

Feature article: Easter Road Toll

In this section, the characteristics of road fatalities within Queensland for the Easter Long Weekend reporting period during 2007 are analysed and compared with the same reporting period for 2002 to 2006.

There were four people killed in road crashes within Queensland during the 2007 Easter long weekend reporting period (Thursday 5 April to Monday 9 April). This represents the same number of fatalities as the 2006 Easter long weekend reporting period and one fatality (or 25.0%) greater than the 2002 to 2006 Easter long weekend reporting periods average.

Two fatalities (or 50.0%) were motorcyclists, one fatality (or 25.0%) was a passenger and one fatality (or 25.0%) was a driver.

All four fatalities (or 100.0%) were male.

Three fatalities (or 75.0%) occurred along locally controlled roads and one fatality occurred along a State controlled road.

Two fatalities (or 50.0%) were involved in single vehicle type crashes and two fatalities (or 50.0%) were involved in multi-vehicle type crashes.

Two fatalities (or 50.0%) occurred within the North Coast Police Region, one fatality (or 25.0%) occurred within the Southern Police Region and one fatality (or 25.0%) occurred within the South Eastern Police Region.

Two fatalities (or 50.0%) occurred on the Thursday, one fatality (or 25.0%) occurred on Easter Saturday and one fatality (or 25.0%) occurred on Easter Sunday.

Three fatalities (or 75.0%) occurred within 60 km/h speed zones, and one fatality (or 25.0%) occurred within an 80-90 km/h speed zone.

Table 1: Road fatalities during the Easter Long Weekend reporting period by day of week, Queensland, 2002 to 2007

| Day of Week | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | Total |
|------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Thursday | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| Friday | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Saturday | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| Sunday | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| Monday | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| Total fatalities | 4 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 20 |

Table 2: Road fatalities during the Easter Long Weekend reporting period by time of day, Queensland, 2002 to 2007

| Fatality - Time of Day | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | Total |
|------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Midnight - 2am | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| 6am - 8am | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| 8am - 10am | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| 10am - noon | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| 4pm - 6pm | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 6pm - 8pm | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| 8pm - 10pm | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| 10pm - midnight | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Total fatalities | 4 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 20 |

Table 3: National road fatalities during the Easter Long Weekend reporting period by State/Territory, 2002 to 2007

| State | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|--------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Queensland | 4 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| New South Wales | 7 | 8 | 8 | 4 | 10 | 11 |
| Victoria | 10 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 3 | 9 |
| South Australia | 1 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 1 |
| Western Australia | 2 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Tasmania | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Northern Territory | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| ACT | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Total | 25 | 28 | 15 | 25 | 23 | 28 |

Source: ATSB Monthly Road Fatality Database, April 2007

2006 Queensland Road Toll in review

In this section, the characteristics of road fatalities within Queensland during 2006 are analysed and compared with the years 2001 to 2005.

Queensland's preliminary road toll for 2006 is 335 fatalities. This is five fatalities (or 1.5%) greater than 2005 and 16 fatalities (or 4.9%) greater than the 2001-2005 five year average.

This represents a rate of 8.26 fatalities per 100,000 population. This is a decrease in the 2005 fatality rate which was 8.30.

During 2006, 155 fatalities (or 46.3%) were drivers, 67 fatalities (or 20.0%) were passengers, 58 fatalities (or 17.3%) were motorcyclists, 46 fatalities (or 13.7%) were pedestrians and nine fatalities (or 2.7%) were bicyclists.

Table 4: Fatalities listed by Road User Type, Queensland

| Road User Type | 2006 | 2005 | 2001-05 average | Variation in '06 from 2001-05 average (%) |
|----------------|------|------|-----------------|---|
| Drivers | 155 | 157 | 146 | 6.2% |
| Passengers | 67 | 66 | 76 | -11.8% |
| Motorcyclists | 58 | 64 | 47 | 22.9% |
| Bicyclists | 9 | 5 | 8 | 9.8% |
| Pedestrians | 46 | 38 | 42 | 9.5% |
| Total | 335 | 330 | 319 | 4.9% |

During 2006, there were 67 passenger fatalities which is one fatality (or 1.5%) greater than the previous year but nine fatalities (or 11.8%) fewer than the previous five year average. There were 58 motorcyclist fatalities during 2006, this is six fatalities (or 9.4%) fewer than the previous year but 11 fatalities (or 22.9%) greater than the previous five year average. The number of bicyclist fatalities increased by four fatalities (or 80.0%) compared with the previous year, and one fatality (or 9.8%) greater than the previous five year average.

