



# It's time to stop counting the dead

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Centre for Accident Research  
& Road Safety - Queensland (CARRS-Q)

CARRS-Q is a joint venture initiative of the  
Motor Accident Insurance Commission and  
Queensland University of Technology



[www.carrsq.qut.edu.au](http://www.carrsq.qut.edu.au)



# A controversial title

- We need to work towards zero fatalities
- Serious injuries are a bigger issue
- Why is it so difficult to stop counting the dead?
- Why is this particularly important for local government?

# National Road Safety Strategy 2011-2020

“no person should be killed or seriously injured on Australia’s roads”

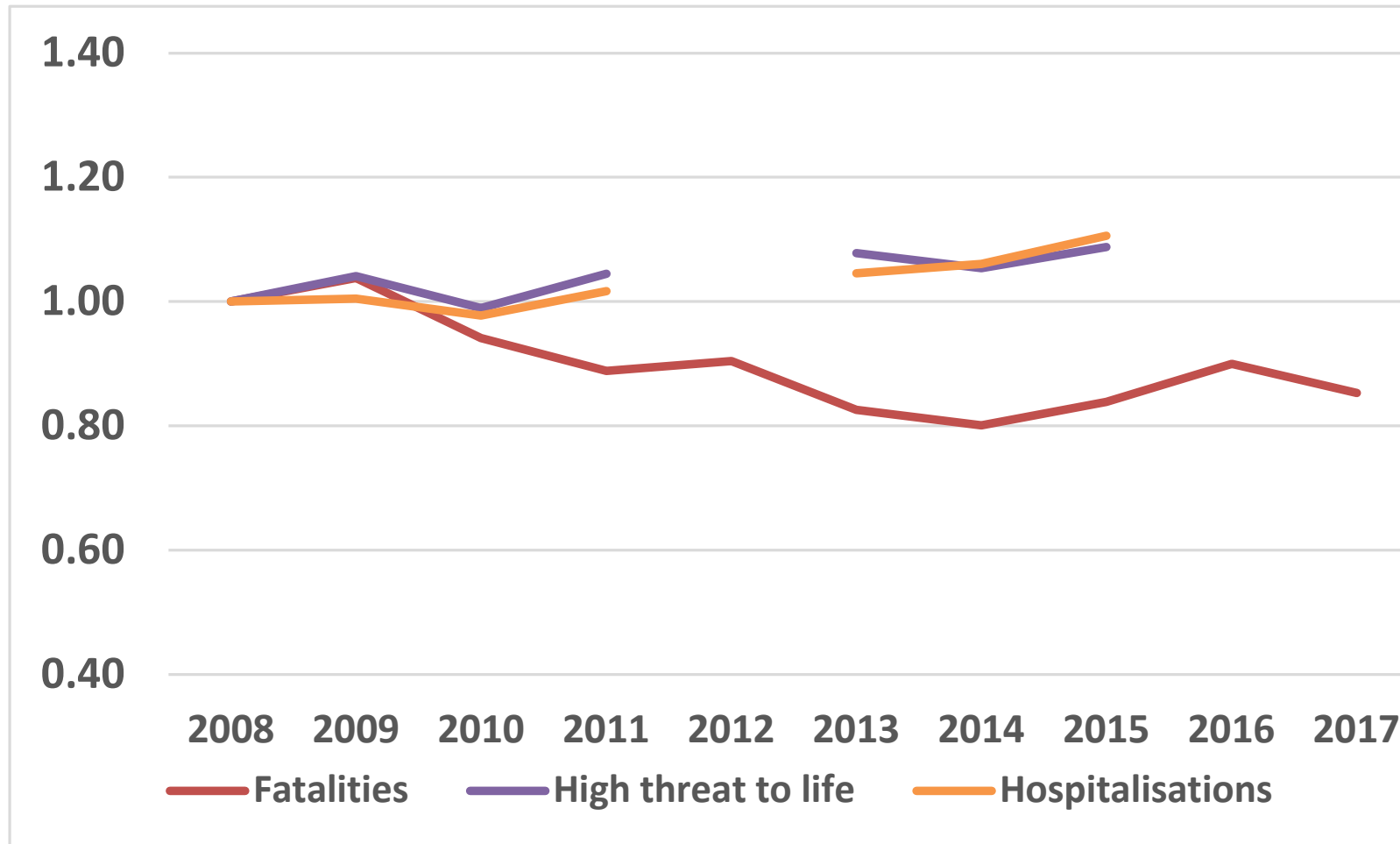
“We must manage the combined effects of the speeds at which we travel, the safety of the vehicles we use, and the level of protection provided by our roads — not only to minimise the number of crashes, but to ensure that when crashes do occur they do not result in death or serious injury.”



