

Cyclists

Involved in Road Crashes in South Australia, 2017-2021

Overview

Over the past five years (2017-2021) cyclists represented 5% of lives lost and 10% of serious injuries on South Australian roads. The trend in the number of reports to police where a cyclist has been seriously injured has been showing an upward trend yet the number of minor injuries has seen a trend decline.

The majority of those injured are male and occur in the Greater Adelaide area.

The cycling participation rate¹ in South Australia is similar to the national average. Approximately 13% of the population ride weekly and just under one third have ridden in the past year. The cycling participation rate is higher for males and those aged under 18 years.

Table 1 – Number of cyclist injuries by severity per year for the period 2017-2021

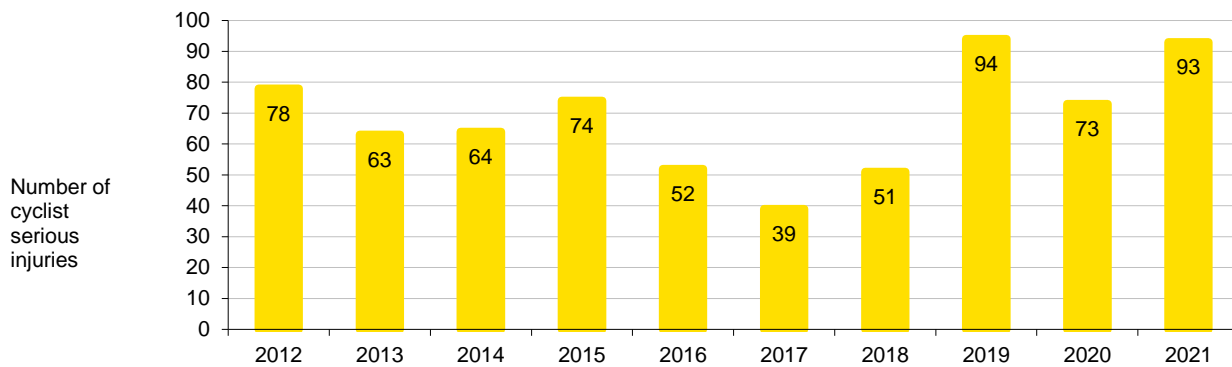
Year	Lives lost	Serious injuries	Minor injuries
2017	2	39	450
2018	7	51	435
2019	7	94	383
2020	2	73	336
2021	5	93	308
Avg	5	70	382
% trend change	6.0%	23.3%	-9.7%

- A total of 23 cyclists have been killed on South Australian roads in the last 5 years.
- A further 350 have been seriously injured and 1,912 have received minor injuries.
- For the 2017 to 2021 period, cyclist lives lost accounted for 5% of the total road deaths in South Australia, 10% of the total serious injuries and 9% of minor injuries.

Casualty trends

The number of cyclist serious injuries reported to the police has fluctuated over the last 10 years, from a low of 39 serious injuries reported in 2017 to 94 reported in 2019. This is the highest number of cyclist lives lost and serious injuries in 10 years, in 2021 93 serious injuries were reported. On average over the last five years 70 serious injuries were reported per year. This is higher than the previous 5 year average (2012-2016) of 66 serious injuries.

Figure 1 – Cyclists with serious injuries reported to police, South Australia, 2012-2021



As can be seen in Figure 2 the number of cyclists with minor injuries has been trending down. The number of minor injuries in 2021 was the lowest in the last 10 years.

Figure 3 – Cyclists with minor injuries reported to police, South Australia, 2012-2021