There were 260 male fatalities (or 77.6%) and 75 female fatalities (or 22.4%).

Eighty-four fatalities (or 25.1%) were 17-24 year olds, and 69 fatalities (or 20.6%) were 30-39 year olds.

One hundred and twenty-one fatalities (or 36.1%) were involved in hit object type crashes and 56 fatalities (or 16.7%) were involved in angle type crashes.

One hundred and forty-two people (or 42.4%) were killed within 100 - 110 km/h zones and 99 people (or 29.6%) were killed within 60 km/h zones.

Restraint use could be determined for 149 vehicle occupant fatalities. Of those 149, 46 fatalities (or 30.9%) were not wearing a seat belt.

Ninety-one fatalities (or 27.2%) were as a result of crashes involving a speeding driver or rider and 74

fatalities (or 22.1%) were as a result of crashes involving a drink driver or rider. *Please note that Alcohol figures for 2006 are preliminary as test results can take up to 5 months to be finalised.*

Table 5 shows the age group of fatalities for 2006 compared with 2005 and the previous five year average. During 2006, mature adult fatalities were four fatalities (or 2.3%) greater than the previous year, and 27 fatalities (or 18.0%) greater than the previous five year average. Young adult road users aged 17 to 24 years showed an increase of 11 fatalities (or 15.1%) compared with the previous year, and were one fatality (or 1.2%) fewer than the previous five year average.

Table 5: Fatalities listed by age group, Queensland

| Age Group | 2006 | 2005 | 2001-05 average | Variation in '06 from 2001-05 average (%) |
|-----------------------|------|------|-----------------|---|
| Children (0-16) | 21 | 31 | 28 | -25.5% |
| Young adults (17-24) | 84 | 73 | 85 | -1.2% |
| Mature adults (25-59) | 178 | 174 | 151 | 18.0% |
| Senior adults(60+) | 52 | 52 | 55 | -6.1% |
| Total | 335 | 330 | 319 | 4.9% |

Table 6 shows the geographic distribution of fatalities for 2006 by Police Region. North Coast Police Region recorded the greatest number of fatalities which was 64 fatalities (or 19.1%) of the Queensland road toll. Metropolitan North Police Region recorded the greatest increase in road fatalities for 2006, having six fatalities (or 31.6%) greater than the previous year and seven (or 35.9%) greater than the previous five year average. Northern Police Region recorded five fatalities (or 17.9%) greater than the previous year and ten fatalities (or 43.5%) greater than the previous five year average, while Southern Police Region recorded five fatalities (or 8.8%) greater than the previous year and five fatalities (or 9.5%) greater than the previous five year average. Far Northern Police Region recorded one fatality (or 3.6%) greater than the previous year and six fatalities (or 28.3%) greater than the previous five year average.

The number of road fatalities within the North Coast Police Region was 13 fatalities (or 16.9%) fewer than the previous year and 14 fatalities (or 18.2%) fewer than the previous five year average. Metropolitan South Police Region recorded one fatality (or 3.4%) fewer than the previous year and six fatalities (or 16.7%) fewer than the previous five year average.

2006 Queensland Road Toll in review

In this section, the characteristics of road fatalities within Queensland during 2006 are analysed and compared with the years 2001 to 2005.

