



The BTRE is currently updating this information to 1996 data. For further information please contact: btre@dotars.gov.au

Costs of Rail Accidents in Australia – 1993

- RAIL ACCIDENTS COST AUSTRALIA \$69 MILLION IN 1993
- THE COST TO THE COMMUNITY OF RAIL ACCIDENTS IN 1993 WAS ABOUT 40 PER CENT LOWER IN REAL TERMS THAN IN 1988
- RAIL ACCIDENT COSTS ACCOUNT FOR 1 PER CENT OF TRANSPORT RELATED ACCIDENT COSTS IN AUSTRALIA

BTCE (1992) *Social cost of transport accidents in Australia*, Report 79, p. 52, estimated the total cost of rail accidents in 1988 as \$94.5 million (in 1988 dollars). The following table provides updated estimates, including comparable figures for 1988 and 1993 that are expressed in 1993 dollars:

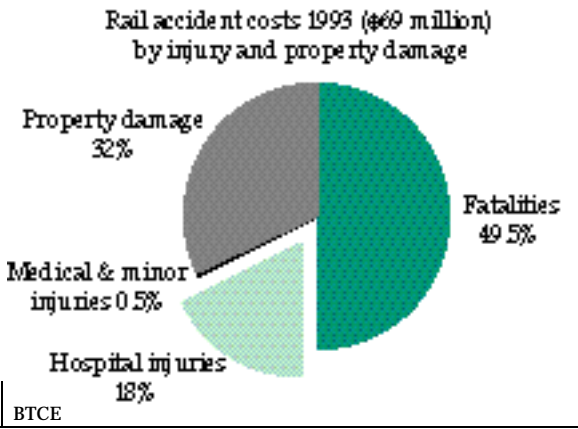
TOTAL AUSTRALIAN RAIL ACCIDENT CASUALTIES AND COSTS, 1988 AND 1993						
Year	Persons				Cost to the community	
	Fatalities	Injury			Nominal \$m	1993 \$m
		Hospital	Medical	Minor		
1988	96	154	61	1 111	94.5	120
1993	49	88	113	488	69	69
Source	BTCE estimates based on data provided by State Rail (of NSW) including CityRail, Countrylink and Freight Rail; Public Transport Corporation (Victoria) including V/Line and The Met; Queensland Railways; Westrail; Australian National; Tasrail; and TransAdelaide rail and tram services.					

COSTS BY INJURY & PROPERTY DAMAGE

The cost of a rail fatality mainly comprises lost earnings of the victim, and family and community losses.

For victims requiring hospitalisation, the dominant costs are pain and suffering, hospital and rehabilitation.

The property damage estimate is obtained from a sample and is subject to potentially significant errors.

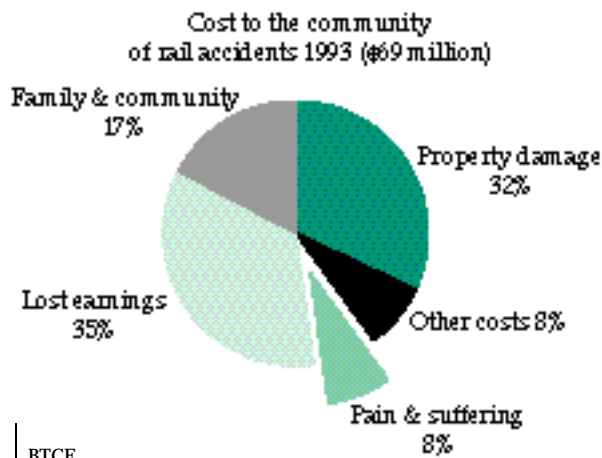


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COSTS TO THE COMMUNITY

Rail accident costs for 1993 were estimated on the basis of five categories:

- Lost earnings of victims (\$24.4 million)
- Family and community (\$11.5 million)
- Pain and suffering (\$5.7 million)
- Property damage (\$22 million)
- Other costs (\$5.4 million) comprising hospital and rehabilitation costs, medical costs and losses to non-victims.



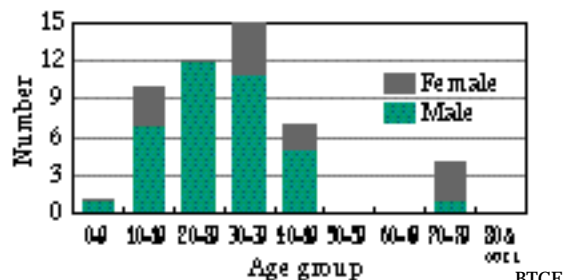
RAIL FATALITIES

In 1993 there were 49 fatalities, including 37 males and 12 females.

Male fatalities were mainly in the 20-39 age group.

Most female fatalities were in the 30-39 age group.

Number of rail fatalities 1993 by sex and age group



SUICIDES

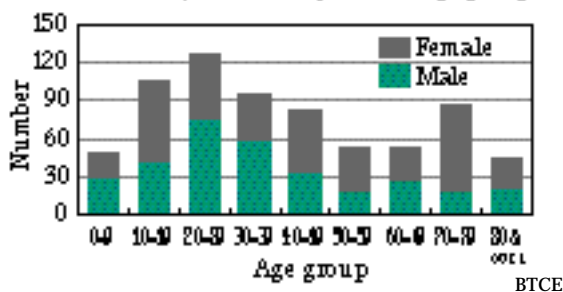
Rail suicides, mostly people struck by trains, were excluded from the analysis. However, suicides increased from 43 in 1988 to 65 in 1993. Two out of three suicides in 1993 were males – mainly in the 20-49 age group.

RAIL INJURIES

The most frequent rail injuries (hospital, medical and minor) were among females in the age groups of 70-79 and 10-19, and 20-29 year old males.

Boarding or alighting from trains is the most frequently documented cause of injury to train passengers.

Number of rail injuries 1993 by sex and age group



Caveat: Some figures are not precise because the ages for some casualties were not available, and because of the use of unsubstantiated injury figures based on notifications of injury.

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