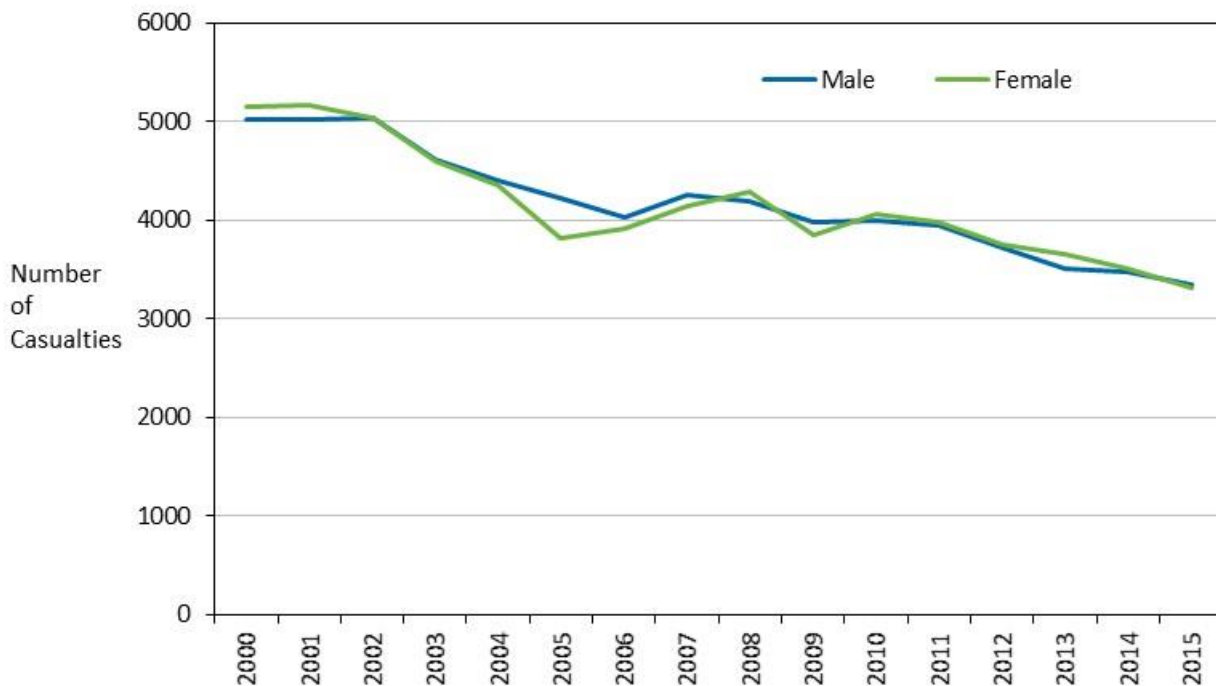


# MALES AND FEMALES INVOLVED IN ROAD CRASHES IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

**OVERVIEW** While casualty numbers have seen a significant drop over the past decades, males remain over represented in fatalities and serious injuries in South Australia, but not in minor injuries. This trend is reflected across Australia. In the past 5 years males have represented 71% of all fatalities, 65% of serious injuries yet only 47% of minor injuries

Since 2000 the overall number of road casualties has declined. Figure 1 below illustrates the number of total casualties per year for both males and females since 2000. From here we can see that the fall in numbers of male and female casualties has followed a similar trend and the proportion of gender is almost equal. This trend of equal proportions of casualties is only apparent because of increased female involvement in minor injuries, when we consider serious injuries and fatalities, males are clearly over represented as illustrated in Table 1 and Figure 2.

