



Australian Government

Australian Transport Safety Bureau

ATSB ROAD SAFETY REPORT

Final

International Road Safety Comparisons:

The 2004 Report

**A comparison of road safety statistics in
OECD nations and Australia**



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Abstract

The International Road Safety Comparisons report presents detailed tables of road death rates for Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) nations and Australian states/territories. These rates allow Australia's road safety performance to be compared with other OECD nations while taking into account the differing levels of population, motorisation and distances travelled.

THE AUSTRALIAN TRANSPORT SAFETY BUREAU

The Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) is an operationally independent multi-modal Bureau within the Australian Government Department of Transport and Regional Services. ATSB investigations are independent of regulatory, operator or other external bodies.

The ATSB is responsible for investigating accidents and other transport safety matters involving civil aviation, marine and rail operations in Australia that fall within Commonwealth jurisdiction, as well as participating in overseas investigations involving Australian registered aircraft and ships. A primary concern is the safety of commercial transport, with particular regard to fare-paying passenger operations. Accordingly, the ATSB also conducts investigations and studies of the transport system to identify underlying factors and trends that have the potential to adversely affect safety.

The ATSB performs its functions in accordance with the provisions of the *Transport Safety Investigation Act 2003* and, where applicable, relevant international agreements. The object of a safety investigation is to determine the circumstances to prevent other similar events. The results of these determinations form the basis for safety action, including recommendations where necessary. As with equivalent overseas organisations, the ATSB has no power to implement its recommendations.

It is not the object of an investigation to determine blame or liability. However, it should be recognised that an investigation report must include factual material of sufficient weight to support the analysis and findings. That material will at times contain information reflecting on the performance of individuals and organisations, and how their actions may have contributed to the outcomes of the matter under investigation. At all times the ATSB endeavours to balance the use of material that could imply adverse comment with the need to properly explain what happened, and why, in a fair and unbiased manner.

Central to the ATSB's investigation of transport safety matters is the early identification of safety issues in the transport environment. While the Bureau issues recommendations to regulatory authorities, industry, or other agencies in order to address safety issues, its preference is for organisations to make safety enhancements during the course of an investigation. The Bureau is pleased to report positive safety action in its final reports rather than make formal recommendations. Recommendations may be issued in conjunction with ATSB reports or independently. A safety issue may lead to a number of similar recommendations, each issued to a different agency.

The ATSB does not have the resources to carry out a full cost-benefit analysis of each safety recommendation. The cost of a recommendation must be balanced against its benefits to safety, and transport safety involves the whole community. Such analysis is a matter for the body to which the recommendation is addressed (for example, the relevant regulatory authority in aviation, marine or rail in consultation with the industry).

The *International Road Safety Comparisons* report presents detailed tables of road death rates for Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) nations and Australian states/territories. These rates allow Australia's road safety performance to be compared with other OECD nations while taking into account the differing levels of population, motorisation and distances travelled.

The report on 2004 data found that Australia's road deaths per 100 000 population and road deaths per 10 000 registered vehicles were again all below the corresponding OECD median rates. The Australian road death rate per 100 million kilometres travelled corresponded to the OECD median rate.

Among the OECD nations for which 2004 data were available, Australia had:

- 11th lowest rate (out of 24) in terms of road deaths per 100 000 population (7.9 deaths)
- 9th lowest rate (out of 22) in terms of road deaths per 10 000 registered vehicles (1.2 deaths)
- 4th lowest rate (out of 11) in terms of road deaths per 100 million vehicle kilometres travelled (0.8 deaths).

Overall, of the OECD nations for which 2004 data were available:

- Netherlands recorded the lowest rate of road deaths per 100 000 population (4.9 deaths)
- Norway recorded the lowest rate of road deaths per 10 000 registered vehicles (0.9 deaths)
- Sweden recorded the lowest rate of road deaths per 100 million vehicle kilometres travelled (0.6 deaths).

The Australian Capital Territory performed better than any other Australian state/territory or OECD nation in terms of all reported road death rates (2.8 deaths per 100 000 population, 0.4 deaths per 10 000 registered vehicles, and 0.3 deaths per 100 million vehicle kilometres travelled).

The Northern Territory recorded the highest death rates of all Australian states/territories (17.5 deaths per 100 000 population, 3.3 deaths per 10 000 registered vehicles, and 2.2 deaths per 100 million vehicle kilometres travelled).

2 DATA SOURCES

2.1 International data

Data provided for OECD nations – with the exception of Australia – were derived from the International Road Traffic and Accident Database (IRTAD) using the IRTAD web site. IRTAD was formerly maintained by the German Federal Highway Research Institute, Bundesanstalt für Strassenwesen (BASt). Since the beginning of 2006, IRTAD has been hosted by the Joint OECD/European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT) Transport Research Centre.

Each year, member nations supply OECD/ECMT with the most recent data available, in addition to any revisions to historical data. The information provided in this document is therefore subject to revision with each successive report in the series.

Further information on IRTAD is available at www.irtad.com.

2.2 Australian data

Australian state and territory road death data were obtained from the Australian Transport Safety Bureau's online *Fatal Road Crash Database* (www.atsb.gov.au/road/fatal_road_crash_database.aspx).

Population information was obtained from the Australian Bureau of Statistics publication *Australian Demographic Statistics*.

The *Motor Vehicle Census*, used by the Australian Transport Safety Bureau to calculate death rates per registered vehicle, was not conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in 2000. In order to compare Australian rates with international rates for the year 2000, data were linearly interpolated from 1999 and 2001 figures.