# Why do we need to focus on reducing road crash serious injuries?

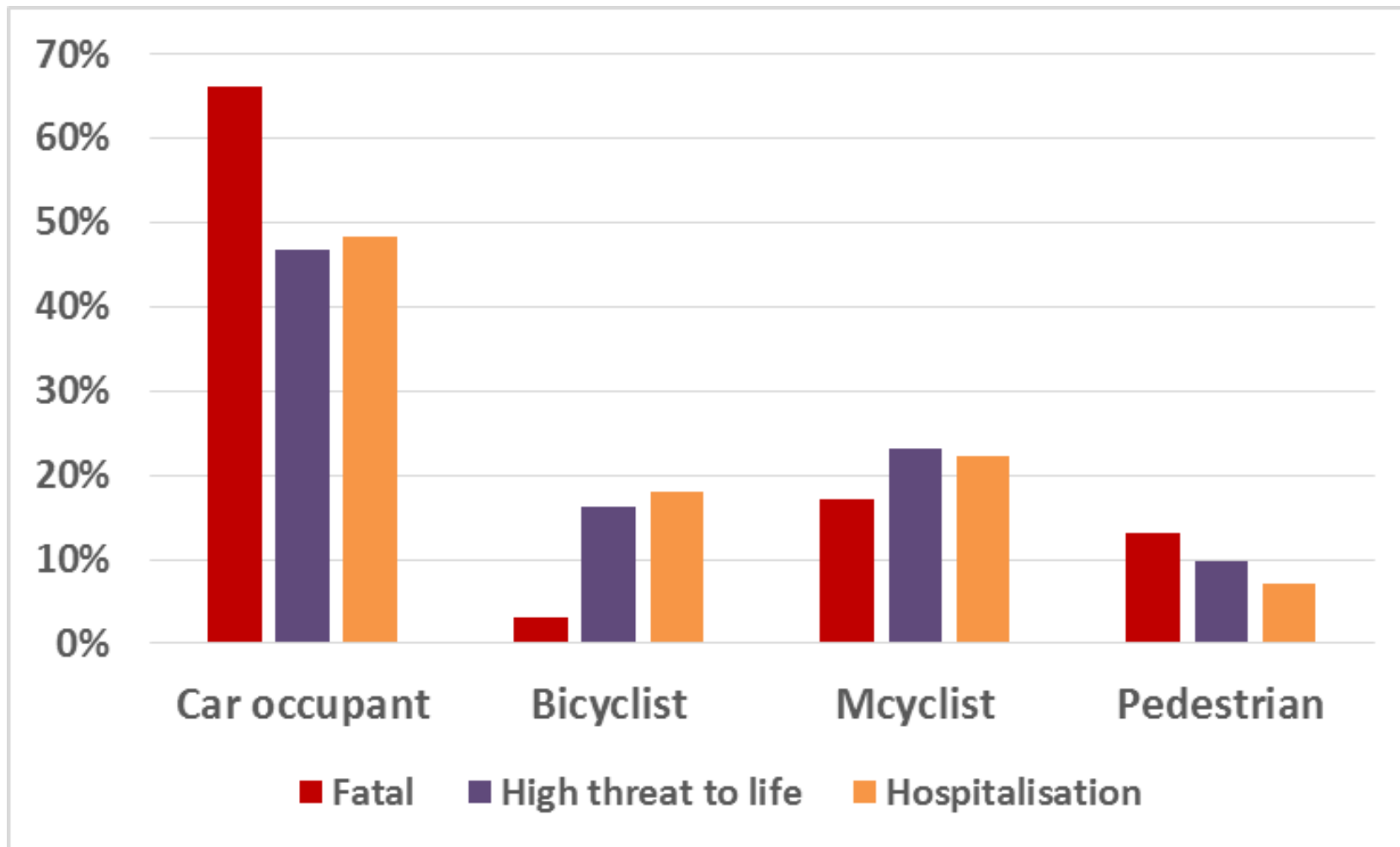


