

Australian cycling participation and injuries according to the history books

Before considering Australian cycling participation trends as written in the history books, it's worth reading a [1954 article](#) from the Melbourne Argus newspaper in which cycling champion Hubert Opperman estimated there were 1,500,000 bicycles on our roads.

BICYCLE SAFEST VEHICLE 'OPPY' PROVES

PEDAL cycling is by far the safest method of road travel, says Mr. Hubert Opperman, M.H.R. ("Oppy"), Australia's most famous road-racing cyclist.

Figures he quoted last week showed that, per vehicle, cars and trucks were responsible for seven times as many deaths as bicycles and motor-cycles for 29 times as many; and that cars and trucks were involved in four times as many injuries and motor-cycles in 18 times as many.

Mr. Opperman had taken time off in the pressure of a Federal election campaign to give his advice to the National Conference on Youth and Road Safety.

"It is no use depending on the other fellow to take care of you," "Oppy" said.

"The cyclist is forced to keep to the left of the road, and when a motor vehicle is alongside cannot see the motorist's hand signals.

"The motorist often opens the left-hand door without observing there is a cyclist alongside.

Other points "Oppy" made were:

- Cyclists should ever be alert to avoid that suddenly opened car door or the car pulling out from the kerb, particularly the car that is angle parked.

- A back-pedal brake is more efficient than a hand brake, as it permits free use of the arms and hands for the giving of signals.

- Cyclists should not carry bags on handlebars, should make certain that tyres are inflated to correct degree of hardness, should have saddle at correct height so that foot can be placed on ground in an emergency, should not ride with smooth tyres and should have both hands free.

- The variation in wind resistance caused by an overtaking motor vehicle is dangerous to cyclists, particularly if there is a side wind at the time.

- School is the best place to learn the principles of road safety — they are never forgotten if learnt early in life.

This education should be carried out, not by school teachers who are busy people, but by leading racing cyclists visiting the schools. The limited number of police available for lecturing in schools is doing an excellent job.

- The cycle trade should accept responsibility by ensuring that every bicycle sold is suitable in every way to the purchaser.

- Australians are notoriously casual in their treatment of their belongings, and they do not look after their bicycles well enough. The bicycle is an amazingly reliable machine, but it does require occasional oiling and maintenance.

FIGURE IT OUT

MR. OPPERMAN quoted these figures for 1952 as proof that the bicycle was the safest vehicle on the road:

Vehicles on Australian roads: Motor cars and trucks, 1,670,000; motor-cycles, 150,000; bicycles, 1,500,000.

Deaths per 1,000 vehicles: Motor cars, trucks, .54; motor-cycles, 2.3; bicycles, .08.

Injured per 1,000 vehicles: Motor cars, trucks, 11.8; motor-cyclists, 45.9; bicyclists, 2.6.

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Adult cycling

The first record of adult cycling participation in the Australian Year Book series is for August and November 1993, a year after the final mandatory bicycle helmet law in Australia was enforced.

11.46 PERSONS AGED 18 YEARS AND OVER: PARTICIPATION IN SELECTED SPORTING, RECREATIONAL AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES BY SEX, AUGUST AND NOVEMBER 1993 (per cent)

| Selected activities | August 1993 | | | November 1993 | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|---------|---------|---------------|---------|---------|
| | Males | Females | Persons | Males | Females | Persons |
| Exercising at gym/fitness centre | 8.7 | 7.6 | 8.1 | 9.1 | 9.2 | 9.1 |
| Cycling for pleasure or exercise | 6.5 | 4.5 | 5.5 | 9.4 | 7.1 | 8.2 |
| Swimming for pleasure or exercise | 5.3 | 3.5 | 4.4 | 13.9 | 12.8 | 13.4 |
| Jogging for pleasure or exercise | 9.7 | 3.5 | 6.5 | 8.9 | 3.8 | 6.3 |
| Walking for pleasure or exercise | 33.2 | 49.1 | 41.3 | 40.7 | 56.4 | 48.6 |
| Bushwalking or hiking | 2.0 | 2.5 | 2.3 | 4.1 | 3.0 | 3.5 |
| Fishing | 6.5 | 1.4 | 3.9 | 7.3 | 2.6 | 4.9 |
| Gardening | 51.8 | 50.7 | 51.2 | 55.7 | 56.5 | 56.1 |

Note: Participation is based on sporting, leisure and recreational activities undertaken in the week prior to survey week.

Source: Population Survey Monitor, Australia, August and November 1993 (4103.0).

The average participation rate of August and November was 6.85%, which was 895,502 of Australia's 18yo+ population of 13,073,024 in 1993.

The next Year Book reference to cycling participation shows estimates for August and November 1995, and February and May of 1996.

S4.6 PARTICIPANTS, Selected Social Sport and Physical Activities(a)

| | Aug 1995 | Nov 1995 | Feb 1996 | May 1996 |
|-------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 |
| Sport and physical activities | | | | |
| Aerobics | 340.1 | 409.0 | 413.8 | 361.1 |
| Cycling | 522.2 | 656.1 | 643.8 | 579.3 |
| Fishing | 463.2 | 660.2 | 835.0 | 490.2 |
| Golf | 350.4 | 367.7 | 412.4 | 366.2 |
| Horse riding | 131.3 | 163.0 | 115.9 | 69.5 |
| Ice/snow sports | 200.3 | (b) | (b) | (b) |
| Squash/racquet ball | 89.4 | 172.8 | 108.8 | 151.7 |
| Surf sports | 118.7 | 241.4 | 192.0 | 79.2 |
| Swimming | 474.8 | 1 319.5 | 1 652.0 | 524.8 |
| Tenpin bowling | 127.8 | 70.4 | 123.8 | 91.7 |
| Tennis | 221.8 | 311.5 | 429.0 | 211.1 |
| Water-skiing/powerboating | (b) | 129.7 | 178.2 | 91.3 |
| Weight-lifting | 500.0 | 763.9 | 586.4 | 515.3 |

(a) Persons aged 18 years and over in the two weeks before each survey. (b) Subject to relative standard error greater than 50%.

Source: Participation in Sport and Physical Activities, 1995-96, Australia, (4177.0).

These four average 600,350, signalling a collapse in Australian cycling participation as increasing numbers of people realised they had to wear a helmet. The 1993 estimate above of 895,502 was surveyed in August and November, and the corresponding months in 1995 averaged just 589,150, a 34.2% reduction.

Another two years rolled by and the ABS Participation in Sport and Physical Recreation survey then revealed a total of 626,000 in 1997/98. Australia's cycling "boom" had begun with a 42.4% increase on 1995/96 participation.

| SPORTS AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES WITH MOST PARTICIPANTS(a) | | |
|--|---------|-----------------------|
| | Persons | Participation rate(b) |
| | '000 | % |
| Swimming | 1 628.8 | 12.3 |
| Aerobics/fitness | 1 379.2 | 10.4 |
| Golf | 1 116.2 | 8.4 |
| Tennis | 937.8 | 7.1 |
| Fishing | 641.5 | 4.8 |
| Cycling | 626.0 | 4.7 |
| Tenpin bowling | 438.0 | 3.3 |
| Billiards/snooker/pool | 373.1 | 2.8 |
| Netball | 339.8 | 2.6 |
| Squash/racquetball | 321.2 | 2.4 |
| (a) Relates to participation by persons aged 18 years and over during 12 months prior to interview in 1997–98. Excludes non-organised running, jogging or walking. | | |
| (b) Percentage of the civilian population aged 18 years and over. | | |

The 626,000 participants in 1997/98 was 30.1% less than 895,502 in 1993.

It is important to note that unlike the previous surveys based on adult participation in the week or fortnight prior to interview, the 1997/98 results were based on participation at some time in the 12 months prior to interview, an enormous difference that signals the decline was greater than 30.1%.

Despite this discrepancy, the participation rate was 4.7% in 1997/98 compared to 6.85% in 1993.

