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International Road Safety Comparisons: The 2006 Report

A comparison of road safety statistics
in OECD nations and Australia

August 2008

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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.

CONTENTS

Executive summary	iv
Data sources	v
1 Introduction	1
1.1 International definition of a fatal road crash.....	1
1.2 IRTAD definition of a fatal road crash.....	1
2 Road deaths per 100,000 people	2
2.1 Death rates per population, 2006	2
2.2 OECD nations, 2006.....	3
2.3 Australian states/territories, 2006	3
2.4 Historical trends.....	4
3 Road deaths per 10,000 registered vehicles.....	6
3.1 Death rates per registered vehicle, 2006.....	6
3.2 OECD nations, 2006.....	7
3.3 Australian states/territories, 2006	7
3.4 Historical trends.....	8
4 Road deaths per 100 million vehicle kilometres travelled.....	10
4.1 Deaths per vehicle kilometres travelled.....	10
4.2 OECD nations, 2006.....	11
4.3 Australian states/territories, 2006	11
4.4 Historical trends.....	12

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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.

Among the OECD nations for which 2006 data were available, Australia had:

- 13th lowest rate of 30 nations in terms of road deaths per 100,000 people (7.7 deaths);
- 9th lowest rate of 26 nations in terms of road deaths per 10,000 registered vehicles (1.1 deaths);
- 7th lowest rate of 17 nations in terms of road deaths per 100 million vehicle kilometres travelled (0.8 deaths).

Overall, of the OECD nations for which 2006 data were available:

- Netherlands recorded the lowest rate of road deaths per 100,000 people (4.5 deaths);
- Switzerland recorded the lowest rate of road deaths per 10,000 registered vehicles (0.6 deaths);
- Switzerland recorded the lowest rate of road deaths per 100 million vehicle kilometres travelled (0.6 deaths).

When compared with the OECD median in 2006:

- Australia's road death rate of 7.7 per 100,000 people was below the OECD median of 8.8;
- Australia's road death rate of 1.1 per 10,000 registered vehicles was below the OECD median of 1.4;
- Australia's road death rate of 0.8 per 100 million vehicle kilometres travelled was below the OECD median of 0.9.

Within Australia in 2006:

- Australian Capital Territory performed better than any other Australian state/territory across the range of the three specific road death rates:
 - 3.9 deaths per 100,000 people;
 - 0.6 deaths per 10,000 registered vehicles;
 - 0.4 deaths per 100 million vehicle kilometres travelled.
- Northern Territory recorded the highest road death rates among Australian states/territories:
 - 19.9 deaths per 100,000 people;
 - 3.7 deaths per 10,000 registered vehicles;
 - 2.6 deaths per 100 million vehicle kilometres travelled.

DATA SOURCES

International data

Data provided for OECD nations—with the exception of Australia—were mostly derived from the International Road Traffic and Accident Database (IRTAD) website. IRTAD is maintained by the OECD/ITF (International Transport Forum) Joint Transport Research Centre.

Each year member nations supply OECD/ITF 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 <<http://www.irtad.net>>.

In a small number of cases, where recent data were not available from IRTAD, member countries were contacted directly or data were extracted from the country's relevant government website.

Australian data

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government gratefully acknowledges the provision of police road crash data from: Roads and Traffic Authority, New South Wales; VicRoads, Victoria; Queensland Transport; Department for Transport, Energy & Infrastructure, South Australia; Western Australian Police Service; Department of Infrastructure Energy and Resources, Tasmania; Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services; and Department of Territory & Municipal Services, Australian Capital Territory.

Australian state and territory road death data were extracted from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government's online *Fatal Road Crash Database* <http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/roads/safety/road_fatality_statistics/fatal_road_crash_database.aspx>.

Population information was obtained from the Australian Bureau of Statistics' publication *Australian Demographic Statistics* <www.abs.gov.au>.

Registered vehicle information was obtained from the Australian Bureau of Statistics' publication *Motor Vehicle Census* <www.abs.gov.au>. However, as no survey was carried out in 2000, and in order to compare Australian rates with international rates for the year 2000, data were linearly interpolated from 1999 and 2001 figures.

Vehicle kilometres travelled information was obtained from the Australian Bureau of Statistics' publication *Survey of Motor Vehicle Use* <www.abs.gov.au>. Surveys on vehicle kilometres travelled were conducted in 1976, 1979, 1982, 1991, 1995, and annually from 1998 onwards. In order to compare Australian rates with international rates across a fuller range of years, the following substitutions were incorporated into the vehicle kilometres travelled data: 1976 figures were provided against 1975; 1979 figures were provided against 1980; and 1991 figures were provided against 1990.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 International definition of a fatal 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.”

1.2 IRTAD definition of a fatal road crash

Most nations that supply road crash data to the IRTAD database comply with the above definition. Since 2005, among the nations covered in this report, only Portugal did not apply the 30-day definition.

Nations that do not comply with this definition, or did not comply in earlier years, have had correction factors applied to their death figures by the OECD/ITF Joint Transport Research Centre to ensure consistency within the IRTAD database.