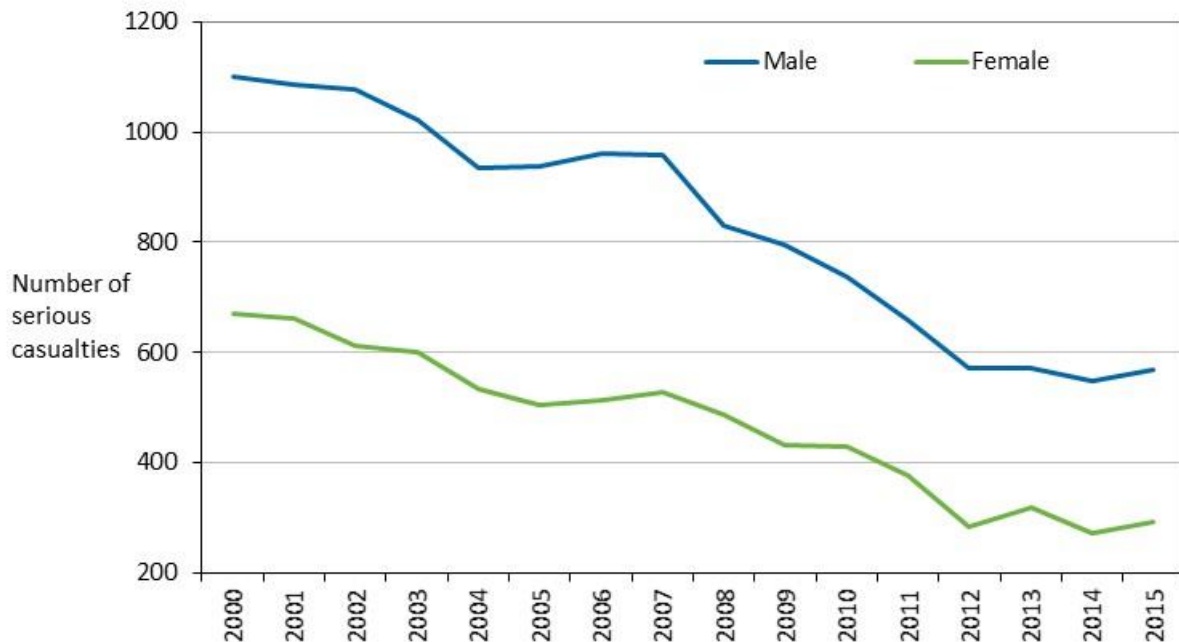
**Figure 1 – Number of casualties (fatal, serious and minor) per year, 2000-2015, South Australia**



**Table 1: Percent of casualties by severity and gender, South Australia, 2010-2015**

Year	Minor injuries		Serious injuries		Fatalities	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
2011	48%	52%	63%	37%	74%	26%
2012	48%	52%	66%	34%	77%	23%
2013	47%	53%	64%	36%	70%	30%
2014	47%	53%	66%	34%	70%	30%
2015	48%	52%	66%	34%	65%	35%

