

# Cyclist Safety in Australia

From BITRE Trauma Statistical Summary, August 2018

[http://www.bitre.gov.au/publications/ongoing/road\\_deaths\\_australia\\_annual\\_summaries.aspx](http://www.bitre.gov.au/publications/ongoing/road_deaths_australia_annual_summaries.aspx)

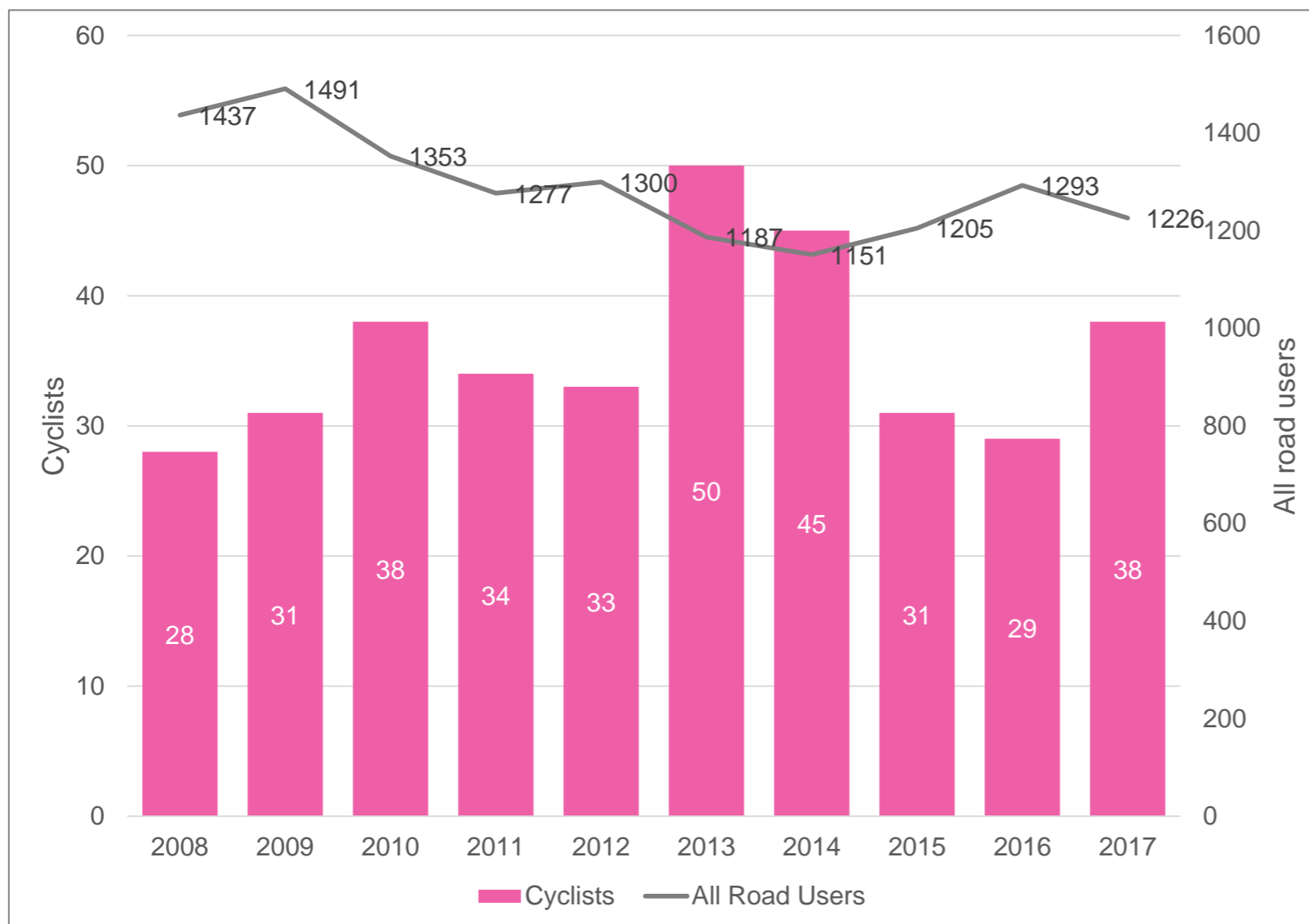
# Trends in cyclist trauma numbers

**These slides highlight adverse trends in cyclist fatality and injury numbers**

- **Overall road fatalities for the 10 years 2008-2017 show a decrease (trend -2.0% p.a.)**
- **By contrast, cyclists show a trend increase (+1.5% p.a.). Cycling is the only mode NOT to show an improving trend**
- **Cyclists counted in hospital injury statistics were 32% higher in 2015 compared with 2008**
- **Cyclists recorded as suffering “High Threat to Life” injuries increased by 70% in 2015 compared with 2008**