2.1 Death rates per population, 2006

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

Table 1: Road deaths per 100,000 people, OECD nations, OECD median, and Australian states/territories, 2006

	Road deaths per 100,000 people	Population (millions)	Road deaths
Australia	7.7	20.7	1,598
Austria	8.8	8.3	730
Belgium	10.2	10.5	1,069
Canada	9.1	31.6	2,889
Czech Republic	10.4	10.3	1,063
Denmark	5.4	5.7	306
Finland	6.4	5.3	336
France	7.7	61.5	4,709
Germany	6.2	82.4	5,091
Great Britain	5.4	58.8	3,172
Greece	14.9	11.1	1,657
Hungary	11.7	11.1	1,303
Iceland	10.3	0.3	31
Ireland	8.7	4.2	368
Israel	5.9	7.1	414
Italy	-	-	-
Japan	5.7	127.8	7,272
Luxembourg	7.8	0.5	36
Netherlands	4.5	16.4	730
New Zealand	9.4	4.1	391
Northern Ireland	7.2	1.7	126
Norway	5.2	4.6	242
Poland	13.8	38.1	5,243
Portugal	9.2	10.6	969
Slovakia	10.4	5.4	560
Slovenia	13.1	2.0	263
South Korea	13.0	48.5	6,327
Spain	9.3	44.0	4,104
Sweden	4.9	9.0	445
Switzerland	5.0	7.5	370
United States of America	14.2	300.3	42,642
OECD median	8.8		
New South Wales	7.3	6.8	496
Victoria	6.6	5.1	337
Queensland	8.2	4.1	335
South Australia	7.5	1.6	117
Western Australia	9.9	2.1	203
Tasmania	11.2	0.5	55
Northern Territory	19.9	0.2	42
Australian Capital Territory	3.9	0.3	13

Note: The 2006 OECD median includes 2005 data for Italy.

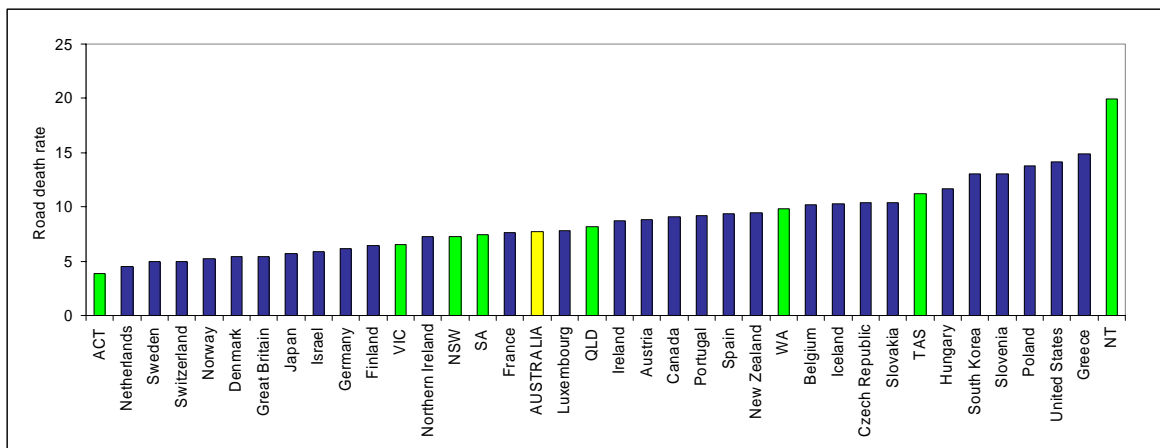
2.2 OECD nations, 2006

In 2006, Australia recorded 7.7 road deaths per 100,000 people. Australia's rate was thirteenth lowest of the 30 OECD nations for which this information was available.

In 2006, of the OECD nations for which data were available:

- Netherlands recorded the lowest rate (4.5 deaths per 100,000 people);
- Greece recorded the highest rate (14.9 deaths per 100,000 people);
- the greatest reduction between 2005 and 2006 occurred in Portugal where there was a fall of 22 per cent in the number of deaths per 100,000 people.

Figure 1: Road deaths per 100,000 people for OECD nations and Australian states/territories, 2006



2.3 Australian states/territories, 2006

Among Australian states/territories:

