41% more) in 2014.
- > 26% of driver and passenger fatalities in 2014 were not wearing a seatbelt at the time of the crash, a decrease compared to 31% in 2013 and 34% for the previous 5 year average (2009-2013).
- > The number of fatal crashes on 110km/h roads increased by 79% from 14 crashes in 2013 to 25 crashes in 2014.
- > The number of fatal crashes on 50km/h roads decreased from 19 in 2013 to 7 in 2014.
- > 22% of drivers and motorcycle riders killed had an illegal BAC, a decrease in the proportion compared to 2013 (25%) and the previous 5 year average (27%).
- > 24% of drivers and motorcycle riders killed tested positive for the presence of cannabis, methamphetamine or ecstasy or a combination of these drugs, an increase in the proportion compared to 2013 (18%) and the previous 5 year average (21%).

Key Points - Serious injuries:

- > Serious injuries have decreased by 10% from 790 in 2013 to 711 in 2014 and is the lowest serious injury total on record.
- > Seriously injured drivers have decreased from 369 in 2013 to 320 in 2014.
- > The number of pedestrian serious injuries has decreased from 87 in 2013 to 59 in 2014.
- > 16-24 year old serious injuries have increased from 143 in 2013 to 170 in 2014. The increase has been in the number of 16-19 year olds seriously injured from 50 in 2013 to 80 in 2014.
- > Older road users aged 70+ seriously injured decreased from 82 in 2013 to 57 in 2014.
- > Female serious injuries decreased from 288 in 2013 to 239 in 2014 and male serious injuries decreased from 502 in 2013 to 472 in 2014.
- > Overall serious injury crashes have decreased by 11% in 2014 compared to 2013. The majority of the decrease has been in metro areas from 359 serious injury crashes in 2013 to 313 serious injury crashes in 2014.
- > Serious injury crashes decreased on 60km/h roads from 204 in 2013 to 163 in 2014. They also decreased from 115 crashes in 2013 to 111 crashes in 2014 on 100km/h roads and from 82 crashes in 2013 to 68 crashes in 2014 on 110km/h roads.

Results for 2014 - Road User Types:

Table 2 - Fatalities and serious injuries by road user type, 2009-2014

Road user type	Fatalities			Serious injuries		
	Average 2009-13	2013	2014	Average 2009-13	2013	2014
Drivers	50	46	49	431	369	309
Heavy vehicle drivers	2	2	3	15	15	11
Passengers	22	17	24	181	122	135
Motorcyclists ¹	16	12	11	145	134	130
Cyclists	3	5	4	69	63	62
Pedestrians ²	14	15	17	87	87	59
Other	0	0	0	1	0	5
Total	106	97	108	928	790	711

Gender

Table 3 - Fatalities and serious injuries by gender, 2009-2014

Gender	Fatalities			Serious injuries		
	Average 2009-13	2013	2014	Average 2009-13	2013	2014
Male	77	68	76	590	502	472
Female	29	29	32	338	288	239
Total	106	97	108	928	790	711

Age

Table 4 - Fatalities and serious injuries by age, 2009-2014

Age	Fatalities			Serious injuries		
	Average 2009-13	2013	2014	Average 2009-13	2013	2014
0-15	4	6	7	44	37	26
16-19	11	2	6	94	50	80
20-24	12	13	11	119	93	90
25-29	7	5	9	99	81	71
30-39	14	6	13	138	112	99
40-49	20	20	21	132	120	122
50-59	13	12	6	108	117	93
60-69	7	9	13	74	70	54
70-79	8	11	9	47	53	30
80-89	9	11	10	38	27	24
90+	2	2	3	3	2	3
Unknown	0	0	0	33	28	19
Total	106	97	108	928	790	711

¹ Motorcyclists include scooter operators and pillion passengers

² Pedestrians include gopher users

Results for 2014 - Location:

Table 5 - Fatalities and serious injuries by location, 2009-2014

Location	Fatalities			Serious injuries		
	Average 2009-13	2013	2014	Average 2009-13	2013	2014
Metropolitan Areas	39	37	35	473	411	338
Rural Areas	67	60	73	455	379	373
Total	106	97	108	928	790	711

Table 6 - Fatal and serious injury crashes by location, 2009-2014

Location	Fatal crashes			Serious injury crashes		
	Average 2009-13	2013	2014	Average 2009-13	2013	2014
Metropolitan Areas	37	35	34	419	359	313
Rural Areas	59	54	62	356	307	281
Total	96	89	96	775	666	594

Most common crash types in metropolitan and rural areas in 2014:

- 47% of fatal crashes in metropolitan Adelaide were due to hitting a pedestrian.
- 29% of fatal crashes in metropolitan Adelaide were at intersections.
- 52% of fatal crashes in rural areas were single vehicle crashes such as the vehicle rolling over or hitting objects such as trees.
- 24% of fatal crashes in rural areas were vehicles colliding head on.