# Fatalities

## 2008-2017



### Total deaths

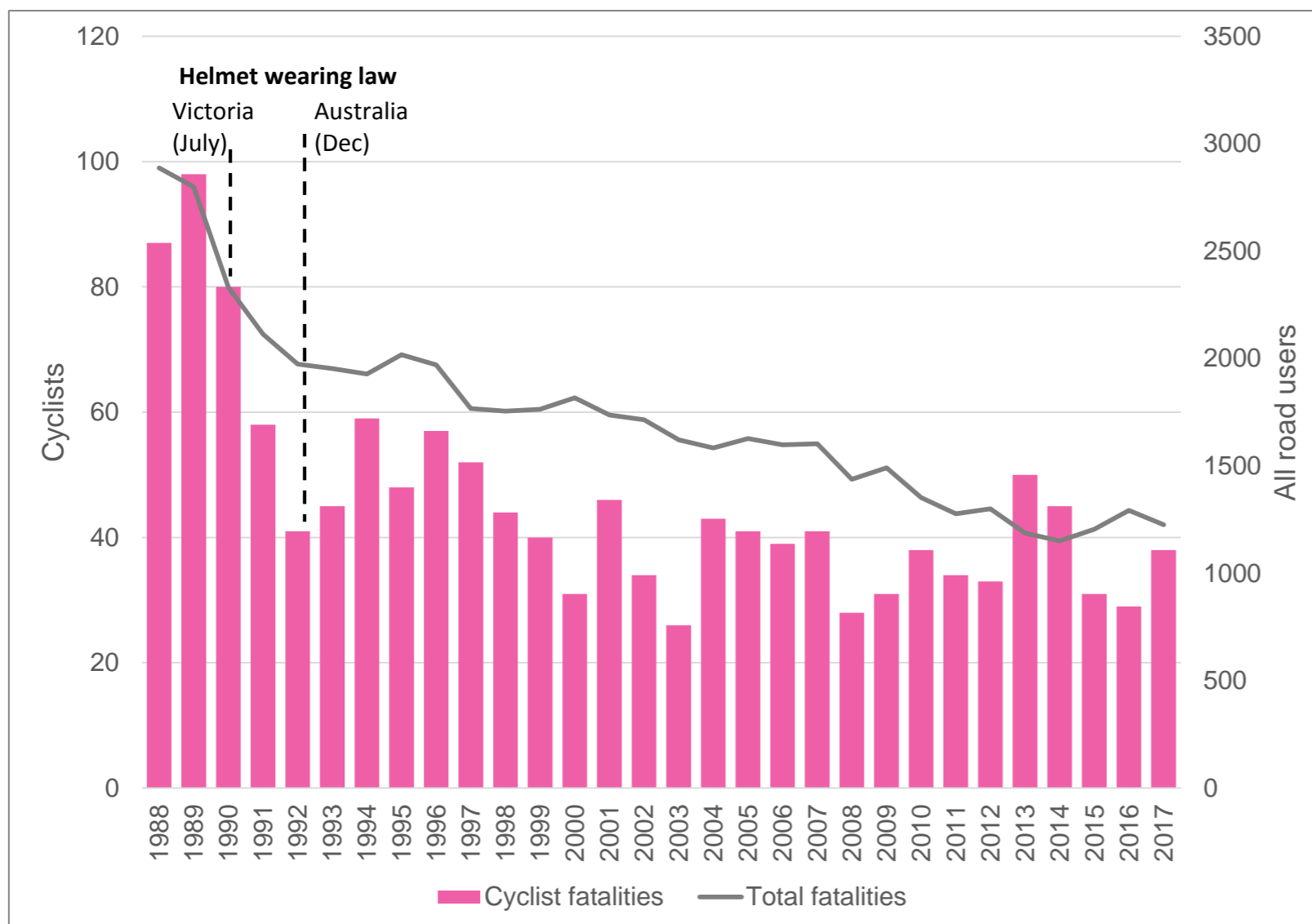
In 2008, 1,437 people died on Australian roads. In 2017, total deaths had decreased to 1,226 people. Despite the reduction, that is equal to more than two 747 planes crashing every year.