The recovery continued into 1998/99 with 795,800 Australian adults cycling, up 27.2% on the 1997/98 estimate of 625,900.

| 12.33 ADULT PARTICIPATION IN SELECTED SPORTS AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES(a)—1998–99 | | |
|--|---------|--------------------|
| | Players | Participation rate |
| Sport/Activity | '000 | % |
| MEN | | |
| Golf | 1 048.7 | 15.7 |
| Walking | 1 041.9 | 15.6 |
| Swimming | 937.6 | 14.0 |
| Fishing | 699.7 | 10.5 |
| Tennis | 553.1 | 8.3 |
| Aerobic/fitness | 518.9 | 7.8 |
| Cycling | 482.4 | 7.2 |
| Running | 438.1 | 6.6 |
| Billiards/snooker/pool | 284.1 | 4.3 |
| Cricket (outdoor) | 280.4 | 4.2 |
| WOMEN | | |
| Walking | 2 035.9 | 29.5 |
| Swimming | 1 143.4 | 16.6 |
| Aerobics/fitness | 994.0 | 14.4 |
| Tennis | 498.3 | 7.2 |
| Netball | 372.0 | 5.4 |
| Cycling | 313.4 | 4.5 |
| Golf | 282.5 | 4.1 |
| Running | 215.8 | 3.1 |
| Fishing | 215.2 | 3.1 |
| Horse riding | 185.2 | 2.7 |

(a) Refers to persons aged 18 years and over.

Source: *Participation in Sport and Physical Activities, Australia, 1998–99* (4177.0).

The Year Book extract below shows that in 1999/2000 there was a participation downturn with 679,000 Australian adults cycling, 14.7% less than 1998/92 and 24.2% less than the 1993 estimate of 895,502.

| 12.34 ADULT PARTICIPATION IN SELECTED SPORTS AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES(a) — 1999–2000 | | |
|--|---------|--------------------|
| | No. | Participation rate |
| Sport/activity | '000 | % |
| MALES | | |
| Golf | 1 059.2 | 15.6 |
| Walking | 934.0 | 13.7 |
| Swimming | 885.3 | 13.0 |
| Fishing | 579.5 | 8.5 |
| Aerobic/fitness | 511.8 | 7.5 |
| Tennis | 508.1 | 7.5 |
| Cycling | 446.4 | 6.6 |
| Running | 425.9 | 6.3 |
| Surf sports | 247.2 | 3.6 |
| Lawn bowls | 243.5 | 3.6 |
| FEMALES | | |
| Walking | 1 664.7 | 23.8 |
| Swimming | 1 026.3 | 14.7 |
| Aerobics/fitness | 933.1 | 13.3 |
| Tennis | 512.4 | 7.3 |
| Netball | 319.5 | 4.6 |
| Golf | 265.6 | 3.8 |
| Cycling | 232.6 | 3.3 |
| Running | 229.1 | 3.3 |
| Tenpin bowling | 164.8 | 2.4 |
| Martial arts | 150.4 | 2.1 |

(a) Persons aged 18 years and over.

Source: *Participation in Sport and Physical Activities, Australia, 1999–2000* (4177.0).

According to the Year Book extract to the right, the recovery was back in gear by 2002 with 829,600 Australian adults cycling, just 7.4% less than in 1993. The population aged 18+ increased 12.8% from 13,048,816 in 1993 to 1,4720,941 in 2002.

Another four years passed into 2005/06 and Australia's media and bicycle industry were rejoicing that bike imports had exceeded one million per annum, the highest ever.

The Year Book extract below shows cyclists aged 15+ had also cracked the million mark with participation up to 1,011,700 in 2005/06.

Among these, 963,400 were aged 18+, up 7.6% on the 1993 level of 895,502.

The Australian population aged 18+ increased 21.1% from 13,048,816 in 1993 to 15,795,674 in 2006.

The averaged adult participation rate in 2005/06 was 6.35% who had cycled at some time in the previous year compared to 6.85% who had cycled in the week prior to survey in the winter and spring of 1993.

12.35 ADULT PARTICIPATION IN SELECTED SPORTS AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES(a) — 2002

| | Number '000 | Participation rate % |
|----------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| MALES | | |
| Walking for exercise | 1 255.2 | 17.5 |
| Golf | 890.3 | 12.4 |
| Swimming | 708.4 | 9.9 |
| Aerobics/fitness | 632.3 | 8.8 |
| Tennis | 544.5 | 7.6 |
| Cycling | 524.0 | 7.3 |
| Running | 440.9 | 6.1 |
| Fishing | 437.5 | 6.1 |
| Cricket (outdoor) | 340.8 | 4.7 |
| Soccer (outdoor) | 318.9 | 4.4 |
| FEMALES | | |
| Walking for exercise | 2 407.9 | 32.9 |
| Aerobics/fitness | 953.2 | 13.0 |
| Swimming | 867.4 | 11.8 |
| Tennis | 443.4 | 6.1 |
| Netball | 389.4 | 5.3 |
| Cycling | 305.6 | 4.2 |
| Yoga | 266.2 | 3.6 |
| Bush walking | 240.1 | 3.3 |
| Running | 221.9 | 3.0 |
| Dancing | 206.4 | 2.8 |

(a) Relates to persons aged 18 years and over who participated in sport or physical activity as a player during the 12 months prior to interview.

Source: *Participation in Sport and Physical Activities, Australia, 2002 (4177.0)*.

14.29 PARTICIPATION IN SELECTED SPORTS AND PHYSICAL RECREATION ACTIVITIES(a)

| | Number '000 | Participation rate % |
|----------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| MALES | | |
| Walking for exercise | 1 298.6 | 16.5 |
| Aerobics/fitness | 744.5 | 9.4 |
| Golf | 695.6 | 8.8 |
| Cycling | 691.0 | 8.8 |
| Swimming | 633.3 | 8.0 |
| Running | 425.9 | 5.4 |
| Tennis | 389.5 | 4.9 |
| Soccer (outdoor) | 311.5 | 3.9 |
| Cricket (outdoor) | 309.7 | 3.9 |
| Bush walking | 248.1 | 3.1 |
| FEMALES | | |
| Walking for exercise | 2 659.7 | 32.8 |
| Aerobics/fitness | 1 271.5 | 15.7 |
| Swimming | 814.0 | 10.0 |
| Netball | 387.5 | 4.8 |
| Tennis | 379.4 | 4.7 |
| Cycling | 320.7 | 3.9 |
| Bush walking | 271.4 | 3.3 |
| Running | 255.4 | 3.1 |
| Yoga | 248.7 | 3.1 |
| Golf | 179.9 | 2.2 |

(a) Relates to persons aged 15 years and over who participated in sports or physical recreation as a player at least once during the 12 months prior to interview in the 2005-06 survey.

Source: *Participation in Sports and Physical Recreation, Australia (4177.0)*.

By 2009/10, the Year Book extract below showed 1,140,700 Australians aged 15+ were cycling (6.5% participation rate), among whom 1,095,500 were aged 18+.

| 14.13 PARTICIPANTS, SPORT AND PHYSICAL RECREATION, Top 10 activities, By sex—2009–10 | | |
|--|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | Number '000 | Participation rate % |
| MALES | | |
| Walking for exercise | 1 347.6 | 15.6 |
| Aerobics/fitness/gym | 967.1 | 11.2 |
| Cycling/BMXing | 710.8 | 8.2 |
| Jogging/running | 643.9 | 7.5 |
| Golf | 643.2 | 7.5 |
| Swimming/diving | 553.1 | 6.4 |
| Tennis | 382.9 | 4.4 |
| Soccer (outdoor) | 319.6 | 3.7 |
| Cricket (outdoor) | 237.8 | 2.8 |
| Australian rules football | 227.6 | 2.6 |
| FEMALES | | |
| Walking for exercise | 2 657.3 | 30.0 |
| Aerobics/fitness/gym | 1 481.8 | 16.7 |
| Swimming/diving | 739.9 | 8.4 |
| Jogging/running | 492.0 | 5.6 |
| Cycling/BMXing | 430.7 | 4.9 |
| Netball | 411.3 | 4.6 |
| Tennis | 319.5 | 3.6 |
| Yoga | 273.0 | 3.1 |
| Dancing | 218.6 | 2.5 |
| Bush walking | 207.6 | 2.3 |
| Source: <u>Participation in Sport and Physical Recreation, Australia, 2009–10 (4177.0)</u> . | | |

Despite the significant difference between cycling a week or a year prior to survey, it could be argued that adult cycling participation increased 22.3% from 1993 to 2009/10.