Speed Limit

Table 7 - Fatal and serious injury crashes by speed limit, 2009-2014

Speed limit	Fatal crashes			Serious injury crashes		
	Average 2009-13	2013	2014	Average 2009-13	2013	2014
Less than 50	1	2	1	8	6	13
50 km/h	12	19	7	160	143	147
60 km/h	20	18	24	250	204	163
70-90 km/h	19	12	8	112	116	92
100 km/h	22	24	32	129	115	111
110 km/h	23	14	24	116	82	68
Total	96	89	96	775	666	594

Road user and behavioural issues:

Young Road Users

- > There were 17 fatalities and 170 serious injuries recorded in the 16 -24 year age group in 2014. The number of 16-24 year olds seriously injured increased by 16% from 143 in 2013 to 170 in 2014.

Age	Fatalities						
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Average 2009-13	2014
16-19	20	19	6	7	2	11	6
20-24	22	12	5	10	13	12	11
Total	42	31	11	17	15	23	17

Age	Serious injuries						
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Average 2009-13	2014
16-19	138	110	94	76	50	94	80
20-24	138	131	127	104	93	119	90
Total	276	241	221	180	143	213	170

- > In 2014 young people aged 16 – 24 represented 16% of all fatalities and 25% 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 2014 include:
 - 98 drivers
 - 49 passengers
 - 9 pedestrians
 - 23 motorcyclists, 3 scooter riders, 4 cyclists
- > Of the 16-24 year old driver/rider fatalities and serious injuries:
 - 9 were learner drivers (1 fatality, 8 serious injuries)
 - 36 were P1 licence holders (2 fatalities, 36 serious injuries)
 - 16 were P2 licence holders (2 fatalities, 14 serious injuries)

Motorcyclists

- > There were 11 motorcycle rider fatalities and 116 motorcycle riders seriously injured in 2014. In addition there were 11 scooter operators and 3 pillion passengers seriously injured in 2014.
- > The number of motorcyclists seriously injured has decreased slightly from 134 in 2013 to 130 in 2014.

	Fatalities						
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Average 2009-13	2014
Motorcyclist	14	15	20	13	12	15	11
Scooter operator	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Pillion passenger	1	0	1	2	0	1	0
Total	15	16	21	15	12	16	11
	Serious injuries						
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Average 2009-13	2014
Motorcyclist	146	138	130	105	109	126	116
Scooter operator	13	8	13	8	20	12	11
Pillion passenger	9	7	9	6	5	7	3
Total	168	153	152	119	134	145	130

- > Of the 141 fatalities and serious injuries in 2014:
 - 90% were male
 - 6 were not wearing a helmet at the time of the crash.

Pedestrians and Cyclists

- > Sixteen pedestrians were killed and 59 were seriously injured in 2014 (including three gopher riders).
- > Four cyclists were killed and 62 cyclists were seriously injured in 2014.

	Fatalities						
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Average 2009-13	2014
Pedestrian	9	16	15	9	14	13	16
Gopher	1	0	2	1	1	1	1
Cyclist	2	5	3	3	5	3	4
Total	12	21	20	13	20	17	20
	Serious injuries						
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Average 2009-13	2014
Pedestrian	85	102	76	77	83	85	57
Gopher	4	1	1	0	4	2	2
Cyclist	59	82	61	78	63	69	62
Total	148	185	138	155	150	156	121

The age of pedestrians (includes gopher operators) killed or seriously injured in 2014 were:

Age group	Serious casualties
0-15	6
16-19	2
20-24	7
25-29	2
30-39	9
40-49	13
50-59	6
60-69	11
70-79	5
80-89	12
90	1
Unknown	1
Total	75

The age of cyclists killed or seriously injured in 2014 were:

Age group	Serious casualties
0-15	3
16-19	1
20-24	3
25-29	3
30-39	14
40-49	14
50-59	17
60-69	7
70-79	2
80-89	1
Unknown	1
Total	66

Older Road Users

- > Twenty two people aged 70 and over were killed and a further 57 people seriously injured in 2014.
- > Fatalities and serious injuries in this age group for 2014 include:
 - 41 drivers
 - 14 passengers
 - 1 motorcyclists, 1 scooter operator and 1 pillion passenger
 - 15 pedestrians, 3 cyclists & 3 gopher riders

