Australian Government

Australian Transport Safety Bureau

International Road Safety Comparisons

THE 2003 REPORT

A comparison of road safety statistics in OECD nations and Australia

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1 MAIN FINDINGS

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 2003 data found that Australia's road death rates - road deaths per 100 000 population, road deaths per 10 000 registered vehicles, and road deaths per 100 million kilometres travelled - were again all below the corresponding OECD median rates.

Among the OECD nations for which 2003 data were available, Australia had:

- 11th lowest rate (of 24) in terms of road deaths per 100 000 population;
- 7th lowest rate (of 22) in terms of road deaths per 10 000 registered vehicles; and
- 3rd lowest rate (of 11) in terms of road deaths per 100 million vehicle kilometres travelled.

Overall, of the OECD nations for which 2003 data were available:

- Sweden recorded the lowest rate of road deaths per 100 000 population;
- Sweden recorded the lowest rate of road deaths per 10 000 registered vehicles; and
- Finland recorded the lowest rate of road deaths per 100 million vehicle kilometres travelled.

The Australian Capital Territory performed better than any other Australian state/territory, or OECD nation, in terms of all reported road death rates. The Northern Territory recorded the highest death rates of all Australian states/territories.

2 DATA SOURCES

2.1 International data

Data provided for OECD nations – with the exception of Australia – were derived from the International Road Traffic Database (IRTAD) using the IRTAD web site. IRTAD is maintained by the German Federal Highway Research Institute, Bundesanstalt für Strassenwesen (BASt).

Each year, member nations supply BASt 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 on the IRTAD web site at www.irtad.com.

2.2 Australian data

Australian state/territory road death data were obtained from the Australian Transport Safety Bureau's *Fatal Road Crash Database* (tssu.atsb.gov.au). 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 for a fuller range of years, the following substitutions were made: 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, 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 BASt, 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, 2003

	Fatalities per 100 000 population	Total population (millions)	Total number killed
Australia	**8.2**	**19.9**	**1621**
Austria	11.5	8.1	931
Belgium	-	-	-
Canada	-	31.6	-
Czech Republic	14.2	10.2	1447
Denmark	8.0	5.4	432
Finland	7.3	5.2	379
France	10.2	59.6	6058
Germany	8.0	82.5	6613
Greece	-	-	-
Hungary	13.1	10.1	1326
Iceland	7.9	0.3	23
Ireland	8.4	4.0	335
Italy	-	-	-
Japan	7.0	127.6	8877
Korea	15.0	47.9	7212
Luxembourg	11.8	0.4	53
Netherlands	6.3	16.2	1028
New Zealand	11.5	4.0	461
Norway	6.1	4.6	280
Poland	14.8	38.2	5640
Portugal	14.8	10.5	1546
Slovakia	-	-	-
Slovenia	12.1	2.0	242
Spain	12.8	42.2	5399
Sweden	5.9	8.9	529
Switzerland	7.5	7.3	546
Turkey	-	-	-
United Kingdom	6.1	59.6	3658
United States of America	14.7	290.8	42643
OECD median	**9.3**		
New South Wales	*8.1*	*6.7*	*539*
Victoria	*6.7*	*4.9*	*330*
Queensland	*8.2*	*3.8*	*310*
South Australia	*10.3*	*1.5*	*157*
Western Australia	*9.2*	*1.9*	*180*
Tasmania	*8.6*	*0.5*	*41*
Northern Territory	*26.7*	*0.2*	*53*
Australian Capital Territory	*3.4*	*0.3*	*11*

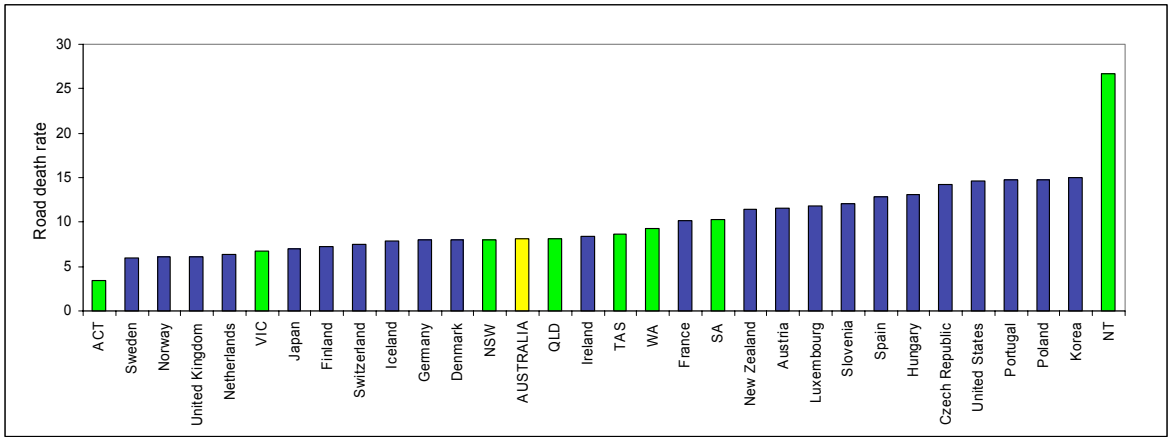
4.1 OECD nations, 2003

In 2003, Australia recorded 8.2 road deaths per 100 000 population. Australia's rate ranked eleventh lowest of the 24 OECD nations for which this information was available.

