

2014 Analysis of the Victorian road toll

FATALITIES AND SERIOUS INJURIES

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The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of Victoria's road fatalities and serious injuries, highlighting any key changes or emerging trends. The report focuses on the people, activities and situations relating to road trauma and is not an analysis of responsibility.

Some key findings:

- 249 deaths on Victoria's roads in 2014 six more (2%) than in 2013
- 5098 serious injuries for the 12 months ending June 2014 157 (3%) less than for the same period in 2013
- 224 fatal crashes, one less than in 2013 and the lowest number of fatal crashes on record
- Country deaths (137) continue to be higher than in metropolitan Melbourne (112)
- Victoria recorded 4.26 deaths per 100,000 population compared to 5.14 for the rest of Australia
- Victoria's fatality rate per 100,000 population is amongst the lowest 12 OECD countries, and the 5th lowest per 10,000 registered vehicles
- Heavy vehicles the number of fatal crashes involving heavy vehicles doubled in 2014 compared to 2013 (56 killed in 2014 compared to 28 in 2013). Serious injuries involving heavy vehicles were 22% down.
- Motorcyclists fatalities dropped 25% (30 in 2014 compared to 40 in 2013), however serious injuries were up by 11%
- Pedestrians fatalities increased with 44 in 2014 compared to 36 in 2013, but encouragingly serious injuries had dropped.
- Older cyclists 80% of cyclists killed in 2014 were 50 years or older.



2014 Victorian Road Fatalities

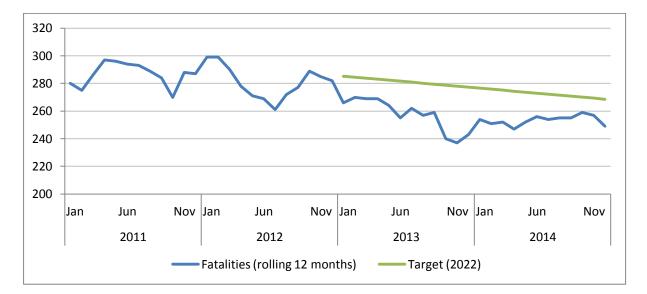
Overview

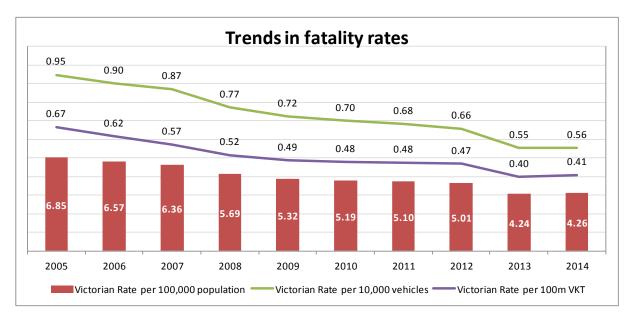
There were 249 deaths on Victoria's roads in 2014. This is six (2%) more than in 2013, 22 (8%) less than the 2011 to 2013 three year average and the second lowest road toll since 1924.

Country deaths (137) continue to be higher than in metropolitan Melbourne (112), despite a ten per cent increase in metropolitan Melbourne and a three per cent decrease in the country in 2014 compared to 2013.

There were 224 fatal crashes in Victoria, one less than in 2013 and the lowest number of fatal crashes on record.

As at the end of 2014, road fatalities are eight per cent lower than the trend required to meet the 30% reduction target by 2022.





Jurisdictional Comparisons

Victoria recorded 4.26 deaths per 100,000 population compared to 5.14 for the rest of Australia in 2014.¹

Compared to international jurisdictions Victoria's rate is among the lowest twelve OECD countries with Iceland, Sweden, Denmark and the UK having the lowest fatality rates of 2.82 to 2.99 deaths per 100,000 population (2012 data).

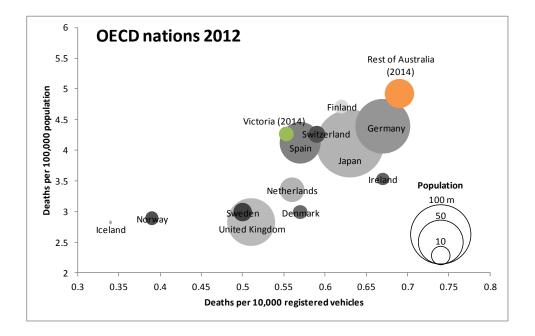
Victoria recorded 0.56 deaths per 10,000 vehicles 2 compared to 0.69 for the rest of Australia in 2014. 3

Compared to international jurisdictions Victoria's rate is the fifth lowest compared to OECD countries with Iceland, Norway, Sweden and the UK having the lowest rates of deaths per 10,000 registered vehicles of 0.34 to 0.51 (2012 data).