# Worrying trends



Data from  
BITRE, 2018

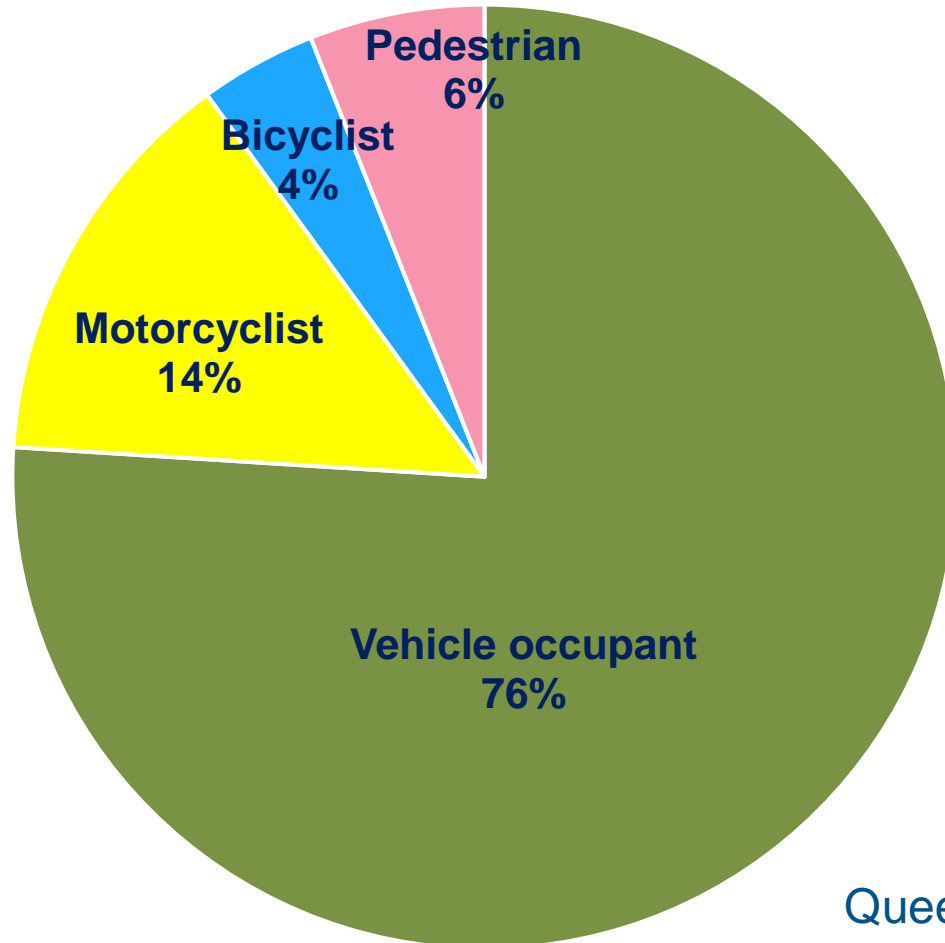
# Relative importance differs by severity



