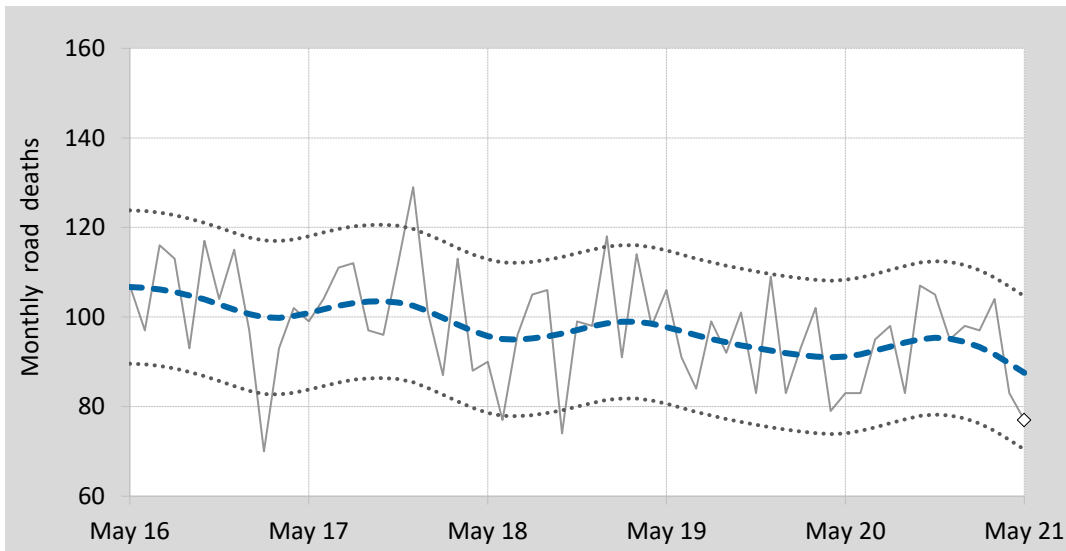




### This month's key figures

- There was a total of 77 road deaths during the month of May 2021. The current figure is 20.6 per cent lower than the average for May over the previous five years.
- During the 12 months ended May 2021, there were 1,125 road deaths. This is an increase of 2.4 per cent from the 12-month period ending May 2020.
- Presently, the rate of annual deaths per 100,000 population stands at 4.4. This is a 1.8 per cent increase compared to the rate for the 12-month period ending May 2020.

### Monthly road deaths—last five years, with trend and error bounds



Note: Shown is a trend and a 90 per cent prediction interval for the monthly observations.

#### Data Sources

Data are obtained from

- Transport for NSW
- Department of Transport, Victoria
- Department of Transport and Main Roads, Queensland
- Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure, SA
- Western Australia Police
- Department of State Growth, Tasmania
- Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics, NT
- Territory and Municipal Services Directorate, ACT
- Australian Bureau of Statistics (3101.0)

#### Inquiries

For further information about data in this bulletin, contact:

Bureau of Infrastructure and Transport Research Economics (BITRE)  
 Web : [www.bitre.gov.au](http://www.bitre.gov.au)  
 Email : [roadsafety@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:roadsafety@infrastructure.gov.au)

Road deaths from recent months are preliminary and subject to revision.

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## I. Deaths by jurisdiction

**Table 1.1** Current month

Current month	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia
May 2020	20	15	23	7	15	2	1	0	83
May 2021	21	14	15	6	14	3	4	0	77
Per cent change	5.0	-6.7	-34.8	-14.3	-6.7	50.0	300.0	0.0	-7.2

**Table 1.2** Year to date

Year to date	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia
January 2020 - May 2020	121	99	91	44	58	17	8	2	440
January 2021 - May 2021	119	90	106	46	70	12	11	5	459
Per cent change	-1.7	-9.1	16.5	4.5	20.7	-29.4	37.5	150.0	4.3

**Table 1.3** Year ending May

12 months ended May	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia
2017	358	275	244	80	179	29	40	11	1,216
2018	396	241	250	103	166	35	42	7	1,240
2019	353	257	235	100	163	30	40	4	1,182
2020	319	233	226	105	145	33	31	7	1,099
2021	294	202	293	95	166	31	34	10	1,125
Latest per cent change	-7.8	-13.3	29.6	-9.5	14.5	-6.1	9.7	42.9	2.4
Average trend change per year (per cent)	-5.9	-6.3	2.7	3.7	-2.8	0.7	-6.1	-1.9	-2.7