¹ From ABS Report 3101.0 Australian Demographic Statistics (Released 18 December 2014) Based on estimated road toll of 907 for rest of Australia.

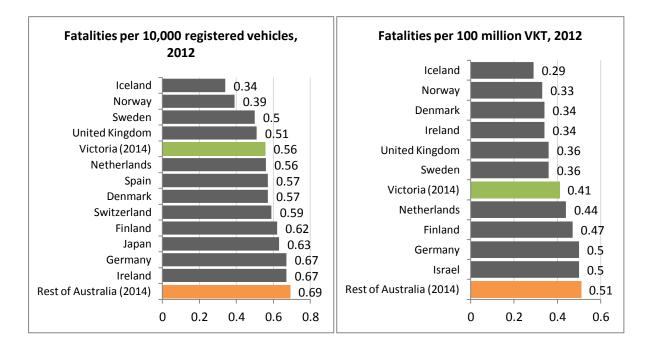
² From ABS Report 9309.0 Motor Vehicle Census 31 Jan 2012 (Released 23 July 2013)

³ Based on estimated road toll of 907 for rest of Australia.



Victoria recorded 0.41 deaths per 100 million VKT⁴ compared to 0.51 for the rest of Australia in 2014.

Relative to international jurisdictions Victoria's rate is the seventh lowest compared to OECD countries with Iceland, Norway, Denmark, Ireland, the UK and Sweden having the lowest rates of deaths per 100 million VKT of 0.29 to 0.36 (2012 data).

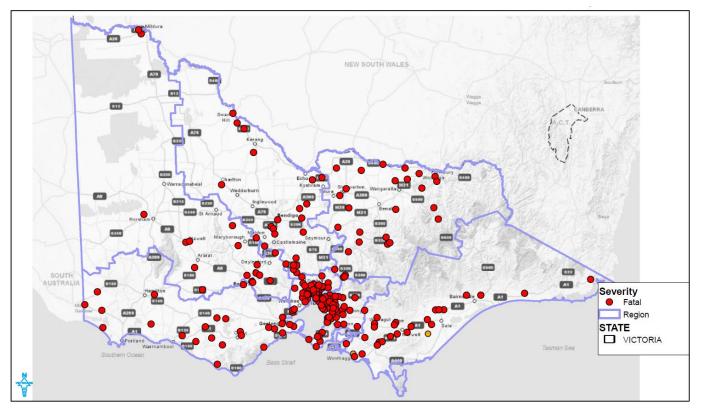


⁴ From ABS Report 9208.0 Survey of Motor Usage 30 Jun 2012 (Released 23 April 2013) Extrapolated 2014 figures from 2012 and previous reports.

Road User	2014				2013		2011 to 2013 (3 Year Avg)		
	METRO MELBOURNE	COUNTRY VICTORIA	TOTAL	METRO MELBOURNE	COUNTRY VICTORIA	TOTAL	METRO MELBOURNE	COUNTRY VICTORIA	TOTAL
Driver	39	76	115	33	88	121	41	88	130
Passenger	22	28	50	14	25	39	24	27	51
Pedestrian	30	14	44	31	5	36	30	10	40
Motorcyclist	17	13	30	20	20	40	19	22	41
Pillion Passenger	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	2	2
Cyclist	4	6	10	3	3	6	4	3	7
Total	112	137	249	102	141	243	120	151	271

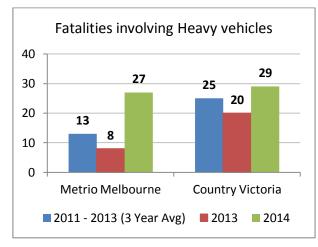
State road fatalities to midnight 31 December 2014

Map of Victorian fatal crashes during 2014



Key Changes

• Heavy vehicle involvement - There has been an increase in the number of heavy vehicle involved fatal crashes and fatalities. In 2014, there were 48 fatal crashes with 56 people killed. This is a 100 per cent increase in fatalities over 2013, which had 25 fatal crashes in which 28 people were killed. Fatalities involving heavy vehicles accounted for 22 per cent of all fatalities in 2014, compared to ten per cent in 2013.