Table 6: Fatalities listed by Police Region, Queensland

| Region | 2006 | 2005 | 2001-05 average | Variation in '06 from 2001-05 average (%) |
|-------------------------|------------|------------|-----------------|---|
| Metropolitan North | 25 | 19 | 18 | 35.9% |
| Metropolitan South | 28 | 29 | 34 | -16.7% |
| South Eastern | 48 | 46 | 45 | 7.1% |
| Southern | 62 | 57 | 57 | 9.5% |
| North Coast | 64 | 77 | 78 | -18.2% |
| Central | 46 | 46 | 42 | 9.0% |
| Northern | 33 | 28 | 23 | 43.5% |
| Far Northern | 29 | 28 | 23 | 28.3% |
| Total Casualties | 335 | 330 | 319 | 4.9% |

National Road Toll

The preliminary road toll for all Australian states and territories for 2006 is 1,601. This is a decrease of 26 fatalities when compared with 2005 (Table 7).

The national road toll per 100,000 population in 2006 was 7.77. Queensland's road toll per 100,000 of 8.26 is 6.3% greater than the overall Australian rate. Compared with the previous year, the Queensland fatality rate per 100,000 population decreased by 0.5%. The Queensland road fatality rate ranked fifth in the Nation with Victoria, New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory and South Australia having lower fatality per capita rates.

Table 7: 2006 Road Toll compared with 2005, Australian States and Territories

| | Road fatalities | | Road toll per 100,000 population | | Road toll per 100,000 population: % change 2005 to 2006 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------|----------------------------------|-------------|---|
| | 2006 | 2005 | 2006 | 2005 | |
| Queensland | 335 | 330 | 8.26 | 8.30 | -0.5% |
| New South Wales | 499 | 508 | 7.31 | 7.50 | -2.6% |
| Victoria | 337 | 346 | 6.62 | 6.89 | -3.9% |
| South Australia | 117 | 148 | 7.53 | 9.60 | -21.6% |
| Western Australia | 202 | 163 | 9.85 | 8.11 | 21.5% |
| Tasmania | 54 | 51 | 11.05 | 10.50 | 5.2% |
| Northern Territory | 44 | 55 | 21.29 | 27.04 | -21.3% |
| ACT | 13 | 26 | 3.95 | 7.98 | -50.5% |
| Australian Total | 1601 | 1627 | 7.77 | 8.00 | -2.9% |

Summary

The road toll for Queensland during the year 2006 was five greater than the previous year. There were significant reductions in the number of motorcyclist and child road user fatalities, however there were significant increases in the number of pedestrian, bicyclist and young adult road user fatalities. There was a significant reduction in the number of fatalities within North Coast and Metropolitan South Police Regions and a significant increase in the number of fatalities within the Metropolitan North, Southern and Northern Police Regions.

Christmas / New Year 2006/2007 road toll in review

In this section, the characteristics of road fatalities during the 2006/2007 Christmas/New Year period within Queensland is analysed and compared with the 2001/2002 to 2005/2006 Christmas/New Year periods.

Within Queensland, there were 13 road fatalities during the 2006/2007 Christmas/New Year period. This is seven fatalities (or 35.0%) fewer than the previous year and the same number of fatalities as previous five year Christmas/New Year period average.

Four fatalities (or 30.8%) were pedestrians, three fatalities (or 23.1%) were drivers, three fatalities (or 23.1%) were passengers, two fatalities (or 15.4%) were motorcyclists and one fatality (or 7.7%) was a bicyclist.

Ten fatalities (or 76.9%) were male and three fatalities (or 23.1%) were female.

Three fatalities (or 25.0%) were 17-24 year olds, two fatalities (or 16.7%) were 25-29 year olds, two fatalities (or 16.7%) were 30-39 year olds, two fatalities (or 16.7%) were 50-59 year olds, two fatalities (or 16.7%) were 60-74 year olds and one fatality (or 8.3%) was a 40-49 year old. One fatality was of undetermined age.

Four fatalities (or 30.8%) were involved in hit pedestrian type crashes, three fatalities (or 23.1%) were involved in head-on type crashes and three fatalities (or 23.1%) were involved in angle type crashes.

Six people (or 46.2%) were killed within 100 - 110 km/h zones.

