

ROAD SAFETY IN THE MURRAY AND MALLEE REGION

A report of road crashes in the Murray and Mallee Region 2015-2019

Road Trauma in South Australia

The annual number of lives lost on road and serious injuries is traditionally used as an indicator of road safety in South Australia. The South Australian Road Safety Strategy 2020 – *Towards Zero Together* has a target to reduce lives lost and serious injuries by at least 30% by 2020.

There were 114 lives lost recorded on South Australian roads in 2019. This is 34 more than the 80 lives lost recorded in 2018 and is 19 more than the previous 5 year average (2014 – 2018) of 95 lives lost.

Serious injuries have increased from 576 in 2018 to 833 in 2019, the highest recorded total of serious injuries in a given year. The number is also 24% higher than the previous 5 year average (2014 – 2018) of 672 serious injuries per year.

Road Trauma in the Murray and Mallee Region

Each year on average 12 people are killed and 60 are seriously injured on roads in the Murray and Mallee region. Residents of the region represent 4% of the total population of South Australia and account for 12% of fatalities in South Australia and 9% of all serious injuries.

Table 1 shows the number and percentage of casualty crashes in 2015-2019 by district/regional council.

Table 1 –Casualty crashes, Murray and Mallee Councils, South Australia, 2015-2019

LGA	Fatal crashes (%) ¹	Serious crashes (%) ¹	Minor crashes (%) ¹	Total
Renmark Paringa (DC)	0 (0%)	13 (6%)	57 (10%)	70 (8%)
Berri and Barmera (DC)	4 (7%)	24 (10%)	59 (10%)	87 (10%)
Loxton Waikerie (DC)	13 (24%)	40 (17%)	74 (12%)	127 (14%)
Mid Murray (DC)	11 (20%)	52 (23%)	109 (18%)	172 (20%)
The Coorong (DC)	13 (24%)	35 (15%)	87 (15%)	135 (15%)
Karoonda East Murray (DC)	1 (2%)	6 (3%)	14 (2%)	21 (2%)
Southern Mallee (DC)	1 (2%)	15 (6%)	27 (5%)	43 (5%)
Murray Bridge (RC)	12 (22%)	46 (20%)	167 (28%)	225 (26%)
TOTAL	55	231	594	880

¹ Percentages are rounded and made up to a total of 100%

There was a total of 880 casualty crashes recorded in the Murray and Mallee region in the 5 years 2015 – 2019. As expected due to population in the area, Murray Bridge had the highest number of crashes recorded in the Murray and Mallee region.

Figure 1 and Table 2 shows the contribution of each council to the overall number of casualty crashes by year in the Murray and Mallee Region for the last 5 years.

