



Australian Road Deaths Database

Data Dictionary

May 2025

About the data

The Australian Road Deaths Database (ARDD) provides basic details of road transport crash fatalities in Australia as reported by the police each month to the State and Territory road safety authorities. It is published by the Bureau of Infrastructure and Transport Research Economics.

Road deaths from recent months are preliminary and subject to revision.

The ARDD contains basic demographic and crash details of people who have died in an Australian road crash. Every fatal road traffic crash in Australia is in scope. Details provided in the database fall into two groups:

- The circumstances of the crash, e.g. time, location, crash type
- Some details regarding the persons killed, e.g. age, gender, road user group

The ARDD is updated on a monthly basis. Heavy vehicle flags (articulated trucks, rigid trucks and buses) are only updated each quarter, and are current to within two months.

Citations for information derived from this database should include the database name, the webpage: <https://catalogue.data.infrastructure.gov.au/dataset/australian-road-deaths-database>, and the date of access.

Each record in the database corresponds to a killed person (fatality). Fatalities can be linked to fatal crashes using the Crash ID field.

Note: '-9' is used for missing/unknown values.

Disclaimer

Road deaths from recent months are preliminary and the series is subject to revision. Information included in this database is provided by third parties. The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts accepts no liability for any loss or damage suffered by any person or corporation resulting from the use of this data. In addition, the department does not guarantee system availability and is not responsible for any losses associated with any system unavailability.

Definition

The road safety agencies in each jurisdiction use detailed criteria to define road crashes and road deaths. Briefly, a death is classified as resulting from a road crash if the crash occurred on a public road, is unintentional and the death occurred within 30 days from injuries sustained in the crash.

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Database fields

Field	Description	Format	Values
Crash ID	National crash identifying number	Text	ID field ranging from 9 to 19 characters, unique to each fatal crash
State	Australian state/territory where crash occurred	Text	Abbreviation for each state/territory <ul style="list-style-type: none">• NSW• VIC• QLD• SA• WA• TAS• NT• ACT
Month	Month of crash	Integer	1-12
Year	Year of crash	Integer	1989 – Current
Dayweek	Day of week of crash	Text	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monday• Tuesday• Wednesday• Thursday• Friday• Saturday• Sunday
Time	Time of crash	Time	Format: hh:mm:ss
Crash Type	Refers to the number of vehicles involved	Text	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Single• Multiple• Unknown
Number Fatalities	Total number of killed persons (fatalities) in crash	Integer	
Bus Involvement	Indicates the involvement of a bus in crash	Text	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yes• No• -9
Heavy Rigid Truck Involvement	Indicates the involvement of a heavy rigid truck in crash	Text	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yes• No• -9

Field	Description	Format	Values
Articulated Truck Involvement	Indicates the involvement of an articulated truck in crash	Text	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No • -9
Speed Limit	Posted speed limit at crash location	Integer	
Road User	Road user type of killed person	Text	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Driver • Passenger • Pedestrian • Motorcycle rider • Motorcycle pillion passenger • Pedal cyclist (includes pillion passenger) • Unknown
Gender	Sex of killed person	Text	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Male • Female • Unknown
Age	Age of killed person (years)	Integer	
National Remoteness Areas 2021	Remoteness Structure Australian Bureau of Statistics	Text	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major Cities of Australia • Inner Regional Australia • Outer Regional Australia • Remote Australia • Very Remote Australia • Unknown
SA4 Name 2021	Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) Australian Bureau of Statistics	Text	
National LGA Name 2021	Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) Australian Bureau of Statistics	Text	
National Road Type	Geoscape Australia, Transport and Topography	Text	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National or State Highway • Arterial Road • Sub-arterial Road • Collector Road • Local Road • Access Road • Busway • Pedestrian Thoroughfare • Unknown
Christmas Period	Indicates if crash occurred during the 12 days commencing December 23 rd	Text	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No
Easter Period	Indicates if crash occurred during the 5 days commencing on the Thursday before Good Friday	Text	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No

Glossary

Note: The following definitions are general explanations only. The precise definitions may vary across the organisations that provide the source data. These differences may result in minor inconsistencies between jurisdictions for some variables.

Term	Definition
Articulated Truck	A motor vehicle primarily for load carrying, consisting of a prime mover that has no significant load carrying area but with a turntable device which can be linked to one or more trailers.
Bus	A motor vehicle constructed for the carriage of passengers which has at least 10 seats, including the driver's seat.
Christmas Period	This is defined here as the 12-day period commencing on December 23 each year.
Crash	Any apparently unpremeditated event reported to police, or other relevant authority, and resulting in death, injury or property damage attributable to the movement of a road vehicle on a public road.
Death	A person who dies within 30 days of a crash as a result of injuries received in that crash.
Easter Period	This is defined here as the five-day period commencing on the Thursday before Easter Sunday each year.
Fatal crash	A crash for which there is at least one death.
Gross Vehicle Mass (GVM)	Tare weight (i.e. unladen weight) of the motor vehicle plus its maximum carrying capacity excluding trailers.
Heavy Rigid Truck	A motor vehicle of GVM greater than 4.5 tonnes constructed with a load carrying area. Includes a rigid truck with a tow bar, draw bar or other non-articulated coupling on the rear of the vehicle.
Preliminary data	Data for recent months are preliminary and subject to revision.

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- Department of Transport, Victoria;
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- Department of Transport, Northern Territory;
- Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate, Australian Capital Territory.

Inquiries

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