



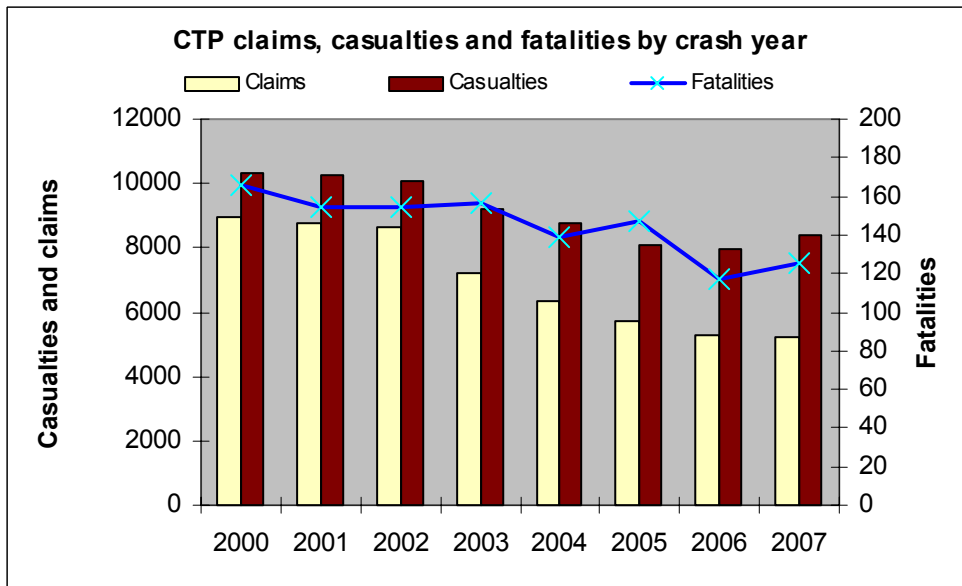
Compulsory Third Party (CTP) statistics and road safety in South Australia (2007 and comparative years)

Introduction

The statistics presented in this report are of CTP claims from crashes occurring in a particular year. A claim is only counted if financial payment is made or is due. Statistics are also presented for road crashes as reported to Police and maintained by the Department of Transport, Energy and Infrastructure in the Crash Register database.

CTP claims, casualties and fatalities

CTP claims from crashes in 2007 fell to 5223, continuing the substantial falls from a peak in the year 2000. The number of casualties as reported to Police has also fallen, but not to the same extent as claims, and an increase was experienced in 2007. Fatalities have generally been in decline since 1977 with 125 people killed in 2006.



The difference between CTP claims and casualties

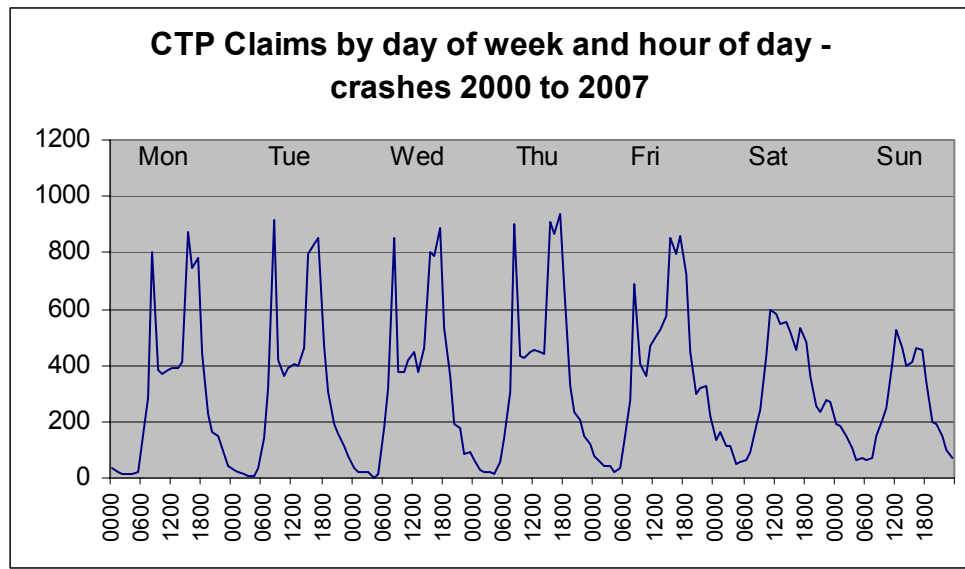
The CTP scheme that operates in South Australia is an 'at fault' scheme. There are a number of details associated with such a [scheme](#) but of greatest interest for statistics is that a claim cannot be made by an injured driver who is at fault for a road crash. This is one reason why claim numbers are lower than casualty numbers.

