

Feature article: Queensland Road Toll - 2005 in review

In this section, the characteristics of road fatalities within Queensland for 2005 are analysed and compared with the years 2000 to 2004.

Queensland's preliminary road toll for 2005 is 328 fatalities. This is 17 fatalities (or 5.6%) greater than 2004 and 11 fatalities (3.5%) greater than the 2000-2004 five year average.

This represents a rate of 8.27 fatalities per 100,000 population. This is an increase in the 2004 fatality rate which was 8.01.

During 2005, 156 fatalities (or 48%) were drivers, 66 fatalities (or 20%) were passengers, 64 fatalities (or 20%) were motorcyclists, 37 fatalities (or 11%) were pedestrians and five fatalities (or 2%) were bicyclists.

Table 1: Fatalities listed by Road User Type: Queensland

Road User Type	2005	2004	2000-04 average	Variation in '05 from 2000-04 average (%)
Drivers	156	146	146.0	6.8%
Passengers	66	74	79.2	-16.7%
Motorcyclists	64	48	41.0	56.1%
Pedestrians	37	34	42.2	-12.3%
Bicyclists	5	9	8.4	-40.5%
Total	328	311	316.8	3.5%

There were 244 male fatalities (or 74%) and 81 female fatalities (or 25%).

Seventy-two fatalities (or 22%) were 17-24 year olds, and 54 fatalities (or 16%) were 30-39 year olds.

There was a reduction in passenger fatalities during 2005, eight fatalities (or 10.8%) fewer than the previous year and 13 fatalities (or 16.7%) fewer than the previous five year average. There were 64 motorcyclist fatalities during 2005, this is 16 fatalities (or 33.3%) more than the previous year, and 23 fatalities (or 56.1%) greater than the previous five year average. The number of bicyclist fatalities decreased by four fatalities (or 44.4%) compared with the previous year, and three fatalities (or 40.5%) fewer than the previous five year average.

One hundred and nineteen fatalities (or 36%) were involved in hit object type crashes and 65 fatalities (or 20%) were involved in head on type crashes.

One hundred and seventy seven people (or 54%) were killed within 100 - 110 km/h zones.

Restraint use could be determined for 151 vehicle occupant fatalities. Of those 151, 38 fatalities (or 25%) were not wearing a seat belt.

Ninety two fatalities (or 28%) were involved in alcohol related crashes. Sixty-eight fatalities (or 21%) were

involved in speed related crashes and 53 fatalities (or 16%) were involved in fatigue related crashes.

Table 2 shows the age group of fatalities for 2005 compared with 2004 and the previous five year average. During 2005, mature adult fatalities were 31 fatalities (or 22.1%) greater than the previous year, and 22 fatalities (or 14.6%) greater than the previous five year average. Young adult road users aged 17 to 24 years showed a decrease of 16 fatalities (or 18.2%) compared with the previous year, and were 11 fatalities (or 12.8%) fewer than the previous five year average.

Table 2: Fatalities listed by Age group: Queensland

Age Group	2005	2004	2000-04 average	Variation in '05 from 2000-04 average (%)
Children (0-16)	29	25	27.6	5.1%
Young adults (17-24)	72	88	82.6	-12.8%
Mature adults (25-39)	171	140	149.2	14.6%
Senior adults (40-64)	50	58	57.4	-12.9%
Unknown	6	-	-	-
Total	328	311	316.8	3.5%

Table 3 shows the geographic distribution of fatalities for 2005 by police region. North Coast Police Region recorded the greatest number of fatalities which was 77 fatalities or 24% of the Queensland road toll. Far Northern Region which recorded the greatest increase in road fatalities for 2005, have 16 fatalities (or 133%) more than the previous year. Central Region recorded nine fatalities (or 25%) more than the previous year and Northern recorded six fatalities (or 27%) more than the previous year.

The number of road fatalities within the Metropolitan South Region was 16 fatalities (or 36%) less than the previous year and four fatalities (or 11%) below the previous five year average. North Coast Region recorded four fatalities (or 5%) fewer than the previous year, however this is one fatality (or 2%) above the previous five year average.

Table 3: Fatalities listed by Police Region: Queensland

Region	2005	2004	2000-04 average	Variation in '05 from 2000-04 average (%)
Metropolitan North	19	12	19.2	-1.0%
Metropolitan South	28	44	31.6	-11.4%
South Eastern	46	45	45.4	1.3%
Southern	57	59	56.6	0.7%
North Coast	77	81	75.8	1.6%
Central	45	36	43.6	3.2%
Northern	28	22	22.0	27.3%
Far Northern	28	12	22.6	23.9%
Total	328	311	316.8	3.5%

National Road Toll

The preliminary road toll for all Australian states and territories for 2005 is 1635, an increase of 40 fatalities when compared with 2004 (Table 4).

The national road toll per 100,000 population in 2005 was 8.04. Queensland's road toll per 100,000 of 8.27 is 2.9% greater than the overall Australian rate. Compared with the previous year, the Queensland fatality rate per 100,000 population increased by 3.2%. The Queensland road fatality rate ranked fifth in the Nation with Victoria, New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory and Western Australia having lower fatality per capita rates.

Summary

The road toll for Queensland during the year 2005 was 17 greater than the previous year. There were reductions in the number of passenger and bicyclist fatalities however there were increases in the number of motorcyclist, driver and pedestrian fatalities. There was a reduction in the number of fatalities within Metropolitan South, Southern and North Coast Police Regions and an increase in the number of fatalities within the Metropolitan North, South Eastern, Central, Northern and Far Northern Police Regions.

Table 4: 2005 Road Toll compared with 2004, Australian States and Territories

	Road fatalities		Road toll per 100,000 population		Road toll per 100,000 population: % change 2004 to 2005
	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
Queensland	328	311	8.27	8.01	3.3%
New South Wales	517	521	7.63	7.74	-1.4%
Victoria	348	343	6.93	6.90	0.5%
South Australia	149	139	9.66	9.06	6.7%
Western Australia	163	178	8.11	8.98	-9.7%
Tasmania	50	58	10.30	12.03	-14.4%
Northern Territory	54	35	26.63	17.51	52.1%
ACT	26	10	8.00	3.09	159.0%
Australian Total	1635	1595	8.04	7.93	1.4%

Please use the updated statistics in Feature #1004