However, the Australian population increased 30.1% from 13,048,816 in 1993 to 16,972,406 in 2010.

Sport and Recreation: A Statistical Overview shows that by 2012 there were 1,306,400 Australians aged 18yo+ riding bicycles, with cycling/BMX participation at 7.4% of the 18yo+ population.

| PARTICIPANTS(a), Selected sports and physical recreation activities(b)—By sex—2011–12 | | |
|---|---------|--------------------|
| | NUMBER | PARTICIPATION RATE |
| | '000 | % |
| MALES | | |
| Walking for exercise | 1 474.1 | 16.5 |
| Fitness/gym | 1 343.6 | 15.1 |
| Cycling/BMXing | 875.5 | 9.8 |
| Jogging/running | 775.3 | 8.7 |
| Golf | 732.5 | 8.2 |
| Swimming/diving | 671.9 | 7.5 |
| Tennis | 436.1 | 4.9 |
| Soccer (outdoor) | 368.6 | 4.1 |
| Cricket (outdoor) | 268.3 | 3.0 |
| Basketball | 245.6 | 2.8 |
| FEMALES | | |
| Walking for exercise | 2 784.7 | 30.4 |
| Fitness/gym | 1 745.7 | 19.1 |
| Swimming/diving | 729.2 | 8.0 |
| Jogging/running | 585.4 | 6.4 |
| Cycling/BMXing | 490.6 | 5.4 |
| Netball | 410.5 | 4.5 |
| Tennis | 314.2 | 3.4 |
| Yoga | 298.9 | 3.3 |
| Dancing/ballet | 229.1 | 2.5 |
| Bush walking | 216.8 | 2.4 |
| (a) Relates to persons aged 15 years and over who participated in physical activities for recreation, exercise or sport as players during the 12 months prior to interview. | | |
| (b) The top 10 activities for males and females in terms of total participation in a playing role in 2011–12. | | |
| Source: Participation in Sport and Physical Recreation, Australia, 2011–12 (cat. no. 4177.0). | | |

The 2011/12 participation of 1,306,400 Australians aged 18+ who had cycled at some time in the year prior to interview was up 45.9% on 1993 participation of 895,502 Australians who had cycled during the week prior to interview.

The Australian population aged 18+ increased 34.3% from 1993 to 2012.

Child cycling

To compare child cycling levels before and since the introduction of mandatory bicycle helmet laws in Australia from 1990-92, the only survey results available are within [Day to Day Travel in Australia 1985-86](#) (Report CR69) published by the Department of Transport's Federal Office of Road Safety.

Table 2.1d. Total number of trips (in '00) per day in Australia, classified by mode of travel, sex and age group.

| | Age group (years) | | | | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | 9-15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| Males | | | | | | | | |
| Walk | 7361 | 1267 | 1141 | 758 | 574 | 503 | 438 | 437 |
| Bicycle | 6332 | 1276 | 814 | 357 | 224 | 270 | 94 | 31 |
| Bus | 3242 | 591 | 465 | 279 | 156 | 157 | 103 | 53 |
| Train | 510 | 263 | 157 | 238 | 178 | 186 | 113 | 73 |
| Tram | 133 | 42 | 55 | 67 | 17 | 33 | 28 | 16 |
| Taxi | 87 | 23 | 63 | 24 | 19 | 35 | 23 | 11 |
| Ferry | 54 | 14 | 21 | 8 | 0 | 13 | 11 | 4 |
| M/Bike | 33 | 10 | 64 | 99 | 98 | 184 | 180 | 192 |
| C/driver | 105 | 65 | 831 | 2051 | 2348 | 2624 | 2876 | 2763 |
| C/pass | 13245 | 1456 | 1348 | 941 | 723 | 624 | 481 | 520 |
| Truck | 47 | 4 | 0 | 56 | 21 | 20 | 38 | 58 |
| Semi-tr | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other | 62 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 16 | 8 | 9 |
| Total | 31210 | 5021 | 4957 | 4878 | 4365 | 4665 | 4395 | 4167 |
| # males ('000) | 962 | 157 | 143 | 132 | 115 | 116 | 121 | 107 |
| Females | | | | | | | | |
| Walk | 7764 | 1190 | 1273 | 935 | 906 | 713 | 810 | 750 |
| Bicycle | 2483 | 377 | 136 | 106 | 42 | 79 | 53 | 48 |
| Bus | 2843 | 571 | 514 | 374 | 228 | 186 | 238 | 166 |
| Train | 474 | 233 | 195 | 189 | 212 | 191 | 189 | 138 |
| Tram | 189 | 101 | 93 | 41 | 62 | 91 | 40 | 25 |
| Taxi | 32 | 25 | 86 | 68 | 53 | 38 | 57 | 43 |
| Ferry | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 0 | 2 | 4 |
| M/Bike | 16 | 4 | 20 | 0 | 30 | 11 | 7 | 6 |
| C/driver | 189 | 62 | 478 | 1225 | 1517 | 1849 | 1841 | 2248 |
| C/pass | 13607 | 1958 | 1687 | 1572 | 1160 | 1354 | 1325 | 926 |
| Truck | 0 | 6 | 0 | 12 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Semi-tr | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other | 52 | 12 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 9 |
| Total | 27653 | 4542 | 4483 | 4528 | 4229 | 4511 | 4565 | 4362 |
| # females ('000) | 913 | 138 | 136 | 124 | 105 | 112 | 111 | 110 |

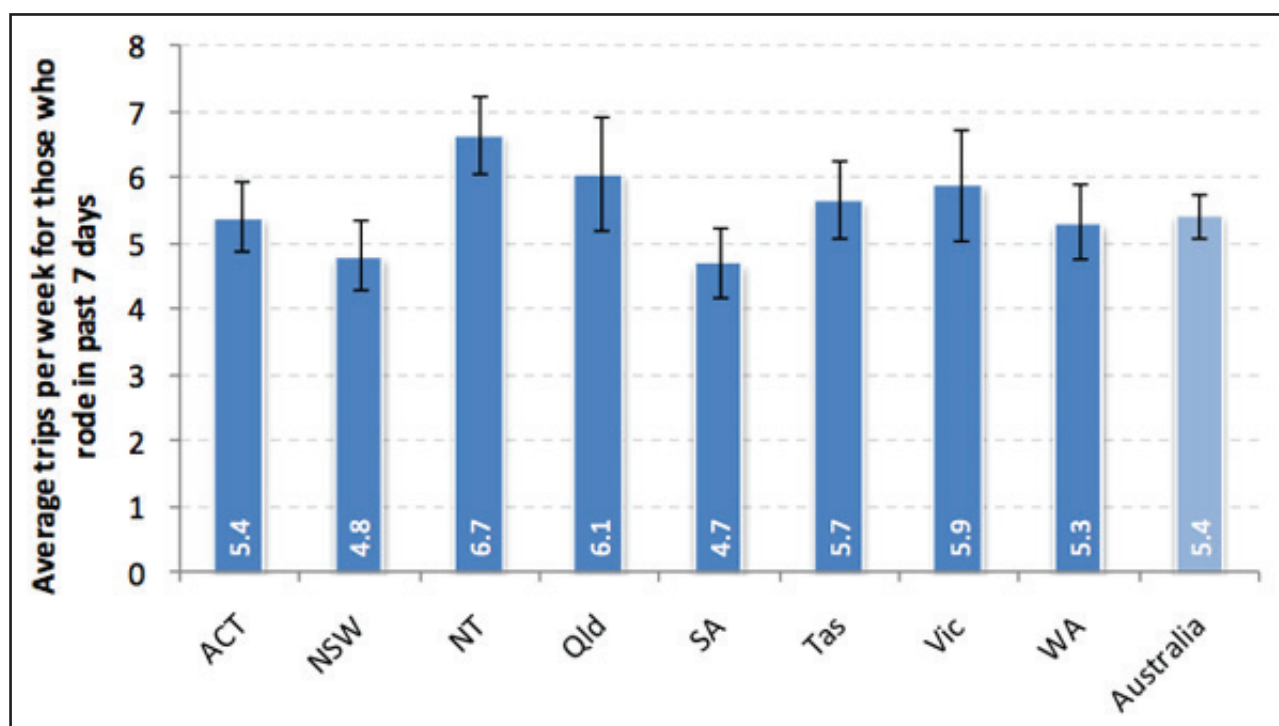
This data establishes that four years before the first helmet law was enforced, the number of bike trips per day among Australians aged 9-17 averaged 1,141,800.