Figure 1 – Number of casualty crashes, 2015-2019

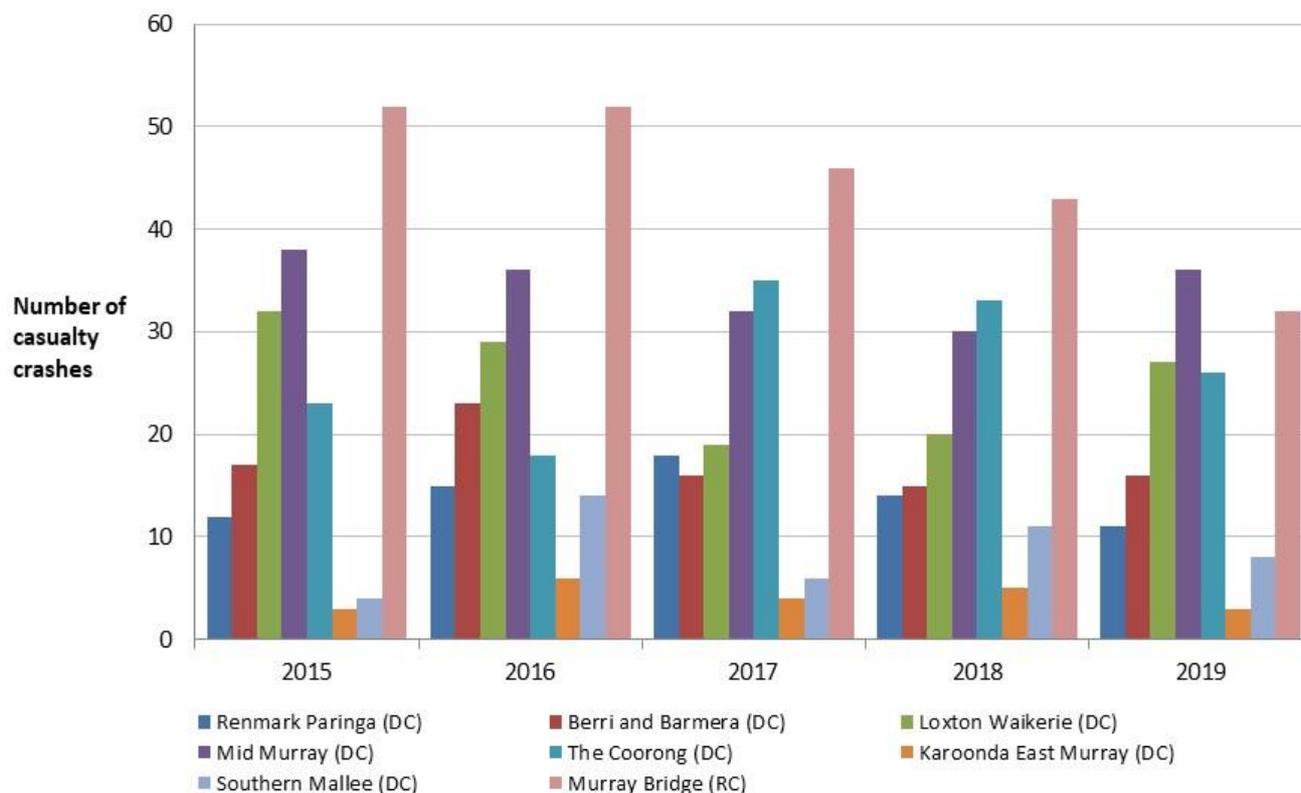


Table 2 – Number of casualty crashes, 2015-2019

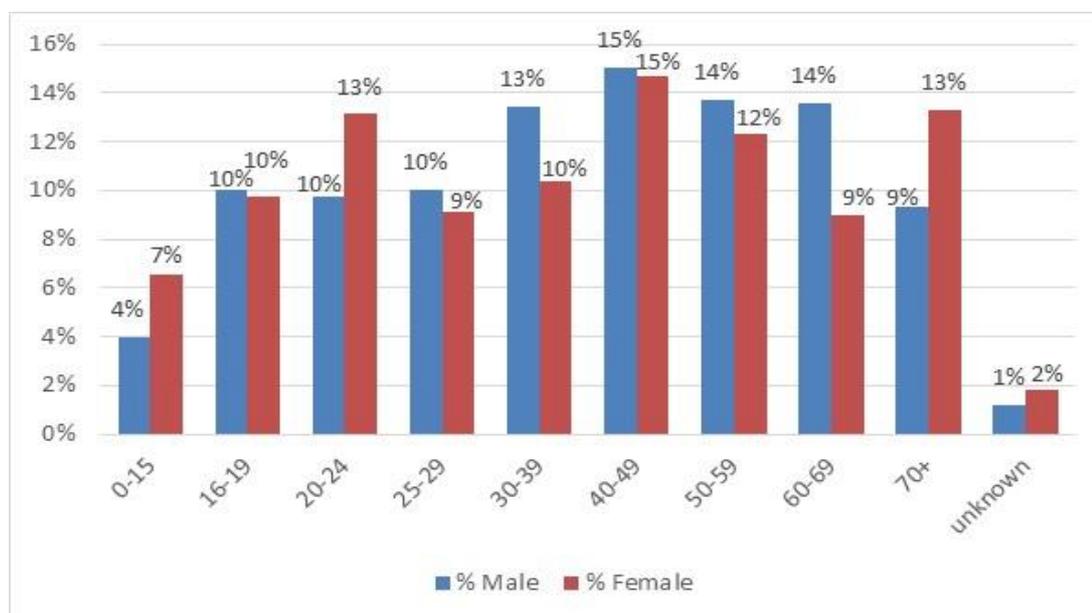
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
Renmark Paringa (DC)	12	15	18	14	11	70 (8%)
Berri and Barmera (DC)	17	23	16	15	16	87 (10%)
Loxton Waikerie (DC)	32	29	19	20	27	127 (14%)
Mid Murray (DC)	38	36	32	30	36	172 (20%)
The Coorong (DC)	23	18	35	33	26	135 (15%)
Karoonda East Murray (DC)	3	6	4	5	3	21 (2%)
Southern Mallee (DC)	4	14	6	11	8	43 (5%)
Murray Bridge (RC)	52	52	46	43	32	225 (26%)
TOTAL	181	193	176	171	159	880