### On bicycles

In 2008, 28 people were killed while riding a bike on Australian roads. After a spike of 50 deaths in 2013, this increased to 38 deaths in 2017. Over 10 years, average number of deaths was 36 people (median: 34; SD: 7.14).

# Fatalities

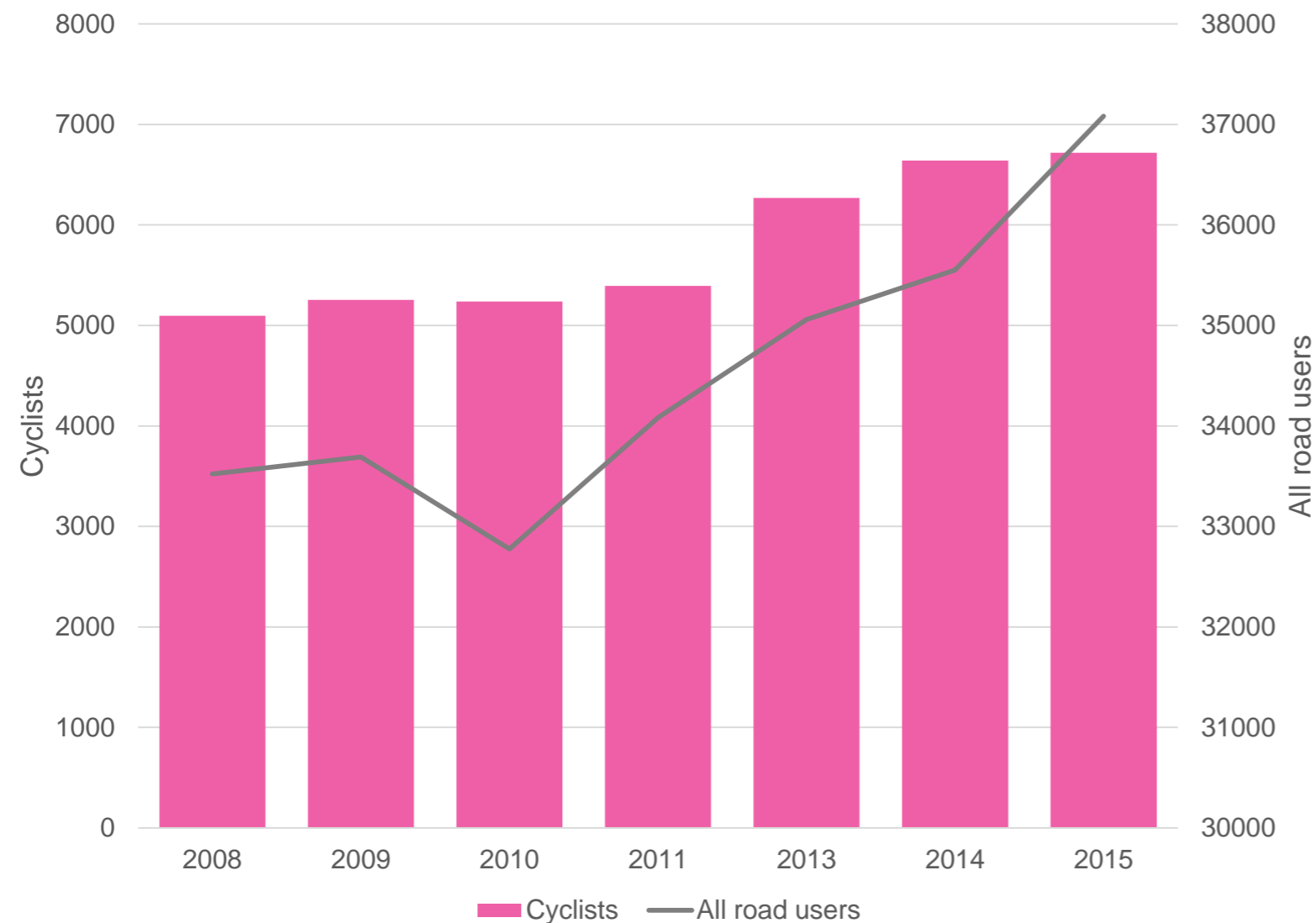
## 1998-2017



Fatalities are down for cyclists and all road users generally compared with 20 years ago. The peak year for cyclist fatalities in Australia was 1989 (98 fatalities).