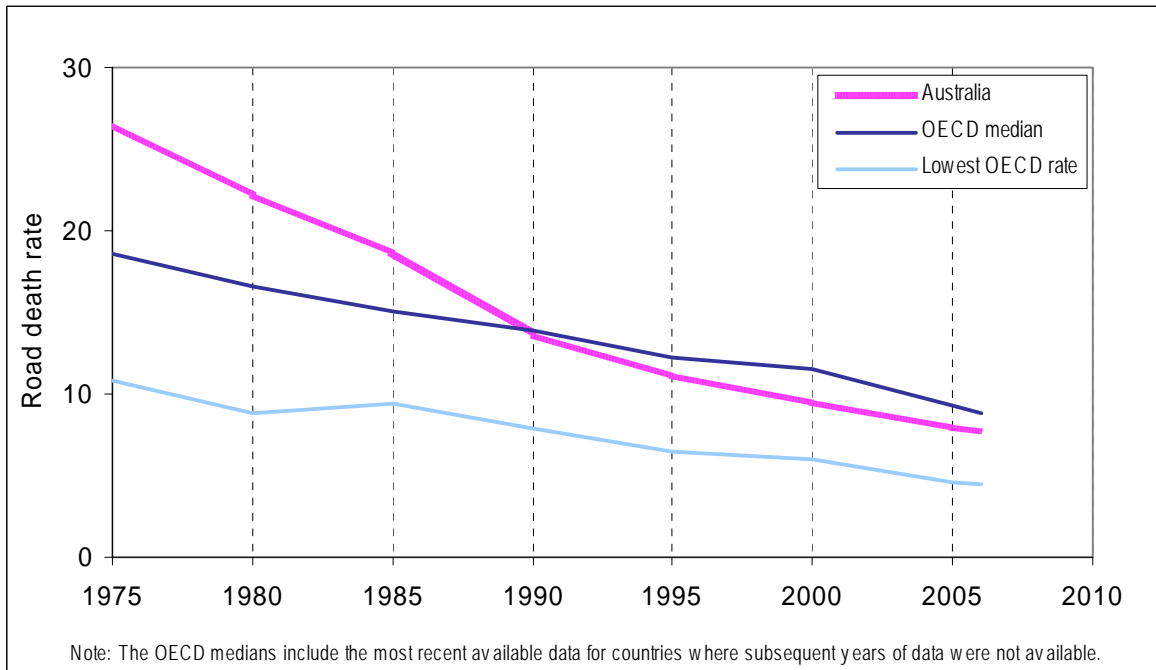
- Australian Capital Territory recorded the lowest rate of deaths per 100,000 people (3.9 deaths);
- Northern Territory recorded the highest rate (19.9 deaths).

2.4 Historical trends

The public risk associated with road use declined significantly in Australia between 1975 and 2006. In 1975, Australia-wide, there were 26.6 road deaths per 100,000 people; this rate had fallen to 7.7 deaths in 2006—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 18.6 deaths, and in 2006 it had reduced to 8.8 deaths—a drop of 53 per cent.

Figure 2: Road deaths per 100,000 people, OECD median, lowest OECD rate, and Australia, 1975 to 2006



Australia's reduction in the rate of road deaths per 100,000 people reflected a greater improvement than that achieved by the OECD median over the 1975-2006 period:

- in 1975 the Australian rate was 43 per cent above the OECD median;
- in 2006 the Australian rate was 12 per cent below the OECD median.

Between 2005 and 2006, there was:

- a 5 per cent fall in the OECD median road death rate per 100,000 people;
- a 3 per cent fall in the Australian road death rate per 100,000 people.

Table 2: Road deaths per 100,000 people, OECD nations, OECD median, and Australian states/territories, 1975 to 2006