Table 3 shows the contribution of each council to the overall number of casualties as opposed to crashes in the Murray and Mallee Region. There were 1,184 casualties as a result of the 880 casualty crashes in the Murray and Mallee region.

Table 3 - Number of casualties (fatalities, serious and minor injuries), 2015-2019

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
Renmark Paringa (DC)	20	28	23	17	15	103 (9%)
Berri and Barmera (DC)	19	31	20	18	23	111 (9%)
Loxton Waikerie (DC)	47	57	26	30	33	193 (16%)
Mid Murray (DC)	49	48	37	33	44	211 (18%)
The Coorong (DC)	30	24	47	41	44	186 (16%)
Karoonda East Murray (DC)	3	7	5	6	3	24 (2%)
Southern Mallee (DC)	6	16	9	18	9	58 (5%)
Murray Bridge (RC)	69	75	62	54	38	298 (25%)
TOTAL	243	286	229	217	209	1,184

Figure 2 – Percentage of casualties by age and gender, 2015-2019



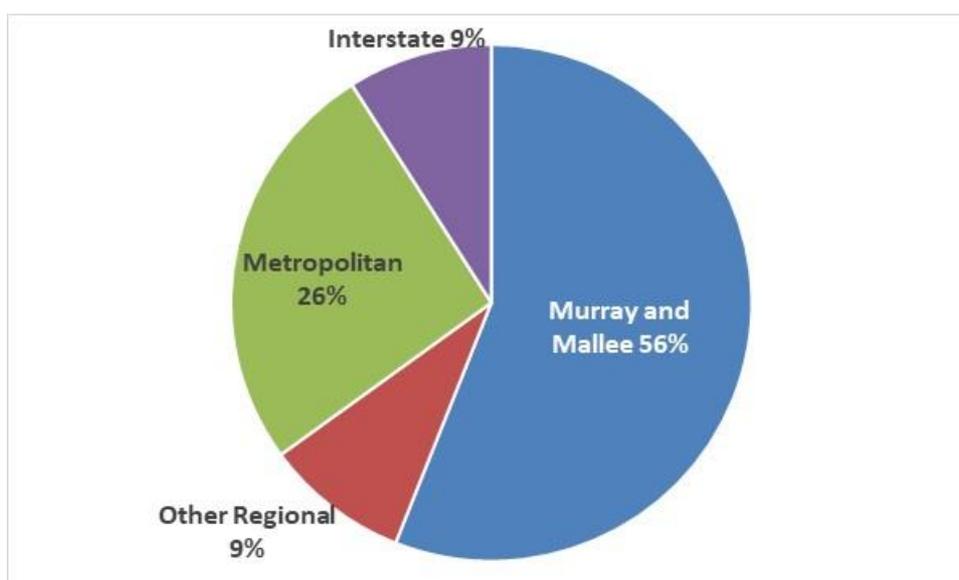
- There were a total of 1,184 casualties for the 5 year period 2015-2019.
- 57% were male and 43% were female.
- 21% of road user casualties in this region are 16-24 year olds.
- People aged 16 to 24 year old in this region make up 11% of the population, but accounted for 14% of all fatalities and 23% of all serious injuries for the years 2015-2019.