For a comparison of bike trips per day in Australia since helmet law enforcement, the only reliable source of information is the [2011 National Cycling Participation Survey](#) reporting for the National Cycling Strategy 2011-2016 and published by the Australian Bicycle Council in conjunction with Austroads.

The population aged 10-17 in the 2010 year of survey was 2,245,150, and 33.6% is 754,370 in this age bracket who cycled in the previous seven days. The CPS survey shows the average number of trips per week among all ages in Australia was 5.4.

Table 4.5: Cycling participation in past 7 days by gender and age group in Australia

| Age group | Population proportion who rode in past 7 days | | |
|-----------|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | Male | Female | All |
| 0 – 9 | 51.3% (47.2% – 55.3%) | 46.9% (42.8% – 51.0%) | 49.1% (46.0% – 52.3%) |
| 10 – 17 | 42.2% (38.5% – 45.8%) | 24.6% (21.3% – 28.2%) | 33.6% (31.0% – 36.3%) |
| 18 – 39 | 17.1% (15.2% – 19.2%) | 9.7% (8.1% – 11.4%) | 13.4% (12.1% – 14.9%) |
| 40+ | 12.3% (11.3% – 13.4%) | 5.0% (4.4% – 4.7%) | 8.5% (7.9% – 9.3%) |



$754,370 \times 5.4 / 7 = 581,943$ daily bicycle trips per day in 2011.

As the age groups are 9-17 in 1985/86 and 10-17 in 2011, the 9yo daily trips in 2011 can be calculated as 49.1% of that age in 2011 ($273,384$) = $134,232 \times 5.4 / 7 = 103,550$.

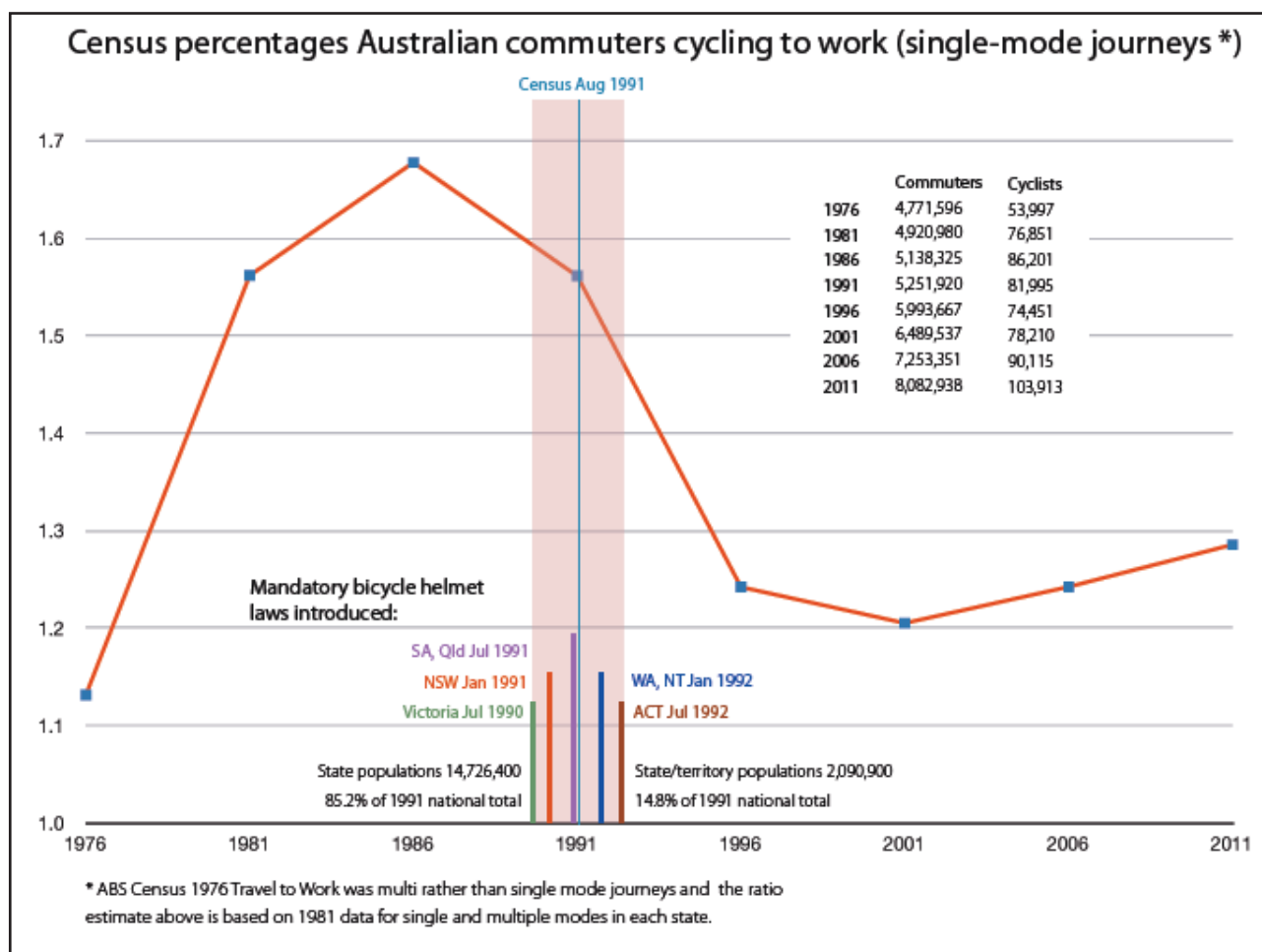
This means 9-17yo day-to-day cycling in 2011 was $581,943 + 103,550 = 684,493$.

The evidence shows there were 1,141,800 trips per day by cyclists aged 9-17 in 1985/86 and 684,493 in 2011 - a 40.1% reduction. The Australian population aged 9-17 increased 5.8% from 2,380,955 in 1986 to 2,518,534 in 2010.

That's why you don't see as many kids cycling on your street anymore.

Commuter cycling

What about commuter cycling to work? Census proportions and their corresponding cyclist numbers are charted below with further information [here](#).