	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Australia	26.6	22.3	18.6	13.7	11.2	9.5	8.9	8.7	8.2	7.9	8.0	7.7
Austria	33.4	26.5	20.1	20.3	15.2	12.2	11.9	11.8	11.5	10.7	9.3	8.8
Belgium	24.0	24.3	18.3	19.9	14.3	14.4	14.5	13.1	11.7	11.2	10.4	10.2
Canada	26.7	22.7	17.3	14.9	11.4	9.5	8.9	9.3	8.7	8.5	9.1	9.1
Czech Republic	16.3	12.2	9.6	12.5	15.4	14.5	13.0	14.0	14.2	13.5	12.6	10.4
Denmark	16.4	13.5	15.1	12.3	11.2	9.3	8.1	8.6	8.0	6.8	6.1	5.4
Finland	19.4	11.5	11.1	13.0	8.6	7.7	8.4	8.0	7.3	7.2	7.2	6.4
France	27.3	25.1	20.6	19.8	15.3	13.6	13.8	12.9	10.2	9.3	8.8	7.7
Germany	22.0	19.3	13.0	14.0	11.6	9.1	8.5	8.3	8.0	7.1	6.5	6.2
Great Britain	11.6	10.9	9.4	9.4	6.4	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.1	5.5	5.5	5.4
Greece	13.8	15.0	20.2	20.2	23.1	18.7	17.2	14.9	14.6	15.1	15.0	14.9
Hungary	16.0	15.2	16.5	23.4	15.5	11.9	12.1	14.0	13.1	12.8	12.7	11.7
Iceland	15.1	11.0	10.0	9.4	9.0	11.3	8.4	10.1	7.9	7.8	6.5	10.3
Ireland	18.4	16.6	11.6	13.6	12.1	11.0	10.7	9.6	8.4	8.8	9.3	8.7
Israel	-	-	-	8.9	9.8	7.2	8.3	7.9	6.7	7.0	6.5	5.9
Italy	18.6	16.4	13.5	12.4	12.3	11.5	11.6	11.8	10.6	9.7	9.3	-
Japan	12.5	9.7	9.9	11.8	10.1	8.2	7.9	7.5	7.0	6.7	6.2	5.7
Luxembourg	34.7	27.0	21.6	18.8	17.0	17.5	15.9	14.0	11.8	11.1	9.9	7.8
Netherlands	17.1	14.2	9.9	9.2	8.6	6.8	6.2	6.1	6.3	4.9	4.6	4.5
New Zealand	20.0	18.9	22.6	21.4	15.9	12.1	11.8	10.3	11.5	10.7	9.9	9.4
Northern Ireland	20.2	14.9	11.4	11.6	8.7	10.2	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.6	7.8	7.2
Norway	13.5	8.9	9.7	7.8	7.0	7.6	6.1	6.9	6.2	5.6	4.8	5.2
Poland	16.5	16.8	12.6	19.2	17.9	16.3	14.3	15.2	14.8	15.0	14.3	13.8
Portugal	34.7	27.7	22.1	28.2	25.2	18.1	16.2	16.1	14.8	12.3	11.8	9.2
Slovakia	-	-	-	-	12.3	11.6	11.4	11.3	12.0	11.2	10.4	10.4
Slovenia	32.9	29.2	23.5	25.9	20.9	15.8	13.9	13.5	12.1	13.7	12.9	13.1
South Korea	10.8	14.7	18.4	28.8	22.9	21.8	17.1	15.2	15.1	13.6	13.2	13.0
Spain	16.6	17.6	16.6	23.2	14.7	14.5	13.8	12.9	12.8	11.0	10.2	9.3
Sweden	14.3	10.2	9.7	9.1	6.5	6.7	6.2	6.0	5.9	5.3	4.9	4.9
Switzerland	19.0	19.2	13.6	13.9	9.9	8.3	7.6	7.1	7.5	6.9	5.5	5.0
United States of America	20.7	22.5	18.4	17.9	15.9	14.8	14.7	14.9	14.7	14.5	14.6	14.2
OECD median	18.6	16.6	15.1	13.9	12.3	11.5	11.4	10.3	10.2	9.3	9.3	8.8
New South Wales	26.1	25.2	19.5	13.7	10.1	9.3	8.0	8.5	8.1	7.6	7.5	7.3
Victoria	24.0	16.8	16.6	12.5	9.3	8.6	9.2	8.2	6.7	6.9	6.9	6.6
Queensland	31.0	24.6	19.5	13.8	14.0	8.9	8.9	8.7	8.1	8.0	8.3	8.2
South Australia	26.8	20.6	19.5	15.8	12.3	11.0	10.1	10.1	10.3	9.0	9.5	7.5
Western Australia	26.3	23.1	17.1	12.2	12.1	11.3	8.7	9.3	9.2	9.0	8.1	9.9
Tasmania	29.7	23.6	17.6	15.4	12.0	9.1	12.9	7.8	8.6	12.0	10.5	11.2
Northern Territory	68.9	53.3	45.1	41.5	34.4	26.1	25.3	27.6	26.5	17.3	26.6	19.9
Australian Capital Territory	16.1	13.4	13.1	9.2	4.9	5.7	5.0	3.1	3.4	2.7	7.9	3.9

Note: The 2006 OECD median includes the most recent available data for countries where 2006 data were not available.

3 ROAD DEATHS PER 10,000 REGISTERED VEHICLES

3.1 Death rates per registered vehicle, 2006

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, 2006

	Road deaths per 10,000 registered vehicles	Total registered vehicles (millions)	Total number of road deaths
Australia	1.1	14.4	1,598
Austria	1.4	5.3	730
Belgium	1.7	6.3	1,069
Canada	1.5	19.7	2,889
Czech Republic	2.1	5.0	1,063
Denmark	1.2	2.6	306
Finland	1.1	3.0	336
France	1.3	37.5	4,709
Germany	0.9	54.9	5,091
Great Britain	1.0	33.3	3,172
Greece	2.4	7.0	1,657
Hungary	3.8	3.5	1,303
Iceland	1.3	0.2	31
Ireland	-	-	-
Israel	1.9	2.2	414
Italy	-	-	-
Japan	0.9	82.8	7,272
Luxembourg	1.0	0.4	36
Netherlands	0.8	8.7	730
New Zealand	1.3	3.1	391
Northern Ireland	1.4	0.9	126
Norway	0.8	3.0	242
Poland	2.9	18.0	5,243
Portugal	-	-	-
Slovakia	-	-	-
Slovenia	2.3	1.2	263
South Korea	4.0	15.9	6,327
Spain	1.4	28.5	4,104
Sweden	0.9	5.2	445
Switzerland	0.7	5.1	370
United States of America	-	-	-
OECD median	1.4		
New South Wales	1.2	4.3	496
Victoria	0.9	3.7	337
Queensland	1.2	2.9	335
South Australia	1.0	1.1	117
Western Australia	1.3	1.6	203
Tasmania	1.5	0.4	55
Northern Territory	3.7	0.1	42
Australian Capital Territory	0.6	0.2	13

Note: OECD median includes the most recent available data for countries where 2006 data were not available.