Age	Fatalities						
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Average 2009-13	2014
70-79	6	7	7	7	11	8	9
80-89	6	4	9	14	11	9	10
90+	0	3	3	1	2	2	3
Total	12	14	19	22	24	19	22
Age	Serious injuries						
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Average 2009-13	2014
70-79	50	64	30	38	53	47	30
80-89	39	49	41	35	27	38	24
90+	6	7	2	0	2	3	3
Total	95	120	73	73	82	88	57

Non restraint use

- > Of the drivers and passengers killed in 2014, 25% were not wearing a seatbelt at the time of the crash, in 2013 31% were not restrained and the previous 5 year average (2009-2013) is 34%.
- > In addition 11% of vehicle occupants who were seriously injured were not wearing seatbelts in 2014 (equal to the previous 5 year average, 2009-2013).

Drink driving

- > Forensic results show 22% of drivers/riders killed in fatal crashes in 2014 had an illegal blood alcohol concentration (BAC). This compares to 25% in 2013 and a 5 year average (2009-2013) of 27%.

	Number of driver and rider fatalities	Number of driver and rider fatalities tested	Number that tested with BAC level 0.05+			Percentage of those that were 0.05
			0.05-0.079	0.08-0.149	0.15+	
2009	74	73	2	8	17	37%
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%
5 year avg 2009-2013	66	63	1	4	12	27%
2014	63	58	0	5	8	22%

Drug driving

- > Forensic results show 24% of drivers/riders killed in 2014 tested positive for the presence of cannabis, methamphetamine or ecstasy or a combination of these drugs. This compares to 18% in 2013 and a 5 year average (2009-2013) of 21%.

	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
2009	74	73	17	23%
2010	73	71	15	21%
2011	60	58	13	22%
2012	65	59	13	22%
2013	60	56	10	18%
5 year average 2009-2013	66	63	14	21%
2014	63	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 preliminary analysis suggests that in 28% of fatal crashes in 2014 speeding was considered a contributing factor. This is lower than the 5 year (2009-2013) average of 33% of fatal crashes being considered as speed related. In 2013 this figure was 26%.
- > 58% of all fatal crashes and 30% of serious injury crashes occur on roads with a speed limit of 100km/h or above.

	Fatal and serious casualty crashes						
	Below 50km/h	50km/h	60km/h	70-90km/h	100km/h	110km/h	% on high speed roads 100km/h or above
2009	13	213	299	150	162	175	33%
2010	12	197	334	130	153	165	32%
2011	2	169	271	125	157	151	35%
2012	7	124	224	120	144	104	34%
2013	8	162	222	128	139	96	31%
5 year average 2009-13	8	173	270	131	151	138	33%
2014	14	154	187	100	143	92	34%

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 2014 shows that at least 15 crashes (16%) were likely to be due to fatigue; this is an increase compared to the 2013 total with 9 (10%) fatal crashes being likely due to fatigue.

Age of vehicles involved in crashes

- > In 2014 of the passenger vehicles involved in fatal crashes 60% were 10 years old or greater, equal to the 5 year average (2009-2013) of 62% of passenger vehicles involved in fatal crashes. In addition 59% of passenger vehicles involved in serious injury crashes were 10 years or older.
- > In 2014 of the passenger vehicles involved in fatal crashes 16% were less than 5 years old. This is equal to the previous 5 years (2009-2013) of 16%. In addition 17% of passenger vehicles involved in serious injury crashes were less than 5 years old.

Age	Vehicles involved in fatal crashes						
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Average 2009-13	2014
Less than 5 years	14	17	17	16	16	16	22
Over 5 but less than 10 years	23	21	20	24	24	22	20
10 years or more	70	84	52	53	58	63	58
Total	107	122	89	93	98	102	100
Age	Vehicles involved in serious injury crashes						
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Average 2009-13	2014
Less than 5 years	173	158	142	113	134	144	116
Over 5 but less than 10 years	261	230	215	135	168	202	163
10 years or more	553	602	483	399	414	297	341
Total	987	990	840	647	716	836	620

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 ¹	Location	
							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
2013	97	5.8	1,191,202	1,363,621	14 (25%)	18 (31%)	60	37
2014	108	6.4	1,196,568	1,353,829	13 (22%)	16 (26%)	73	35

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

Fatalities & Serious Injuries, South Australia, 1950 – 2014

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