## 2. Deaths by road user, age-group and gender

**Table 2.1** By road user

12 months ended May	Driver	Passenger	Pedestrian	Motorcyclist <sup>b</sup>	Pedal <sup>a</sup> cyclist	Total <sup>b</sup>
2017	579	206	165	233	27	1,216
2018	577	229	183	201	41	1,240
2019	541	223	175	204	34	1,182
2020	528	179	150	191	49	1,099
2021	561	175	123	227	34	1,125
Latest per cent change	6.3	-2.2	-18.0	18.8	-30.6	2.4
Average trend change per year (per cent)	-1.5	-5.6	-7.6	-1.0	6.6	-2.7

**Table 2.2** By age-group (years)

12 months ended May	0 to 16	17 to 25	26 to 39	40 to 64	65 to 74	≥ 75	Total <sup>b</sup>
2017	69	256	262	383	98	148	1,216
2018	39	244	247	404	130	175	1,240
2019	53	226	263	371	114	152	1,182
2020	42	217	271	337	87	141	1,099
2021	69	216	282	342	93	122	1,125
Latest per cent change	64.3	-0.5	4.1	1.5	6.9	-13.5	2.4
Average trend change per year (per cent)	0.7	-4.5	2.4	-4.0	-4.9	-5.8	-2.7

## 2. Deaths by road user, age-group and gender (continued)

**Table 2.3** By gender

12 months ended May	Males	Females	Total <sup>c</sup>
2017	899	316	1,216
2018	908	332	1,240
2019	885	296	1,182
2020	833	262	1,099
2021	834	289	1,125
<i>Latest per cent change</i>	0.1	10.3	2.4
<i>Average trend change per year (per cent)</i>	-2.3	-4.1	-2.7

a Includes pillion passengers.

b Includes deaths to persons with either age or road user type not recorded.

c Includes deaths of persons where gender is not recorded or unspecified.

## 3. Annual deaths per 100,000 population

**Table 3.1** Year ended May

12 months ended May	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia
2017	4.59	4.41	5.00	4.66	6.98	5.58	16.19	2.70	4.99
2018	5.00	3.78	5.04	5.96	6.43	6.67	16.96	1.68	5.01
2019	4.39	3.94	4.66	5.73	6.26	5.64	16.20	0.95	4.70
2020	3.92	3.50	4.40	5.96	5.49	6.15	12.60	1.63	4.30
2021	3.60	3.03	5.64	5.37	6.22	5.73	13.78	2.32	4.38
<i>Latest per cent change</i>	-8.2	-13.5	28.2	-10.0	13.3	-6.9	9.3	42.1	1.8
<i>Average trend change per year (per cent)</i>	-7.0	-7.9	1.1	2.9	-3.8	-0.3	-6.0	-3.3	-4.0

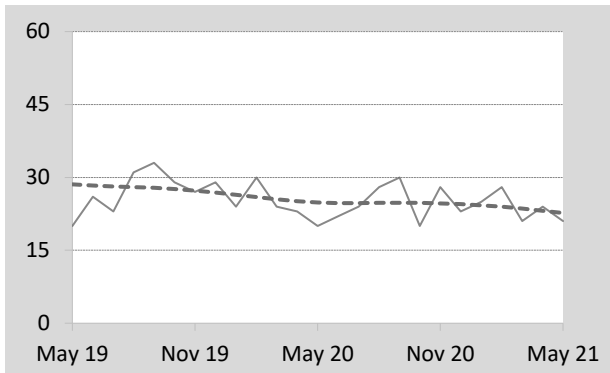
**Table 3.2** Calendar year period

Calendar year	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia
2016	4.91	4.70	5.18	5.02	7.55	7.15	18.32	2.48	5.34
2017	4.94	4.10	5.01	5.80	6.18	6.13	12.52	1.21	4.97
2018	4.35	3.30	4.89	4.61	6.09	6.06	20.24	2.14	4.54
2019	4.36	4.03	4.30	6.50	6.21	5.42	14.63	1.41	4.68
2020	3.62	3.15	5.37	5.25	5.78	6.66	12.59	1.62	4.30
<i>Latest per cent change</i>	-17.0	-21.9	24.9	-19.2	-7.0	22.7	-13.9	15.3	-7.9