The *Survey of Motor Vehicle Use*, used by the Australian Transport Safety Bureau to calculate death rates per vehicle kilometre travelled, was conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in 1976, 1979, 1982, 1991, 1995, 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2002. In order to compare Australian rates with international rates across a fuller range of years, the following substitutions were incorporated to the vehicle kilometres travelled data: 1976 figures were provided against 1975; 1979 figures were provided against 1980; and 1991 figures were provided against 1990.

2.3 Acknowledgements

The Australian Transport Safety Bureau gratefully acknowledges the provision of police road crash data from the New South Wales Roads and Traffic Authority; VicRoads in Victoria; Queensland Transport; South Australia Police; the Western Australian Police Service; the Tasmanian Department of Infrastructure Energy and Resources; the Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services; and the Australian Capital Territory Department of Urban Services.

3

INTERNATIONAL DEFINITION OF A ROAD CRASH

The definition of a person killed in a road crash, as given in the Convention of Road Traffic (Vienna, 1968), is:

“Any person who was killed outright or who died within 30 days as a result of the accident.”

(IRTAD Special Report, Definitions and Data Availability, p.6)

Nations that comply with this definition include:

Australia	Belgium
Canada	Czech Republic
Denmark	Finland
Hungary	Iceland
Ireland	Luxembourg
Netherlands	New Zealand
Norway	Slovakia
Slovenia	Sweden
United Kingdom	United States of America

Nations that do not comply with this definition have correction factors applied to their death figures by the ECMT Transport Research Centre to ensure consistency within the IRTAD database. These nations include:

Austria	France
Germany	Greece
Italy	Japan
Korea	Poland
Portugal	Spain
Switzerland	Turkey

4

ROAD DEATHS PER 100 000 POPULATION

The number of road deaths for every 100 000 population is a measure of the public health risk associated with road trauma.

Table 1: Road Deaths per 100 000 population, OECD nations, OECD median, and Australian states/territories, 2004

	Road deaths per 100 000 population	Total population (millions)	Total number killed
Australia	7.9	20.1	1 583
Austria	10.7	8.2	878
Belgium	-	10.4	-
Canada	-	31.9	-
Czech Republic	13.5	10.2	1 382
Denmark	6.8	5.4	369
Finland	7.2	5.2	375
France	9.2	59.9	5 530
Germany	7.1	82.5	5 842
Greece	-	-	-
Hungary	12.8	10.1	1 296
Iceland	7.8	0.3	23
Ireland	-	-	-
Italy	9.7	57.9	5 625
Japan	6.7	127.7	8 492
Korea	13.6	48.1	6 563
Luxembourg	11.1	0.5	50
Netherlands	4.9	16.3	804
New Zealand	10.7	4.1	436
Norway	5.7	4.6	259
Poland	15.0	38.2	5 712
Portugal	12.3	10.5	1 294
Slovakia	-	-	-
Slovenia	13.7	2.0	274
Spain	11.0	43.0	4 741
Sweden	5.3	9.0	480
Switzerland	6.9	7.4	510
Turkey	-	-	-
United Kingdom	5.6	59.8	3 368
United States of America	14.5	293.7	42 636
OECD median	9.5		
<i>New South Wales</i>	7.6	6.7	510
<i>Victoria</i>	6.9	5.0	343
<i>Queensland</i>	8.0	3.9	311
<i>South Australia</i>	9.1	1.5	139
<i>Western Australia</i>	9.0	2.0	178
<i>Tasmania</i>	12.0	0.5	58
<i>Northern Territory</i>	17.5	0.2	35
<i>Australian Capital Territory</i>	2.8	0.3	9

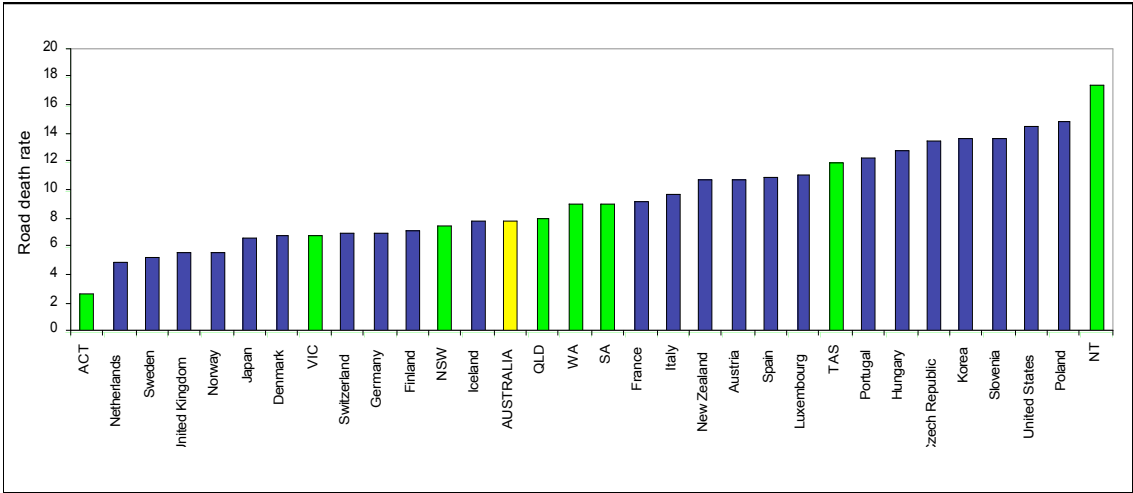
4.1 OECD nations, 2004

In 2004, Australia recorded 7.9 road deaths per 100 000 population. Australia’s rate ranked eleventh lowest of the 24 OECD nations for which this information was available.