Crash severity

While a large drop in total CTP claims is desirable, it may hide an increase in high severity injury claims. Injury severity can be estimated from the cost of a claim, but, particularly for serious claims, accurate costs often take months or years to establish.

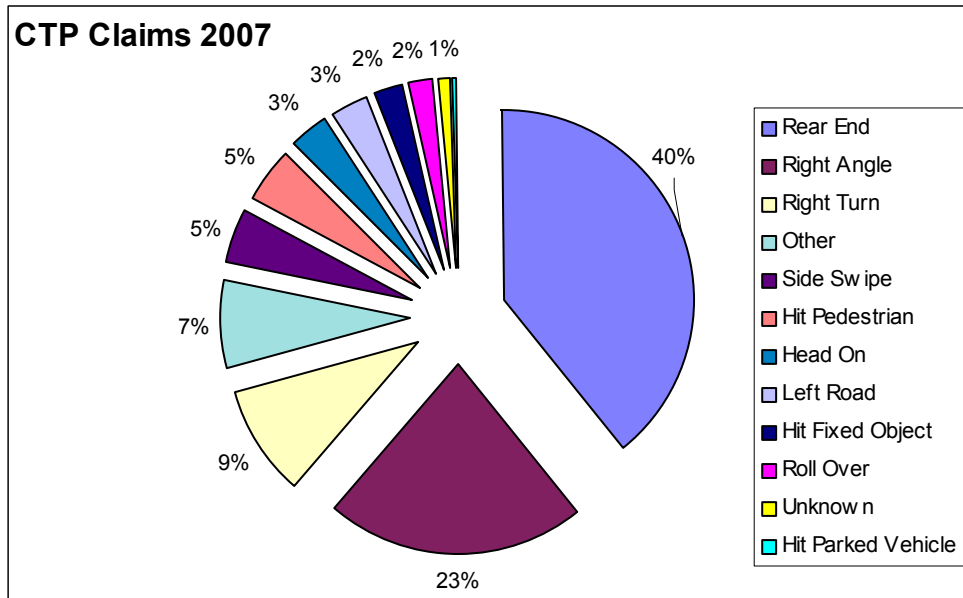
Day and time

Crashes occur at all times of the day and night, but, as a general rule, crash volume is linked to traffic volume. The following graph shows that CTP claims peak at the morning peak travel time (8am to 9am) and the afternoon (3pm to 6pm) on weekdays. Although Friday has lower peaks than other weekdays, it has the highest daily total of claims. The weekend experiences lower traffic volumes and lower crash numbers.