Heavy vehicle involved fatal crashes							
Number of Fatalities per crash20142013							
1	43	22					
2	3	3					
3	1	0					
4	1	0					

• **Multiple fatality crashes** - In 2014, 18 fatal crashes resulted in multiple fatalities where 43 persons were killed, seven more people than were killed in multiple fatality crashes in 2013.

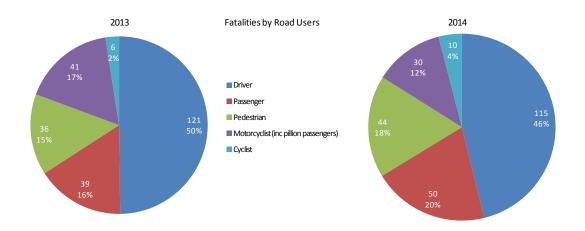
Fatal crashes						
Number of Fatalities per crash	2014	2013				
1	206	207				
2	13	18				
3	3	0				
4	2	0				

Vulnerable Road Users

Key issues include:

- **Motorcyclists** Of the 30 motorcyclist fatalities, 19 occurred during the hours of 9AM and 6PM, while twelve occurred at intersections.
- **Pedestrians** In 2014, one in every 18 fatalities was a pedestrian in country Victoria (14 deaths). In 2013, this was one in every 49 fatalities occurring (5 deaths).
- **Pedestrians** Thirteen pedestrians of 44 were killed between the hours of 8pm and 6am and 12 were killed in a dark environment where street lighting was not present.
- **Cyclists** Sixty per cent of cyclists killed were 65 years or older and 80 per cent were 50 years or older. All cyclists killed (10) were aged 47 and above.
- Cyclists Six of the ten cyclists killed were on 100 km/h roads in country Victoria.
- Young passengers Six passengers aged 7 and under were killed in 2014. None were killed in 2013. The road rules state that children under the age of 7 years must be restrained in a suitable and properly fashioned and adjusted approved child restraint.

Road users



Drivers & passengers:

115 drivers killed, \downarrow 6 compared with 2013, \downarrow 15 compared with 3 year average (2011 to 2013).

Lowest driver toll on record, with the second lowest being 121 in 2013.

Young drivers (18-25), 24 deaths (21% of drivers killed), \downarrow 2 (9%) compared to 2013, \downarrow 6 (20%) compared to 3 year average.

Older drivers (75 and older), 13 deaths (11% of drivers killed), \downarrow 12 (48%) compared to 2013, \downarrow 7 (35%) compared to 3 year average.

50 passengers killed, \uparrow 11 compared to 2013, \downarrow 1 compared with 3 year average. 22 of the 50 fatalities occurred in metropolitan Melbourne, \uparrow 8 compared with 2013.

18 drivers and passengers killed not wearing a seatbelt, \checkmark 10 compared to 2013. Of these, 15 were drivers and 3 were passengers. 11 occurred in country Victoria, 11 occurred in run off road crashes and 11 were killed on high speed roads (80km/h or higher).

Vulnerable Road Users

44 pedestrians killed, \uparrow 8 (22%) compared with 2013, \uparrow 4 compared with 3 year average.

15 older pedestrians killed, \downarrow 5 (25%) compared with 2013, \downarrow 2 (12%) compared with 3 year average.



30 motorcyclists killed, \downarrow 10 (25%) compared with 2013, \downarrow 11 (27%) compared with 3 year average.

13 were killed in country Victoria, $\sqrt{7}$ (35%) compared to 2013.