Alternatively, Australian Year Book tables can be considered for estimates of cycling for work *and* study in 1996, showing participation of 215,200.

| 14.12 PERSONS WHO TRAVEL TO WORK/STUDY, Means of Transport — April 1996(a) | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|
| | NSW | Vic. | Qld | SA | WA | Tas. | NT | ACT | Aust. |
| NUMBER ('000) | | | | | | | | | |
| Train | 337.3 | 183.9 | 65.8 | 21.5 | 46.0 | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. | 654.5 |
| Bus | 235.9 | 86.5 | 74.6 | 57.3 | 53.0 | 15.1 | **3.6 | 19.8 | 545.7 |
| Car/truck/van as driver | 1 917.3 | 1 579.7 | 1 074.1 | 486.0 | 608.2 | 154.4 | 56.0 | 116.3 | 5 991.9 |
| Car/truck/van as passenger | 161.2 | 108.8 | 111.0 | 59.6 | 73.2 | 17.5 | **6.1 | 15.4 | 552.8 |
| Motorbike or motor scooter | 27.0 | 18.2 | 27.0 | 12.2 | 9.0 | **1.4 | **1.0 | **3.4 | 99.4 |
| Bicycle | 54.2 | 57.6 | 49.1 | 23.6 | 17.6 | **4.0 | **4.2 | **4.9 | 215.2 |
| Walk | 168.3 | 122.1 | 87.2 | 34.7 | 40.3 | 20.6 | **5.1 | 9.0 | 487.4 |
| Other | 40.6 | 80.5 | 16.5 | **5.8 | **6.1 | **1.5 | **2.2 | ** | 153.1 |
| Total | 2 610.8 | 1 965.5 | 1 356.7 | 618.8 | 756.6 | 193.2 | 69.3 | 152.2 | 7 723.1 |
| PROPORTION (%) | | | | | | | | | |
| Train | 12.9 | 9.4 | 4.8 | 3.5 | 6.1 | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. | 8.5 |
| Bus | 9.0 | 4.4 | 5.5 | 9.3 | 7.0 | 7.8 | **5.2 | 13.0 | 7.1 |
| Car/truck/van as driver | 73.4 | 80.4 | 79.2 | 78.5 | 80.4 | 79.9 | 80.8 | 76.4 | 77.6 |
| Car/truck/van as passenger | 6.2 | 5.5 | 8.2 | 9.6 | 9.7 | 9.0 | **8.8 | 10.1 | 7.2 |
| Motorbike or motor scooter | 1.0 | 0.9 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 1.2 | **0.7 | **1.5 | **2.2 | 1.3 |
| Bicycle | 2.1 | 2.9 | 3.6 | 3.8 | 2.3 | **2.1 | **6.0 | **3.2 | 2.8 |
| Walk | 6.4 | 6.2 | 6.4 | 5.6 | 5.3 | **10.7 | **7.4 | 5.9 | 6.3 |
| Other | 1.6 | 4.1 | 1.2 | **0.9 | **0.8 | **0.8 | **3.1 | ** | 2.0 |

(a) Totals do not equal the sum of items in each column because more than one transport mode may be specified.
Source: *Environmental Issues: People's Views and Practices* (4602.0).

However, the discouragement of mandatory bicycle helmet laws continued through the 1990s and by 2000 just 98,400 Australians rode a bike to work or to study - down 54.3%.

| 15.18 TYPE OF TRANSPORT TAKEN TO WORK/STUDY, Number of persons travelling | | | |
|--|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| | 1996 | 2000 | Change |
| | '000 | '000 | % |
| Train | 654.5 | 623.6 | -4.7 |
| Bus | 545.7 | 359.7 | -34.1 |
| Tram/light rail | (a) | 50.1 | .. |
| Ferry/boat | (a) | 15.7 | .. |
| Taxi | (a) | 9.1 | .. |
| Car/truck/van as driver | 5 991.9 | 6 539.8 | 9.1 |
| Car/truck/van as passenger | 552.8 | 457.9 | -17.2 |
| Motorbike or motor scooter | 99.4 | 66.0 | -33.6 |
| Bicycle | 215.2 | 98.4 | -54.3 |
| Walk | 487.4 | 378.7 | -22.3 |
| Other | 153.1 | 24.2 | .. |
| Total | 8 700.0 | 8 623.1 | 11.7 |

(a) Included in Other.
Source: *Environmental Issues: People's Views and Practices* (4602.0).

Environmental Issues: People's Views and Practices published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics shows the lower numbers riding a bike to work or study continued through to 2006, when an estimated 141,200 Australians used a bicycle.

| MAIN FORM OF TRANSPORT USED ON USUAL TRIP TO WORK OR STUDY—March 2006 | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|----------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|
| | NSW | Vic. | Qld | SA | WA | Tas. | NT(a) | ACT | Aust. |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Estimate ('000) | | | | | | | | | |
| Private motor vehicle | | | | | | | | | |
| Car as driver | 2 005.6 | 1 644.4 | 1 341.5 | 497.8 | 701.8 | 148.2 | 59.9 | 127.6 | 6 526.9 |
| Car as passenger | 117.7 | 68.9 | 99.8 | 24.0 | 31.6 | 11.4 | *2.5 | 10.7 | 366.7 |
| Truck as driver | 51.5 | 49.4 | 18.4 | 12.7 | 14.0 | 7.2 | *1.9 | *2.4 | 157.6 |
| Truck as passenger | *1.7 | *2.0 | *7.7 | *2.7 | — | — | — | — | 14.2 |
| Van as driver | 30.1 | 21.1 | 18.5 | *6.5 | 7.9 | *2.1 | *0.7 | *0.4 | 87.1 |
| Van as passenger | *0.8 | *2.9 | *1.5 | — | *3.6 | *1.1 | *0.7 | — | 10.6 |
| Motorbike/scooter | 33.7 | *3.2 | 21.5 | *5.2 | 7.2 | *1.8 | *1.4 | *2.8 | 76.9 |
| Total | 2 241.1 | 1 792.0 | 1 508.9 | 549.0 | 766.1 | 171.8 | 67.1 | 143.9 | 7 239.9 |
| Public transport | | | | | | | | | |
| Train | 366.9 | 208.1 | 66.5 | 15.4 | 34.4 | — | — | — | 691.5 |
| Bus | 170.8 | 38.2 | 106.5 | 57.3 | 39.9 | 12.1 | 5.6 | 13.9 | 444.4 |
| Tram/Light rail | — | 62.6 | — | *1.3 | — | — | — | — | 64.0 |
| Ferry/boat | 17.3 | — | *5.7 | — | — | — | — | — | 23.0 |
| Total | 555.0 | 309.0 | 178.8 | 74.1 | 74.3 | 12.1 | 5.6 | 13.9 | 1 222.8 |
| Taxi | *3.2 | — | *1.1 | *0.8 | *0.8 | — | — | *0.4 | *6.3 |
| Bicycle | 23.6 | 47.7 | 31.1 | 14.7 | 9.3 | *1.8 | *4.3 | 8.8 | 141.2 |
| Walk | 143.9 | 98.3 | 56.1 | 23.3 | 23.9 | 16.8 | 5.4 | 8.4 | 375.9 |
| Other | 14.5 | *8.1 | 16.3 | *1.0 | 9.8 | *1.2 | *0.4 | *0.4 | 51.6 |
| Total persons(b) | 2 981.3 | 2 255.0 | 1 792.4 | 662.7 | 884.2 | 203.6 | 82.8 | 175.7 | 9 037.8 |
| Proportion (%) | | | | | | | | | |
| Private motor vehicle | | | | | | | | | |
| Car as driver | 67.3 | 72.9 | 74.8 | 75.1 | 79.4 | 72.8 | 72.4 | 72.6 | 72.2 |
| Car as passenger | 3.9 | 3.1 | 5.6 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 5.6 | *3.0 | 6.1 | 4.1 |
| Truck as driver | 1.7 | 2.2 | 1.0 | 1.9 | 1.6 | 3.5 | *2.3 | *1.4 | 1.7 |
| Truck as passenger | *0.1 | *0.1 | *0.4 | *0.4 | — | — | — | — | 0.2 |
| Van as driver | 1.0 | 0.9 | 1.0 | *1.0 | 0.9 | *1.0 | *0.9 | *0.2 | 1.0 |
| Van as passenger | *— | *0.1 | *0.1 | — | *0.4 | *0.6 | *0.8 | — | 0.1 |
| Motorbike/scooter | 1.1 | 0.1 | 1.2 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 1.7 | 1.6 | 0.9 |
| Total | 75.2 | 79.5 | 84.2 | 82.8 | 86.6 | 84.4 | 81.1 | 81.9 | 80.1 |
| Public transport | | | | | | | | | |
| Train | 12.3 | 9.2 | 3.7 | 2.3 | 3.9 | — | — | — | 7.7 |
| Bus | 5.7 | 1.7 | 5.9 | 8.6 | 4.5 | 6.0 | 6.8 | 7.9 | 4.9 |
| Tram/Light rail | — | 2.8 | — | *0.2 | — | — | — | — | 0.7 |
| Ferry/boat | 0.6 | — | *0.3 | — | — | — | — | — | 0.3 |
| Total | 18.6 | 13.7 | 10.0 | 11.2 | 8.4 | 6.0 | 6.8 | 7.9 | 13.5 |
| Taxi | *0.1 | — | *0.1 | *0.1 | *0.1 | — | — | *0.2 | *0.1 |
| Bicycle | 0.8 | 2.1 | 1.7 | 2.2 | 1.1 | *0.9 | *5.2 | 5.0 | 1.6 |
| Walk | 4.8 | 4.4 | 3.1 | 3.5 | 2.7 | 8.2 | 6.5 | 4.8 | 4.2 |
| Other | 0.5 | *0.4 | 0.9 | *0.1 | 1.1 | *0.6 | *0.4 | *0.2 | 0.6 |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| * estimate is subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes | (a) Northern Territory data refers to mainly urban areas only. | | | | | | | | |
| — nil or rounded to zero (including null cells) | (b) Only includes persons aged 18 years and over who travel to work or study as described in table 4.9. | | | | | | | | |