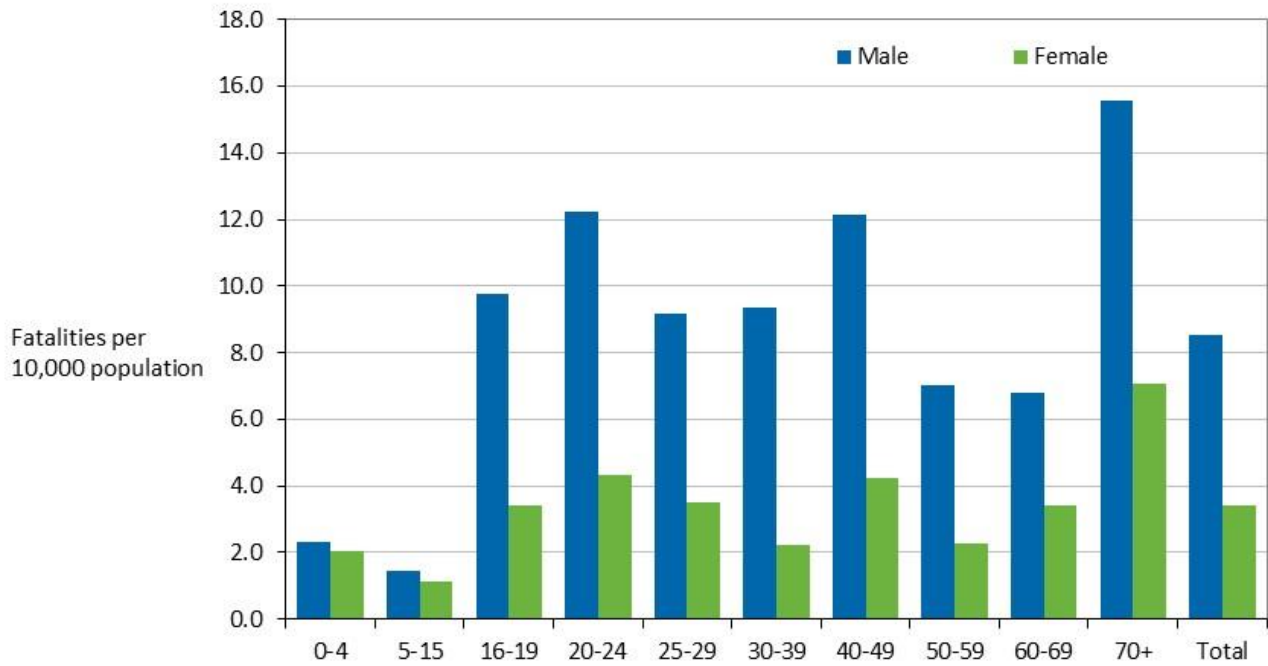
**Figure 2 - Number of serious injuries and fatalities by gender, South Australia, 2000-2015**



Males are on average almost two and a half times more likely to be killed in a car crash than females.

During 2011-2015, 358 (71%) males were killed on South Australian roads, compared to 146 (29%) females.

**Figure 3 – Fatality rate per 10,000 population by age & gender, South Australia, 2010-2015<sup>1</sup>**



This is also reflected in the rate of fatalities. The fatality rate per 100,000 of the male population is 8.5 compared with females at 3.4 on average for the same five year period, 2011 to 2015.

### Location

Table 2 shows little difference in location of fatalities between the genders. 44% of males and 41% of females were killed in the metropolitan Adelaide area in the 5-year period 2011 to 2015.

**Table 2 – Fatalities by location and gender, South Australia, 2011-2015**

Location <sup>2</sup>	Gender of fatality	
	Male	Female
Adelaide metropolitan area	44%	41%
Rural area	56%	59%

<sup>1</sup> 3101.0 Australian Demographic Statistics, Australian Bureau of Statistics, June 2015.

<sup>2</sup> Rural and metro boundaries changed on 1 January 2013 to align with new ABS Greater Adelaide City Statistical Area boundaries, new boundaries have been used in calculations and will not be comparable with previous editions of this report