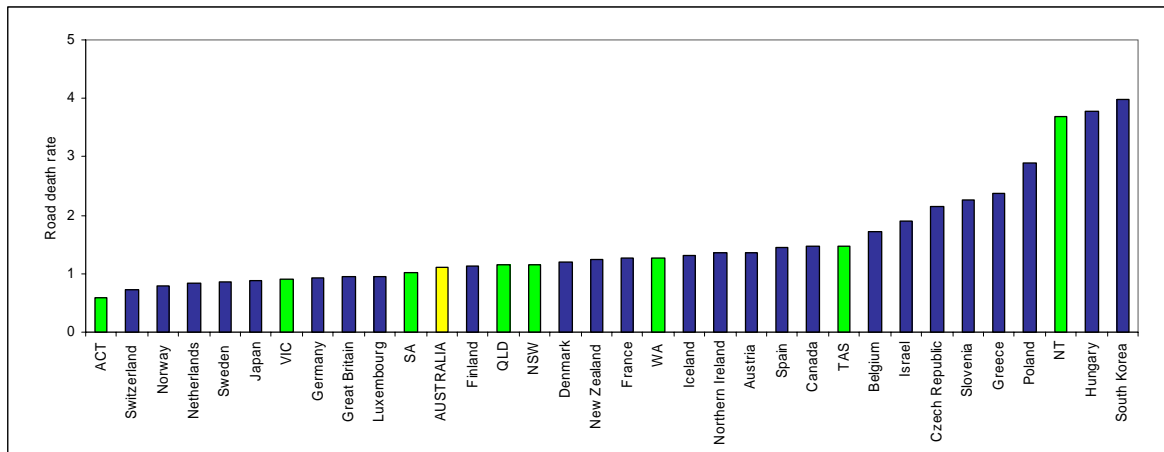
3.2 OECD nations, 2006

In 2006, Australia recorded 1.1 road deaths per 10,000 registered vehicles, which was the ninth lowest rate of the 26 nations for which these data were available.

In 2006, of the OECD nations for which data were available:

- Switzerland recorded the lowest rate (0.7 deaths per 10,000 registered vehicles);
- South Korea recorded the highest rate (4.0 deaths per 10,000 registered vehicles).

Figure 3: Road deaths per 10,000 registered vehicles, OECD nations, and Australian states/territories, 2006



3.3 Australian states/territories, 2006

Among Australian states/territories:

- Australian Capital Territory had the lowest rate of road deaths per 10,000 registered vehicles (0.6 deaths);
- Northern Territory recorded the highest rate (3.7 deaths).

3.4 Historical trends

Road deaths in Australia, relative to vehicle ownership, declined significantly between 1975 and 2006. In 1975 there were 5.8 deaths per 10,000 registered vehicles, while in 2006 this had decreased to 1.1 deaths—a drop of 81 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 2006—a drop of 81 per cent.

During the period 1975 to 2006, 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 2006

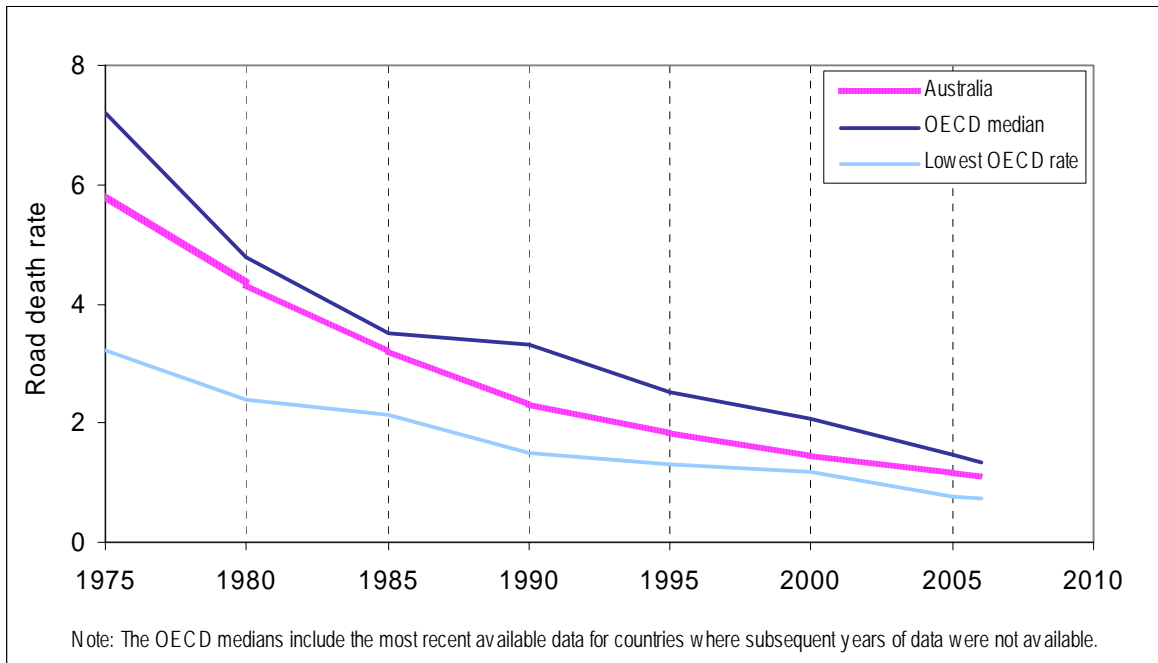


Table 4: Road deaths per 10,000 registered vehicles, OECD nations, OECD median, and Australian states/territories, 1975 to 2006