In 2004, of the 24 OECD nations for which data were available:

- Netherlands recorded the lowest rate (4.9 deaths per 100 000 population)
- Poland recorded the highest rate (15.0 deaths per 100 000 population).

Figure 1: Road deaths per 100 000 population, OECD nations, and Australian states/territories, 2004



4.2 Australian states/territories, 2004

In 2004, the Australian Capital Territory continued to record the lowest rate of deaths per 100 000 population of all Australian states/territories and of all OECD nations (2.8 deaths).

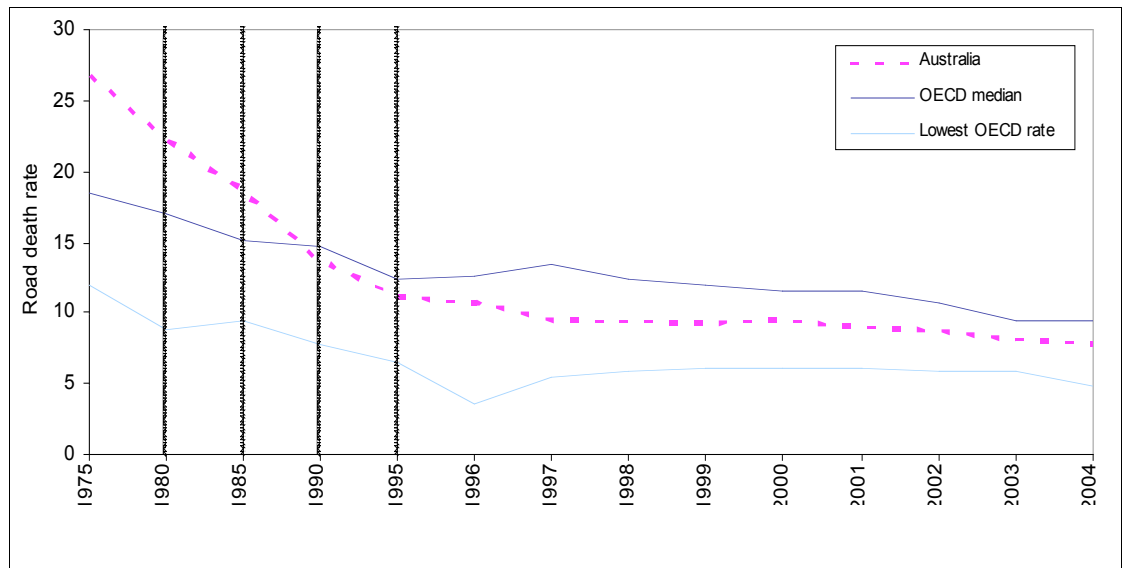
The Northern Territory recorded the highest rate (17.5 deaths).

4.3 Historical trends

The public risk associated with road use declined significantly in Australia between 1975 and 2004. In 1975, Australia-wide, there were 26.8 road deaths per 100 000 population; this rate had fallen to 7.9 deaths by 2004 – a drop of 71 per cent.

Over this same period, the median rate for OECD nations also declined. In 1975, the OECD median rate was 18.5 deaths, and by 2004 it had reduced to 9.5 deaths – a drop of 49 per cent.

Figure 2: Road deaths per 100 000 population, OECD median, lowest OECD rate, and Australia, 1975 to 2004



Australia's reduction in the rate of road deaths per 100 000 population reflected a greater improvement than that achieved by the OECD median over the 1975-2004 period:

- in 1975, the Australian rate was 45 per cent above the OECD median
- in 2004, the Australian rate was 17 per cent below the OECD median.

Between 2003 and 2004, there was:

- no change in the OECD median road death rate per 100 000 population
- a 3 per cent fall in the Australian road death rate per 100 000 population.

Between 2003 and 2004, the largest reduction in the road death rate per 100 000 population among OECD nations occurred in the Netherlands (a fall of 22 per cent).

Table 2: Road deaths per 100 000 population, OECD nations, OECD median, and Australian states/territories, 1975 to 2004