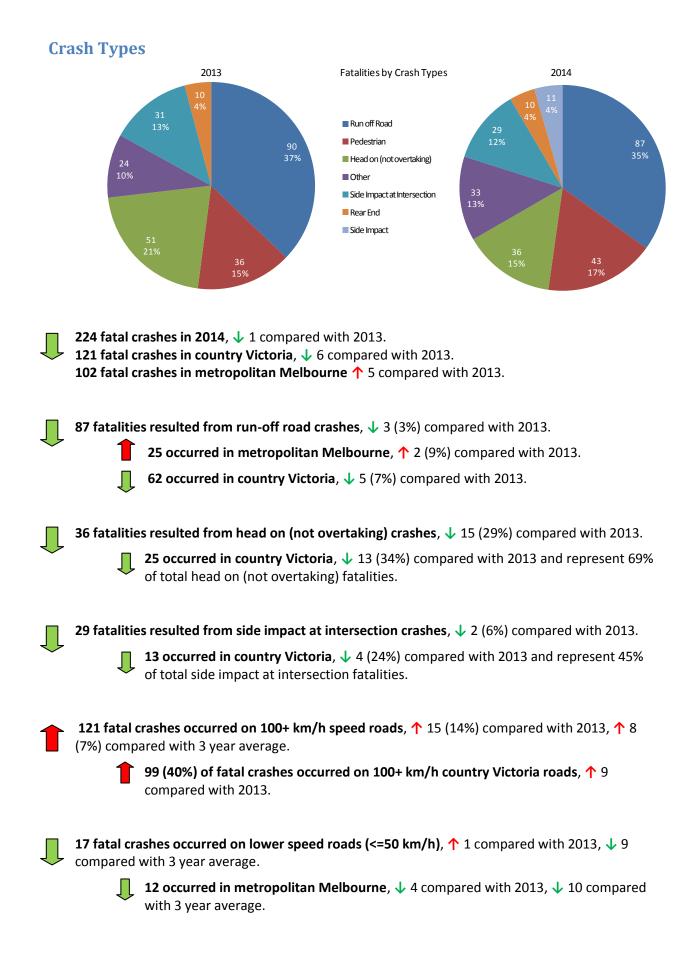


10 cyclists killed, ↑ 4 compared with 2013. 6 were killed on 100km/h roads. 3 occurred in metropolitan Melbourne.

Heavy Vehicles



56 people killed involving a heavy vehicle, \uparrow 28 compared with 2013, \uparrow 18 compared with 3 year average.



ATALITIES					2011	-2013	% change	% change
)14	2013		(3 year average)		2014 vs	2014 vs
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	2013	3 year average
TOTAL PERSONS KILLED	249	100	243	100	271	100	2.5	-8.1
Factors / Components of individual road to	auma †							
High speed rural roads	105	42.2	110	45.3	113	41.7	-4.5	-7.1
Intersections in 60 zones	25	10.0	28	11.5	35	12.9	-10.7	-28.6
Residential Streets (40 and 50 zones)	15	6.0	18	7.4	26	9.6	-16.7	-42.3
Same direction vehicle crashes	13	5.2	15	6.2	15	5.5	-13.3	-13.3
Distracted drivers and riders	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Drink and drug driving*	36	14.5	36	14.8	48	17.7	0.0	-25.0
Fatigued / drowsy drivers and riders	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Speeding drivers and riders*	46	18.5	51	21.0	59	21.8	-9.8	-22.0
Cyclists in urban areas	1	0.4	2	0.8	1	0.4	-50.0	0.0
Heavy vehicles	56	22.5	28	11.5	38	14.0	100.0	47.4
Motorcyclists	30	12.0	41	16.9	43	15.9	-26.8	-30.2
Involve older drivers (60 & older)	70	28.1	86	35.4	76	28.0	-18.6	-7.9
Pedestrians in urban areas	32	12.9	33	13.6	35	12.9	-3.0	-8.6
Involve younger drivers (18-25 years)	52	20.9	51	21.0	72	26.6	2.0	-27.8
OVERALL ROAD TRAUMA INVOLVING ONE OR MORE COMPONENTS ABOVE †	234	94.0	235	96.7	259	95.6	-0.4	-9.7

Notes: There is currently insufficient data to provide distracted or fatigued road statistics within this report.

Older drivers, younger drivers, drink and drug driving and speeding drivers and riders include fatalities involved with road users of these characteristics.

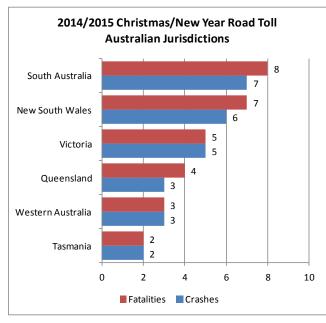
* Based on preliminary findings from police members first on scene.

† Note that persons killed may be counted under multiple trauma components given multiple factors in crashes e.g. a drunk driver injured on a high speed road.