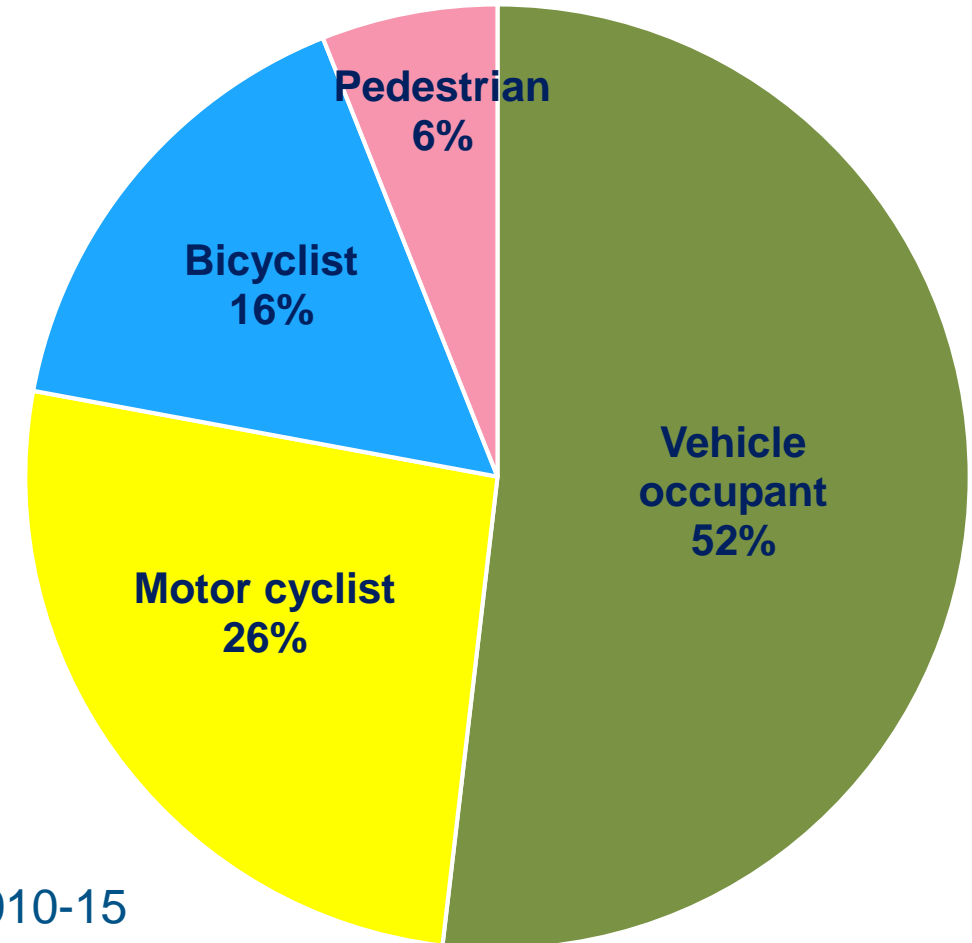
2015 data from  
BITRE, 2018

# Which road users “hospitalised”?

**Police data**

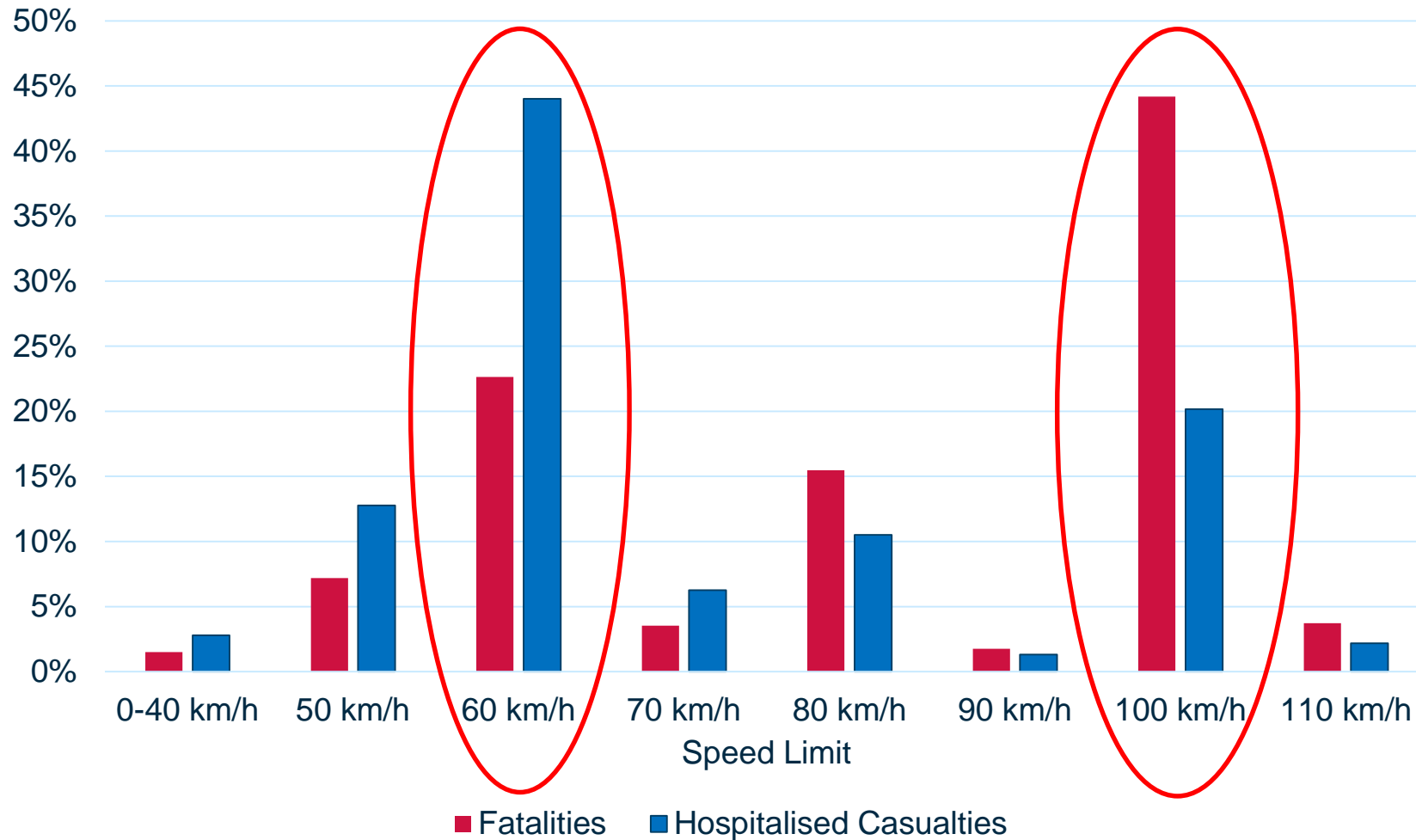


