



# 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**

**79% ON-ROAD**

**Double the injuries on SATURDAY & SUNDAY**

**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**

**84% ON-ROAD**

**Double the injuries ON SATURDAY**

**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).

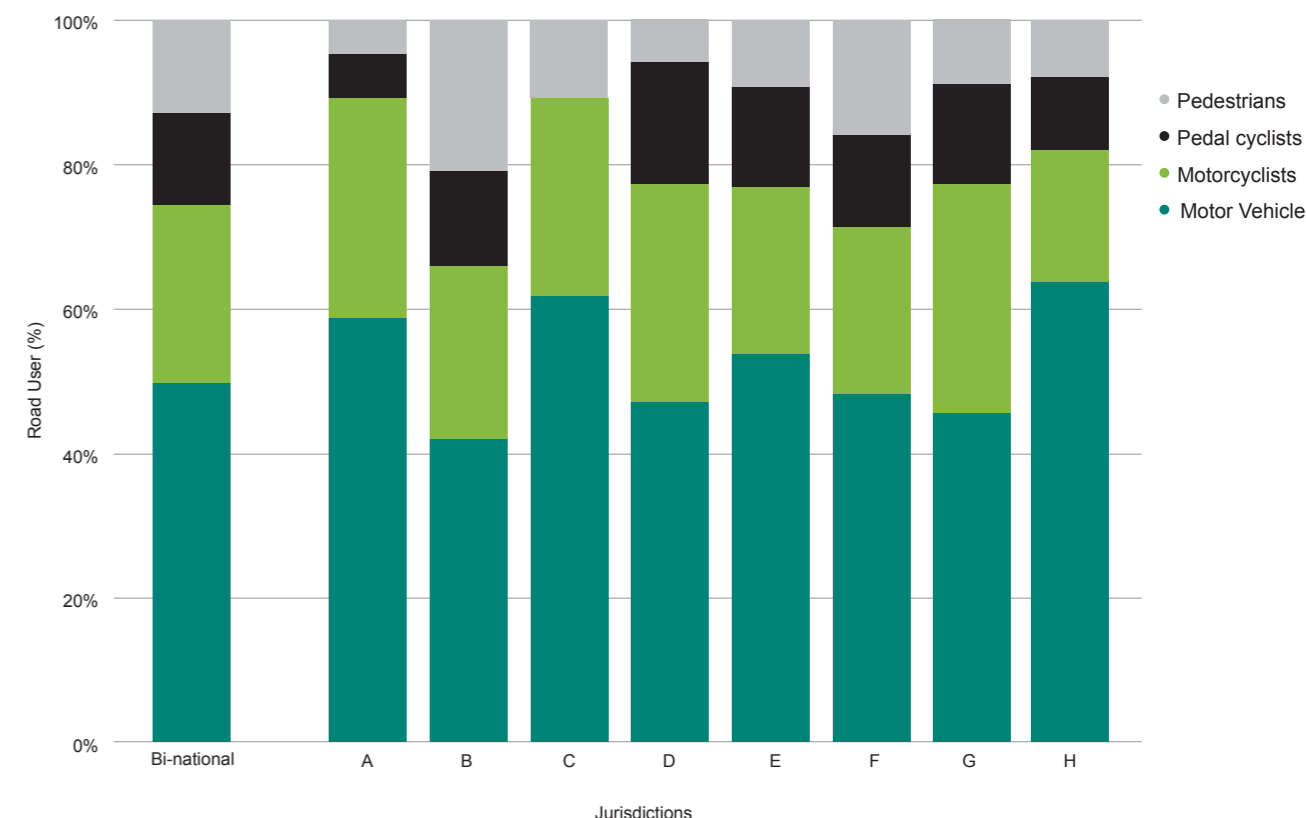


Figure 1. On-road Transport-related Injuries by road user and Jurisdiction

## 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.

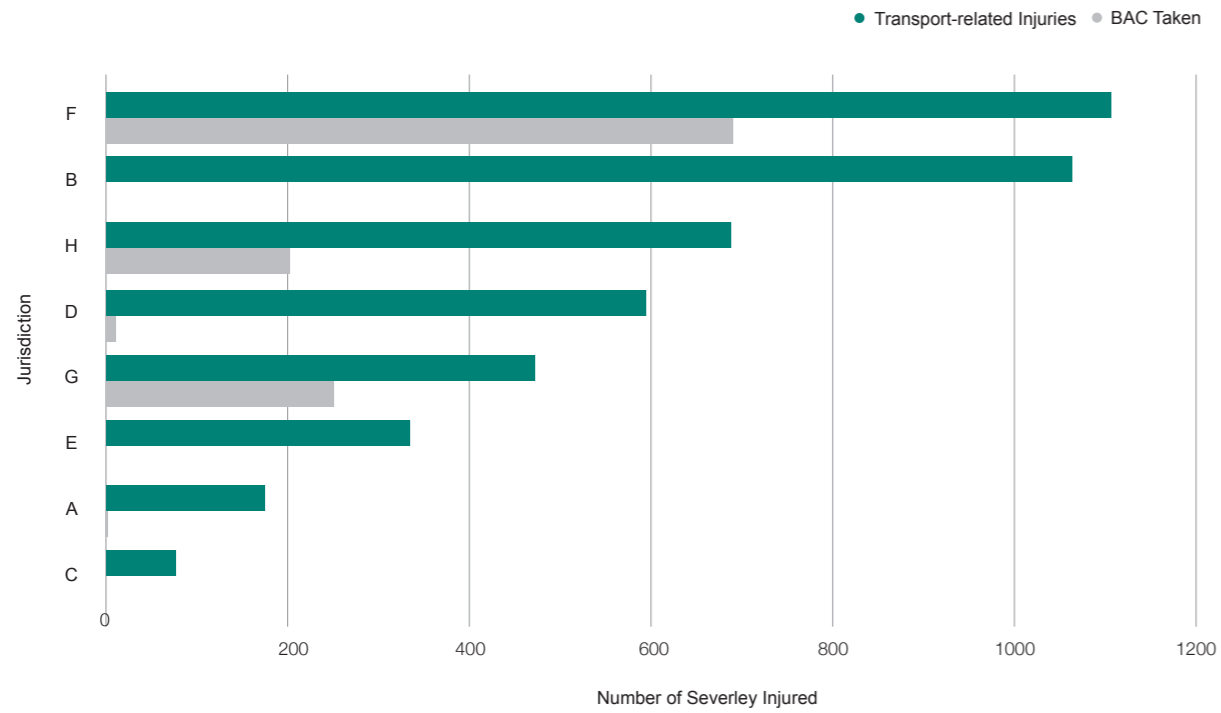