In 2003, of the 24 OECD nations where data were available:

- Sweden recorded the lowest rate (5.9 deaths per 100 000 population); and
- Korea 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, 2003



4.2 Australian states/territories, 2003

In 2003, the Australian Capital Territory continued to record the lowest rate of deaths per 100 000 population of all Australian states/territories and all OECD nations (3.4 deaths).

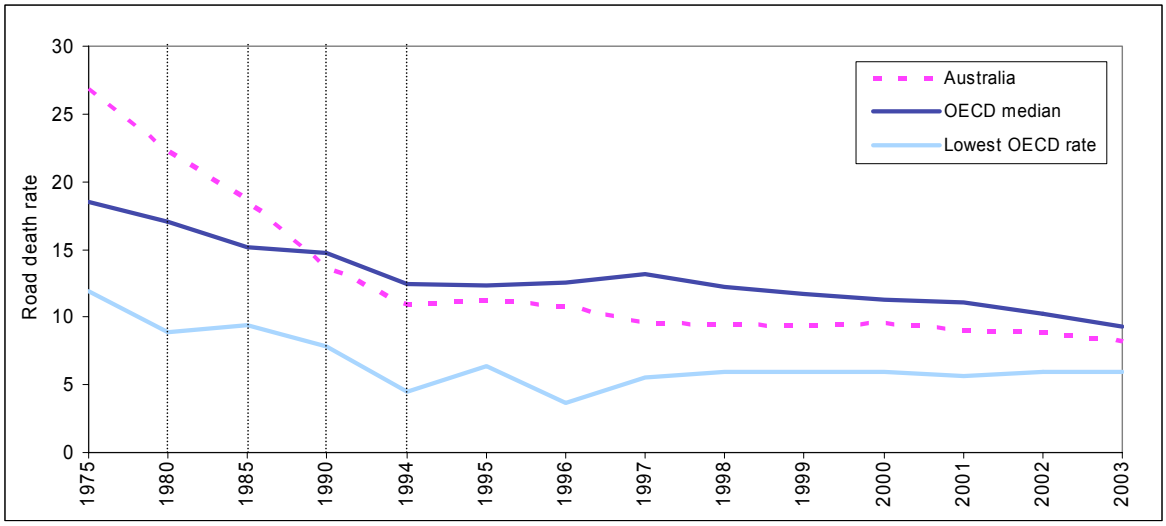
The Northern Territory recorded the highest rate (26.7 deaths).

4.3 Historical trends

The public risk associated with road use declined significantly in Australia between 1975 and 2003. In 1975, Australia-wide, there were 26.8 road deaths per 100 000 population; this rate had decreased to 8.2 deaths by 2003.

Over this same period, the median rate for OECD nations also declined. In 1975, the OECD median rate was 18.5 deaths, and by 2003 it had reduced to 9.3 deaths.

Figure 2
Road deaths per 100 000 population, OECD median, lowest OECD rate and Australia, 1975 to 2003



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 1975-2003 period:

- In 1975, the Australian rate was 45 per cent above the OECD median; and
- In 2003, the Australian rate was 12 per cent below the OECD median.

Between 2002 and 2003, there was:

- 9 per cent fall in the OECD median road death rate per 100 000 population; and
- 7 per cent fall in the Australian road death rate per 100 000 population.

Between 2002 and 2003, the largest reductions in the road death rate per 100 000 population among OECD nations occurred in France and Iceland (both 21 per cent).

Table 2
Road deaths per 100 000 population, OECD nations, OECD median, and Australian states/territories, 1975 to 2003