	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Austria	33.4	26.5	20.1	20.3	15.2	12.9	13.9	12.1	13.5	12.2	11.9	11.8	11.5	10.7
Belgium	24.0	24.3	18.3	19.9	14.3	13.4	13.4	14.7	13.7	14.4	14.5	13.1	-	-
Canada	26.7	22.7	17.3	14.9	11.4	10.4	10.2	9.7	9.7	9.5	8.9	9.3	8.7	-
Czech Republic	16.3	12.2	9.6	12.5	15.4	15.2	15.5	13.2	14.1	14.5	13.0	14.0	14.2	13.5
Denmark	16.4	13.5	15.1	12.3	11.1	9.8	9.3	9.4	9.7	9.3	8.1	8.6	8.0	6.8
Finland	19.4	11.5	11.1	13.0	8.6	7.9	8.5	7.8	8.4	7.7	8.4	8.0	7.3	7.2
France	27.3	25.1	20.6	19.8	15.3	14.7	14.4	15.2	14.4	13.6	13.8	12.9	10.2	9.2
Germany	22.0	19.3	13.0	14.0	11.6	10.7	10.4	9.5	9.5	9.1	8.5	8.3	8.0	7.1
Greece	13.8	15.0	20.2	20.2	23.1	20.6	20.0	20.7	20.1	19.3	-	-	-	-
Hungary	16.0	15.2	16.5	23.4	15.5	13.4	13.7	13.5	12.9	11.9	12.1	14.0	13.1	12.8
Iceland	15.1	11.0	10.0	9.4	9.0	3.7	5.5	9.8	7.5	11.3	8.4	10.1	7.9	7.8
Ireland	18.4	16.6	11.6	13.6	12.1	12.5	12.9	12.4	11.0	11.0	10.7	9.6	8.4	-
Italy	18.6	16.4	13.5	12.4	12.3	11.7	11.7	11.9	11.5	11.5	11.6	11.8	10.6	9.7
Japan	12.5	9.7	9.9	11.8	10.1	9.3	8.9	8.5	8.2	8.2	7.9	7.5	7.0	6.7
Korea	12.6	17.2	21.4	33.4	26.6	32.3	29.3	22.6	23.2	21.8	17.1	15.2	15.0	13.6
Luxembourg	34.7	27.0	21.6	18.8	17.0	17.2	14.4	13.4	13.5	17.5	15.9	14.0	11.8	11.1
Netherlands	17.1	14.2	9.9	9.2	8.6	7.6	7.5	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.2	6.1	6.3	4.9
New Zealand	20.0	18.9	22.6	21.4	15.9	13.8	14.4	13.2	13.4	12.1	11.8	10.3	11.5	10.7
Norway	13.5	8.9	9.7	7.8	7.0	5.8	6.9	8.0	6.8	7.6	6.1	6.9	6.2	5.7
Poland	16.5	16.8	12.6	19.2	17.9	16.5	18.9	18.3	17.4	16.3	14.3	15.2	14.8	15.0
Portugal	34.7	27.7	22.1	28.2	25.2	25.4	23.4	22.4	21.0	18.1	16.2	16.1	14.8	12.3
Slovakia	-	-	-	-	12.3	11.5	14.6	15.2	12.0	11.6	11.4	11.3	-	-
Slovenia	32.9	29.2	23.5	25.9	20.9	19.5	18.0	15.6	16.9	15.8	13.9	13.5	12.1	13.7
Spain	16.6	17.6	16.6	23.2	14.7	14.0	14.3	15.1	14.5	14.5	13.8	12.9	12.8	11.0
Sweden	14.3	10.2	9.7	9.1	6.5	6.1	6.1	6.0	6.6	6.7	6.2	6.0	5.9	5.3
Switzerland	19.0	19.2	13.6	13.9	9.9	8.7	8.3	8.4	8.2	8.3	7.6	7.1	7.5	6.9
Turkey	-	-	14.3	14.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
United Kingdom	11.9	11.0	9.4	9.4	6.5	6.4	6.4	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.0	6.1	5.6
United States of America	20.7	22.5	18.4	17.9	15.9	15.9	15.7	15.4	15.3	15.2	14.8	14.9	14.7	14.5
OECD median	18.5	17.0	15.1	14.8	12.3	12.5	13.4	12.4	12.0	11.6	11.5	10.8	9.5	9.5
<i>New South Wales</i>	26.1	25.2	19.5	13.7	10.1	9.4	9.2	8.8	9.0	9.3	8.0	8.5	8.1	7.6
<i>Victoria</i>	24.0	16.8	16.6	12.5	9.3	9.1	8.2	8.4	8.2	8.6	9.2	8.2	6.7	6.9
<i>Queensland</i>	31.0	24.6	19.5	13.8	14.0	11.5	10.6	8.1	9.0	8.9	8.9	8.7	8.2	8.0
<i>South Australia</i>	26.8	20.6	19.5	15.8	12.3	12.3	10.0	11.3	10.1	11.0	10.1	10.1	10.3	9.1
<i>Western Australia</i>	26.3	23.1	17.1	12.2	12.1	14.0	11.0	12.2	11.8	11.3	8.7	9.3	9.2	9.0
<i>Tasmania</i>	29.7	23.6	17.6	15.4	12.0	13.5	6.8	10.2	11.2	9.1	12.9	7.8	8.6	12.0
<i>Northern Territory</i>	68.9	53.3	45.1	41.5	34.4	39.6	32.1	36.3	25.4	26.1	25.3	27.7	26.7	17.5
<i>Australian Capital Territory</i>	16.1	13.4	13.1	9.2	4.9	7.5	5.5	7.1	6.1	5.7	5.0	3.1	3.4	2.8

5

ROAD DEATHS PER 10 000 REGISTERED VEHICLES

The number of deaths for every 10 000 registered vehicles is a means of comparing road death levels among nations by taking into account their different levels of motorisation.