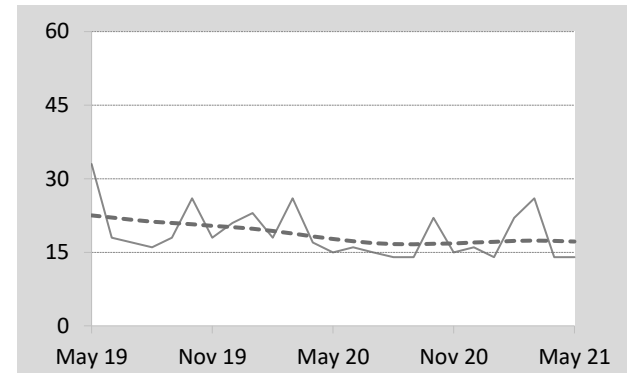
#### 4. Monthly deaths by jurisdiction — last 24 months

— raw  
 - - - smoothed  
*(Whittaker-Henderson)*

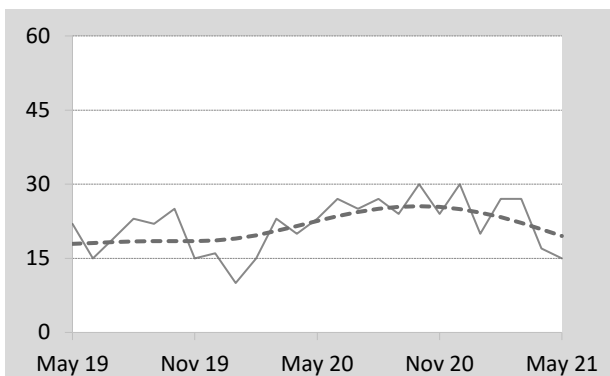
**Figure 4.1 NSW**



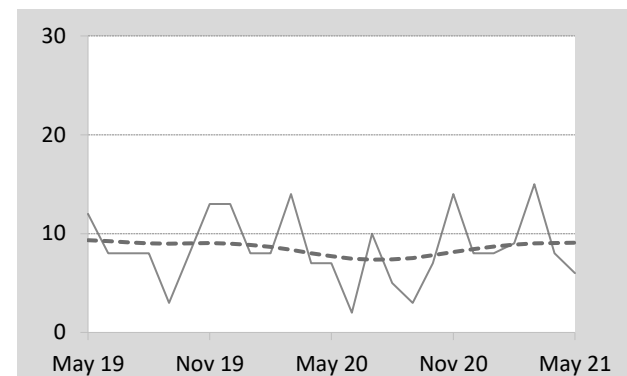
**Figure 4.2 Vic**



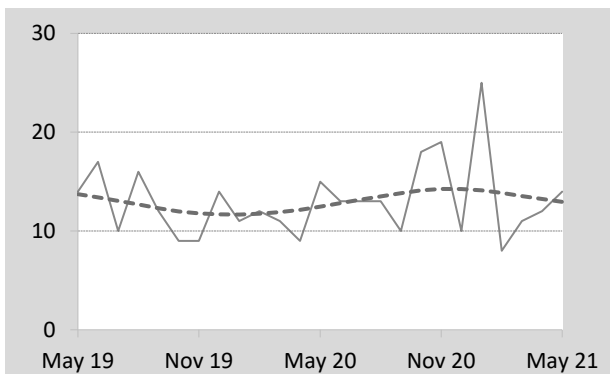
**Figure 4.3 Qld**



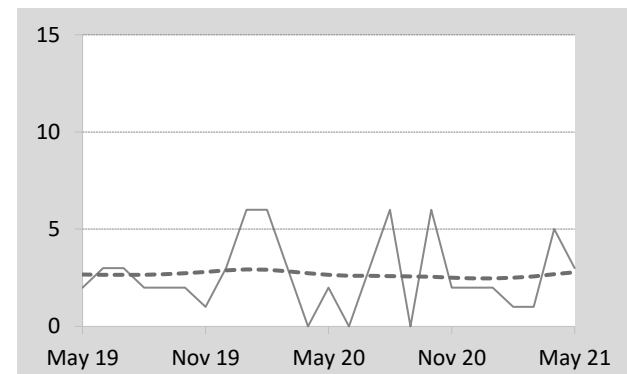
**Figure 4.4 SA**



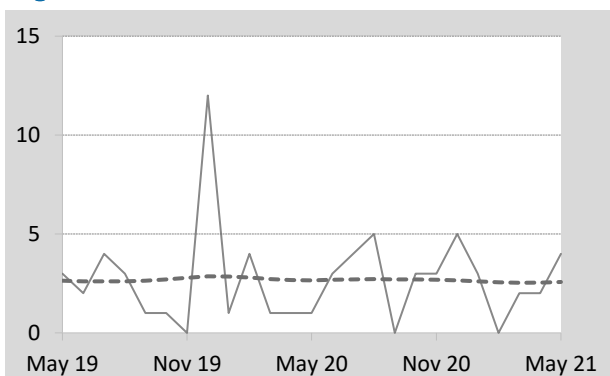
**Figure 4.5 WA**



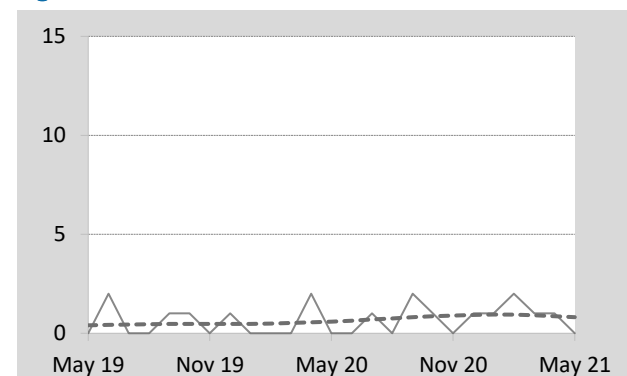
**Figure 4.6 Tas**



**Figure 4.7 NT**



**Figure 4.8 ACT**



## 5. Fatal crashes: counts and characteristics

**Table 5.1** By Crash type and Posted speed limit

12 months ended May	Crash type <sup>a</sup>		Posted speed limit (km/h)						Total <sup>b</sup>
	Single	Multiple	≤ 40	50	60	70 to 90	100	≥ 110	
2017	641	496	22	121	199	279	367	139	1,137
2018	649	493	35	159	219	240	332	150	1,142
2019	669	423	14	124	195	230	355	164	1,092
2020	590	420	22	138	164	230	317	135	1,010
2021	593	452	16	117	170	239	339	132	1,045
Latest per cent change	0.5	7.6	-27.3	-15.2	3.7	3.9	6.9	-2.2	3.5
Average trend change per year (per cent)	-2.5	-3.4	-10.4	-2.1	-5.9	-3.5	-2.0	-2.1	-2.9

**Table 5.2** By Day of week and Time of day

12 months ended May	Day of week <sup>c</sup>		Time of day <sup>d</sup>	
	Weekday	Weekend	Day	Night
2017	696	441	684	453
2018	694	448	714	428
2019	670	422	674	418
2020	631	379	614	396
2021	595	450	630	415
Latest per cent change	-5.7	18.7	2.6	4.8
Average trend change per year (per cent)	-4.0	-1.3	-3.1	-2.5

a 'Single' and 'Multiple' refer to the number of vehicles involved in a fatal crash.

b Includes crashes where speed limit is unknown or not specified.

c 'Weekday' refers to 6am Monday through to 5:59pm Friday.

d 'Day' refers to 6am through to 5:59 pm.