	1975	1980	1985	1990	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Australia	**26.8**	**22.3**	**18.6**	**13.7**	**10.9**	**11.1**	**10.8**	**9.5**	**9.4**	**9.3**	**9.5**	**8.9**	**8.7**	**8.2**
Austria	33.4	26.5	20.1	20.3	16.9	15.2	12.9	13.9	12.1	13.5	12.2	11.9	11.9	11.5
Belgium	24.0	24.3	18.3	19.9	16.8	14.3	13.4	13.4	14.7	13.7	14.4	14.5	-	-
Canada	26.7	22.7	17.3	14.9	11.2	11.4	10.4	10.2	9.7	9.7	9.5	8.9	9.3	-
Czech Republic	16.3	12.2	9.6	12.5	15.8	15.4	15.2	15.5	13.2	14.1	14.5	13.0	14.0	14.2
Denmark	16.4	13.5	15.1	12.3	10.5	11.2	9.8	9.3	9.4	9.7	9.3	8.1	8.6	8.0
Finland	19.4	11.5	11.1	13.0	9.5	8.6	7.9	8.5	7.8	8.4	7.7	8.4	8.0	7.3
France	27.3	25.1	20.6	19.8	15.6	15.3	14.7	14.4	15.2	14.4	13.6	13.8	12.9	10.2
Germany	22.0	19.3	13.0	14.0	12.1	11.6	10.7	10.4	9.5	9.5	9.1	8.5	8.3	8.0
Greece	13.8	15.0	20.2	20.2	21.6	23.1	20.6	20.0	20.7	20.1	19.3	-	-	-
Hungary	16.0	15.2	16.5	23.4	15.2	15.5	13.4	13.7	13.5	12.9	11.9	12.1	14.0	13.1
Iceland	15.1	11.0	10.0	9.4	4.5	9.0	3.7	5.5	9.8	7.5	11.3	8.4	10.1	7.9
Ireland	18.4	16.6	11.6	13.6	11.3	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	12.4	12.3	11.7	11.7	11.9	11.5	11.5	11.6	11.6	-
Japan	12.5	9.7	9.9	11.8	10.2	10.1	9.3	8.9	8.5	8.2	8.2	7.9	7.5	7.0
Korea	12.6	17.2	21.4	33.4	26.3	26.6	32.3	29.3	22.6	23.2	21.8	17.1	15.2	15.0
Luxembourg	34.7	27.0	21.6	18.5	16.5	17.0	17.2	14.4	13.4	13.5	17.5	15.9	14.0	11.8
Netherlands	17.1	14.2	9.9	9.2	8.5	8.6	7.6	7.5	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.2	6.1	6.3
New Zealand	20.0	18.9	22.6	21.4	16.2	15.9	13.8	14.4	13.2	13.4	12.1	11.8	10.3	11.5
Norway	13.5	8.9	9.7	7.8	6.5	7.0	5.8	6.9	8.0	6.8	7.6	6.1	6.9	6.1
Poland	16.5	16.8	12.6	19.2	17.5	17.9	16.5	18.9	18.3	17.4	16.3	14.3	15.2	14.8
Portugal	34.7	27.7	22.1	28.2	23.3	25.2	25.4	23.4	22.4	21.0	18.1	16.2	16.1	14.8
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	25.4	20.9	19.5	18.0	15.6	16.9	15.8	13.9	13.5	12.1
Spain	16.6	17.6	16.6	23.2	14.3	14.7	14.0	14.3	15.1	14.5	14.5	13.8	12.9	12.8
Sweden	14.3	10.2	9.7	9.1	6.7	6.5	6.1	6.1	6.0	6.6	6.7	6.2	6.0	5.9
Switzerland	19.0	19.2	13.6	13.9	9.7	9.9	8.7	8.3	8.4	8.2	8.3	7.6	7.1	7.5
Turkey	-	-	14.3	14.8	-	-	-	10.6	10.1	9.2	7.6	5.6	-	-
United Kingdom	11.9	11.0	9.4	9.4	6.6	6.5	6.4	6.4	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.0	6.1
United States of America	20.7	22.5	18.4	17.9	15.6	15.9	15.9	15.7	15.4	15.3	15.2	14.8	14.9	14.7
OECD median	18.5	17.0	15.1	14.8	13.4	12.3	12.5	13.2	12.2	11.7	11.6	11.4	10.3	9.3
New South Wales	*26.1*	*25.2*	*19.5*	*13.7*	*10.7*	*10.1*	*9.4*	*9.2*	*8.8*	*9.0*	*9.3*	*8.0*	*8.5*	*8.1*
Victoria	*24.0*	*16.8*	*16.6*	*12.5*	*8.4*	*9.3*	*9.1*	*8.2*	*8.4*	*8.2*	*8.6*	*9.2*	*8.2*	*6.7*
Queensland	*31.0*	*24.6*	*19.5*	*13.8*	*13.1*	*14.0*	*11.5*	*10.6*	*8.1*	*9.0*	*8.9*	*8.9*	*8.7*	*8.2*
South Australia	*26.8*	*20.6*	*19.5*	*15.8*	*10.8*	*12.3*	*12.3*	*10.0*	*11.3*	*10.1*	*11.0*	*10.1*	*10.1*	*10.3*
Western Australia	*26.3*	*23.1*	*17.1*	*12.2*	*12.4*	*12.1*	*14.0*	*11.0*	*12.2*	*11.8*	*11.3*	*8.7*	*9.3*	*9.2*
Tasmania	*29.7*	*23.6*	*17.6*	*15.4*	*12.5*	*12.0*	*13.5*	*6.8*	*10.2*	*11.2*	*9.1*	*12.9*	*7.8*	*8.6*
Northern Territory	*68.9*	*53.3*	*45.1*	*41.5*	*23.6*	*34.4*	*39.6*	*32.1*	*36.3*	*25.4*	*26.1*	*25.3*	*27.7*	*26.7*
Australian Capital Territory	*16.1*	*13.4*	*13.1*	*9.2*	*5.6*	*4.9*	*7.5*	*5.5*	*7.1*	*6.1*	*5.7*	*5.0*	*3.1*	*3.4*