Christmas Road Toll (23rd December 2014 to 3rd January 2015 inclusive)

- For the 2014/2015 Christmas Holiday Period, there were five fatalities in five separate crashes in Victoria, one more than for the Christmas Holiday Period in 2013/2014. The fatalities in Victoria represent 18 per cent of the national Christmas Holiday Period road toll which stands at 28.
- Compared with previous years, the average number of fatal crashes per day (0.41) for the 2014/2015 Christmas Holiday Period was lower than the three year average (0.61). A summary of holiday road toll fatalities is provided below.







Overview

There were 5098 serious injuries⁵ on Victoria's roads for the 12 months ending June 2014, 157 (3%) less than for the same period ending June 2013.

Of these 3283 (64%) occurred in metropolitan Melbourne, down four per cent and 1811 (36%) occurred in country Victoria up one per cent.

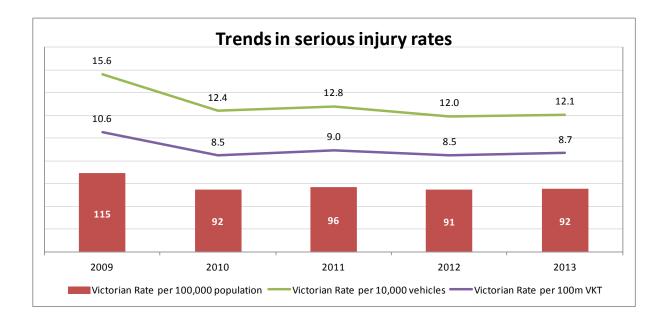
There were 4,375 serious injury crashes, 134 (3%) less than in 2012-2013 and 80 (2%) less than the 3 year average (2010-2011 to 2012-2013).

2,879 serious injury crashes occurred in metropolitan Melbourne, 171 (6%) less than in 2012-2013. 1,492 serious injury crashes occurred in country Victoria, 35 (2%) more than in 2012-2013.

As at the end of 2013-2014, serious injuries are three per cent higher than the trend required to meet the 30% reduction target by 2022.



⁵ Serious injury defined as admitted to hospital.



State serious injuries for the 12 months ending midnight 30 June 2014

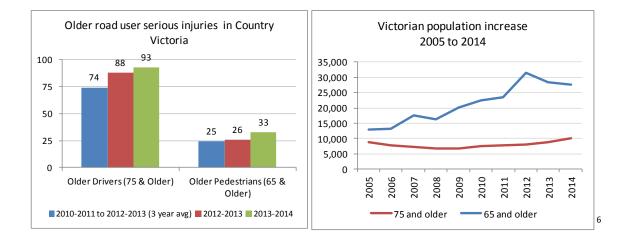
							2010-2011 to 2012-2013			
Road User	2013-2014			20	012-2013		(3 Year Avg)			
	METRO MELBOURNE	COUNTRY VICTORIA	TOTAL*	METRO MELBOURNE	COUNTRY VICTORIA	TOTAL*	METRO MELBOURNE	COUNTRY VICTORIA	TOTAL*	
Driver	1438	879	2319	1523	866	2390	1523	883	2413	
Passenger	498	357	856	539	392	931	535	399	934	
Pedestrian	435	93	529	485	84	569	507	93	603	
Motorcyclist	532	391	923	516	351	868	481	333	821	
Pillion Passenger	17	18	35	19	18	37	20	17	37	
Cyclist	355	65	420	358	89	447	361	67	428	
Unknown	8	8	16	10	3	13	6	2	8	
Total	3283	1811	5098	3450	1803	5255	3432	1794	5244	

* Please note that the total figures may not equal the metro & country figures due to missing location details

Key Changes

Older road users

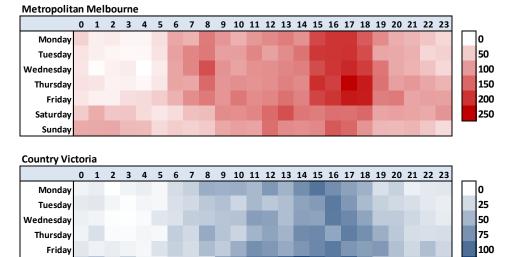
- **Drivers** Older driver (aged 75 and older) serious injuries within country Victoria increased, with 93 in 2013-2014, five (6%) more than in 2012-2013 and 19 (25%) more than the 3 year average.
- **Pedestrians** In 2013-2014 pedestrian serious injuries in metropolitan Melbourne were 435, 50 (10%) less than in 2012-2013 and 72 (14%) less than the 3 year average.
- **Pedestrians** However, older pedestrian (aged 65 and older) serious injuries in country Victoria have increased. There were 33 serious injuries in 2013-2014, seven (27%) more than in 2012-2013 and eight (34%) more than the 3 year average.
- **Population** In the 12 months to 30 June 2014, the number of people aged 65 years and over within Victoria increased by 27,606 people, representing a 3.3% increase.



