

# GLOBAL ROAD SAFETY

Every day around the world more than 3,700 people lose their lives in road crashes, that's 1.35 million people a year, equating to one death every 24 seconds<sup>1</sup>.

Road crashes are the leading cause of death among young people aged five-29 years.

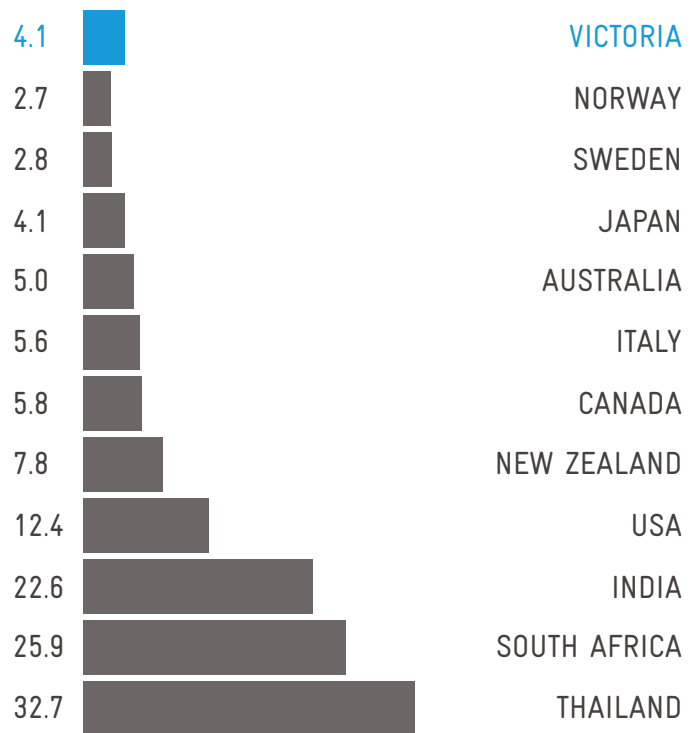
The rate of deaths in low income countries is three times higher than in high income countries. The highest rates of road trauma are experienced in African and South East Asian countries, where pedestrians and cyclists are most commonly killed on the roads. Lower income countries tend to have a higher proportion of people traveling as pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists; these road users are unprotected. This mix of road users, coupled with less safe roads, less safe cars and little or no police enforcement makes travel risky in low income countries.

The nations with the best road safety record are in Europe; Sweden and Norway for example. The best performing countries have adopted a Towards Zero approach to road safety; also now in place across all Australian States and Territories<sup>2</sup>.

Europe has set a target to reach zero road deaths by 2050. Looking across the globe to understand what is being done elsewhere can help to make Victorian roads safer.

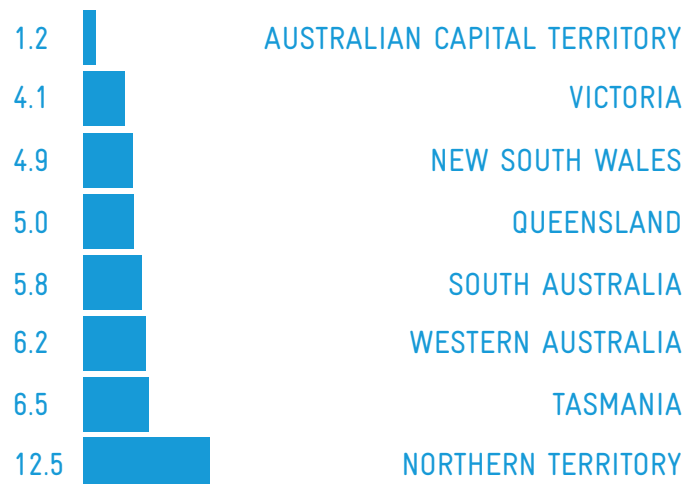
Comparisons between countries can be made by looking at the number of road deaths for every 100,000 people who live there – deaths per 100,000 population<sup>3</sup>. Some examples are shown in Figure 1.

**Figure 1: Rate of deaths per 100,000 population across countries**



Source: WHO Global Status Report on Road Safety 2018

**Figure 2: Deaths per 100,000 population within Australian jurisdictions**



Source: Road Trauma Australia: 2018 Statistical Summary

<sup>1</sup> <https://extranet.who.int/roadsafety/death-on-the-roads/>

<sup>2</sup> [www.towardszero.vic.gov.au/news/articles/vision-zero-and-swedens-approach-to-road-safety](http://www.towardszero.vic.gov.au/news/articles/vision-zero-and-swedens-approach-to-road-safety)

<sup>3</sup> [www.who.int/violence\\_injury\\_prevention/road\\_safety\\_status/2018/en/](http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/road_safety_status/2018/en/)

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.bitre.gov.au/publications/ongoing/international\\_road\\_safety\\_comparisons](https://www.bitre.gov.au/publications/ongoing/international_road_safety_comparisons)