

2009 Queensland Road Toll in review

(Data extracted on 9 March 2010)

Characteristics of the Queensland preliminary road toll during 2009 compared with the previous five year average.

The Queensland preliminary road toll for 2009 was 331 fatalities, which is three fatalities (or 0.9%) greater than the previous year of 328 and two fatalities (or 0.5%) fewer than the previous five year average.

The Queensland preliminary road fatality rate for 2009 was 7.51 fatalities per 100,000 population, which is 1.9% lower than the rate for the previous year of 7.64.

The preliminary road fatality rate of 7.51 per 100,000 population for Queensland is the lowest road fatality rate recorded for a calendar year since accurate records began in 1952. The greatest was 32.1 during 1973 and the second lowest was 7.64 during 2008.

During 2009, 152 fatalities (or 45.9%) were drivers, 71 fatalities (or 21.5%) were passengers, 60 fatalities (or 18.1%) were motorcyclists, 40 fatalities (or 12.1%) were pedestrians and eight fatalities (or 2.4%) were bicyclists.

Table 1: Fatalities by Road User Type, Queensland

Road User Type	2009	2008	Variation in 2009 from 2008		2004-08 average*	Variation in '09 from 2004-08 average	
			n	%		n	%
Passenger	71	78	-7	-9.0%	70	1	1.7%
Motorcyclist	60	72	-12	-16.7%	63	-3	-4.8%
Bicyclist	8	7	1	14.3%	8	0	0.0%
Pedestrian	40	30	10	33.3%	38	2	5.3%
Total Casualties	331	328	3	0.9%	333	-2	-0.5%

*Figures are rounded to the nearest whole number

Table 1 shows the road user type of fatalities during 2009 compared with 2008 and the previous five year average.

During 2009, there were 152 driver fatalities which is 11 fatalities (or 7.8%) greater than the previous year and two fatalities (or 1.3%) fewer than the previous five year average. There were 71 passenger fatalities which is seven fatalities (or 9.0%) fewer than the previous year and one fatality (or 1.7%) greater than the previous five year average. There were 60 motorcyclist fatalities which is 12 fatalities (or 16.7%) fewer than the previous year and three fatalities (or 4.8%) fewer than the previous five year average.

Two hundred and forty fatalities (or 72.7%) were male and 90 fatalities (or 27.3%) were female, where gender was known.

One hundred and forty two fatalities (or 42.9%) occurred within rural areas, 116 fatalities (or 35.0%) occurred within provincial cities and 73 fatalities (or 22.1%) occurred within the greater Brisbane area (Brisbane Statistical Division).

One hundred and twenty fatalities (or 36.3%) were involved in hit object type crashes, 57 fatalities (or 17.2%) were involved in head-on type crashes and 49 fatalities (or 14.8%) were involved in angle type crashes.

One hundred and forty one fatalities (or 42.6%) occurred within 100-110 km/h zones and 74 fatalities (or 22.4%) occurred within 60km/h speed zones, where the speed limit was known.

Restraint use could be determined for 151 vehicle occupant fatalities. Of those 151 vehicle occupant fatalities, 43 (or 28.5%) were not restrained.

Table 2: Fatalities by Age Group, Queensland

Age Group	2009	2008	Variation in 2009 from 2008		2004-08 average*	Variation in '09 from 2004-08 average	
			n	%		n	%
Young adults (17-24)	72	73	-1	-1.4%	80	-8	-9.5%
Mature adults (25-59)	177	177	0	0.0%	172	5	3.1%
Senior adults (60+)	55	58	-3	-5.2%	57	-2	-3.5%
Total	331	328	3	0.9%	333	-2	-0.5%

Note: Where age was known

*Figures are rounded to the nearest whole number

Table 2 shows the age group of fatalities during 2009 compared with 2008 and the previous five year average, where age was known.

During 2009, there were 72 young adult (aged 17 to 24 years) fatalities which is one fatality (or 1.4%) fewer than the previous year and eight fatalities (or 9.5%) fewer than the previous five year average. There were 177 mature adult (aged 25 to 59 years) fatalities which is the same fatalities as the previous year, and five fatalities (or 3.1%) greater than the previous five year average. There were 55 senior adult (aged 60 years or over) fatalities which is three fatalities (or 5.2%) fewer than the previous year and two fatalities (or 3.5%) fewer than the previous five year average.

Table 3: Fatalities by Police Region, Queensland

Region	2009	2008	Variation in 2009 from 2008		2004-08 average*	Variation in '09 from 2004-08 average	
			n	%		n	%
Metropolitan South	20	21	-1	-4.8%	31	-11	-36.3%
South Eastern	39	58	-19	-32.8%	53	-14	-27.0%
Southern	52	48	4	8.3%	56	-4	-6.8%
North Coast	89	89	0	0.0%	78	11	14.4%
Central	55	33	22	66.7%	44	11	26.1%
Northern	22	35	-13	-37.1%	27	-5	-19.7%
Far Northern	38	28	10	35.7%	24	14	55.7%
Total	331	328	3	0.9%	333	-2	-0.5%

*Figures are rounded to the nearest whole number

Table 3 shows the geographic distribution of fatalities during 2009 by Police Region compared with the 2008 and previous five year average.