Table 3: Road deaths per 10 000 registered vehicles, OECD nations, OECD median, and Australian states/territories 2004

	Road deaths per 10 000 registered vehicles	Total registered vehicles (millions)	Total number killed
Australia	1.2	13.5	1 583
Austria	1.7	5.2	878
Belgium	-	6.1	-
Canada	-	-	-
Czech Republic	3.0	4.6	1 382
Denmark	1.5	2.5	369
Finland	1.4	2.8	375
France	1.5	36.8	5 530
Germany	1.1	54.1	5 842
Greece	-	-	-
Hungary	3.9	3.3	1 296
Iceland	1.1	0.2	23
Ireland	-	-	-
Italy	1.3	43.1	5 625
Japan	1.0	81.2	8 492
Korea	3.6	18.1	6 563
Luxembourg	1.4	0.4	50
Netherlands	0.9	8.5	804
New Zealand	1.5	2.9	436
Norway	0.9	2.9	259
Poland	3.4	16.7	5 712
Portugal	2.4	5.4	1 294
Slovakia	-	-	-
Slovenia	-	-	274
Spain	1.8	26.4	4 741
Sweden	0.9	5.1	480
Switzerland	1.0	5.0	510
Turkey	-	-	-
United Kingdom	1.0	33.0	3 368
United States of America	-	-	42 636
OECD median	1.4		
<i>New South Wales</i>	<i>1.3</i>	<i>4.1</i>	<i>510</i>
<i>Victoria</i>	<i>1.0</i>	<i>3.6</i>	<i>343</i>
<i>Queensland</i>	<i>1.2</i>	<i>2.7</i>	<i>311</i>
<i>South Australia</i>	<i>1.3</i>	<i>1.1</i>	<i>139</i>
<i>Western Australia</i>	<i>1.2</i>	<i>1.5</i>	<i>178</i>
<i>Tasmania</i>	<i>1.7</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>58</i>
<i>Northern Territory</i>	<i>3.3</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>35</i>
<i>Australian Capital Territory</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>9</i>

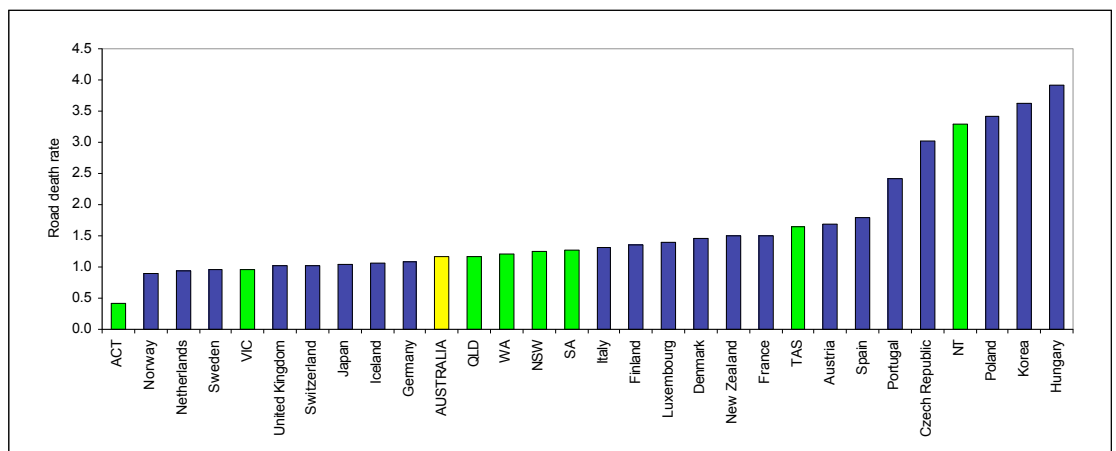
5.1 OECD nations, 2004

In 2004, Australia recorded 1.2 road deaths per 10 000 registered vehicles, which was the ninth lowest rate of the 22 nations for which these data were available.

In 2004, of the 22 OECD nations for which data were available:

- Norway recorded the lowest rate (0.9 deaths per 10 000 registered vehicles)
- Hungary recorded the highest rate (3.9 deaths per 10 000 registered vehicles).

Figure 3: Road deaths per 10 000 registered vehicles, OECD nations, and Australian states/territories, 2004



5.2 Australian states/territories, 2004

In 2004, the Australian Capital Territory had the lowest rate of road deaths per 10 000 registered vehicles of all Australian states/territories and of all OECD nations (0.4 deaths).

The Northern Territory recorded the highest rate (3.3 deaths) within Australia.

5.3 Historical trends

Road deaths in Australia, relative to vehicle ownership, declined significantly between 1975 and 2004. In 1975 there were 5.8 deaths per 10 000 registered vehicles, while in 2004 this had decreased to 1.2 deaths – a drop of 80 per cent.

The median rate for OECD nations also declined significantly. The OECD median of 7.2 deaths per 10 000 registered vehicles in 1975 had fallen to 1.4 in 2004 – a drop of 81 per cent.

During the period 1975 to 2004, Australia’s road death rate per 10 000 registered vehicles has remained consistently below the OECD median rate.

Figure 4 : Road deaths per 10 000 registered vehicles, OECD median, lowest OECD rate and Australia, 1975 to 2004

