



Definitions and notes to support road crash data

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1 Crash statistics

1.1 Guidelines

Our statistics are confined to crashes that conform to the national guidelines for reporting and classifying road vehicle crashes. The guidelines include crashes that meet all of these criteria:

- Were reported to the police
- Occurred on a road open to the public
- Involved at least one moving road vehicle
- Involved at least one person being killed or injured or at least one motor vehicle being towed away

Reports for some crashes are not received until well into the following year and after the annual crash database has been finalised. These amount to fewer than 1 per cent of recorded crashes and are counted in the following year's statistics.

1.2 Crash reporting

Before 2000, Section 8 (3) of the Traffic Act 1909 required a road crash in NSW to be reported to the police when any person was killed or injured, or there was property damage of more than \$500.

On 1 December 1999, the Traffic Act was repealed and replaced by new traffic legislation including the adoption of the Australian Road Rules. The new traffic legislation is found in the Road Transport (General) Act 1999 and the Road Transport (Safety and Traffic Management) Act 1999 and the regulations made under those Acts.

Rule 287 (3) of the Road Rules requires a crash to be reported to police when any person is killed or injured; when drivers involved in the crash do not exchange particulars; or when a vehicle involved in the crash is towed away.

2 Interactive crash statistics

2.1 Date of information

Data in our interactive displays was taken from our crash database on 16 April 2014.

2.2 Provisional data

The 2013 fatality data presented is provisional as at midnight 31 December 2013 and subject to change.

2.3 Date of crash

Data presented in these displays is based on the 'date of crash' and may differ slightly to other published data, based on 'reporting year'. This difference only applies to non-fatality data displayed.

2.4 Road User data

In some displays the Road User values 'Other Controller' (e.g horse riders) and 'Other Passenger' (e.g train or light rail passenger) have been suppressed. However, the Grand Total will include these values.

2.5 Injury statistics recording process change

A change in injury recording practice from mid 2010 to the end of 2011 resulted in a slightly higher number of recorded injuries in this time period. Care should be taken when comparing data from previous and following years.

2.6 Pedal cycle crashes

Many non-fatal pedal cycle crashes are not reported to police. As the NSW Police Force is our only source of crash information, statistics of pedal cycle crashes could be much higher than reported.

3 Definitions and notes

Alcohol involved in crash: Determined by whether any of the vehicle drivers or riders in the crash had an illegal level of alcohol.

Animal rider: A person sitting on or riding a horse or other animal.

Articulated truck: Any articulated tanker, semi-trailer, low loader, road train or B-double.

Bicycle rider: See Pedal cycle rider.

Bus: Includes State Transit Authority bus and long distance/tourist coach.

Car: Includes sedan, station wagon, utility (based on car design), panel van (based on car design), coupe, hatchback, sports car, passenger van and four-wheel-drive passenger vehicle.

Carriageway: That part of the road improved or designed to be ordinarily used by moving vehicles. When a road has two or more of these parts, divided by a median strip or other physical separation, each of these is a separate carriageway.

Casualty: Any person killed or injured because of a crash.

Controller: A person occupying the controlling position of a road vehicle.

Country: All local government areas except Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, Wollongong and Shellharbour, and those in metropolitan Sydney.

Crash: Any unplanned event involving a road vehicle on a road that results in death, injury or property damage and is reported to the police.

Crash type: The type of crash grouped according to the road user movement code recorded (see Road user movement code)

Driver: A controller of a motor vehicle other than a motorcycle.

Emergency vehicle: Includes ambulance, fire brigade vehicle, police patrol car (or van) and tow truck.

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

Fatality: A person who dies within 30 days of a crash because of injuries received in that crash.

Footpath: That part of the road which is ordinarily reserved for pedestrian movement as a matter of right or custom.

Heavy truck: Any heavy rigid truck or articulated truck.

Heavy rigid truck: Any rigid lorry or rigid tanker with a tare weight in excess of 4.5 tonnes.

Injured: A person who is injured because of a crash, and who does not die from those injuries within 30 days of the crash.

Injury crash: A non-fatal crash where at least one person is injured.

Intersection crash: A crash where the first impact occurs at or within 10 metres of an intersection.

Killed: See Fatality.

LGA: The local government area where the crash occurred.

Light truck: Includes panel van (not based on car design), utility (not based on car design) and mobile vending vehicle.

Metropolitan: All local government areas in metropolitan Sydney, as well as Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, Wollongong and Shellharbour.

Motor vehicle: Any road vehicle that is mechanically or electrically powered but not operated on rails.