	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Australia	5.8	4.3	3.2	2.3	1.8	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.1
Austria	11.6	7.2	4.8	4.2	2.7	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.4
Belgium	7.5	6.4	4.5	4.3	2.8	2.6	2.5	2.3	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.7
Canada	5.3	4.0	3.0	2.3	2.0	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.5
Czech Republic	-	4.8	3.4	4.0	4.2	3.4	3.1	3.3	3.2	3.0	2.7	2.1
Denmark	5.0	3.7	4.1	3.1	2.7	2.1	1.8	1.9	1.7	1.5	1.3	1.2
Finland	7.2	4.0	3.1	2.9	2.0	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.1
France	8.1	6.2	4.6	4.2	3.1	2.4	2.3	2.1	1.7	1.5	1.4	1.3
Germany	7.2	4.9	2.9	2.6	2.0	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.0	0.9
Great Britain	3.8	3.3	2.5	2.1	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0
Greece	17.0	10.6	9.9	7.4	6.3	4.0	3.5	2.9	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.4
Hungary	12.6	9.0	9.0	11.2	6.0	4.4	4.4	4.8	4.2	3.9	3.8	3.8
Iceland	-	2.8	2.1	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.2	1.4	1.1	1.1	0.9	1.3
Ireland	8.6	6.2	4.5	4.5	3.5	2.5	2.3	2.0	1.7	1.8	1.9	-
Israel	-	-	-	4.2	3.8	2.5	2.8	2.7	2.3	2.4	2.1	1.9
Italy	6.0	4.7	3.1	2.3	1.9	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.4	1.3	-	-
Japan	4.3	2.7	2.4	2.4	1.8	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.0	0.9
Luxembourg	11.7	6.4	4.0	3.3	2.5	2.4	2.1	1.8	1.5	1.4	1.2	1.0
Netherlands	6.3	4.3	2.8	2.3	2.0	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.9	0.9	0.8
New Zealand	4.3	3.5	3.9	3.3	2.5	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.3	1.3
Northern Ireland	8.4	5.3	3.5	3.6	2.4	2.3	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.4
Norway	3.6	2.4	2.2	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.0	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.8
Poland	14.4	10.9	6.6	8.1	5.9	4.5	3.8	3.8	3.5	3.4	3.2	2.9
Portugal	22.9	13.3	8.1	12.1	6.9	3.9	3.4	3.3	3.0	2.4	2.3	-
Slovakia	-	-	-	-	4.5	4.1	3.9	3.3	-	-	-	-
Slovenia	-	-	-	6.9	4.4	3.1	2.7	2.6	2.3	2.5	2.2	2.3
South Korea	196.0	106.3	67.6	36.3	12.2	8.5	6.3	5.2	4.9	4.4	4.1	4.0
Spain	9.0	6.4	5.4	5.8	3.1	2.5	2.3	2.1	2.1	1.8	1.6	1.4
Sweden	3.8	2.5	2.2	1.8	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.9
Switzerland	5.8	4.5	2.7	2.4	1.7	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.8	0.7
United States of America	3.2	3.2	2.6	2.4	2.1	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.8	-
OECD median	7.2	4.8	3.5	3.3	2.5	2.1	1.9	1.9	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.4
New South Wales	5.9	5.2	3.6	2.5	1.9	1.6	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.2
Victoria	5.4	3.4	2.8	2.1	1.5	1.2	1.3	1.2	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.9
Queensland	6.7	4.4	3.2	2.3	2.3	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
South Australia	5.5	3.8	3.3	2.6	1.9	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.0
Western Australia	5.3	3.9	2.8	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.3
Tasmania	6.2	4.4	2.9	2.4	1.8	1.3	1.8	1.1	1.2	1.7	1.4	1.5
Northern Territory	13.9	13.4	9.3	8.6	6.8	5.0	4.9	5.3	5.1	3.3	5.0	3.7
Australian Capital Territory	3.0	2.8	2.6	1.6	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.4	1.2	0.6