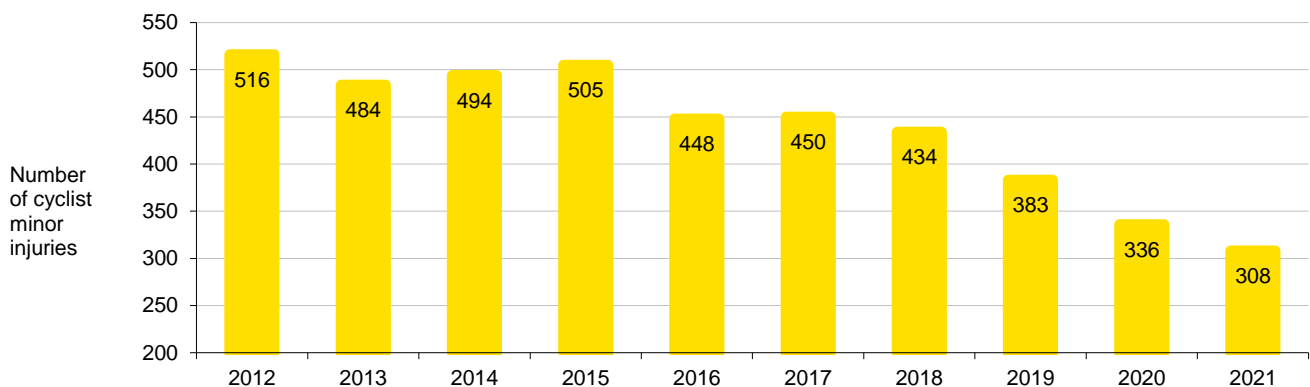
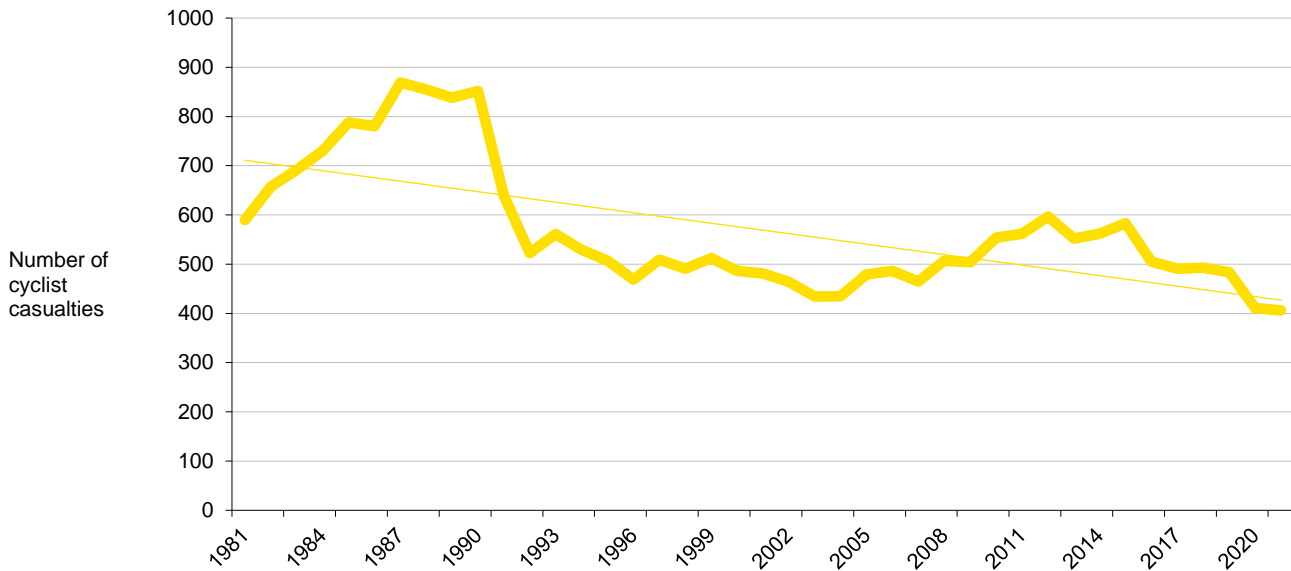


Figure 4 shows cycling casualties, including lives lost, serious injuries and minor injuries over the longer term. Since the late 1980s - when over 800 cycling lives lost and injuries were recorded on South Australian roads - there has been a substantial decline in the number of casualties. The trend in the number of reports to police where a cyclist has been seriously injured has been showing an upward trend yet the number of minor injuries has seen a trend decline.

Figure 4 – Longer term cyclist casualties (includes lives lost, serious injuries and minor injuries), South Australia, 1981-2021



Number of cyclists in Adelaide CBD

The number of people entering the Adelaide CBD by bicycle is monitored by annual cordon counts each October. Weekday bicycle traffic entering and leaving the Adelaide CBD has increased by 56% since 2007.

