



Motorcycle Crash Statistics



Government of South Australia

Department of Planning,
Transport and Infrastructure

Crash data

During 2013 – 2016, there were on average 399 minor injury crashes, 127 serious injury crashes and 10 fatal crashes involving at least one motorcyclist. In 2017**, there were 24 fatal crashes a further 85 serious injury crashes (current end of September) and 137 minor injury crashes (current end of April).

Table 1: Crashes involving at least one motorcycle by crash severity, South Australia 2013-2017

Year	Minor Injury	Serious injury	Fatal
2013	377	131	11
2014	427	130	11
2015	394	140	11
2016	398	106	8
2017 (incomplete)	137	85	24

***SA data collected for 2017 is incomplete and preliminary - for fatalities until the end of December, for serious injuries until the end of September, and for minor injuries until the end of April 2017*

The motorcyclist was considered responsible in almost two thirds (62%) of these crashes. Alcohol was a factor in 34% of all fatal crashes involving a motorcyclist and speed contributed to 45% (motorcyclist speed).

Motorcycle licence entitlements

As at 31 December 2017, 152,569 SA residents held an 'R' (unrestricted) motorcycle licence; 17,952 held an R-Date (RD) licence*; and there were approximately 52,000 motorcycles on the register of motor vehicles. There are currently 2,038 motorcycle licence holders that do not hold a car licence.

On average, in the 5 years to 2017, motorcyclists account for around 3.6% of all registered vehicles, but around 13% of all fatalities and 18% of serious injuries.

*R-Date **licence** holders are Learners and riders with less than 12 months experience who are not permitted to ride high-powered **motorbikes**.

Young riders

Motorcycle rider serious casualties aged 16-19 have increased on average by 32% per year (from 7 in 2012 to 18 in 2016), while the number of 20-24 year old casualties has increased 2.2% per year over the same period, (from 13 in 2012 to 15 in 2016).

Licensed riders

- The number of 16 and 17 year olds with a motorbike-only licence has increased by 43% from 371 in 2012 to 532 in 2016.
- The number of people aged 16-24 with a motorcycle licence has increased by around 25% in recent years (from 6,200 in 2012 to 7,700 in 2016) while the number of older licence holders has remained relatively constant.

Pillion passengers

During 2013 – 2016, there were each year on average 24 riders involved in casualty crashes while riding with a pillion passenger. While data for 2017 is incomplete, 9 crashes have been entered into the database for 2017 and have been included in the analysis.

Table 2: Number of riders involved in a casualty crash while carrying a pillion passenger, South Australia 2013-2017

Year	Number of riders
2013	26
2014	30
2015	23
2016	15
2017 (incomplete)	9
Total	103

Of the 103 riders, 10 of them were riding mopeds which do not require a motorcycle licence. Of the remaining 93 riders, 53 held an R licence; 13 held an RD licence; 10 were unlicensed and 9 are unknown.

The 103 riders were involved in 102 casualty crashes (one crash involved two riders both carrying pillion passengers). These crashes represent about 4% of all motorcycle casualty crashes and resulted in 170 injuries as outlined in Table 3:

Table 3: Casualties resulting from crashes involving a pillion passenger, South Australia 2013-2017

User	Minor Injury	Serious injury	Fatality	Total
Motorcycle rider	61	19	1	81
Pillion passenger	65	20	0	85
Driver	3	0	0	3
Cyclist	1	0	0	1
Total	130	39	1	170

Night time crashes

For the 2012 – 2017 period, (2017 data current until end Sept), there have been 56 riders involved in casualty crashes between midnight and 5am. These crashes represent around 2% of all motorcycle crashes.

Of the 56 riders, 3 were riding mopeds which do not require a motorcycle licence, of the remaining riders, 22 had a R licence; 12 held an RD licence; 12 were unlicensed and 7 are unknown.