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 between nations by taking into account the different levels of motorisation between the nations.

Table 3
Road deaths per 10 000 registered vehicles, OECD nations, OECD median, and Australian states/territories, 2003

	Fatalities per 10 000 registered vehicles	Total registered vehicles (millions)	Total number killed
Australia	**1.2**	**13.2**	**1621**
Austria	1.8	5.1	931
Belgium	-	-	-
Canada	-	-	-
Czech Republic	3.2	4.5	1 447
Denmark	1.7	2.5	432
Finland	1.4	2.7	379
France	1.7	36.0	6 058
Germany	1.2	53.7	6 613
Greece	-	-	-
Hungary	4.2	3.1	1 326
Iceland	1.1	0.2	23
Ireland	1.7	1.9	335
Italy	-	-	-
Japan	1.1	81.0	8 877
Korea	4.6	15.7	7 212
Luxembourg	1.5	0.4	53
Netherlands	1.2	8.4	1 028
New Zealand	1.6	2.8	461
Norway	-	-	280
Poland	3.5	15.9	5 640
Portugal	-	-	1 546
Slovakia	-	-	-
Slovenia	2.3	1.1	242
Spain	2.1	25.2	5 399
Sweden	1.1	5.0	529
Switzerland	1.1	4.9	546
Turkey	-	-	-
United Kingdom	1.1	32.0	3 658
United States of America	1.8	230.8	42 643
OECD median	1.7		
New South Wales	*1.4*	*3.9*	*539*
Victoria	*0.9*	*3.5*	*330*
Queensland	*1.2*	*2.6*	*310*
South Australia	*1.5*	*1.1*	*157*
Western Australia	*1.3*	*1.4*	*180*
Tasmania	*1.2*	*0.3*	*41*
Northern Territory	*5.1*	*0.1*	*53*
Australian Capital Territory	*0.5*	*0.2*	*11*

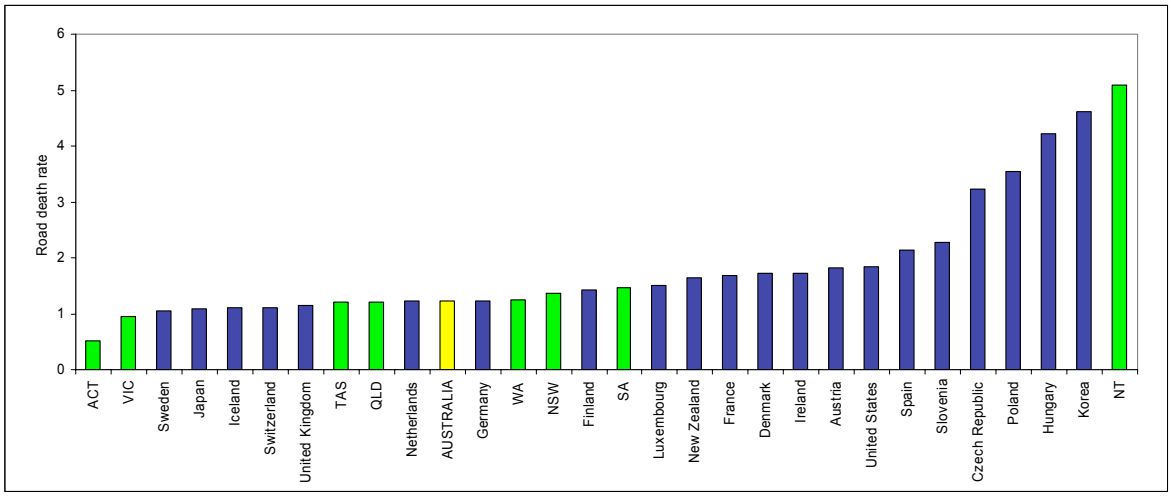
5.1 OECD nations, 2003

In 2003, Australia recorded 1.2 road deaths per 10 000 registered vehicles, which was the seventh lowest rate of the 22 nations for which these data were available.

In 2003, of the 22 OECD nations for which data were available:

- Sweden recorded the lowest rate (1.1 deaths per 10 000 registered vehicles); and
- Korea recorded the highest rate (4.6 deaths per 10 000 registered vehicles).