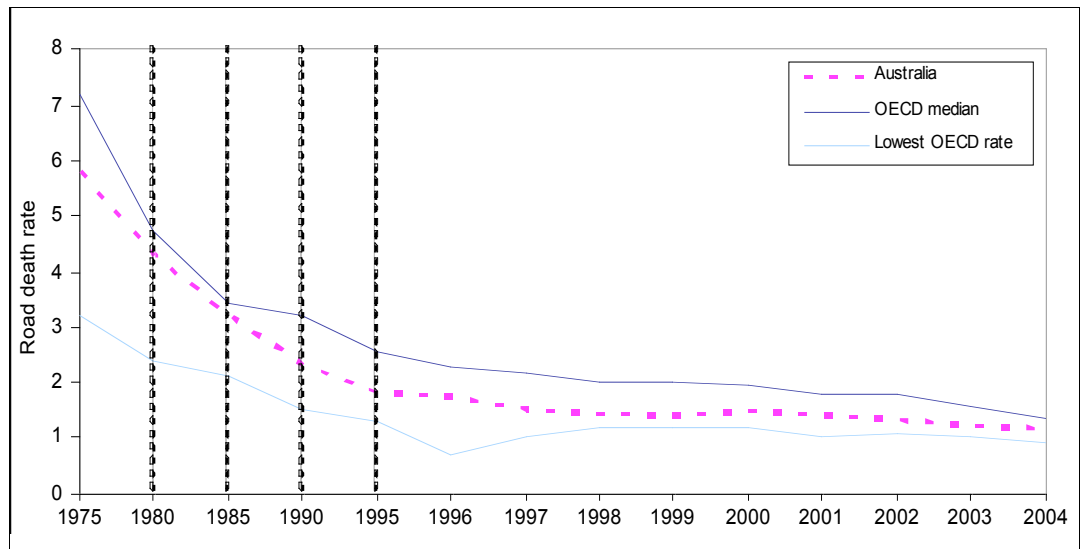


Table 4 : Road deaths per 10 000 registered vehicles, OECD nations, OECD median, and Australian states/territories, 1975 to 2004

	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Australia	5.8	4.3	3.2	2.3	1.8	1.8	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.2
Austria	11.6	7.2	4.8	4.2	2.7	2.3	2.4	2.0	2.2	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.7
Belgium	7.5	6.4	4.5	4.3	2.8	2.6	2.6	2.8	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.3	-	-
Canada	5.3	4.0	3.0	2.3	2.0	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.5	-
Czech Republic	-	4.8	3.4	4.0	4.2	4.0	3.9	3.1	3.3	3.4	3.1	3.3	3.2	3.0
Denmark	5.0	3.7	4.1	3.1	2.7	2.3	2.2	2.1	2.2	2.1	1.8	1.9	1.7	1.5
Finland	7.2	4.0	3.1	2.9	2.0	1.8	1.9	1.7	1.8	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.4	1.4
France	8.1	6.2	4.6	4.2	3.1	3.0	2.9	2.7	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.1	1.7	1.5
Germany	7.2	4.9	2.9	2.6	2.0	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.1
Greece	17.0	10.6	9.9	7.4	6.7	5.7	5.2	5.0	4.5	4.0	-	-	-	-
Hungary	12.6	9.0	9.0	11.2	6.0	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.9	4.4	4.4	4.8	4.2	3.9
Iceland	-	2.8	2.1	1.7	1.8	0.7	1.0	1.7	1.2	1.8	1.2	1.4	1.1	1.1
Ireland	8.6	6.2	4.5	4.5	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.0	2.6	2.5	2.3	2.0	1.7	-
Italy	6.0	4.7	3.1	2.3	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.4	1.3
Japan	4.3	2.7	2.4	2.4	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.0
Korea	238.8	67.9	38.7	28.9	10.8	11.8	9.8	7.1	7.2	6.9	5.1	4.4	4.1	3.6
Luxembourg	11.7	6.4	4.0	3.3	2.5	2.5	2.1	1.9	1.9	2.4	2.1	1.8	1.5	1.4
Netherlands	6.3	4.3	2.8	2.3	2.0	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.9
New Zealand	4.3	3.5	3.9	3.3	2.5	2.2	2.3	2.1	2.0	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.6	1.5
Norway	3.6	2.4	2.2	1.5	1.3	1.1	1.3	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.0	1.1	1.0	0.9
Poland	14.4	10.9	6.6	8.1	6.2	5.4	5.9	5.6	5.1	4.5	3.8	3.8	3.5	3.4
Portugal	22.9	13.3	8.1	12.1	6.9	6.5	5.6	5.1	4.4	3.9	3.4	3.3	3.0	2.4
Slovakia	-	-	-	-	4.5	4.0	5.1	5.2	4.2	4.1	3.9	3.3	-	-
Slovenia	-	-	-	6.9	5.1	4.6	4.0	3.3	3.4	3.1	2.7	2.6	2.3	-
Spain	9.0	6.4	5.4	5.8	3.1	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.6	2.5	2.3	2.1	2.1	1.8
Sweden	3.8	2.5	2.2	1.8	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.9
Switzerland	5.8	4.5	2.7	2.4	1.7	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.0
Turkey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
United Kingdom	3.9	3.3	2.5	2.2	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.0
United States of America	3.2	3.2	2.6	2.4	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	-
OECD median	7.2	4.7	3.4	3.2	2.5	2.3	2.2	2.0	2.0		1.8	1.8	1.6	1.4
<i>New South Wales</i>	6.0	5.2	3.6	2.5	1.9	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.3
<i>Victoria</i>	5.3	3.4	2.8	2.1	1.5	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.2	0.9	1.0
<i>Queensland</i>	6.9	4.4	3.2	2.3	2.3	1.8	1.7	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.2
<i>South Australia</i>	5.5	3.8	3.3	2.6	1.9	1.8	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.3
<i>Western Australia</i>	5.4	3.9	2.8	1.9	1.8	2.0	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.2
<i>Tasmania</i>	6.3	4.4	2.9	2.4	1.8	2.0	1.0	1.5	1.6	1.3	1.8	1.1	1.2	1.7

6

ROAD DEATHS PER 100 MILLION VEHICLE KILOMETRES TRAVELLED

The number of road deaths for every 100 million vehicle kilometres travelled is a direct measure of the risk associated with road travel.

