



FOCUS REPORT ROAD TRAUMA

1 JULY 2017 TO 30 JUNE 2018

**AUSTRALIA
NEW ZEALAND
TRAUMA REGISTRY**
*Management of the
Severely Injured*

TRANSPORT-RELATED TRAUMA

There has been an increased focus on the incidence of road trauma. In Australia this is reflected in the Australian National Road Safety Strategy 2011-2020 (NRSS) target of reducing the annual number of deaths and serious injury (hospitalisations) on the roads by 30 per cent by 2020. The NRSS target is a joint strategy signed by the Australian, State and Territory governments. New Zealand's Road Safety Strategy is currently under consultation.

Similar to the previous financial year, forty-five per cent of all severe injuries were caused by transport-related trauma. Injury severity was similar across injury cause with an ISS of 16 to 24 the most prevalent. 2.4% of on road motor vehicle injuries were coded as having involved a heavy vehicle.

IN-HOSPITAL FACTS BY CAUSE



2,032

MOTOR VEHICLE OCCUPANTS

61% MALE

MEDIAN AGE 38

16-25 year olds MOST AT RISK

Most injuries Fri-Sun

94% ON-ROAD

7.3% DIED in-hospital

13% DIED IN ED

41.2% deaths AGED 65+



1,252

MOTOR CYCLISTS

93% male

MEDIAN AGE 40

40-54 year olds MOST AT RISK

Double the injuries on SATURDAY & SUNDAY

79% ON-ROAD

4.0% DIED in-hospital

30% DIED IN ED

50% deaths AGED 16-39YRS



619

PEDAL CYCLISTS

89% male

MEDIAN AGE 47

40-54 year olds MOST AT RISK

Double the injuries ON SATURDAY

84% ON-ROAD

4.0% DIED IN-HOSPITAL

16% DIED IN ED

40% deaths AGED 65+ YRS



609

PEDESTRIANS

64% MALE

MEDIAN AGE 47

87% ON-ROAD

Thursday highest NUMBER OF INJURIES

14.6% DIED in-hospital

31.5% of deaths DIED IN ED

57% deaths AGED 65+

TRANSPORT-RELATED INJURY BY LOCATION AND USER-TYPE

In Australia, in the 2017-18 financial year, on-road transport-related injuries accounted for 86.8% of all transport injuries and off-road accounted for 13.2%. In New Zealand on-road transport-related injuries accounted for 82.4% of transport injuries. Motor vehicle accidents accounted for 50% of on-road injuries bi-nationally, motorcycle accidents 25%, pedal cycle and pedestrian 12.5% each. Proportions varied slightly according to jurisdiction (Figure 1).