Environmental Issues: People's Views and Practices also shows the cycling proportion for transport to work or study fell from 1.9% in 1996 to 1.6% in 2006, bearing in mind that the proportion was listed in the Year Book above as 2.8% for April 1996.

MAIN FORM OF TRANSPORT USED ON USUAL TRIP TO WORK OR STUDY—1996:2006

| NSW | Vic. | Qld | SA | WA | Tas. | NT(a) | ACT | Aust. |
|-----|------|-----|----|----|------|-------|-----|-------|
| % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |

MARCH 2006

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Private motor vehicle | 75.2 | 79.5 | 84.2 | 82.8 | 86.6 | 84.4 | 81.1 | 81.9 | 80.1 |
| Public transport | 18.6 | 13.7 | 10.0 | 11.2 | 8.4 | 6.0 | 6.8 | 7.9 | 13.5 |
| Taxi | *0.1 | — | *0.1 | *0.1 | *0.1 | — | — | *0.2 | *0.1 |
| Bicycle | 0.8 | 2.1 | 1.7 | 2.2 | 1.1 | *0.9 | *5.2 | 5.0 | 1.6 |
| Walk | 4.8 | 4.4 | 3.1 | 3.5 | 2.7 | 8.2 | 6.5 | 4.8 | 4.2 |
| Other | 0.5 | *0.4 | 0.9 | *0.1 | 1.1 | *0.6 | *0.4 | *0.2 | 0.6 |

MARCH 2003

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Private motor vehicle | 74.6 | 82.4 | 85.9 | 83.4 | 87.3 | 90.2 | 84.9 | 86.7 | 81.3 |
| Public transport | 19.0 | 12.5 | 8.7 | 10.6 | 8.0 | 4.5 | 2.8 | 8.1 | 13.0 |
| Taxi | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 1.1 | — | 0.1 |
| Bicycle | 0.9 | 1.3 | 1.1 | 2.6 | 1.4 | 1.2 | 5.9 | 3.5 | 1.3 |
| Walk | 5.4 | 3.7 | 4.0 | 3.3 | 3.0 | 3.7 | 4.4 | 1.7 | 4.2 |
| Other | — | — | 0.2 | — | 0.2 | — | 0.9 | — | 0.1 |

MARCH 2000

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Private motor vehicle | 76.5 | 81.1 | 87.7 | 85.0 | 86.6 | 88.8 | 87.9 | 87.0 | 81.9 |
| Public transport | 17.9 | 12.7 | 6.4 | 7.9 | 8.6 | 2.4 | 3.4 | 8.2 | 12.2 |
| Taxi | 0.2 | — | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.1 | — | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.1 |
| Bicycle | 0.7 | 0.9 | 1.7 | 1.4 | 1.8 | 0.5 | 3.9 | 1.7 | 1.1 |
| Walk | 4.5 | 4.9 | 4.0 | 5.1 | 2.6 | 7.3 | 3.4 | 2.8 | 4.4 |
| Other | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 1.0 | 1.2 | — | 0.3 |

APRIL 1996

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Private motor vehicle | 76.4 | 82.5 | 84.4 | 83.3 | 85.1 | 83.6 | 86.4 | 81.5 | 81.1 |
| Public transport | 16.9 | 11.0 | 7.8 | 9.6 | 8.0 | 6.6 | 2.7 | 11.4 | 11.9 |
| Taxi | 0.4 | 0.1 | 0.1 | — | 0.1 | — | 1.2 | — | 0.2 |
| Bicycle | 1.6 | 1.8 | 2.3 | 2.8 | 1.9 | 0.8 | 3.6 | 2.2 | 1.9 |
| Walk | 4.4 | 4.2 | 5.0 | 4.1 | 4.5 | 8.7 | 4.4 | 4.9 | 4.6 |
| Other | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 1.7 | — | 0.3 |

* estimate is subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Northern Territory data refers to mainly urban areas only.

Note: Percentages (%) calculated against total number of persons aged 18 years and over who travel on their usual trip to work or study at time of the survey as in table 4.9.

Cyclist injuries

Cyclist injuries are also occasionally referenced in the Australian Year Book series, the first entry below showing 153 killed and 4,697 injured in road traffic accidents back in 1958/59.

ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS INVOLVING CASUALTIES(a), CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO TYPE OF VEHICLE, ROAD USER, ETC., INVOLVED, AUSTRALIA, 1958-59.(b)

| Particulars. | Motor Vehicle. | Motor Cycle. | Pedal Cycle. | Tram. | Animal and Animal-drawn Vehicle. | Pedestrian. | Fixed Object. | Other Vehicle. |
|-----------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|-------|----------------------------------|-------------|---------------|----------------|
| Accidents Involving | | | | | | | | |
| Casualties | 38,520 | 6,461 | 4,613 | 390 | 499 | 8,423 | 2,738 | 285 |
| Persons Killed | 2,116 | 232 | 153 | 21 | 14 | 674 | 133 | 53 |
| Persons Injured | 51,713 | 7,353 | 4,697 | 437 | 596 | 8,274 | 3,775 | 348 |

(a) Accidents (reported to the police) which occurred in public thoroughfares and which caused death or injury to persons to an extent requiring surgical or medical treatment.

(b) It should be noted that, as accidents and casualties classified according to one type of road user, etc., may also be classified according to another, these totals cannot be added across to obtain grand totals. The figures above exclude 48 accidents involving casualties which were not classified according to type of vehicle, road user, etc., involved, from which there were 5 persons killed and 48 persons injured.

The same Year Book provides alternative numbers with 141 cyclists killed and 4,396 injured, possibly related to the exclusion of the Northern Territory.

ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS INVOLVING CASUALTIES(a): DRIVERS, RIDERS, PEDESTRIANS, ETC., KILLED OR INJURED, 1958-59.

| Drivers, Riders, Pedestrians, etc. | N.S.W. | Vic. | Q'land. | S. Aust. | W. Aust. | Tas. | A.C.T. | Total. |
|------------------------------------|--------|------|---------|----------|----------|------|--------|--------|
| PERSONS KILLED. | | | | | | | | |
| Drivers of Motor Vehicles | 228 | 200 | 91 | 46 | 41 | 13 | 3 | 622 |
| Motor Cyclists | 68 | 35 | 39 | 18 | 15 | 7 | .. | 182 |
| Pedal Cyclists | 34 | 47 | 24 | 19 | 12 | 3 | 2 | 141 |
| Passengers (all types)(b) .. | 228 | 173 | 95 | 53 | 54 | 22 | .. | 625 |
| Pedestrians | 271 | 203 | 84 | 49 | 56 | 23 | 1 | 687 |
| Other Classes(c) | 4 | 3 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 7 |
| Total | 833 | 661 | 333 | 185 | 178 | 68 | 6 | 2,264 |

PERSONS INJURED.

| | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-----|-----|--------|
| Drivers of Motor Vehicles | 5,600 | 5,223 | 2,143 | 1,440 | 1,128 | 280 | 119 | 15,933 |
| Motor Cyclists | 1,831 | 925 | 994 | 774 | 730 | 79 | 42 | 5,375 |
| Pedal Cyclists | 1,183 | 1,464 | 656 | 576 | 401 | 71 | 45 | 4,396 |
| Passengers (all types)(b) .. | 7,723 | 6,491 | 3,158 | 1,857 | 1,604 | 343 | 114 | 21,290 |
| Pedestrians | 3,477 | 2,614 | 736 | 531 | 638 | 215 | 21 | 8,232 |
| Other Classes(c) | 40 | 66 | 13 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 132 |
| Not Stated | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 |
| Total | 19,854 | 16,784 | 7,700 | 5,183 | 4,506 | 990 | 342 | 55,359 |

(a) Accidents (reported to the police) which occurred in public thoroughfares and which caused death or injury to persons to an extent requiring surgical or medical treatment. (b) Includes pillion riders. (c) Includes tram drivers, riders of horses and drivers of animal-drawn vehicles.

The Australian Year Book shows that in 1968, road traffic accident cyclist fatalities had dropped to 109 and injuries to 3,269.

| ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS INVOLVING CASUALTIES(a): PERSONS KILLED OR INJURED TYPES OF ROAD USER INVOLVED, STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1968 | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| <i>Type of road user</i> | <i>N.S.W.</i> | <i>Vic.</i> | <i>Qld</i> | <i>S.A.</i> | <i>W.A.</i> | <i>Tas.</i> | <i>N.T.</i> | <i>A.C.T.</i> | <i>Total</i> |
| PERSONS KILLED | | | | | | | | | |
| Drivers of motor vehicles | 455 | 360 | 197 | 104 | 143 | 49 | 8 | 8 | 1,324 |
| Motor cyclists | 62 | 24 | 16 | 8 | 7 | 7 | .. | .. | 124 |
| Pedal cyclists | 37 | 35 | 9 | 19 | 8 | 1 | .. | .. | 109 |
| Passengers (all types)(b) | 364 | 295 | 173 | 84 | 106 | 31 | 5 | 3 | 1,061 |
| Pedestrians | 292 | 227 | 82 | 59 | 56 | 30 | 5 | 3 | 754 |
| Other classes(c) | 1 | 8 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 10 |
| Total | 1,211 | 949 | 477 | 275 | 320 | 118 | 18 | 14 | 3,382 |
| PERSONS INJURED | | | | | | | | | |
| Drivers of motor vehicles | 11,908 | 8,966 | 4,006 | 3,560 | 2,680 | 832 | 210 | 508 | 32,670 |
| Motor cyclists | 1,899 | 569 | 573 | 630 | 328 | 79 | 53 | 67 | 4,198 |
| Pedal cyclists | 913 | 958 | 517 | 517 | 275 | 39 | 8 | 42 | 3,269 |
| Passengers (all types)(b) | 11,992 | 8,893 | 4,137 | 3,376 | 2,485 | 866 | 197 | 457 | 32,403 |
| Pedestrians | 4,175 | 2,664 | 903 | 810 | 781 | 112 | 44 | 76 | 9,565 |
| Other classes(c) | 32 | 45 | 15 | 9 | 4 | .. | .. | .. | 105 |
| Total | 30,919 | 22,095 | 10,151 | 8,902 | 6,553 | 1,928 | 512 | 1,150 | 82,210 |
| (a) Accidents reported to the police which occurred in public thoroughfares and which resulted in death within thirty days or in bodily injury to an extent requiring surgical or medical treatment. (b) Includes pillion riders. (c) Includes tram drivers, riders of horses and drivers of animal-drawn vehicles. | | | | | | | | | |

Ten years later in 1977, cyclist deaths were at 101 and injuries at 3,297.

| ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS INVOLVING CASUALTIES(a): PERSONS KILLED OR INJURED, TYPES OF ROAD USER INVOLVED, 1977 | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| <i>Type of road user</i> | <i>N.S.W.</i> | <i>Vic.</i> | <i>Qld</i> | <i>S.A.</i> | <i>W.A.</i> | <i>Tas.</i> | <i>N.T.</i> | <i>A.C.T.</i> | <i>Aust.</i> |
| PERSONS KILLED | | | | | | | | | |
| Drivers of motor vehicles | 489 | 353 | 215 | 108 | 93 | 49 | 12 | 9 | 1,328 |
| Motor cyclists | 125 | 78 | 97 | 42 | 27 | 10 | 5 | 2 | 386 |
| Pedal cyclists | 22 | 27 | 27 | 9 | 10 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 101 |
| Passengers (all types)(b) | 363 | 276 | 141 | 96 | 101 | 32 | 20 | 12 | 1,041 |
| Pedestrians | 266 | 217 | 92 | 51 | 58 | 18 | 9 | 4 | 715 |
| Other classes(c) | 3 | 3 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 7 |
| Total | 1,268 | 954 | 572 | 306 | 290 | 112 | 47 | 29 | 3,578 |
| PERSONS INJURED | | | | | | | | | |
| Drivers of motor vehicles | 14,744 | 8,079 | 3,712 | 4,140 | 3,746 | 992 | 326 | 457 | 36,196 |
| Motor cyclists | 4,055 | 1,673 | 1,670 | 1,625 | 778 | 210 | 126 | 168 | 10,305 |
| Pedal cyclists | 1,067 | 883 | 349 | 554 | 268 | 46 | 27 | 103 | 3,297 |
| Passengers (all types)(b) | 14,149 | 6,931 | 3,511 | 3,646 | 2,877 | 908 | 336 | 367 | 32,725 |
| Pedestrians | 4,349 | 2,074 | 756 | 810 | 655 | 187 | 67 | 81 | 8,979 |
| Other classes(c) | 43 | 32 | 4 | 6 | 29 | - | - | - | 114 |
| Total | 38,407 | 19,672 | 10,002 | 10,781 | 8,353 | 2,343 | 882 | 1,176 | 91,616 |
| (a) Accidents reported to the police which occurred in public thoroughfares and which resulted in death within thirty days or in bodily injury to an extent requiring surgical or medical treatment. (b) Includes pillion riders. (c) Includes bystanders, tram-drivers, riders of horses and drivers of animal-drawn vehicles. | | | | | | | | | |

Serious injury due to land transport accidents, Australia 2006-07, published by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, tabulates road user injuries from 2000/01 to 2006/07.

Table 4.3: Road vehicle traffic crashes – serious injury cases by sex and road user group, Australia 2000–01 to 2006–07

| Road user group | Case numbers | | | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|---------|---------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------|
| | 2000–01 | 2001–02 | 2002–03 | 2003–04 | 2004–05 | 2005–06 | 2006–07 |
| Persons | | | | | | | |
| Pedestrian | 2,916 | 2,901 | 2,670 | 2,578 | 2,594 | 2,644 | 2,824 |
| Car driver | 8,813 | 9,532 | 9,077 | 9,738 | 9,809 ^(a) | 9,986 | 10,038 |
| Car passenger | 5,027 | 5,272 | 4,815 | 4,908 ^(a) | 4,941 ^(a) | 5,113 | 5,047 |
| Motorcyclist | 4,642 | 5,096 | 5,040 | 5,385 | 5,861 | 6,479 ^(a) | 7,303 |
| Pedal cyclist | 3,056 | 3,292 | 3,591 | 3,676 | 4,038 | 4,370 | 4,789 |

(a) Includes cases where sex is missing or indeterminate.