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North Coast Police Region recorded the greatest number of fatalities which was 89 fatalities (or 26.9%) of the Queensland road toll, which is the same number of fatalities than the previous year and 11 fatalities (or 14.4%) greater than the previous five year average. Central Police Region recorded the greatest increase in road fatalities with 22 fatalities (or 66.7%) greater than the previous year and 11 fatalities (or 26.1%) greater than the previous five year average. Far Northern Police Region also recorded a large increase in road fatalities with 10 fatalities (or 35.7%) greater than the previous year and 14 fatalities (or 55.7%) greater than the previous five year average.

During 2009, there were 39 fatalities within the South Eastern Police Region which is 19 fatalities (or 32.8%) fewer than the previous year and 14 fatalities (or 27.0%) fewer than the previous five year average. There were 22 fatalities within the Northern Police Region which is 13 fatalities (or 37.1%) fewer than the previous year and five fatalities (or 19.7%) fewer than the previous five year average.

Increases

Characteristics that showed increases in the number of fatalities during 2009 compared with the previous five year average occurred between January to June (181 fatalities) which is 24 fatalities (or 29.5%) greater, occurred between 8am and 10am (29 fatalities) which is nine fatalities (or 46.5%) greater, occurred on Tuesdays (44 fatalities) which is 10 fatalities (or 28.7%) greater and occurred on Wednesdays (50 fatalities) which is eight fatalities (or 18.5%) greater.

Decreases

Characteristics that showed decreases in the number of fatalities during 2009 compared with the previous five year average occurred between the October to December quarter (63 fatalities) which is 24 fatalities (or 27.3%) fewer, involved unlicensed drivers and riders (28 fatalities) which is 18 fatalities (or 39.4%) fewer, involved young drivers or riders (aged 17 to 24 years) (92 fatalities) which is 16 fatalities (or 15.0%) fewer, occurred within the greater Brisbane area (Brisbane Statistical Division) (73 fatalities) which is 14 fatalities (or 16.3% fewer), occurred on Saturdays (55 fatalities) which is 12 fatalities (or 18.4%) fewer, occurred between 6pm and 8pm (25 fatalities) which is 10 fatalities (or 29.4% fewer) and occurred at T-Junction intersections (29 fatalities) which is 11 fatalities (or 27.9%) fewer.

National Road Toll

The preliminary road toll for all Australian states and territories during 2009 was 1,503 fatalities. This is 29

fatalities (or 1.9%) fewer than the previous year (Table 4).

The national preliminary road fatality rate for 2009 was 6.87 fatalities per 100,000 population. Queensland's fatalities per 100,000 population of 7.51 is 9.3% greater than the overall Australian rate. Compared with the previous year of 7.64 fatalities per 100,000 population which was 6.8% greater than the national road toll. The Queensland road fatality rate ranked fifth in the nation with Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia having lower fatality per capita rates.

Table 4: 2009 Preliminary Road Toll compared with 2008, Australian States and Territories

	Road fatalities		Fatalities per 100,000 population		Fatalities per 100,000 population: % change 2008 to 2009
	2009	2008	2009	2008	
Queensland	331	328	7.51	7.64	-1.7%
New South Wales	462	435	6.51	6.23	4.5%
Victoria	290	332	5.34	6.25	-14.5%
South Australia	119	99	7.33	6.17	18.8%
Western Australia	194	209	8.67	9.63	-9.9%
Tasmania	64	40	12.73	8.04	58.4%
Northern Territory	31	75	13.79	34.12	-59.6%
Australian Capital Territory	12	14	3.42	4.05	-15.7%
Australian Total	1,503	1,532	6.87	7.15	-3.9%

Summary

The Queensland preliminary road toll for 2009 was 331 fatalities, which is three fatalities (or 0.9%) greater than the previous year of 328 and two fatalities (or 0.5%) fewer than the previous five year average.

There were major relative increases in the number of fatalities that occurred between 8am and 10am, occurred on Tuesdays or Wednesdays, occurred within the Central, North Coast and Far Northern Police Regions and occurred between January and June.

There were major relative decreases in the number of fatalities within the Northern Police Region and South Eastern Police Region, fatalities involving young adult drivers or riders (aged 17 to 24 years), unlicensed drivers or riders, occurring on Saturdays, occurring between October to December, occurring within the greater Brisbane Area (BSD) and fatalities occurring at T Junctions.

Note: Alcohol testing and processing can take up to 12 months to finalise. Currently TMR is reporting alcohol fatal crash data through to 30 November 2009.