Figure 3
Road deaths per 10 000 registered vehicles, OECD nations and Australian states/territories, 2003



5.2 Australian states/territories, 2003

In 2003, the Australian Capital Territory had the lowest rate of road deaths per 10 000 registered vehicles of all Australian states/territories and all OECD nations (0.5 deaths).

The Northern Territory recorded the highest rate (5.1 deaths).

5.3 Historical trends

Road deaths in Australia, relative to vehicle ownership, declined significantly between 1975 and 2003. In 1975 there were 5.8 deaths per 10 000 registered vehicles, while in 2003 this had decreased to 1.2 deaths.

The median rate for OECD nations also declined significantly. In 1975 the OECD median was 7.2 deaths, while by 2003 it had fallen to 1.7 deaths.

During the period 1975 to 2003, 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 2003

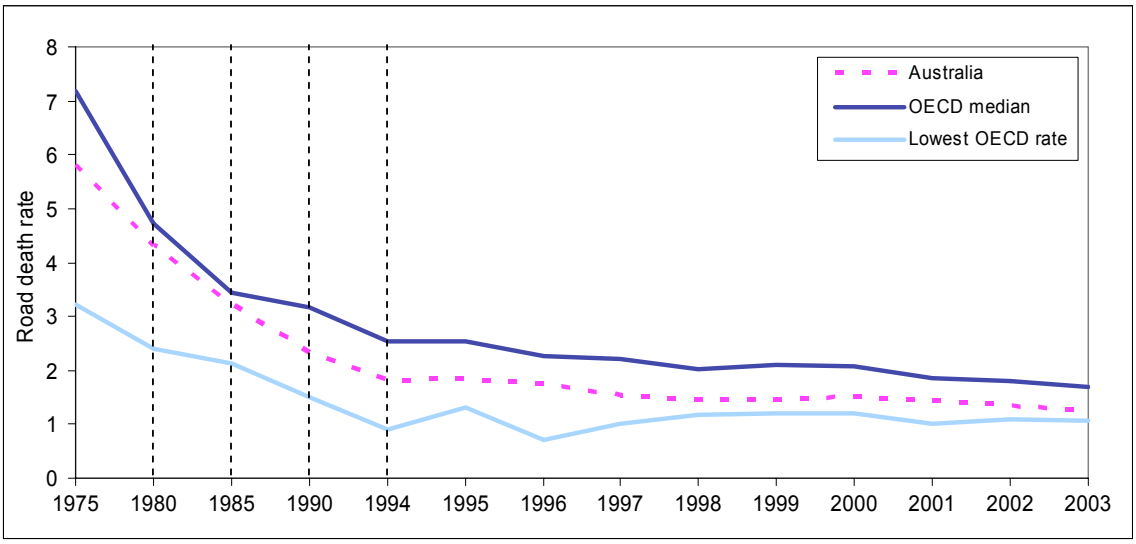


Table 4

Road deaths per 10 000 registered vehicles, OECD nations, OECD median, and Australian states/territories, 1975 to 2003