Table 4 – Casualties by age and type of casualty, 2015-2019

	0-15	16-19	20-24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70+	Unknown	Total
Driver	0	64	92	74	96	130	110	101	83	10	760
Passenger	47	32	28	30	26	21	14	15	33	10	256
Motor cyclist (including pillion)	1	19	10	3	13	15	27	13	7	0	108
Cyclist	6	0	1	3	6	6	1	5	1	0	29
Pedestrian	6	2	1	4	2	4	3	3	6	0	31
Total	60	117	132	114	143	176	155	137	130	20	1,184

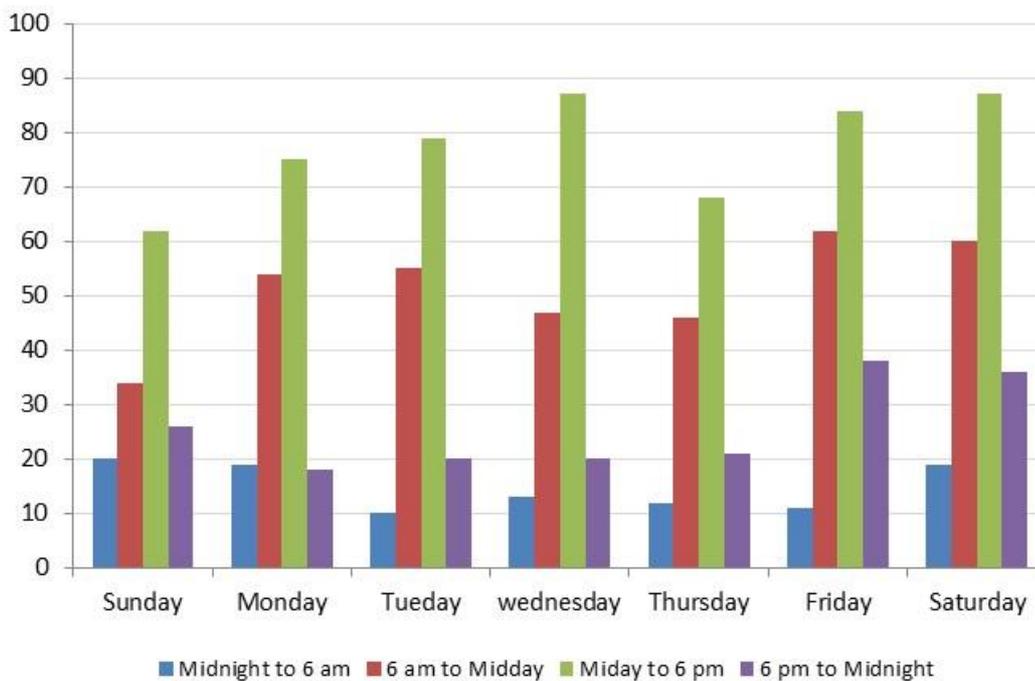
- Like most areas, drivers and passengers (vehicle occupants) make up the majority of road user casualties in the Murray and Mallee region.
- 40 (5%) of the vehicle occupant casualties were not wearing a seatbelt at the time of the crash.