**Hospital data**



Queensland 2010-15

# Which speed zones?

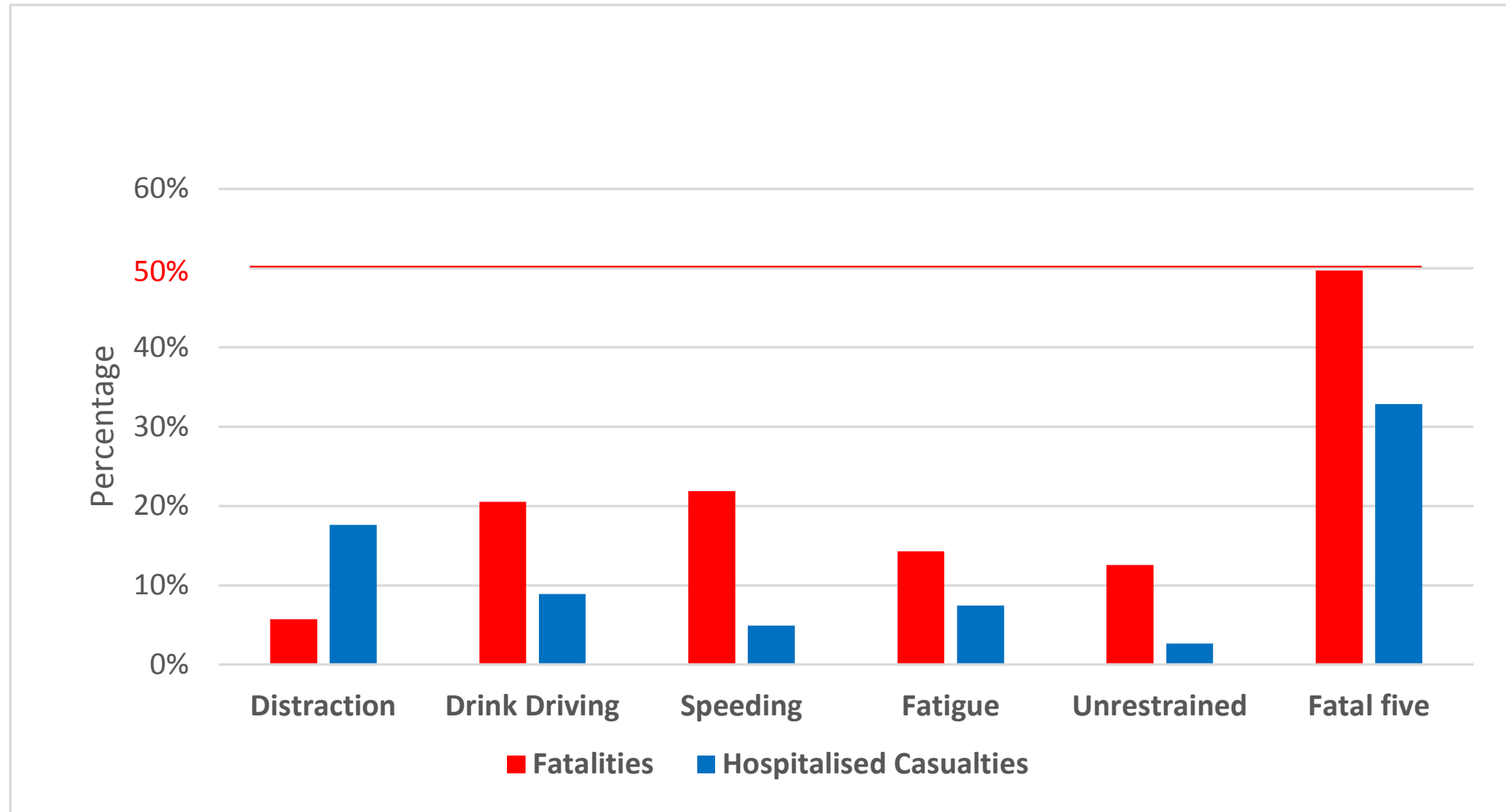


Police database 2010-2015





# The 'Fatal Five'



Police database 2010-2015