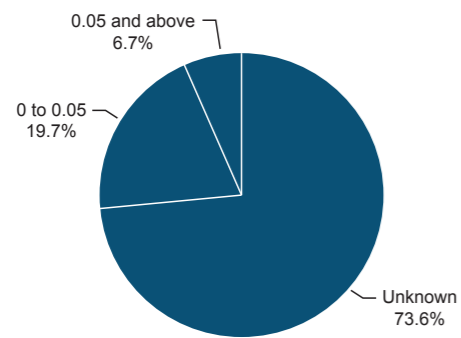
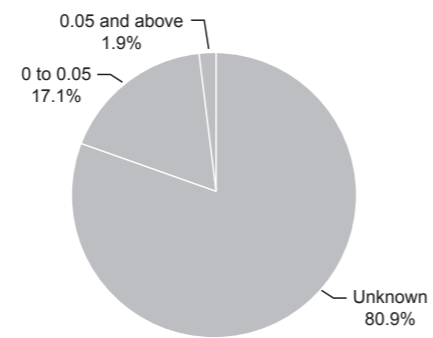


Figure 2. Road Transport Injuries and BAC Taken

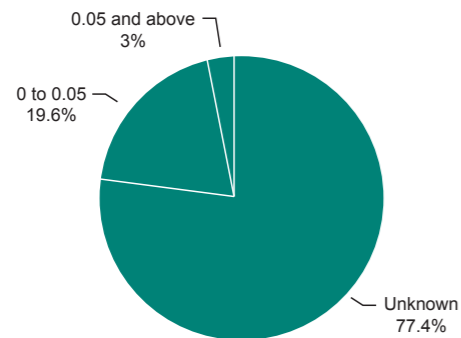
### MOTOR VEHICLE



### PEDAL CYCLISTS



### MOTORCYCLISTS



### PEDESTRIANS

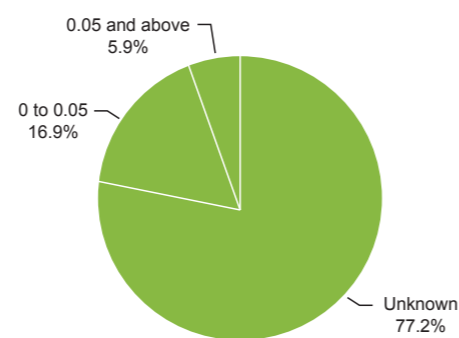


Figure 3. Road User and BAC





**ntri** national trauma  
research institute



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