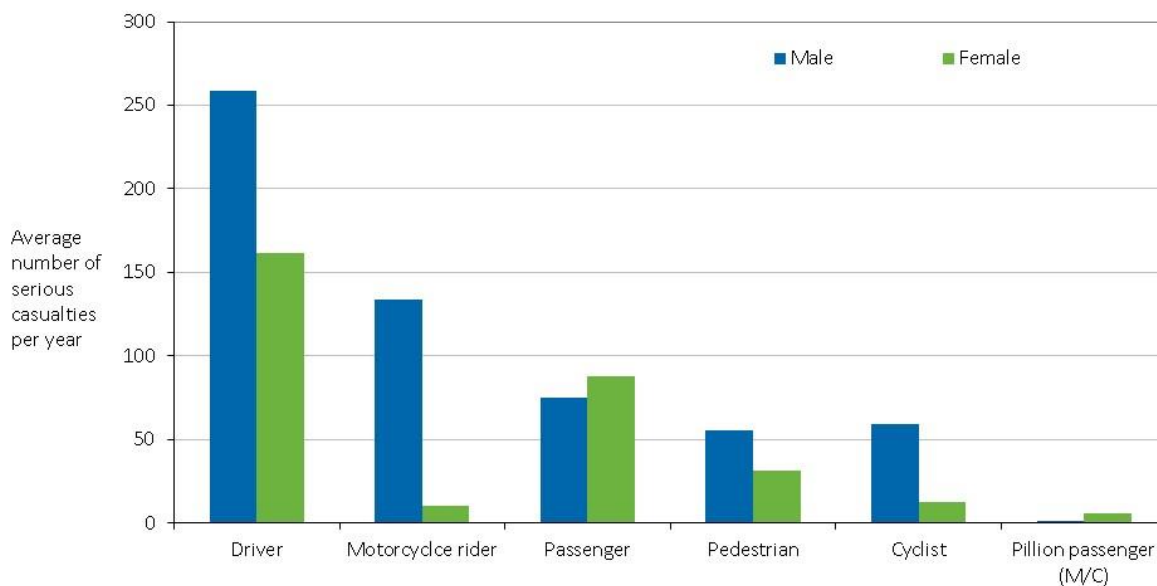
**Table 3 – Average number of fatalities per year in South Australia, 2011-2015 and ratio of males to females**

User Type	Male	Female	Total	M:F Ratio
Driver	36	13	49	3 : 1
Passenger	10	9	19	1 : 1
Motor cyclist (M/C)	13	0	13	33 : 1
Pillion passenger (M/C)	0	1	1	0 : 1
Cyclist	3	1	4	3 : 1
Pedestrian	10	5	15	2 : 1
Total	72	29	101	3 : 1

Table 3 highlights that overall males are more likely to suffer a fatality. The most striking difference is the male to female ratio involving motorcyclists, there are exceptionally higher numbers of males compared to females. These findings are partly attributable to exposure; that is more males than females are licensed to ride motorcycles.

### Road user types

**Figure 4 – Average number of fatalities and serious injuries per year by road user, South Australia, 2011-2015**



Males are over-represented in those categories where the road user is most likely to be in control of their own situation, i.e. drivers, motorcyclists, cyclists and pedestrians. This could be a reflection of risk taking behaviour in males. High-risk behaviours such as drink driving and speeding play a major role in serious crashes.

### Drug and Alcohol Involvement

Males have a much higher number of reported incidences of drink driving related fatal crashes compared to females. In the past 5 years 88% of driver or rider fatalities that had a blood alcohol level above the legal limit were male.

Furthermore 86% of driver or rider fatalities with a positive reading for methamphetamine, THC or ecstasy or a combination of these drugs were male.

## Definitions of police reported casualty types:

**Casualty Crash** - A crash where at least one fatality, serious injury or minor injury occurs.

**Casualty** – A fatality, serious injury or minor injury.

**Fatal Crash** - A crash for which there is at least one fatality.

**Fatality** - A person who dies within 30 days of a crash as a result of injuries sustained in that crash.

**Serious Casualty Crash** - A crash where at least one fatality or serious injury occurs.

**Serious Casualty** – A fatality or serious injury.

**Serious Injury Crash** - A non-fatal crash in which at least one person is seriously injured.

**Serious Injury** - A person who sustains injuries and is admitted to hospital as a result of a road crash and who does not die as a result of those injuries within 30 days of the crash.

**Minor Injury Crash** - A crash for at least one person sustains injury but no person is admitted to hospital or dies within 30 days of the crash.

**Minor Injury** – A person who sustains injuries requiring medical treatment, either by a doctor or in a hospital, as a result of a road crash and who does not die as a result of those injuries with 30 days of the crash.

## Data sources

The data presented in this report was obtained from the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure Road Crash Database. The information was compiled from police reported road casualty crashes only.

## Enquiries

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