	1975	1980	1985	1990	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Australia	**5.8**	**4.3**	**3.2**	**2.3**	**1.8**	**1.8**	**1.8**	**1.5**	**1.5**	**1.4**	**-**	**1.4**	**1.3**	**1.2**
Austria	11.6	7.2	4.8	4.2	3.1	2.7	2.3	2.4	2.0	2.2	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8
Belgium	7.5	6.4	4.5	4.3	3.4	2.8	2.6	2.6	2.8	2.5	2.6	2.5	-	-
Canada	5.3	4.0	3.0	2.3	1.9	2.0	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.6	-
Czech Republic	-	4.8	3.4	4.0	4.5	4.2	4.0	3.9	3.1	3.3	3.4	3.1	3.3	3.2
Denmark	5.0	3.7	4.1	3.1	2.6	2.7	2.3	2.2	2.1	2.2	2.1	1.8	1.9	1.7
Finland	7.2	4.0	3.1	2.9	2.2	2.0	1.8	1.9	1.7	1.8	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.4
France	8.1	6.2	4.6	4.2	3.2	3.1	3.0	2.9	2.7	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.2	1.7
Germany	7.2	4.9	2.9	2.6	2.1	2.0	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.2
Greece	17.0	10.6	9.9	7.4	6.7	6.7	5.7	5.2	5.0	4.5	4.0	-	-	-
Hungary	12.6	9.0	9.0	11.2	6.1	6.0	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.9	4.4	4.4	4.8	4.2
Iceland	-	2.8	2.1	1.7	0.9	1.8	0.7	1.0	1.7	1.2	1.8	1.2	1.4	1.1
Ireland	8.6	6.2	4.5	4.5	3.4	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	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.6	-
Japan	4.3	2.7	2.4	2.4	1.8	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.1
Korea	238.8	95.4	54.5	36.8	14.1	12.5	13.5	11.1	8.0	8.2	7.8	5.8	4.9	4.6
Luxembourg	11.7	6.4	4.0	3.3	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.1	1.9	1.9	2.4	2.1	1.8	1.5
Netherlands	6.3	4.3	2.8	2.3	2.0	2.0	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.2
New Zealand	4.3	3.5	3.9	3.3	2.5	2.5	2.2	2.3	2.1	2.0	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.6
Norway	3.6	2.4	2.2	1.5	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.3	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.0	1.1	-
Poland	14.4	10.9	6.6	8.1	6.2	6.2	5.4	5.9	5.6	5.1	4.5	3.8	3.8	3.5
Portugal	22.9	13.3	8.1	6.8	4.1	4.2	4.0	3.4	3.1	2.7	2.3	2.0	1.9	-
Slovakia	-	-	-	-	4.6	4.5	4.0	5.1	5.2	4.2	4.1	3.9	3.3	-
Slovenia	-	-	-	6.9	6.6	5.0	4.5	3.9	3.2	3.4	3.1	2.7	2.6	2.3
Spain	9.0	6.4	5.4	5.8	3.1	3.1	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.6	2.5	2.3	2.1	2.1
Sweden	3.8	2.5	2.2	1.8	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.1
Switzerland	5.8	4.5	2.7	2.4	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.1
Turkey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8.7	7.7	6.8	5.4	3.9	-	-
United Kingdom	3.9	3.3	2.5	2.2	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.1
United States of America	3.2	3.2	2.6	2.4	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.8
OECD median	7.2	4.7	3.4	3.2	2.5	2.5	2.3	2.2	2.0	2.1	2.1	1.8	1.8	1.7
New South Wales	*6.0*	*5.2*	*3.6*	*2.5*	*2.0*	*1.9*	*1.7*	*1.6*	*1.5*	*1.6*	*1.6*	*1.4*	*1.5*	*1.4*
Victoria	*5.3*	*3.4*	*2.8*	*2.1*	*1.3*	*1.5*	*1.4*	*1.2*	*1.2*	*1.2*	*1.2*	*1.3*	*1.2*	*0.9*
Queensland	*6.9*	*4.4*	*3.2*	*2.3*	*2.1*	*2.3*	*1.8*	*1.7*	*1.3*	*1.4*	*1.4*	*1.4*	*1.3*	*1.2*
South Australia	*5.5*	*3.8*	*3.3*	*2.6*	*1.7*	*1.9*	*1.8*	*1.5*	*1.6*	*1.5*	*1.6*	*1.5*	*1.4*	*1.5*
Western Australia	*5.4*	*3.9*	*2.8*	*1.9*	*1.8*	*1.8*	*2.0*	*1.6*	*1.7*	*1.6*	*1.6*	*1.2*	*1.3*	*1.3*
Tasmania	*6.3*	*4.4*	*2.9*	*2.4*	*1.9*	*1.8*	*2.0*	*1.0*	*1.5*	*1.6*	*1.3*	*1.8*	*1.1*	*1.2*
Northern Territory	*20.1*	*13.4*	*9.3*	*8.6*	*4.5*	*6.8*	*7.5*	*6.1*	*6.8*	*4.7*	*5.0*	*4.9*	*5.3*	*5.1*
Australian Capital Territory	*3.7*	*2.8*	*2.6*	*1.6*	*0.9*	*0.8*	*1.2*	*0.9*	*1.1*	*1.0*	*0.9*	*0.8*	*0.5*	*0.5*

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, 2003

	Road deaths per 100 million vehicle kilometres travelled	Total vehicle kilometres travelled (100 million)	Total number killed
Australia	**0.8**	**2015**	**1 621**
Austria	1.2	791	931
Belgium	-	-	-
Canada	-	3 126	-
Czech Republic	3.2	457	1 447
Denmark	-	-	432
Finland	0.8	498	379
France	1.1	5 570	6 058
Germany	1.0	6 783	6 613
Greece	-	-	-
Hungary	-	-	1 326
Iceland	-	-	23
Ireland	-	-	335
Italy	-	-	-
Japan	1.1	7 934	8 877
Korea	2.6	2 778	7 212
Luxembourg	-	-	53
Netherlands	0.8	1 338	1 028
New Zealand	-	-	461
Norway	-	-	280
Poland	-	-	5 640
Portugal	-	-	1 546
Slovakia	-	-	-
Slovenia	1.7	145	242
Spain	-	-	5 399
Sweden	-	-	529
Switzerland	0.9	617	546
Turkey	-	-	-
United Kingdom	-	-	3 658
United States of America	-	-	42 643
OECD median	1.1		
New South Wales	*0.9*	*621*	*539*
Victoria	*0.6*	*551*	*330*
Queensland	*0.8*	*391*	*310*
South Australia	*1.0*	*150*	*157*
Western Australia	*0.9*	*208*	*180*
Tasmania	*0.9*	*46*	*41*
Northern Territory	*3.4*	*16*	*53*
Australian Capital Territory	*0.3*	*32*	*11*