- Younger road users In 2013-2014 there were 357 serious injuries for people aged 17 or less, 56 (18%) less than 2012-2013 and 88 (25%) less than the 3 year average.
- **Time of day** Serious injuries in metropolitan Melbourne between 7PM and 12PM have decreased in 2013-2014 with 610 occurring, 120 (16%) less than 2012-2013 and 111 (15%) less than the 3 year average.

⁶ From ABS Report 3101.0 Australian Demographic Statistics June 2014 (Released 18 Dec 2014)

• **Time of day** - Over the last 5 years, more serious injuries in metropolitan Melbourne occur on a weekday between 3 and 5 PM, whereas in country Victoria, more serious injuries occur on a weekend early afternoon, between 12 and 5 PM.



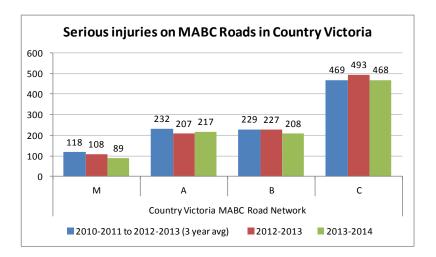
Saturday Sunday

Serious Injuries by time of day and day of week - June 2010 to June 2014

• **Motorcyclists** - In 2013-2014 there were 409 motorcyclist serious injuries in rural Victoria, 40 (11%) more than in 2012-2013 and 60 (17%) more than the 3 year average.

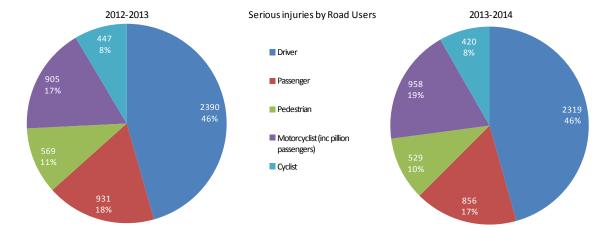
125

- Heavy vehicle involved crashes involving heavy vehicles resulting in a serious injury were lower in metropolitan Melbourne compared with 2012-2013. There were 134 serious injuries in 2013-2014, 37 (22%) less than 2012-2013 and 26 (16%) less than the 3 year average.
- **Road class⁷** M class roads in country Victoria had 89 serious injuries, 19 (18%) less than in 2012-2013 and 29 (24%) less than the 3 year average. Serious injuries on C class roads totalled 468, which made up 26% of all country Victoria serious injuries.



⁷ Refer to <u>https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/traffic-and-road-use/road-network-and-performance/types-of-roads/victorias-route-number-signs</u> for definitions of the SRNS road classes within rural Victoria

Road users



Drivers & Passengers

2,319 driver serious injuries, \checkmark 71 (3%) compared with 2012-2013, \checkmark 94 compared with 3 year average (2010-2011 to 2012-2013).

511 (22%) of drivers seriously injured were young drivers (aged 18-25), \downarrow 43 (8%) compared with 2012-2013, \downarrow 52 (9%) compared with 3 year average.

248 (11%) drivers seriously injured were older drivers (75 Years & older), \downarrow 14 (5%) compared with 2012-2013, \uparrow 26 (12%) compared with 3 year average.

202 drivers and passengers seriously injured were not wearing a seatbelt, $\sqrt{13}$ (6%) compared with 2012-2013.

129 were drivers and 73 were passengers. 83 occurred in country Victoria.

856 passenger serious injuries, \checkmark 75 (8%) compared with 2012-2013, \checkmark 78 (8%) compared with 3 year average.

Vulnerable road users



529 pedestrian serious injuries, \downarrow 40 (7%) compared with 2012-2013, \downarrow 74 (12%) compared with three year average.



532 motorcyclist serious injuries, \uparrow 14 (3%) compared with 2012-2013, \uparrow 47 (9%) compared with three year average.