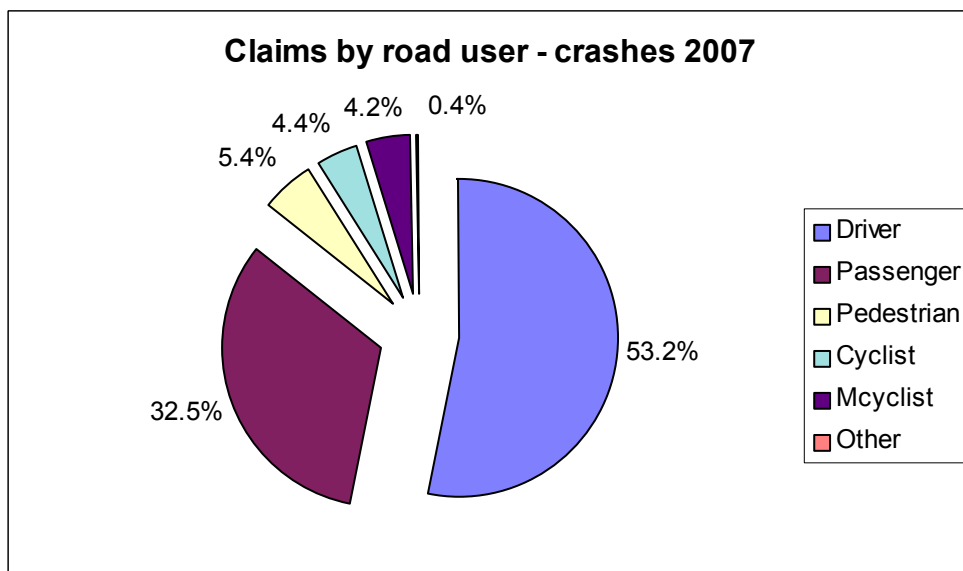
Crash type

It is important to understand the details of the crashes that lead to CTP claims in order to identify countermeasures. One important detail is the type of crash. The majority of crashes leading to claims were rear end crashes.



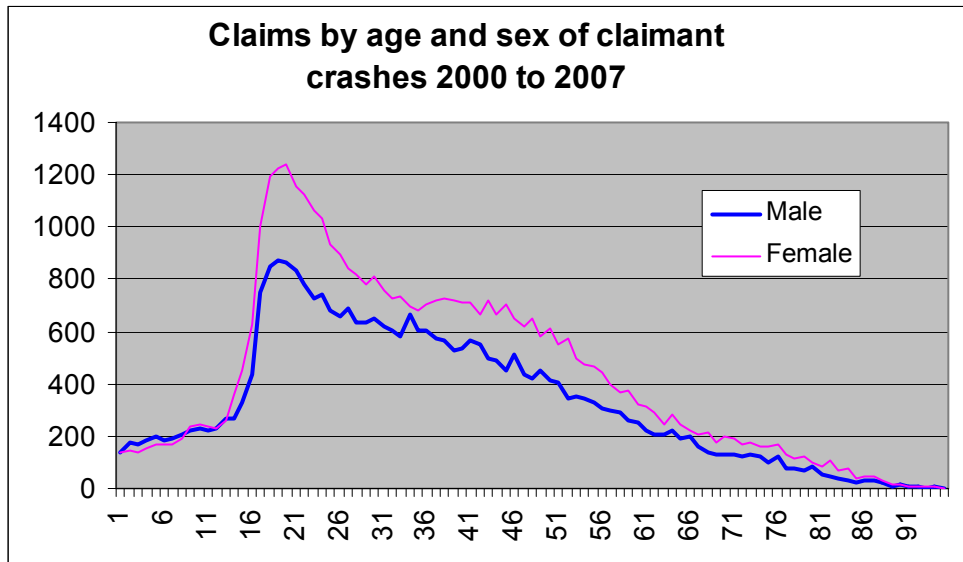
Road user

The 'at fault' CTP scheme disallows some drivers from making a CTP claim for an injury. Nevertheless, most claimants are drivers – all vehicles must have a driver, but only a proportion have passengers. There are similar numbers of pedestrian, cyclist and motorcyclist claimants per year.



Age and sex of claimant

The majority of claimants are in the age range 18 to 25. Most road safety statistics show males to far outnumber females. For CTP claimants, females outnumber males. This is partly due to a gender bias in seating positions in the vehicle, with drivers (most often male) often unable to make a claim. It is also reported that females are more susceptible to injury when a crash occurs, particularly with the neck injuries that often arise from rear end crashes.



Age and sex of the driver liable for the crash

The CTP system records the liability for a crash thus statistics can be produced showing the claims against drivers of all ages and each sex. Again we see that young people dominate the statistics. There are more claims against males than against females.