Table 5
Road deaths per 100 million vehicle kilometres travelled, OECD nations, OECD median, Australian states/territories, 2004

	Road deaths per 100 million vehicle kilometres travelled	Total vehicle kilometres travelled (100 million)	Total number killed
Australia	0.8	1991	1 583
Austria	1.1	805	878
Belgium	-	946	-
Canada	-	3 119	-
Czech Republic	2.9	472	1 382
Denmark	-	-	369
Finland	0.7	509	375
France	1.0	5 600	5 530
Germany	0.8	6 971	5 842
Greece	-	-	-
Hungary	-	-	1 296
Iceland	-	-	23
Ireland	-	-	-
Italy	-	-	5 625
Japan	-	-	8 492
Korea	2.3	2 838	6 563
Luxembourg	-	-	50
Netherlands	-	-	804
New Zealand	-	-	436
Norway	0.7	357	259
Poland	-	-	5 712
Portugal	-	-	1 294
Slovakia	-	-	-
Slovenia	1.8	151	274
Spain	-	-	4 741
Sweden	0.6	761	480
Switzerland	0.8	629	510
Turkey	-	-	-
United Kingdom	-	-	3 368
United States of America	-	-	42 636
OECD median	0.8		
<i>New South Wales</i>	<i>0.9</i>	<i>589</i>	<i>510</i>
<i>Victoria</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>526</i>	<i>343</i>
<i>Queensland</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>416</i>	<i>311</i>
<i>South Australia</i>	<i>0.9</i>	<i>152</i>	<i>139</i>
<i>Western Australia</i>	<i>0.8</i>	<i>213</i>	<i>178</i>
<i>Tasmania</i>	<i>1.3</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>58</i>
<i>Northern Territory</i>	<i>2.2</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>35</i>
<i>Australian Capital Territory</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>9</i>

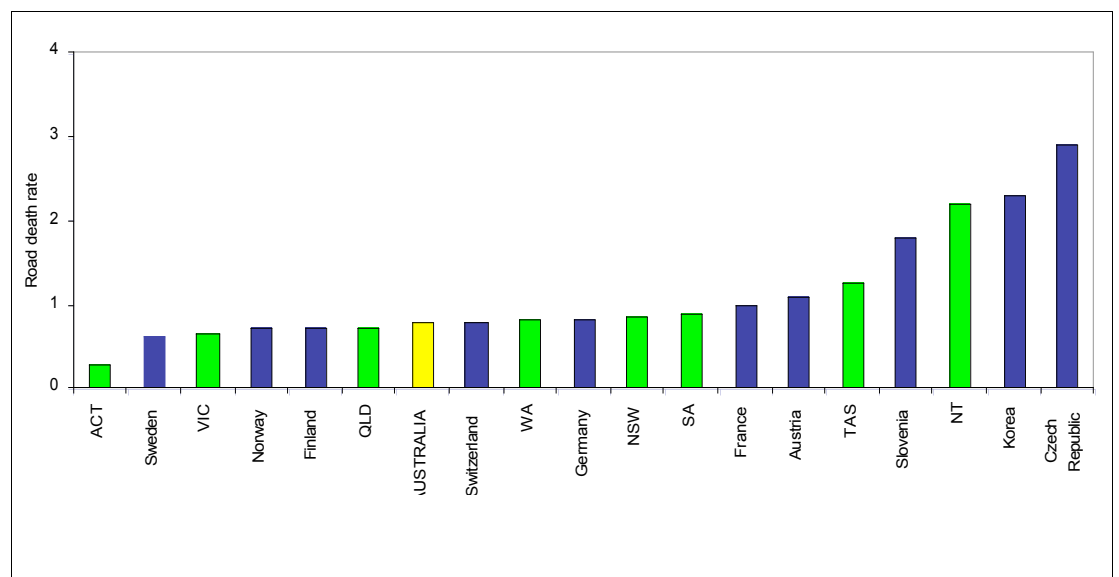
6.1 OECD nations, 2004

In 2004, Australia recorded 0.8 road deaths per 100 million vehicle kilometres travelled. Australia recorded the fourth lowest rate among the eleven OECD nations for which these data were available.

In 2004, of the eleven OECD nations for which data were available:

- Sweden had the lowest rate, recording 0.6 road deaths per 100 million vehicle kilometres travelled
- the Czech Republic had the highest rate, recording 2.9 road deaths per 100 million vehicle kilometres travelled.

Figure 5 : Road deaths per 100 million vehicle kilometres travelled, OECD nations, and Australian states/territories, 2004



6.2 Australian states/territories, 2004

Within Australia, the Australian Capital Territory had the lowest rate, recording 0.3 road deaths per 100 million vehicle kilometres travelled.

The Northern Territory had the highest rate of all Australian states/territories, with a rate of 2.2 road deaths per 100 million vehicle kilometres travelled.

6.3 Historical trends

The degree of actual risk associated with road travel in Australia declined significantly between 1975 and 2004. In 1975, there were 3.6 road deaths per 100 million vehicle kilometres travelled in Australia. In 2004, this had decreased to 0.8 deaths – a drop of 78 per cent.

Over the same period the median rate for OECD nations also declined, from 3.8 deaths in 1975 to 0.8 deaths in 2004 – a drop of 78 per cent.