Motorcycle: Any mechanically or electronically propelled two or three-wheeled machine with or without sidecar. Includes solo motorcycle, motorcycle with sidecar, motor scooter, mini-bike, three-wheeled special mobility vehicle and moped (motorised 'pedal cycle').

Motorcycle passenger: A person on but not controlling a motorcycle.

Motorcycle rider: A person occupying the controlling position of a motorcycle.

Motorcyclist: Includes motorcycle riders and motorcycle passengers.

Natural lighting conditions: The natural lighting at the time of the crash.

Newcastle metropolitan area: The local government areas of Newcastle and Lake Macquarie cities.

Non-casualty crash: A crash in which at least one vehicle is towed away where there is no death and no person injured.

Passenger: Any person, other than the controller, who is in, on, boarding, entering, alighting or falling from a road vehicle at the time of the crash, provided a portion of the person is in or on the road vehicle.

Pedal cycle: Any two or three-wheeled device operated solely by pedals and propelled by human power except toy vehicles or other pedestrian conveyances. Includes bicycles with side-car, trailer or training wheels attached.

Pedal cycle passenger: A person on but not controlling a pedal cycle.

Pedal cycle rider: A person occupying the controlling position of a pedal cycle.

Pedal cyclist: Includes pedal cycle riders and pedal cycle passengers.

Pedestrian: Any person who is not in, on, boarding, entering, alighting or falling from a road vehicle at the time of the crash.

Pedestrian conveyance: Any device, ordinarily operated on the footpath, by which a pedestrian may move, or by which a pedestrian may move another pedestrian or goods. Includes non-motorised scooter, pedal car, skateboard, roller skates, in-line skates, toy tricycle, unicycle, push cart, sled, trolley, non-motorised go-cart, bilycart, pram, wheelbarrow, handbarrow, non-motorised wheelchair or any other toy device used as a means of mobility.

Reporting year: The year in which the crash was recorded for reporting purposes.

Road: The area devoted to public travel within a surveyed road reserve. Includes a footpath and cycle path inside the road reserve and a median strip or traffic island.

Road vehicle: Any device (except pedestrian conveyance) upon which or by which any person or property may be transported or drawn on a road.

Road surface condition: The condition of the road surface at the crash location (e.g. wet, dry).

Road user: The class of road user (e.g. driver, pedestrian).

Road user movement code: The road user movement or RUM code describing the first impact for the crash. See Appendix A.

Speed limit: The maximum speed limit where the crash occurred.

Sydney metropolitan area: The local government areas of City of Sydney, Bankstown, Blacktown, Botany Bay, Campbelltown, Canada Bay, Canterbury, Fairfield, Holroyd, Hurstville, Liverpool, Parramatta, Penrith, Randwick, Rockdale, Ryde and Willoughby cities, Ashfield, Auburn, Burwood, Camden, Hornsby, Hunters Hill, Kogarah, Ku-ring-gai, Lane Cove, Leichhardt, Manly, Marrickville, Mosman, North Sydney, Pittwater, Strathfield, Sutherland, The Hills, Warringah, Waverley and Woollahra.

Weather: The weather conditions at the time of the crash.

Wollongong metropolitan area: The local government areas of Wollongong and Shellharbour cities.

4 Speeding and fatigue involvement

4.1 Speeding

It is not always clear from police reports if speeding (excessive speed for the prevailing conditions) was a contributing factor in a road crash.

We consider speeding to have been a contributing factor if at least one speeding motor vehicle was in a crash. We say a motor vehicle was speeding if it meets any of these conditions:

- The vehicle's driver or rider was charged with a speeding offence
- Police said the vehicle was travelling at excessive speed
- The speed of the vehicle was faster than that allowed for the licence class of the driver or rider, or the vehicle weight (introduced 1 January 2010)
- The speed of the vehicle was higher than the speed limit
- While on a curve the vehicle jack-knifed, skidded, slid or the controller lost control
- The vehicle ran off the road on a bend or turning a corner and the driver or rider was not distracted by something, or affected by drowsiness or sudden illness, and was not swerving to avoid another vehicle, animal or object, and the vehicle did not have equipment failure

4.2 Fatigue

It is not always clear from police reports if fatigue was a contributing factor in a road crash. We consider fatigue to have been a contributing factor if at least one fatigued vehicle driver or rider was in a road crash. We define a vehicle driver or rider to be fatigued if they meet any of these conditions:

- Police said the motor vehicle driver or rider was asleep, drowsy or tired
- The vehicle travelled onto the incorrect side of a straight road and had a head-on collision (and was not overtaking another vehicle and no other relevant factor was found)
- The vehicle ran off a straight road or off the road to the outside of a curve and the vehicle was not travelling at excessive speed and there was no other relevant factor found for the crash.