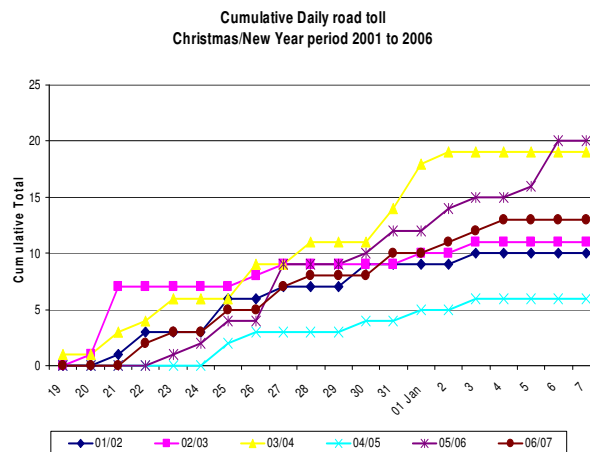
Restraint use could be determined for three vehicle occupant fatalities, of which two (or 66.6%) were unrestrained.

Four fatalities (or 30.8%) were involved in illegal maneuver related crashes, three fatalities (or 23.1%) were involved in crashes speeding driver or rider, two fatalities (or 15.4%) were involved in fatigue related

Table 7: Daily road fatalities Christmas/New Year period, 2001 to 2006

| Date | Christmas New Year Reporting Period | | | | | |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| | 01/02 | 02/03 | 03/04 | 04/05 | 05/06 | 06/07 |
| 19 Dec | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 20 Dec | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 21 Dec | 1 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 22 Dec | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 23 Dec | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 24 Dec | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 25 Dec | 3 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 26 Dec | 0 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 27 Dec | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 2 |
| 28 Dec | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 29 Dec | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 30 Dec | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 31 Dec | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 01 Jan | 0 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 02 Jan | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| 03 Jan | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 04 Jan | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 05 Jan | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 06 Jan | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| 07 Jan | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 10 | 11 | 19 | 6 | 20 | 13 |

Figure 1: Cumulative daily road fatalities Christmas/New Year period, 2001 to 2006



Two road fatalities (or 15.4%) occurred on 22 December 2006, two fatalities (or 15.4%) occurred on 25 January 2006 and two fatalities (or 15.4%) occurred on 31 December 2006.

Four fatalities (or 30.8%) occurred between 6am and 8am and three fatalities (or 23.1%) occurred between 10pm and midnight.

Table 8: Fatalities by time of day during the 2006/2007 Christmas/New Year period

| Time of Day | Fatalities |
|-------------------------|------------|
| Midnight - 2am | 0 |
| 2am - 4am | 0 |
| 4am - 6am | 0 |
| 6am - 8am | 4 |
| 8am - 10am | 0 |
| 10am - noon | 0 |
| Noon - 2pm | 2 |
| 2pm - 4pm | 2 |
| 4pm - 6pm | 0 |
| 6pm - 8pm | 2 |
| 8pm - 10pm | 0 |
| 10pm - midnight | 3 |
| Total Casualties | 13 |

Christmas / New Year 2006/2007 road toll in review

In this section, the characteristics of road fatalities during the 2006/2007 Christmas/New Year period within Queensland is analysed and compared with the 2001/2002 to 2005/2006 Christmas/New Year periods.

Four fatalities (or 30.8%) occurred within the Southern Police Region, three fatalities (or 23.1%) occurred within the Central Police Region, two fatalities (or 15.4%) occurred within the Far Northern Police Region and two fatalities (or 15.4%) occurred within the South Eastern Police Region.

**Table 9: Road fatalities by Police Region and District
2006/2007 Christmas/New Year period**

| Police Region | Police District | Fatalities |
|----------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Central | Rockhampton | 3 |
| Far Northern | Cairns | 1 |
| | Mareeba | 1 |
| Metropolitan North | - | 0 |
| Metropolitan South | Wynnum | 1 |
| North Coast | Gympie | 1 |
| Northern | - | 0 |
| South Eastern | Logan | 1 |
| | Gold Coast | 1 |
| Southern | Dalby | 1 |
| | Ipswich | 3 |
| Total | | 13 |