This is the first year in two decades that the OECD median rate for deaths per 100 million vehicle kilometres travelled has fallen to a level equal to Australia’s rate.

Figure 6 : Road deaths per 100 million vehicle kilometres travelled, OECD median, lowest OECD rate, and Australia, 1975 to 2004

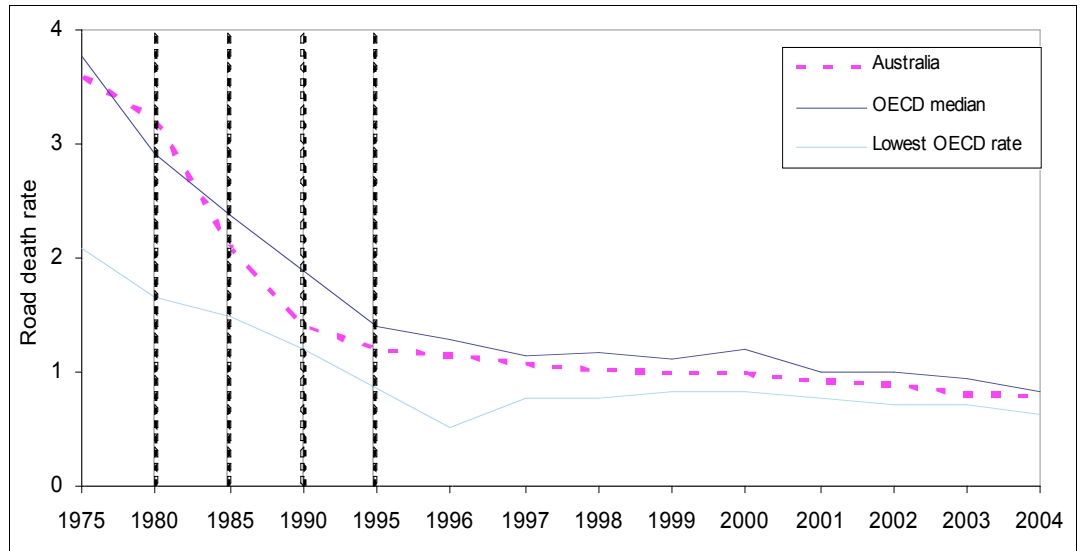


Table 6: Road deaths per 100 million vehicle kilometres travelled, OECD nations, OECD median, and Australian states/territories, 1975 to 2004

	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Australia	3.6	3.2	2.1	1.4	1.2	-	-	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8
Austria	8.3	5.6	3.8	2.8	1.9	1.5	1.6	1.4	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.1
Belgium	6.2	5.0	3.4	2.8	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.5	-	-
Canada	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	-
Czech Republic	-	5.4	4.2	4.8	4.7	4.5	4.4	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.2	3.3	3.2	2.9
Denmark	3.2	2.6	2.6	1.8	1.4	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.9	1.0	-	-
Finland	3.7	2.1	1.7	1.6	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.7
France	5.9	4.4	3.3	2.6	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.1	1.0
Germany	-	3.7	2.4	2.0	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.8
Greece	-	-	-	-	3.5	3.0	2.7	2.7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hungary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Iceland	-	2.1	1.8	1.4	1.3	0.5	0.8	1.4	1.0	1.6	-	-	-	-
Ireland	-	2.8	-	1.9	1.4	1.3	-	-	-	-	1.1	-	-	-
Italy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Japan	4.9	2.9	2.8	2.3	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.1	-
Korea	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.2	4.2	3.1	2.6	2.5	2.3
Luxembourg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Netherlands	-	2.8	1.8	1.4	1.2	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	-
New Zealand	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.2	-	-	-	-
Norway	3.5	1.9	1.8	1.2	1.1	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.0	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.7
Poland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Portugal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Slovakia	-	-	-	6.6	6.1	-	-	-	-	4.7	-	-	-	-
Slovenia	10.9	9.6	8.2	6.5	4.4	3.8	3.3	2.8	2.9	2.7	2.3	2.2	1.7	1.8
Spain	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sweden	2.7	1.6	1.5	1.2	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.6
Switzerland	3.8	3.3	2.1	1.9	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.8
Turkey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
United Kingdom	-	-	-	-	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	-	-	-	-	-	-
United States of America	2.1	2.1	-	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	-	-	-
OECD median	3.8	2.9	2.4	1.9	1.4	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.8
<i>New South Wales</i>	3.7	3.5	2.3	1.4	1.3	-	-	1.1	1.0	1.2	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
<i>Victoria</i>	3.4	2.8	1.8	1.2	1.0	-	-	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.8	0.6	0.7
<i>Queensland</i>	3.9	3.6	2.2	1.5	1.3	-	-	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.7
<i>South Australia</i>	3.2	3.0	2.2	1.4	1.3	-	-	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9
<i>Western Australia</i>	3.2	2.4	1.7	1.3	1.2	-	-	1.2	1.2	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8
<i>Tasmania</i>	3.9	3.1	2.0	2.0	1.3	-	-	1.2	1.4	1.0	1.5	0.8	0.9	1.3
<i>Northern Territory</i>	8.0	7.5	5.4	4.6	4.2	-	-	4.6	3.0	3.1	3.3	3.2	3.4	2.2
<i>Australian Capital Territory</i>	2.3	1.4	1.6	0.6	0.5	-	-	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3