

WA Road Fatalities 2021

As at 24 January 2022

This publication reports on people who have been killed in a reported crash on WA roads or road-related areas that are open to the public. This excludes those killed as a result of premeditated intent to cause harm (including suicide) or if they were in control of a vehicle and the crash was caused by them suffering a medical episode.

A fatality is defined as person killed immediately or within 30 days of the crash, as a result of injuries sustained in the crash.

WA annual road fatalities

Year	Metropolitan	Regional	WA
2016	76	120	196
2017	69	91	160
2018	61	98	159
2019	65	99	164
2020	62	93	155
2021	67	99	166

Fatalities by Police region

Police region	2020	5 Year Average (5YA)	2021	% change (2021 v 5YA)
Metropolitan	62	66.6	67	1%
Regional	93	100.2	99	-1%
Goldfields-Esperance	8	7.8	14	79%
Great Southern	20	20.6	25	21%
Kimberley	11	8.6	4	-53%
Mid West-Gascoyne	12	11.2	9	-20%
Pilbara	4	6.8	5	-26%
South West	27	25.4	24	-6%
Wheatbelt	11	19.8	18	-9%
Total	155	166.8	166	0%

Fatalities by age

Age	2020	5 Year Average	2021	% change (2021 v 5YA)
0-16	8	9.0	12	33%
17-19	14	10.2	6	-41%
20-29	34	39.8	40	1%
30-39	22	25.8	22	-15%
40-49	18	28.6	17	-41%
50-59	26	17.2	23	34%
60-69	13	13.4	19	42%
70-79	9	9.6	13	35%
80+	11	12.2	13	7%
Not recorded	0	1.0	1	0%
Total	155	166.8	166	0%

Fatalities by sex

Sex	2020	5 Year Average	2021	% change (2021 v 5YA)
Female	39	41.2	38	-8%
Male	116	125.6	128	2%
Total	155	166.8	166	0%

Fatalities by road user type

Road user type	2020	5 Year Average	2021	% change (2021 v 5YA)
Motor vehicle occupant	115	117.0	107	-9%
Motorcyclist	26	30.4	34	12%
Pedestrian	9	15.2	21	38%
Cyclist	5	4.2	4	-5%
Total	155	166.8	166	0%

*Pedestrian may include eRideable users, skateboarders, motorised wheelchair riders, horse riders, scooter riders, etc.

Fatalities by month

Month	2020	5 Year Average	2021	% change (2021 v 5YA)
Jan	11	15.8	25	58%
Feb	12	10.8	8	-26%
Mar	11	14.8	11	-26%
Apr	9	14.8	12	-19%
May	15	12.4	16	29%
Jun	12	12.8	12	-6%
Jul	14	13.0	15	15%
Aug	13	14.2	11	-23%
Sep	10	12.2	18	48%
Oct	18	14.4	10	-31%
Nov	19	14.6	14	-4%
Dec	11	17.0	14	-18%
Total	155	166.8	166	0%

Fatalities by speed limit

Speed limit	2020	5 Year Average	2021	% change (2021 v 5YA)
20	0	1.0	1	0%
40	0	0.6	1	67%
50	15	18.8	20	6%
60	14	20.6	23	12%
70	9	12.8	11	-14%
80	22	15.4	16	4%
90	10	9.6	6	-38%
100	12	11.0	15	36%
110	69	74.0	69	-7%
Not recorded	4	3.0	4	33%
Total	155	166.8	166	0%

Fatalities by crash nature

Crash nature	2020	5 Year Average	2021	% change (2021 v 5YA)
Single vehicle	98	107.4	115	7%
Non-collision	31	30.0	15	-50%
Hit object	57	60.8	80	32%
Hit pedestrian	8	13.4	18	34%
Hit animal	0	1.2	1	-17%
Hit parked vehicle	0	0.6	0	-100%
Passenger fell	2	1.4	1	-29%
Multiple vehicle	57	57.0	51	-11%
Indirect right angled	8	5.4	6	11%
Head on	19	18.4	15	-18%
Rear end	2	8.2	8	-2%
Right angled	23	20.6	19	-8%
Sideswipe - opposite direction	2	2.8	0	-100%
Sideswipe - same direction	3	1.6	3	88%
Not recorded	0	3.0	0	-100%
Total	155	166.8	166	0%

Motor Vehicle Occupant (MVO) fatalities by seatbelt usage

Seatbelt usage	2020	5 Year Average	2021	% change (2021 v 5YA)
Not worn	24	24.0	17	-29%
Worn	60	63.8	48	-25%
Not recorded	31	29.2	42	44%
Total MVO	115	117.0	107	-9%

Fatalities by vehicle type

Vehicle type	2020	5 Year Average	2021	% change (2021 v 5YA)
Light vehicle	109	110.0	104	-5%
Motorcycle	26	30.6	34	11%
Pedestrian	8	13.2	18	36%
Heavy vehicle	6	6.2	3	-52%
Bicycle	5	4.2	4	-5%
Motorised wheelchair	0	0.6	2	233%
Bus	0	0.6	1	67%
Multiseater van	0	0.2	0	-100%
Not recorded	1	1.2	0	-100%
Total	155	166.8	166	0%

Fatalities by behavioural factor suspected

Behavioural factor suspected*	2020	5 Year Average	2021	% change (2021 v 5YA)
Alcohol-related	42	40.4	33	-18%
Speed-related	46	53.2	55	3%
Fatigue-related	14	18.8	13	-31%
Inattention-related	14	25.6	28	9%

*These counts cannot be summed as more than one factor can be attributed to a crash. Suspected behavioural factors are based on a preliminary assessment by Police at the crash scene.

- *Alcohol* – those fatalities involved in crashes where the driver was suspected to be under the influence of alcohol, or the primary cause of the crash included alcohol.
- *Speed* – those fatalities involved in crashes where speed was recorded as a factor or the primary contributing factor included speed.
- *Fatigue* – those fatalities involved in crashes where fatigue was listed as a factor or the primary contributing factor was fatigue.
- *Inattention* – those fatalities involved in crashes where the primary contributing factor was inattention.

Fatalities by jurisdiction¹

Jurisdiction	2020	5 Year Average	2021	% change (2021 v 5YA)
Qld	278	248.0	274	10%
NSW	284	350.6	270	-23%
Vic	211	247.8	237	-4%
WA	155	166.8	166	0%
SA	93	94.6	99	5%
NT	31	38.6	35	-9%
Tas	37	33.4	35	5%
ACT	7	7.4	11	49%
Aust	1096	1187.2	1127	-5%

Fatality rate per 100,000 population by jurisdiction¹

Jurisdiction	2020	5 Year Average	2021	% change (2021 v 5YA)
Qld	5.4	4.9	5.2	6%
NSW	3.5	4.4	3.3	-25%
Vic	3.2	3.8	3.6	-7%
WA	5.8	6.4	6.2	-3%
SA	5.3	5.4	5.6	3%
NT	12.6	15.7	14.2	-9%
Tas	6.8	6.3	6.5	2%
ACT	1.6	1.8	2.5	44%
Aust	4.3	4.8	4.4	-8%

1. Fatality counts for other jurisdictions sourced from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications. Australian Road Deaths Database. Retrieved from <https://www.bitre.gov.au/statistics/safety/fatal_road_crash_database>. Denominators sourced from Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2021). National, state and territory population, Australia, June 2021, (Catalogue No. 3101.0). Retrieved from <<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/population/national-state-and-territory-population/latest-release#data-download>>.