5 year trend

An average of 457 casualties were reported each year for the 5 year period 2017-2021. Of these:

- 5 were lives lost
- 70 were seriously injured
- 382 received minor injuries
- 79% were male
- 94% were in metropolitan Adelaide
- 3% were not wearing helmets

Intersections¹ and midblock²

There was a total of 371 crashes resulting in lives lost, serious or minor injuries to cyclists between 2017 and 2021, 42% occurred at intersections and 58% occurred at a midblock section of the road.

Table 2 – Lives lost or serious injury crashes by section, South Australia, 2017-2021

	Serious	Life lost	Total
INTERSECTION			
Cross road	65	2	67
T-junction	83	5	88
TOTAL Intersection	148	7	155
MIDBLOCK			
Divided Road	49	3	52
Not Divided Road	145	12	157
Pedestrian Crossing	1	0	1
Freeway	1	0	1
One way	1	0	1
TOTAL Midblock	199	17	216
GRAND Total	347	24	371

57% of intersection crashes resulting in a life lost or serious injury of a cyclist occurred at T-Junctions the remaining on cross roads.

Traffic controls

Out of 371 crashes resulting in lives lost, serious or minor injuries of cyclists between 2017 and 2021, 75% occurred where there was no traffic control 16% occurred where there was a give way sign or stop sign and 10% were there was traffic signals.

¹ A crash for which the first impact occurs at or within a 20 metre radius of an intersection.

² A crash that occurs between two intersections.

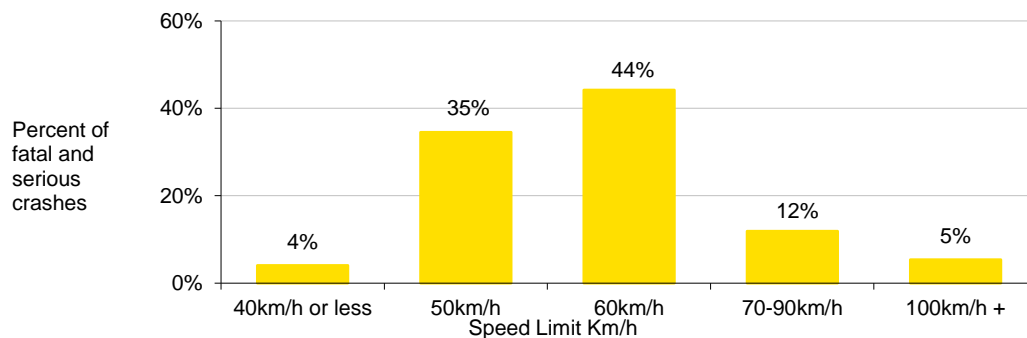
Table 3 – Life lost or serious injury of a cyclist by traffic controls, South Australia, 2017-2021

Control type	Serious	Life lost	Total
Traffic signals	36	1	37
Stop sign	12	1	13
Give way sign	21	1	22
No control	257	21	278
Roundabout	21	0	21
Total	347	24	371

Speed limit of roads

Figure 5 shows a breakdown of crashes resulting in a life lost or serious injury of a cyclist by the speed limit of the road they were travelling on. It is evident that most occur on roads with a speed limit of 60 km/h or less. This is likely to be due to more bicycle traffic in these areas.

Figure 5 – Percentage of crashes resulting in a life lost or serious injury of a cyclist by speed limit of road, South Australia, 2017-2021³