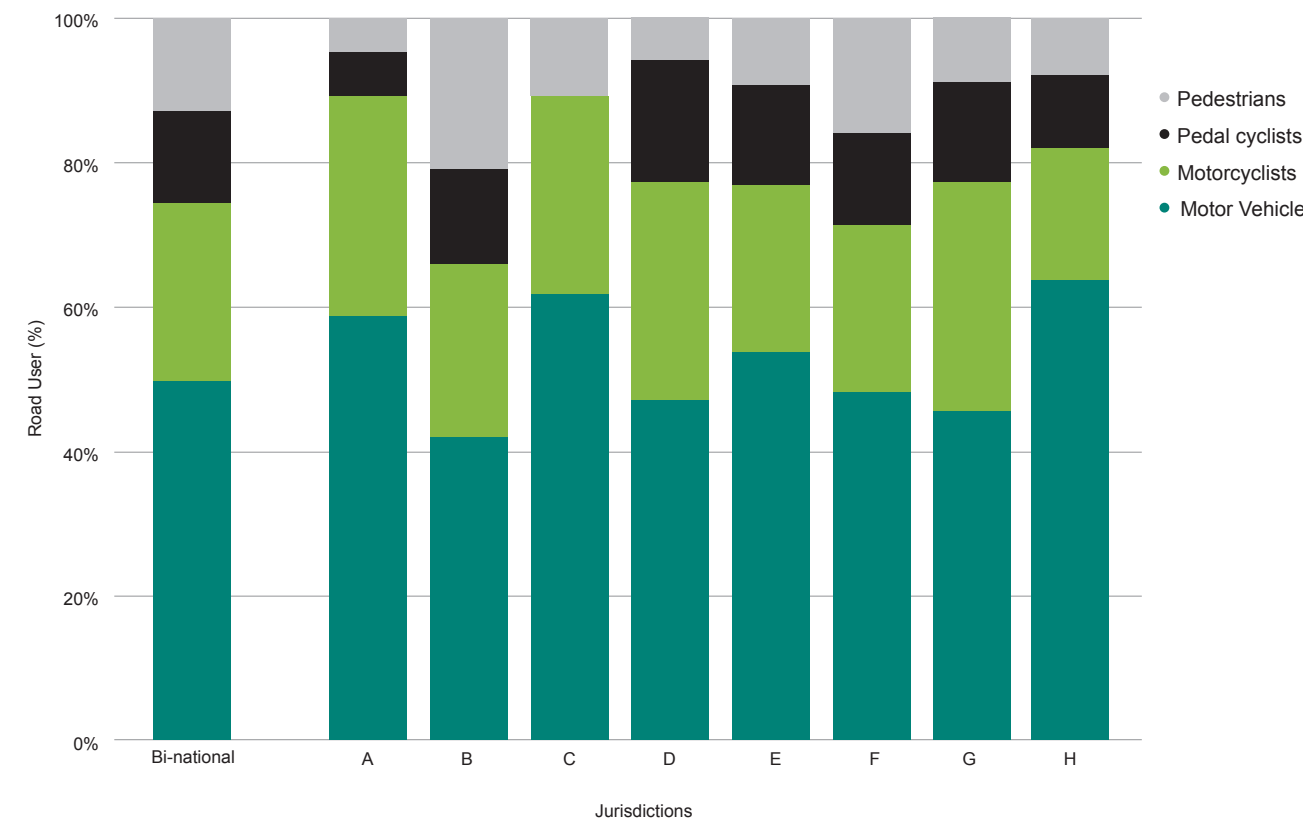


Figure 1. On-road Transport-related Injuries by road user and Jurisdiction

BLOOD ALCOHOL CONCENTRATION (BAC)

Blood alcohol concentration (BAC) is poorly reported with only four of the seven Australian States and Territories reporting a BAC. New Zealand collects BAC from all seven hospitals. Figure 2 shows the number of transport related injuries by jurisdiction and the number of patients who had a BAC recorded. When looking at BAC by cause of injury, large proportions did not report a BAC (figure 3). This is one of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) recommended process indicators and in time the ATR anticipates better reporting of BAC.

