



**ROAD
SAFETY
COMMISSION**

Western Australian Road Fatalities 2023

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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
2014	80	102	182
2015	74	87	161
2016	76	119	195
2017	69	91	160
2018	61	98	159
2019	65	99	164
2020	62	93	155
2021	67	99	166
2022	63	112	175
2023	77	81	158

Regions are based on WA Police Force regional boundaries.

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Fatalities by Police Region

Police region	2022	5 Year Average (2018-2022)	2023	% Change (2023 v 5YA)
Regional	112	100.2	81	-19%
Goldfields-Esperance	18	11.6	7	-40%
Great Southern	18	19.8	17	-14%
Kimberley	11	8.4	4	-52%
Mid West-Gascoyne	10	10.6	7	-34%
Pilbara	6	5.8	10	72%
South West	28	26.2	18	-31%
Wheatbelt	21	17.8	18	1%
Metropolitan	63	63.6	77	21%
Total	175	163.8	158	-4%

Fatalities by age group

Age group	2022	5 Year Average (2018-2022)	2023	% Change (2023 v 5YA)
0-16	8	8.8	5	-43%
17-19	12	9.6	6	-38%
20-29	31	36.4	32	-12%
30-39	34	25.6	25	-2%
40-49	26	24.8	23	-7%
50-59	26	20.8	26	25%
60-69	18	15.2	14	-8%
70-79	7	9.4	14	49%
80+	13	12.2	13	7%
Not Recorded	0	1.0	0	-100%
Total	175	163.8	158	-4%

Age-specific fatality rate per 100,000 population

Age group	2022	5 Year Average (2018-2022)	2023	% Change (2023 v 5YA)
0-16	1.3	1.5	0.8	-45%
17-19	12.6	10.2	5.9	-42%
20-29	8.8	10.2	8.5	-17%
30-39	8.1	6.3	5.8	-8%
40-49	7.1	6.9	6.1	-12%
50-59	7.4	6.2	7.4	20%
60-69	6.1	5.5	4.7	-15%
70-79	3.5	5.1	6.6	30%
80+	12.0	12.3	11.5	-6%
Total	6.3	6.0	5.5	-9%

Denominators were derived from Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2023). National, state and territory population, December 2023. Retrieved from < <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/population/national-state-and-territory-population> >.

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Fatalities by sex

Sex	2022	5 Year Average (2018-2022)	2023	% Change (2023 v 5YA)
Female	44	40.8	31	-24%
Male	131	123.0	127	3%
Total	175	163.8	158	-4%

Fatalities by road user type

Road user type	2022	5 Year Average (2018-2022)	2023	% Change (2023 v 5YA)
Cyclist	4	3.8	5	32%
Motor vehicle occupant	122	113.8	103	-9%
Motorcyclist	33	30.6	37	21%
Other	2	1.2	0	-100%
Pedestrian	14	14.4	13	-10%
Total	175	163.8	158	-4%

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

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Fatalities by month

Month	2022	5 Year Average (2018-2022)	2023	% Change (2023 v 5YA)
Jan	10	15.8	13	-18%
Feb	7	10.0	9	-10%
Mar	15	12.6	16	27%
Apr	16	14.4	11	-24%
May	10	13.4	14	4%
Jun	15	13.8	10	-28%
Jul	10	12.0	10	-17%
Aug	17	14.2	14	-1%
Sep	20	14.8	16	8%
Oct	14	11.8	16	36%
Nov	17	15.0	13	-13%
Dec	24	16.0	16	0%
Total	175	163.8	158	-4%

Fatalities by speed limit

Speed limit	2022	5 Year Average (2018-2022)	2023	% Change (2023 v 5YA)
20	1	0.8	1	25%
40	2	0.8	0	-100%
50	16	17.2	11	-36%
60	28	21.2	28	32%
70	14	11.4	26	128%
80	16	15.6	12	-23%
90	6	8.0	6	-25%
100	12	12.2	13	7%
110	79	73.0	60	-18%
Not recorded	1	3.6	1	-72%
Total	175	163.8	158	-4%

Fatalities by crash nature

Crash nature	2022	5 Year Average (2018-2022)	2023	% Change (2023 v 5YA)
Single vehicle	113	109.2	89	-18%
Hit animal	3	1.6	1	-38%
Hit object	84	70.6	51	-28%
Hit parked vehicle	1	0.2	2	900%
Hit pedestrian	14	14.2	12	-15%
Non-collision	10	21.6	21	-3%
Passenger fell	1	1	2	100%
Multiple vehicle	60	53.2	60	13%
Head on	20	16.8	23	37%
Indirect right angled	3	5.2	11	112%
Rear end	10	7.4	6	-19%
Right angled	22	18.4	14	-24%
Sideswipe - opposite direction	4	3.2	3	-6%
Sideswipe - same direction	1	2.2	3	36%
Not recorded	2	1.4	9	543%
Total	175	163.8	158	-4%

Motor Vehicle Occupant (MVO) fatalities by seatbelt usage

Seatbelt usage	2022	5 Year Average (2018-2022)	2023	% Change (2023 v 5YA)
Not worn	25	23.8	23	-3%
Worn	50	37.0	40	8%
Not recorded	47	53.0	40	-25%
Total	122	113.8	103	-9%

Fatalities by behavioural factor suspected

Behavioural factor suspected*	2022	5 Year Average (2018-2022)	2023	% Change (2023 v 5YA)
Alcohol-related	38	35.2	15	-57%
Speed-related	38	48.2	37	-23%
Fatigue-related	9	14.0	4	-71%
Inattention-related	21	24.6	11	-55%

*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.

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Fatalities by jurisdiction¹

Jurisdiction	2022	5 Year Average (2018-2022)	2023	% Change (2023 v 5YA)
Queensland	297	263.2	277	5%
New South Wales	281	308.0	351	14%
Victoria	240	232.2	294	27%
Western Australia	175	163.8	158	-4%
South Australia	71	91.4	117	28%
Tasmania	51	37.2	34	-9%
Northern Territory	47	39.8	31	-22%
Australian Capital Territory	18	10.2	4	-61%
Australia	1180	1145.6	1266	11%

1. Fatality counts for other jurisdictions were 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 were sourced from Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2023). National, state and territory population, Australia, June 2023. Retrieved from < <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/population/national-state-and-territory-population/latest-release> >.

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Fatality rate per 100,000 population by jurisdiction¹

Jurisdiction	2022	5 Year Average (2018-2022)	2023	% Change (2023 v 5YA)
Queensland	5.6	5.1	5.1	-1%
New South Wales	3.4	3.8	4.2	10%
Victoria	3.6	3.5	4.3	22%
Western Australia	6.3	6.0	5.5	-9%
South Australia	3.9	5.1	6.3	23%
Tasmania	8.9	6.7	5.9	-11%
Northern Territory	18.8	16.1	12.3	-24%
Australian Capital Territory	3.9	2.3	0.9	-63%
Australia	4.5	4.5	4.8	6%

1. Fatality counts for other jurisdictions were 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 were sourced from Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2023). National, state and territory population, Australia, June 2023. Retrieved from < <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/population/national-state-and-territory-population/latest-release> >.

Unless otherwise identified, the Road Safety Commission (Commission) prepared the numbers reported in this publication based on preliminary fatality data provided by the WA Police Force. This data is accurate as at 30 January 2024. Numbers may change in the future due to police investigation, coronial inquiry or upgrade of injuries. For this reason, comparisons between this publication and others may result in discrepancies. This publication adopts WA Police Force boundaries.