4 ROAD DEATHS PER 100 MILLION VEHICLE KILOMETRES TRAVELLED

4.1 Deaths per 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, 2006

	Road deaths per 100 million vehicle kilometres travelled	Total vehicle kilometres travelled (100 million)	Total number of road deaths
Australia	0.8	2,094	1,598
Austria	0.9	823	730
Belgium	1.1	964	1,069
Canada	0.9	3,315	2,889
Czech Republic	2.1	517	1,063
Denmark	-	-	-
Finland	0.6	522	336
France	0.8	5,555	4,709
Germany	0.7	6,897	5,091
Great Britain	0.6	5,110	3,172
Greece	-	-	-
Hungary	-	-	-
Iceland	1.1	28	31
Ireland	-	-	-
Israel	1.0	432	414
Italy	-	-	-
Japan	-	-	-
Luxembourg	-	-	-
Netherlands	-	-	-
New Zealand	1.0	389	391
Northern Ireland	-	-	-
Norway	0.7	371	242
Poland	-	-	-
Portugal	-	-	-
Slovakia	-	-	-
Slovenia	1.6	160	263
South Korea	1.9	3,285	6,327
Spain	-	-	-
Sweden	0.6	753	445
Switzerland	0.6	631	370
United States of America	-	-	-
OECD median	0.9		
New South Wales	0.8	614	496
Victoria	0.6	547	337
Queensland	0.7	454	335
South Australia	0.8	155	117
Western Australia	0.9	226	203
Tasmania	1.1	51	55
Northern Territory	2.6	16	42
Australian Capital Territory	0.4	30	13

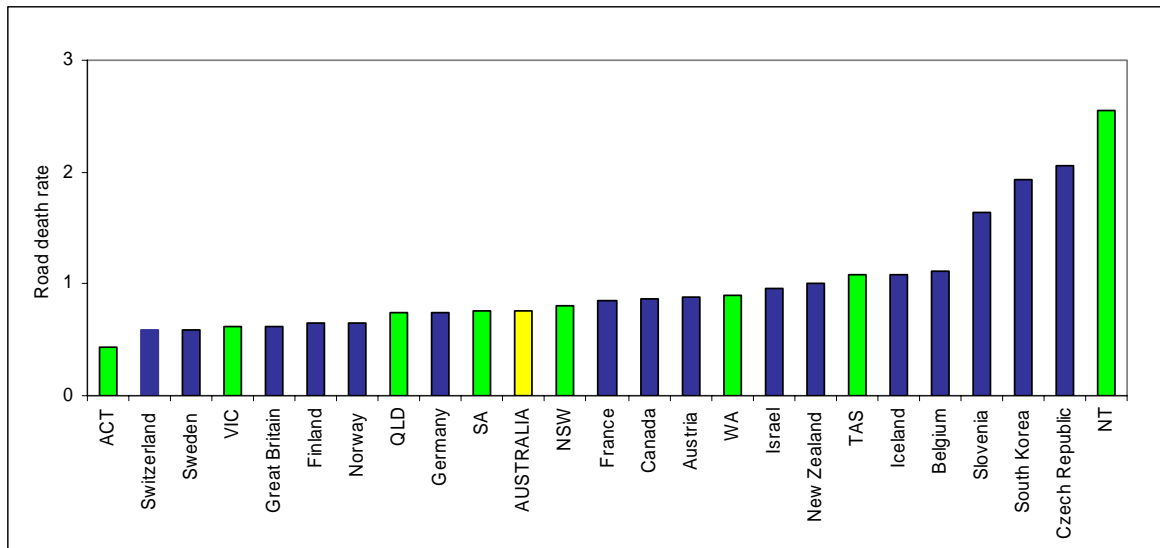
4.2 OECD nations, 2006

In 2006, Australia recorded 0.8 road deaths per 100 million vehicle kilometres travelled, which was the seventh lowest rate among the 17 OECD nations for which these data were available.

In 2006, of the OECD nations for which data were available:

- Switzerland had the lowest rate, recording 0.6 road deaths per 100 million vehicle kilometres travelled;
- Czech Republic had the highest rate, recording 2.1 road deaths per 100 million vehicle kilometres travelled.

Figure 5: Road deaths per 100 million vehicle kilometres travelled, OECD nations, and Australian states/territories, 2006



4.3 Australian states/territories, 2006

Among Australian states/territories:

- Australian Capital Territory had the lowest rate, recording 0.4 road deaths per 100 million vehicle kilometres travelled;
- Northern Territory had the highest rate of all Australian states/territories, with a rate of 2.6 road deaths per 100 million vehicle kilometres travelled.

4.4 Historical trends

The degree of actual risk associated with road travel in Australia declined significantly between 1975 and 2006. In 1975, there were 3.8 road deaths per 100 million vehicle kilometres travelled in Australia. In 2006, this had decreased to 0.8 deaths—a drop of 80 per cent.

Over the same period the median rate for OECD nations also declined, from 3.6 deaths in 1975 to 0.9 deaths in 2006—a drop of 76 per cent.

The OECD median rate for deaths per 100 million vehicle kilometres travelled has been close to, but higher than, Australia’s rate for the past decade.