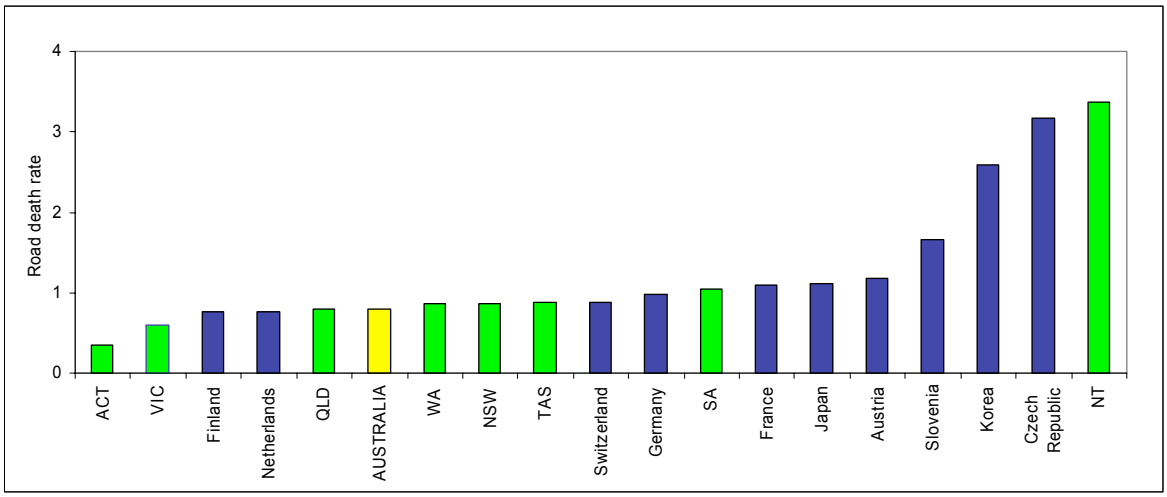
6.1 OECD nations, 2003

In 2003, Australia recorded 0.8 road deaths per 100 million vehicle kilometres travelled. Australia recorded the third lowest rate among the eleven OECD nations for which these data were available.

In 2003, of the eleven OECD nations for which data were available:

- Finland had the lowest rate, recording 0.76 road deaths per 100 million vehicle kilometres travelled (closely followed by the Netherlands at 0.77); and
- Czech Republic had the highest rate, recording 3.2 road deaths per 100 million vehicle kilometres travelled.

Figure 5
Road deaths per 100 million vehicle kilometres travelled, OECD nations and Australian states/territories, 2003



6.2 Australian states/territories, 2003

Within Australia, the Australian Capital Territory had the lowest rate, recording 0.3 road deaths per 100 million vehicle kilometres travelled. For most Australian states, road deaths per 100 million vehicle kilometres travelled was similar to those for the lowest few of those reported for OECD nations.

The Northern Territory had the highest rate of all Australian states/territories, with a rate of 3.4 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 2003. In 1975, there were 3.6 road deaths per 100 million vehicle kilometres travelled in Australia. In 2003, this had decreased to 0.8 deaths.

Over the same period the median rate for OECD nations also declined – from 3.7 deaths in 1975 to 1.1 deaths in 2003.

Since the mid-1980s, Australia's rate has remained below the OECD median.

Figure 6
Road deaths per 100 million vehicle kilometres travelled, OECD median, lowest OECD rate and Australia, 1975 to 2003