Figure 3 – Residence of driver and rider casualties, 2015-2019



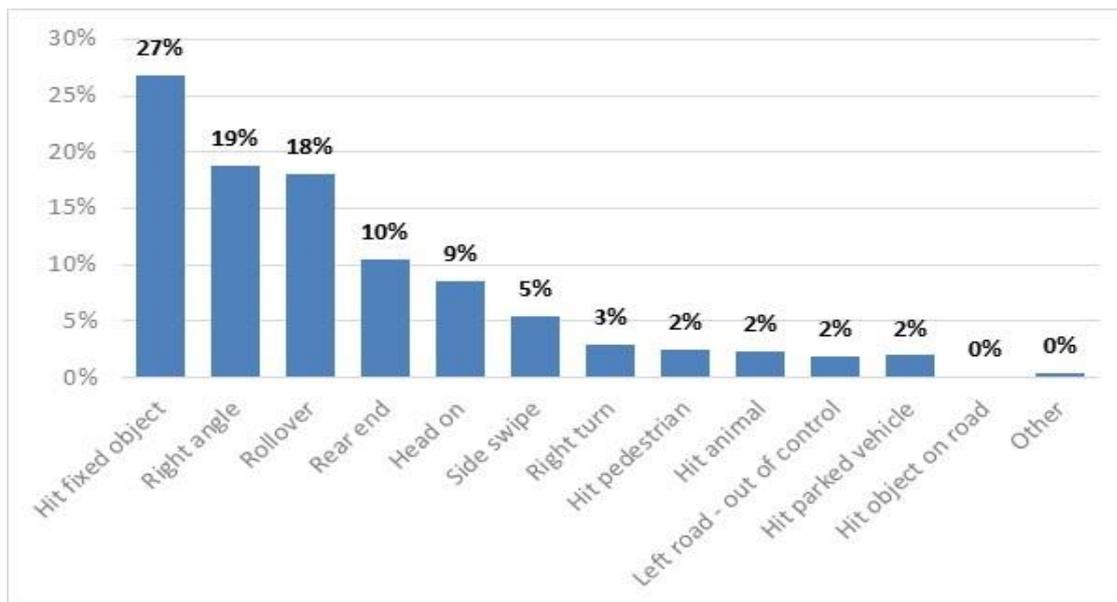
- 56% of driver and rider casualties that occur in the Murray and Mallee region are residents of the region.
- 9% are from other regional areas in South Australia.
- 26% are residents in the Adelaide Metropolitan area.
- 9% are from interstate.

Figure 4 – Casualty crashes by time of day/day of week, 2015-2019



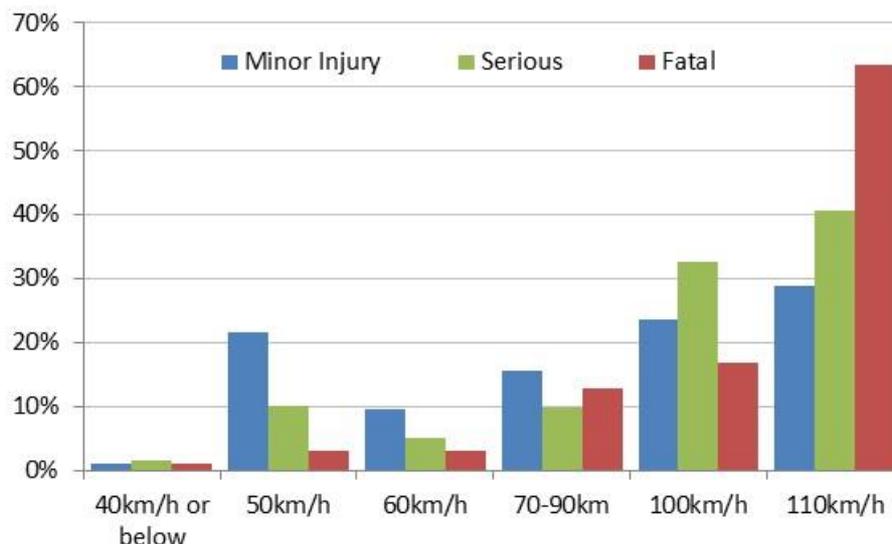
- While crashes can occur at any time, the most common time for a casualty crash to occur in the Murray and Mallee Region is midday to 6 pm.