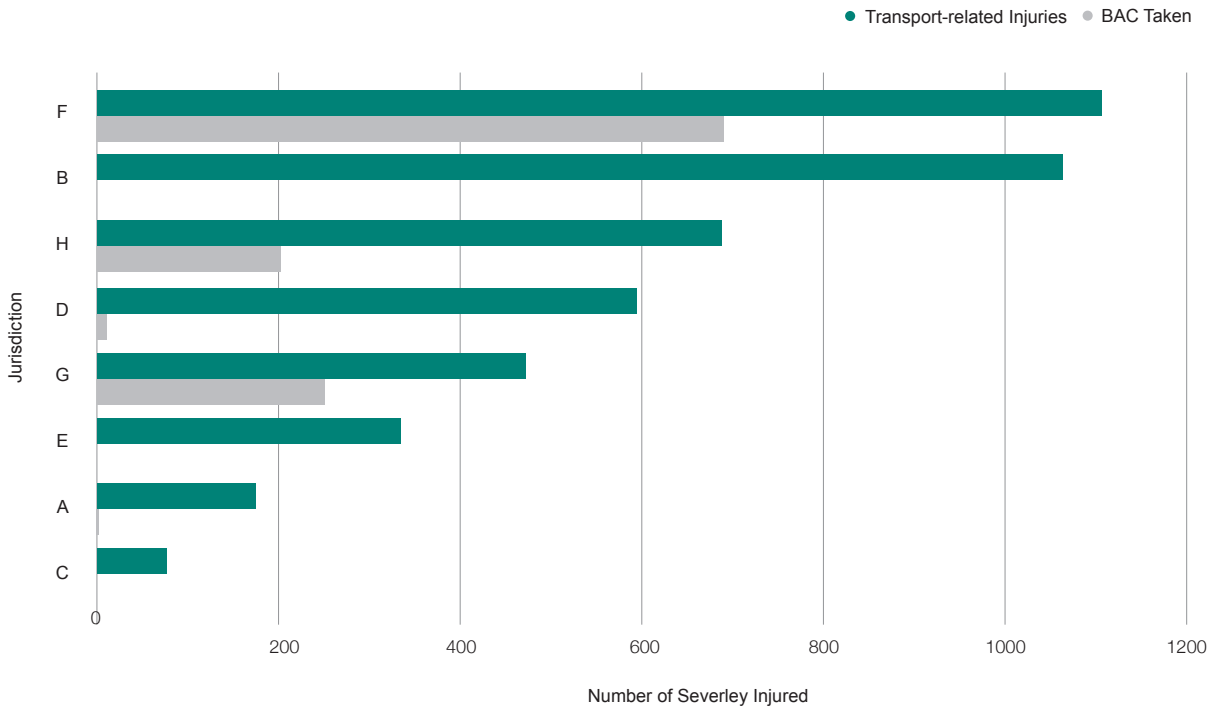


Figure 2. Road Transport Injuries and BAC Taken

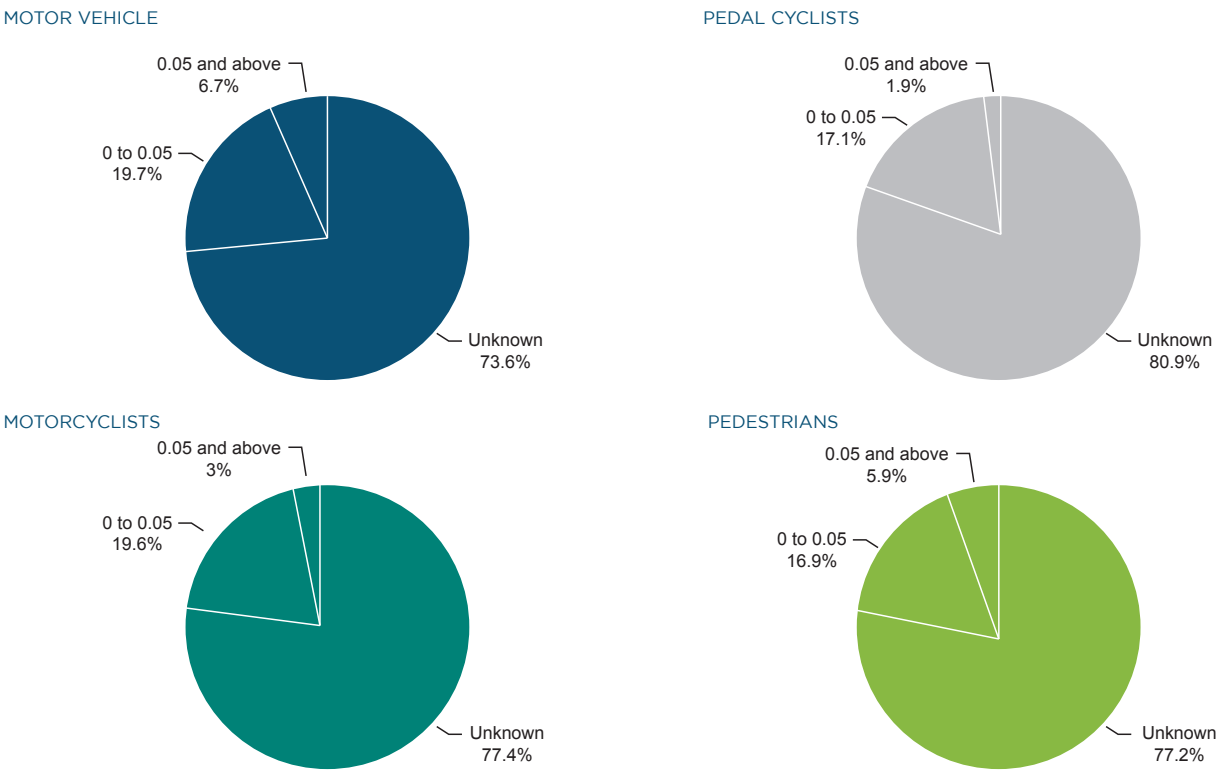


Figure 3. Road User and BAC





ntri national trauma
research institute



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