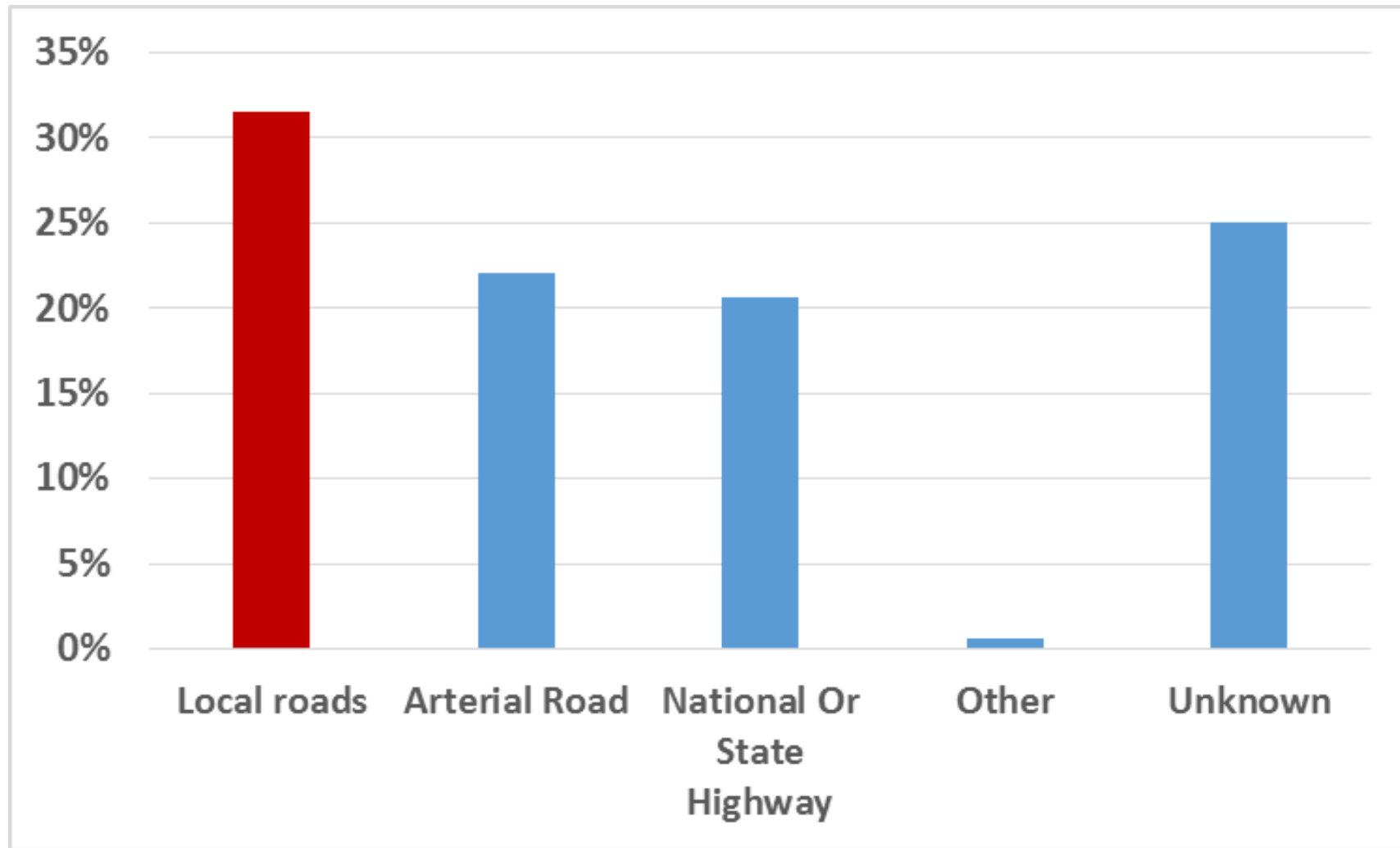
# Road trauma on LG-controlled roads

- How much of Australia's road trauma occurs on LG-controlled roads?
- What does the picture look like?