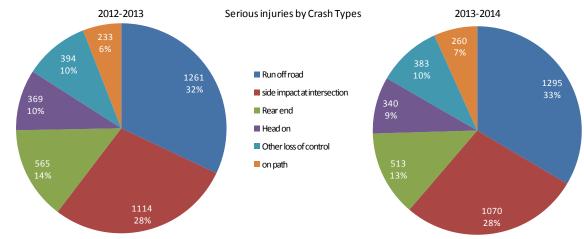
65 cyclist serious injuries in rural Victoria, \downarrow 24 (27%) compared with 2012-2013, \downarrow 2 (3%) compared with three year average.

Heavy vehicles



246 serious injuries involved crashes with heavy vehicles, \checkmark 36 (13%) compared with 2012-2013, \checkmark 30 (11%) compared with 3 year average.

Crash Types



4,375 serious injury crashes in 2013-2014, \downarrow 134 compared with 2012-2013, \downarrow 80 compared with 3 year average (2010-2011 to 2012-2013)

1295 serious injuries resulted from run-off road crashes, \uparrow 34 (3%) compared with 2012-2013 and \downarrow 18 (1%) compared with 3 year average.



584 run off road serious injuries occurred in metropolitan Melbourne, $\sqrt{1}$ (0%) compared with 2012-2013.



711 run off road serious injuries occurred in country Victoria, \uparrow 34 (5%) compared with 2012-2013.

1070 serious injuries resulted from side impact at intersection crashes, \checkmark 44 (4%) compared with 2012-2013, \checkmark 18 (2%) compared with 3 year average.



780 side impact at intersection serious injuries in metropolitan Melbourne, \checkmark 5 (1%) compared with 2013-2014 and represent 73% of the total side impact at intersection serious injuries.

513 serious injuries resulted from rear end crashes, \downarrow 52 (9%) compared with 2012-2013, \downarrow 55 (10%) compared with 3 year average.



418 rear end serious injuries in metropolitan Melbourne, \checkmark 31 (7%) compared with 2013-2013 and represent 81% of the total rear end serious injuries.

ERIOUS INJURIES						2010-2011 to 2012-2013		% change 2013-2014 vs
		-2014	2012-		(3 year average)		2013-2014 vs	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	2012-2013	3 year average
TOTAL PERSONS SERIOUSLY INJURED	5098	100	5255	100	5244	100	-3.0	-2.8
Factors / Components of individual road trac	ıma †							
High speed rural roads	976	19.1	954	18.2	1014	19.3	2.3	-3.7
Intersections in 60 zones	1092	21.4	1260	24.0	1188	22.7	-13.3	-8.1
Residential Streets (40 and 50 zones)	966	18.9	1051	20.0	1038	19.8	-8.1	-6.9
Same direction vehicle crashes	693	13.6	740	14.1	744	14.2	-6.4	-6.9
Distracted drivers and riders	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Drink and drug driving*	656	12.9	630	12.0	651	12.4	4.1	0.8
Fatigued / drowsy drivers and riders	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Speeding drivers and riders*	205	4.0	236	4.5	261	5.0	-13.1	-21.5
Cyclists in urban areas	320	6.3	349	6.6	335	6.4	-8.3	-4.5
Heavy vehicles	246	4.8	282	5.4	276	5.3	-12.8	-10.9
Motorcyclists	923	18.1	867	16.5	814	15.5	6.5	13.4
Involve older drivers (60 & older)	1127	22.1	1240	23.6	1175	22.4	-9.1	-4.1
Pedestrians in urban areas	515	10.1	562	10.7	588	11.2	-8.4	-12.4
Involve younger drivers (18-25 years)	1318	25.9	1429	27.2	1506	28.7	-7.8	-12.5
OVERALL ROAD TRAUMA INVOLVING ONE OR MORE COMPONENTS ABOVE †	4727	92.7	4930	93.8	4904	93.5	-4.1	-3.6

Notes: There is currently insufficient data to provide distracted or fatigued road statistics within this report.

Older drivers, younger drivers, drink and drug driving and speeding drivers and riders include fatalities involved with road users of these characteristics.

* Based on preliminary findings from police members first on scene.

† Note that persons injured may be counted under multiple trauma components given multiple factors in crashes e.g. a drunk driver injured on a high speed road.