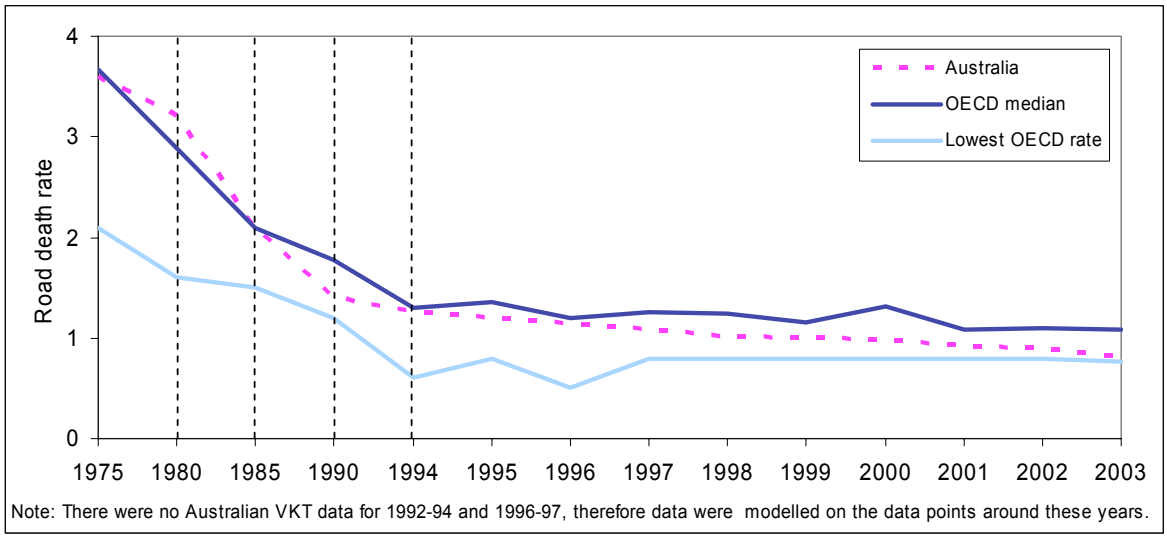


Table 6
Road deaths per 100 million vehicle kilometres travelled, OECD nations, OECD median, and Australian states/territories, 1975 to 2003

	1975	1980	1985	1990	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Australia	**3.6**	**3.2**	**2.1**	**1.4**	**-**	**1.2**	**-**	**-**	**1.0**	**1.0**	**1.0**	**0.9**	**0.9**	**0.8**
Austria	8.3	5.6	3.8	2.8	2.1	1.9	1.5	1.6	1.4	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2
Belgium	6.2	5.0	3.4	2.8	2.1	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.6	-	-
Canada	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	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
Denmark	3.2	2.6	2.6	1.8	1.4	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	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.8
France	5.9	4.4	3.3	2.6	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.1
Germany	-	3.7	2.4	2.0	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0
Greece	-	-	-	-	3.4	3.5	3.0	2.7	2.7	-	-	-	-	-
Hungary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Iceland	-	2.1	1.8	1.4	0.6	1.3	0.5	0.8	1.4	1.0	1.6	-	-	-
Ireland	-	2.8	-	1.9	1.4	1.4	1.3	-	-	-	-	1.1	-	-
Italy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Japan	4.9	2.9	2.8	2.3	1.8	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.1
Korea	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.9	3.9	3.0	2.8	2.6
Luxembourg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Netherlands	-	2.8	1.8	1.4	1.2	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	1.0	1.1	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.0	0.8	-	-
Poland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Portugal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Slovakia	-	-	-	6.6	-	6.1	-	-	-	-	4.7	-	-	-
Slovenia	-	-	-	-	-	4.4	3.8	3.3	2.8	2.9	2.7	2.3	2.2	1.7
Spain	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sweden	2.7	1.6	1.5	1.2	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	-	-	-	-
Switzerland	3.8	3.3	2.1	1.9	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.9
Turkey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13.9	12.8	12.0	9.1	7.3	-	-
United Kingdom	-	-	-	-	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	-	-	-	-	-
United States of America	2.1	2.1	-	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	-	-
OECD median	3.7	2.9	2.2	1.9	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.3	1.1	1.0	1.1
New South Wales	*3.7*	*3.5*	*2.3*	*-*	*-*	*1.3*	*-*	*-*	*1.1*	*1.0*	*1.2*	*0.9*	*0.9*	0.9
Victoria	*3.4*	*2.8*	*1.8*	*-*	*-*	*1.0*	*-*	*-*	*0.9*	*0.8*	*0.7*	*0.9*	*0.8*	0.6
Queensland	*3.9*	*3.6*	*2.2*	*-*	*-*	*1.3*	*-*	*-*	*0.9*	*1.0*	*0.9*	*0.8*	*0.9*	0.8
South Australia	*3.2*	*3.0*	*2.2*	*-*	*-*	*1.3*	*-*	*-*	*1.2*	*1.2*	*1.3*	*1.0*	*1.0*	1.0
Western Australia	*3.2*	*2.4*	*1.7*	*-*	*-*	*1.2*	*-*	*-*	*1.2*	*1.2*	*1.1*	*0.9*	*0.9*	0.9
Tasmania	*3.9*	*3.1*	*2.0*	*-*	*-*	*1.3*	*-*	*-*	*1.2*	*1.4*	*1.0*	*1.5*	*0.8*	0.9
Northern Territory	*8.0*	*7.5*	*5.4*	*-*	*-*	*4.2*	*-*	*-*	*4.6*	*3.0*	*3.1*	*3.3*	*3.2*	3.4
Australian Capital Territory	*2.3*	*1.4*	*1.6*	*-*	*-*	*0.5*	*-*	*-*	*0.7*	*0.6*	*0.6*	*0.5*	*0.3*	0.3