# LGAs with no fatalities in last two years (population > 10,000)

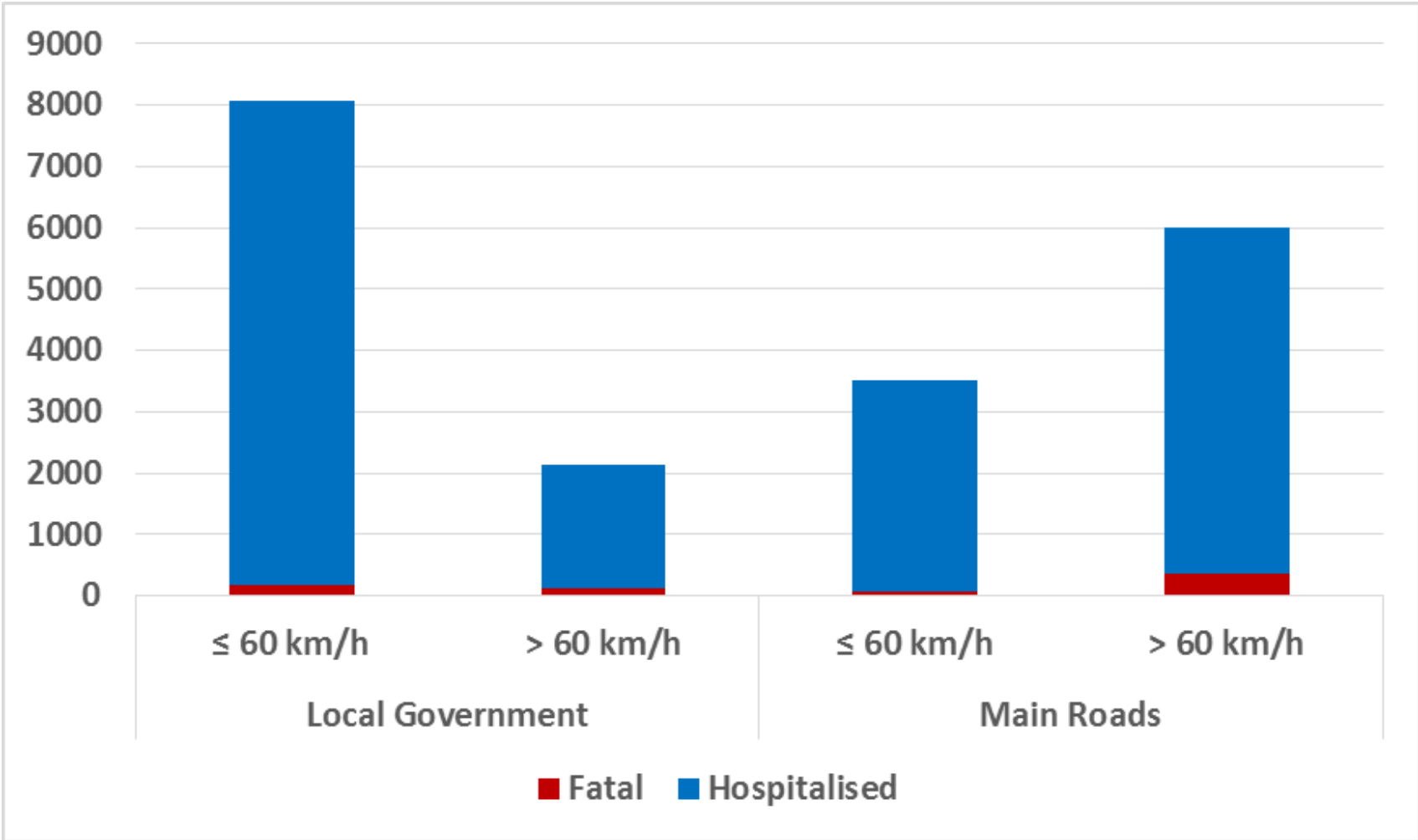


# Fatalities by road classification 2015-17

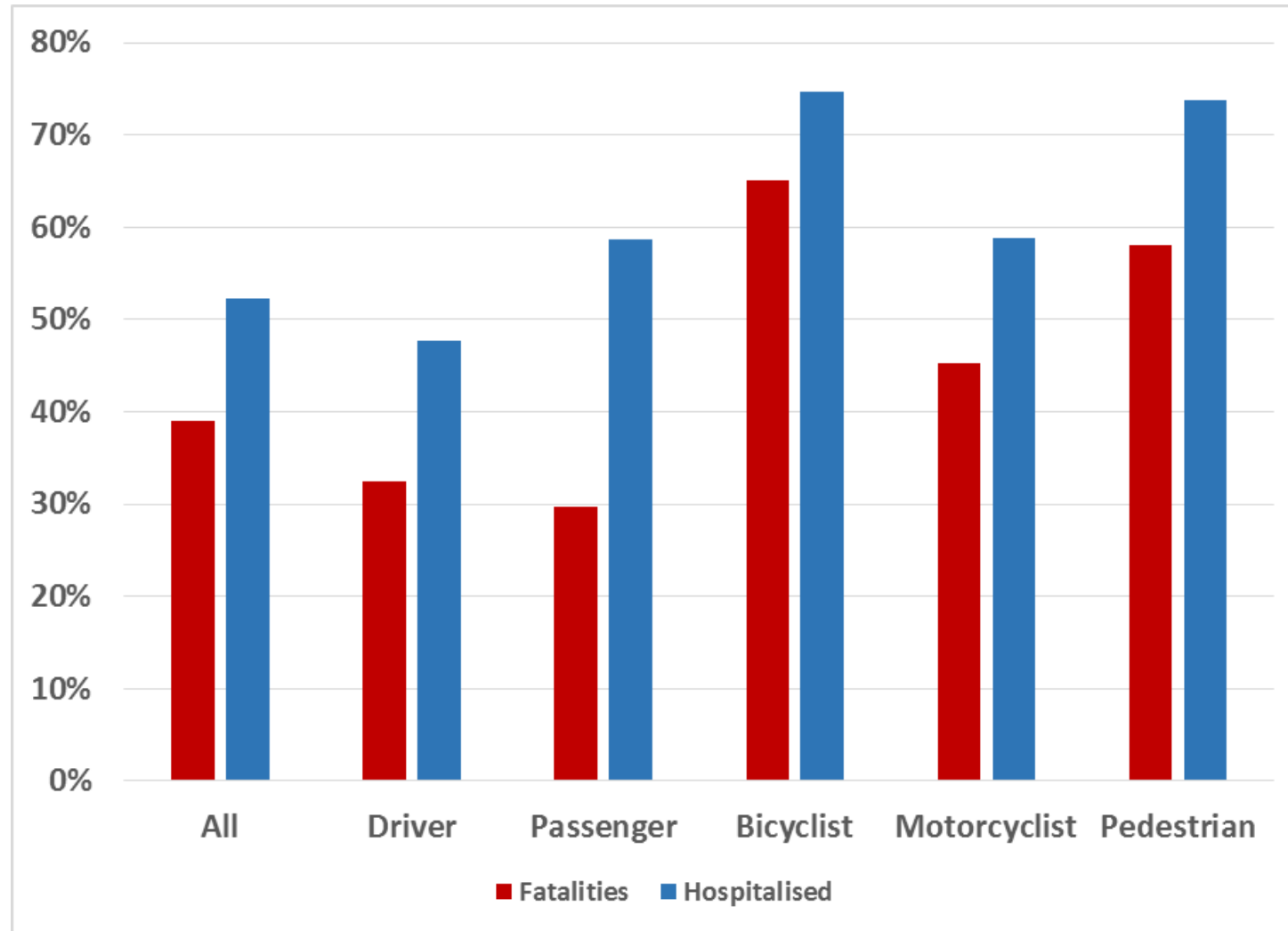


From Australian  
Road Deaths  
Database, BITRE

# Queensland fatalities and hospitalisation 2015-17



# Share of fatalities and hospitalisations on LG roads Queensland 2015-17



From Queensland  
Road Crash  
Database

# Road safety in a wider context

- Safety issues in walking and cycling are
  - Reducing the liveability of our cities and towns
  - Contributing to lack of physical exercise and therefore chronic disease
  - Increasing with ageing of the population





# Conclusions

- A large proportion of deaths and serious injuries occur on Local Government-controlled roads
- The proportion is even greater for Vulnerable Road Users where the trends are also alarming
- Local Government has a crucial role to play in eliminating death and serious injury on our roads



# Thank you

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