Serious injury due to land transport accidents, Australia 2007-08, published by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare tabulates road user injuries.

Table 3.4: Serious injury due to road vehicle traffic crashes by road user group, Australia, 2007–08

| Road user group | Seriously injured | | | | | | Per cent high threat- to-life |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|----------|---------------------|--|----------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | All cases | | | High threat-to-life cases ^(a) | | | |
| | Count | Per cent | Rate ^(a) | Count | Per cent | Rate ^(a) | |
| Persons | | | | | | | |
| Car occupant ^(b) | 15,795 | 48.5 | 73.9 | 4,307 | 51.3 | 20.1 | 27.3 |
| Car driver | 9,906 | 30.4 | 46.2 | 2,693 | 32.1 | 12.5 | 27.2 |
| Car passenger | 4,820 | 14.8 | 22.7 | 1,416 | 16.9 | 6.7 | 29.4 |
| Motorcyclist | 7,524 | 23.1 | 35.8 | 1,844 | 22.0 | 8.7 | 24.5 |
| Pedal cyclist | 4,814 | 14.8 | 23.1 | 880 | 10.5 | 4.1 | 18.3 |
| Pedestrian | 2,730 | 8.4 | 12.8 | 946 | 11.3 | 4.4 | 34.7 |
| Heavy transport vehicle occupant | 497 | 1.5 | 2.3 | 143 | 1.7 | 0.7 | 28.8 |
| Pick-up truck or van occupant | 298 | 0.9 | 1.4 | 98 | 1.2 | 0.5 | 32.9 |
| Bus occupant | 204 | 0.6 | 0.9 | 51 | 0.6 | 0.2 | 25.0 |
| Other or unknown | 681 | 2.1 | 3.2 | 123 | 1.5 | 0.6 | 18.1 |
| Total | 32,543 | 100.0 | 153.4 | 8,392 | 100.0 | 39.3 | 25.8 |

(a) Cases for which the ICD-based Injury Severity Score (ICISS) <0.941.

(b) Per 100,000 population, adjusted by direct standardisation to the Australian population in June 2001.

(c) 'Car occupants' includes cases for which the position of the injured person within the car is unspecified.

Serious injury due to land transport accidents, Australia 2008-09 published by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare tabulates road user injuries.

Road user group

Table 4.3.4: Serious injury due to road vehicle traffic crashes by road user group, Australia 2008-09

| Road user group | Seriously injured | | | | | | Per cent high threat- to-life |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|----------|---------------------|--|----------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | All cases | | | High threat-to-life cases ^(a) | | | |
| | Count | Per cent | Rate ^(b) | Count | Per cent | Rate ^(b) | |
| Persons | | | | | | | |
| Car occupant ^(c) | 16,079 | 47.1 | 73.2 | 4,519 | 51.4 | 20.5 | 28.1 |
| Car driver | 10,096 | 29.6 | 45.8 | 2,801 | 31.8 | 12.6 | 27.7 |
| Car passenger | 4,990 | 14.6 | 22.9 | 1,538 | 17.5 | 7.0 | 30.8 |
| Motorcyclist | 8,197 | 24.0 | 37.9 | 1,959 | 22.3 | 9.0 | 23.9 |
| Pedal cyclist | 5,264 | 15.4 | 24.7 | 917 | 10.4 | 4.2 | 17.4 |
| Pedestrian | 2,690 | 7.9 | 12.3 | 939 | 10.7 | 4.3 | 34.9 |
| Heavy transport vehicle occupant | 517 | 1.5 | 2.4 | 165 | 1.9 | 0.8 | 31.9 |
| Pick-up truck or van occupant | 321 | 0.9 | 1.5 | 109 | 1.2 | 0.5 | 34.0 |
| Bus occupant | 171 | 0.5 | 0.8 | 36 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 21.1 |
| Other or unknown | 877 | 2.6 | 4.0 | 154 | 1.8 | 0.7 | 17.6 |
| Total | 34,116 | 100.0 | 156.7 | 8,798 | 100.0 | 40.1 | 25.8 |

(a) Cases for which the ICISS <0.941. Refer to the Data issues section for definition of ICISS.

(b) Per 100,000 population, adjusted by direct standardisation to the Australian population in June 2001.

(c) 'Car occupants' includes cases for which the position of the injured person within the car is unspecified.

Hospital separations due to injury and poisoning, Australia, 2009-10 researched by Flinders University and published by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare tabulates road user injuries.

Table 2.2.8: Mode of transport and road user group for traffic land transport injury cases, Australia, 2009-10

| Injured person's mode of transport | Pedestrian | Driver | Passenger | Person on outside of vehicle | Other and unspecified | Total |
|------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Pedestrian | 2,894 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2,894 |
| Pedal cycle | 0 | 3,469 | 35 | 0 | 1,836 | 5,340 |
| Motorcycle | 0 | 5,315 | 219 | 0 | 2,243 | 7,777 |
| Car | 0 | 9,896 | 4,687 | 81 | 937 | 15,601 |
| Pick-up truck or van | 0 | 161 | 74 | 20 | 19 | 274 |
| Heavy transport vehicle | 0 | 366 | 46 | 22 | 23 | 457 |
| Bus | 0 | 28 | 212 | n.p. | n.p. | 269 |
| Three-wheeled motor vehicle | 0 | 14 | n.p. | n.p. | n.p. | 20 |
| Other land transport | 0 | 44 | 16 | n.p. | n.p. | 67 |
| Total | 2,894 | 19,293 | 5,290 | 131 | 5,091 | 32,699 |

n.p. = Not published. Small cell counts have been suppressed to prevent patient identification.

It is difficult to determine whether injuries have fallen without knowing participation rates back to 1958. However, it should be noted that since 1977 and based on the document extracts above, cyclists have a poor injury record compared to all other road users.

| | Cyclist injuries | % change | Car injuries | % change | MC injuries | % change | Ped injuries | % change |
|----------------|-------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1958/59 | 4,697 | - | 51,713 | - | 7,353 | - | 8,274 | - |
| 1968 | 3,269 | -30.4% | 65,073 | 25.8% | 4,198 | -42.9% | 9,565 | 15.6% |
| 1977 | 3,297 | 0.9% | 68,921 | 5.9% | 10,305 | 145.5% | 8,979 | -6.1% |
| 2000/01 | 3,056 | -7.3% | 13,840 | -79.9% | 4,642 | -55% | 2,916 | -67.5% |
| 2001/02 | 3,292 | 7.7% | 14,804 | 7% | 5,096 | 9.8% | 2,901 | -.05% |
| 2002/03 | 3,591 | 9.1% | 13,892 | -6.2% | 5,040 | -1.1% | 2,670 | -8% |
| 2003/04 | 3,676 | 2.4% | 14,646 | 5.4% | 5,385 | 6.8% | 2,578 | -3.4% |
| 2004/05 | 4,038 | 9.8% | 14,750 | 0.7% | 5,861 | 8.8% | 2,594 | 0.6% |
| 2005/06 | 4,370 | 8.2% | 15,099 | 2.4% | 6,479 | 10.5% | 2,644 | 1.9% |
| 2006/07 | 4,789 | 9.6% | 15,085 | -0.1% | 7,303 | 12.7% | 2,824 | 6.8% |
| 2007/08 | 4,814 | 0.5% | 15,795 | 4.7% | 7,524 | 3% | 2,730 | -3.3% |
| 2008/09 | 5,264 | 9.3% | 16,079 | 1.8% | 8,197 | 8.9% | 2,690 | -1.5% |
| 2009/10 | 5,340 | 1.4% | 15,601 | -3% | 7,777 | -5.1% | 2,894 | 7.6% |

Between 2000 and 2010, cyclist injuries increased by 74.7%, car injuries by 12.7%, motorcycle injuries by 67.5% and pedestrian injuries by -0.8%.

The high rate of cyclist injuries in Australia is further explored in [Cycling injuries in Australia: Road safety's blind spot?](#) published in August 2010 by the Journal of the Australasian College of Road Safety.