## Appendix

### Definition

The road safety agencies in each jurisdiction use detailed criteria to define road crashes and road deaths. Briefly, a death is classified as resulting from a road crash if the crash occurred on a public road, is unintentional and the death occurred within 30 days from injuries sustained in the crash.

### Population rates

Rates per population are based on the deaths to the current 12-month period, and the population at the midpoint of the period. The population at midpoints is interpolated if necessary.

### New ongoing fields in May 2018 database

The *Australian Road Deaths Database* now includes geographic location information for fatal crashes. Back series of data for all jurisdictions is in development.

### Average trend change (% per year)

Designed to provide a **one-number summary** of growth rates over recent time periods. Calculated by fitting an exponential curve through the data points, and quoting the constant (annual) change of this curve.

### Smooth trend lines

These trend lines are designed to track medium-term trends and turning points in the raw data. Whittaker-Henderson smoothers have been used with value of 80 for the smoothing parameter. The application R (package *pracma*) can be used for such trend lines. Error bounds are 90% (approximately) around the monthly data.

### Other sources for the tables in this bulletin

The underlying database used to produce this bulletin — the *Australian Road Deaths Database* is available for data extraction at <[http://www.bitre.gov.au/statistics/safety/fatal\\_road\\_crash\\_database.aspx](http://www.bitre.gov.au/statistics/safety/fatal_road_crash_database.aspx)>.

Road deaths from recent months are preliminary and subject to revision.