Figure 6: Road deaths per 100 million vehicle kilometres travelled, OECD median, lowest OECD rate, and Australia, 1975 to 2006

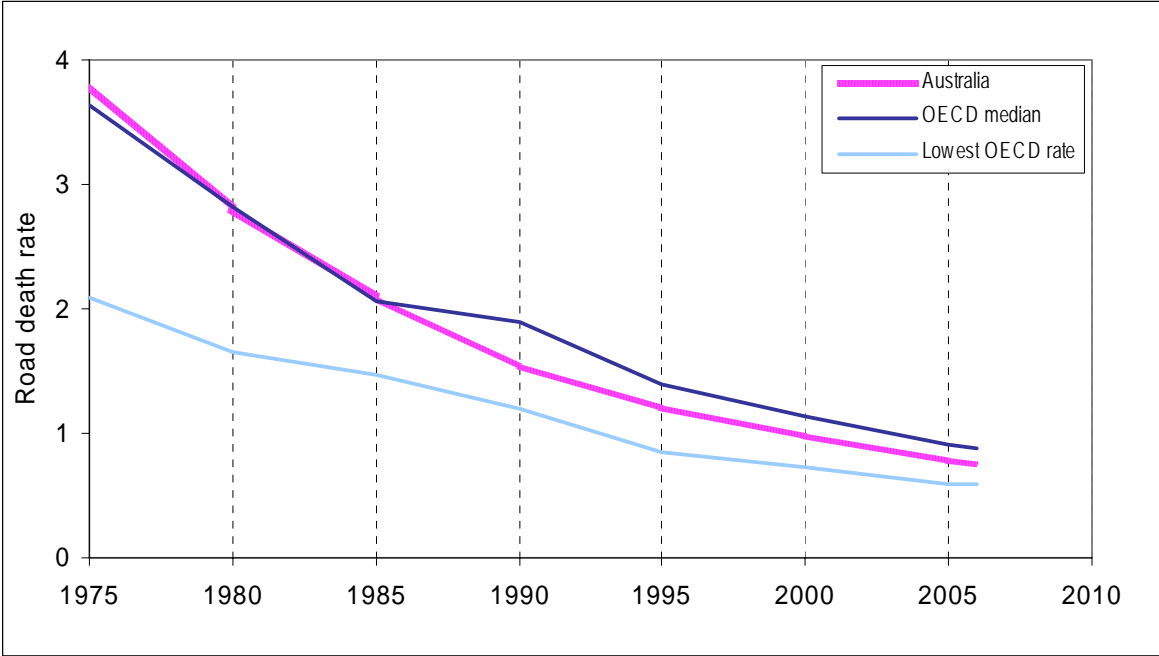


Table 6: Road deaths per 100 million vehicle kilometres travelled, OECD nations, OECD median, and Australian states/territories, 1975 to 2006

	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Australia	3.8	2.8	2.1	1.5	1.2	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
Austria	8.3	5.6	3.8	2.8	1.9	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.1	0.9	0.9
Belgium	6.2	5.0	3.4	2.8	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.1
Canada	-	-	-	-	-	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
Czech Republic	-	5.4	4.2	4.8	4.7	3.7	3.2	3.3	3.2	2.9	2.6	2.1
Denmark	3.1	2.5	2.6	1.7	1.4	1.1	0.9	1.0	-	0.8	-	-
Finland	3.7	2.1	1.7	1.6	1.0	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.6
France	5.9	4.4	3.3	2.6	1.9	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.1	1.0	1.0	0.8
Germany	-	3.7	2.4	2.0	1.5	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.7
Great Britain	2.7	2.2	1.7	1.3	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6
Greece	-	-	-	-	3.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hungary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Iceland	-	2.1	1.8	1.4	1.3	1.6	-	-	-	-	-	1.1
Ireland	-	2.8	2.0	1.9	1.4	1.1	1.1	-	-	-	-	-
Israel	-	-	-	2.3	1.8	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.0
Italy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Japan	4.9	2.9	2.8	2.3	1.8	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.0	-
Luxembourg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Netherlands	3.5	2.7	1.8	1.4	1.2	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	-	-	-
New Zealand	-	-	-	-	-	1.2	-	-	-	-	-	1.0
Northern Ireland	-	-	-	-	1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Norway	3.5	1.9	1.7	1.2	1.0	1.0	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.7
Poland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Portugal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Slovakia	-	-	-	6.6	6.1	4.7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Slovenia	10.9	9.6	8.2	6.5	4.4	2.7	2.3	2.2	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.6
South Korea	-	-	-	-	-	4.9	3.3	2.8	2.6	2.3	1.8	1.9
Spain	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sweden	2.7	1.6	1.5	1.2	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6
Switzerland	3.6	3.1	2.0	1.9	1.3	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.6
United States of America	2.1	2.1	1.5	1.3	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	-
OECD median	3.6	2.8	2.1	1.9	1.4	1.1	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
New South Wales	3.8	3.5	2.3	1.7	1.3	1.2	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8
Victoria	3.3	2.2	1.8	1.3	1.0	0.7	0.9	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.6
Queensland	4.3	3.2	2.2	1.5	1.3	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7
South Australia	3.5	2.6	2.2	1.8	1.3	1.3	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	1.0	0.8
Western Australia	3.2	2.6	1.7	1.2	1.2	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.9
Tasmania	4.4	3.3	2.0	1.8	1.3	1.0	1.5	0.8	0.9	1.3	1.0	1.1
Northern Territory	10.0	8.8	5.4	4.7	4.2	3.1	3.3	3.2	3.4	2.2	3.4	2.6
Australian Capital Territory	2.0	1.7	1.6	0.9	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.8	0.4