Figure 5 – Casualty crashes by crash type, 2015-2019



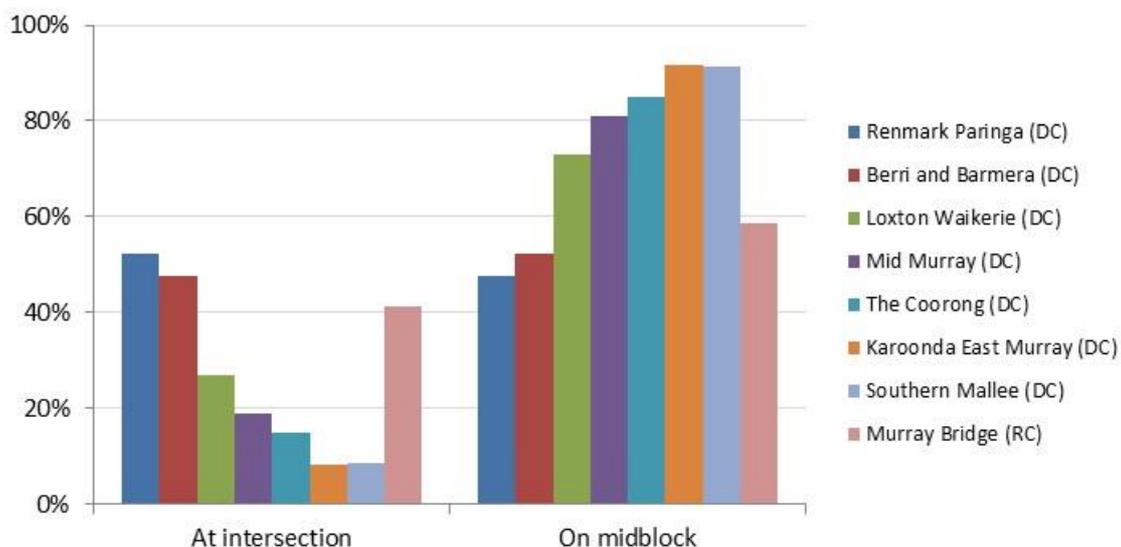
- The majority of casualty crashes are the result of a vehicle hitting a fixed object.

Figure 6 – Casualty crashes by speed limit of road, 2015-2019



- 61% of all casualty crashes in the Murray and Mallee region occur on ≥ 100 km/h speed zone.
- 80% of all fatal crashes occurred on roads posted at ≥ 100 km/h.

Figure 7 – Where the casualty crashes occurred within the councils of the Murray and Mallee Region, 2015-2019



- 30% of all casualty crashes in the Murray and Mallee region occur at intersections, while the remaining 70% occur at ‘midblock’ sections where there are no intersecting roads.
- The highest percentage of crashes occurring at intersection 52% occur in Berri and Barmera, followed by 48% in Renmark Paringa and 41% in Murray Bridge.

Definitions for crash and casualty types:

Casualty Crash - A crash where at least one fatality, serious injury or minor injury occurs.

Casualty – A fatality, serious injury or minor injury.

Fatal Crash - A crash for which there is at least one fatality.

Fatality - A person who dies within 30 days of a crash as a result of injuries sustained in that crash.

Serious Injury Crash - A non-fatal crash in which at least one person is seriously injured.

Serious Injury - A person who sustains injuries and is admitted to hospital for a duration of at least 24 hours as a result of a road crash and who does not die as a result of those injuries within 30 days of the crash.

Minor Injury Crash - A crash for at least one person sustains injury but no person is admitted to hospital or dies within 30 days of the crash.

Minor Injury – A person who sustains injuries requiring medical treatment, either by a doctor or in a hospital, as a result of a road crash and who does not die as a result of those injuries with 30 days of the crash.