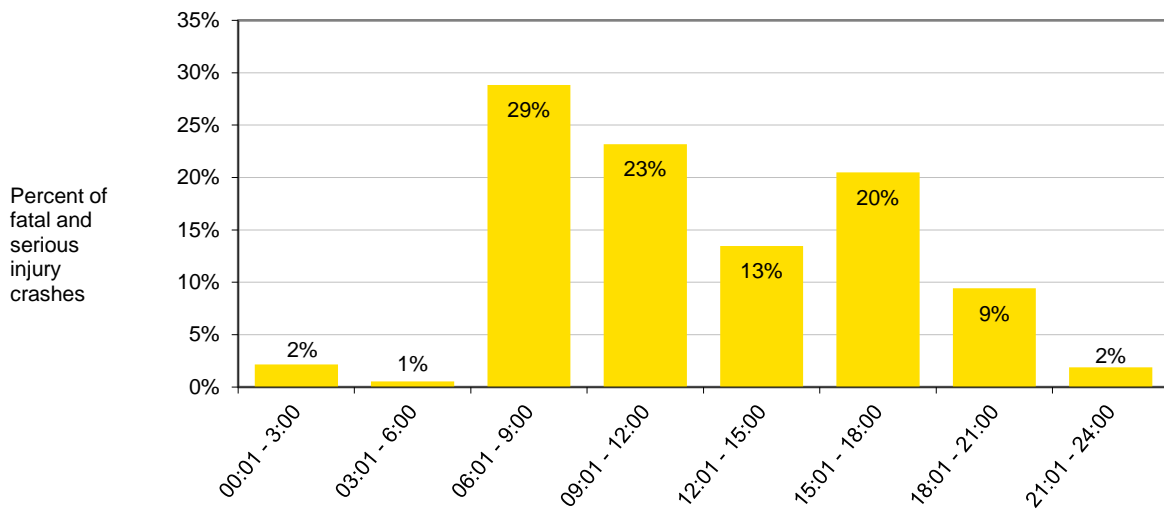


³ Percentages are rounded and made up to a total of 100%

Time of crash

The majority of crashes resulting in the serious injury or death of a cyclist occur at peak times of the day. Three quarters of these crashes occur during either 6 am – noon or 3 – 6 pm.

Figure 6 – Percentage of crashes resulting in a life lost or serious injury of a cyclist by time of crash, South Australia, 2017-2021³

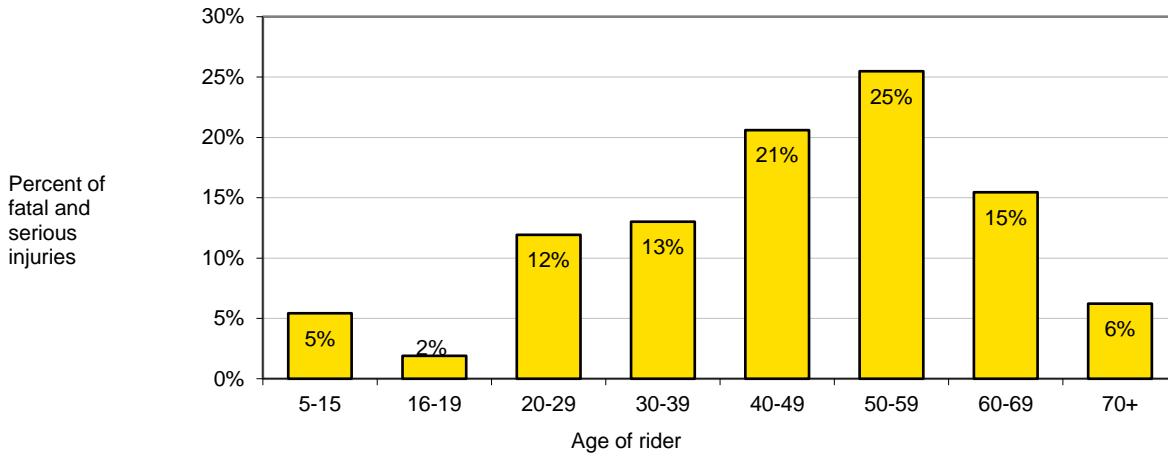


A 2012 survey of cyclists entering the City of Adelaide between the hours of 7am and 10am, conducted by the Adelaide City Council and the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure revealed that 2950 out of 2955 cyclists wore helmets - that is a 99.8% compliance rate to Australian Road Rule 256 – Bicycle Helmets.

Age of cyclists

Figure 7 represents the breakdown of lives lost and serious injuries by age. The 5-15 year age group represents 5% of the cyclist lives lost and serious injuries. No lives lost and serious injuries of cyclists under the age of 5 were reported in the last 5 years. The youngest casualty reported was 6 years of age.

Figure 7 – Age distribution of cyclist lives lost and serious injuries, South Australia, 2017-2021³



Definitions of police reported casualty types:

Casualty Crash – crash where at least one life lost, serious injury or minor injury occurs.

Casualty – A life lost, serious injury or minor injury.

Fatal Crash – A crash for which there is at least one life lost.

Life lost – A person who dies within 30 days of a crash as a result of injuries sustained in that crash.

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 for a duration of at least 24 hours 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 in which 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 within 30 days of the crash.

Property Damage Only Crash – A crash resulting in property damage in excess of the prescribed amount in which no person is injured or dies within 30 days of the crash.

Data sources

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

Enquiries

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