To understand what is behind trends in cycling trauma, exposure data is needed (i.e. details of people's cycling behaviour). However, detailed exposure data is not routinely collected nationally in Australia.

# Injuries, increasing 2008-2015



### **Total injuries – up 11%**

In 2008, 33,524 people were injured on Australian roads.

In 2015, total injuries had increased to 37,082 or by 11%

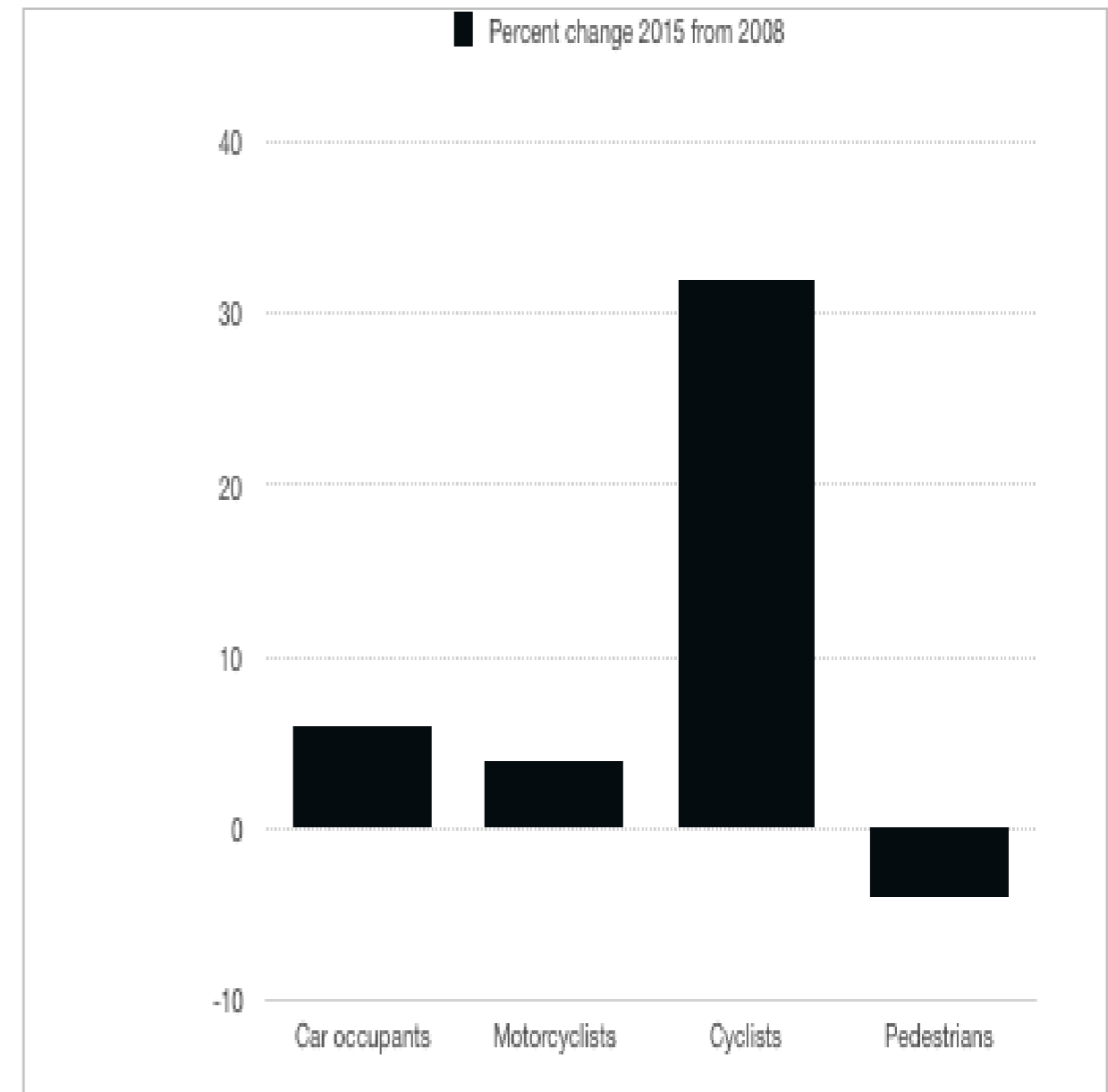
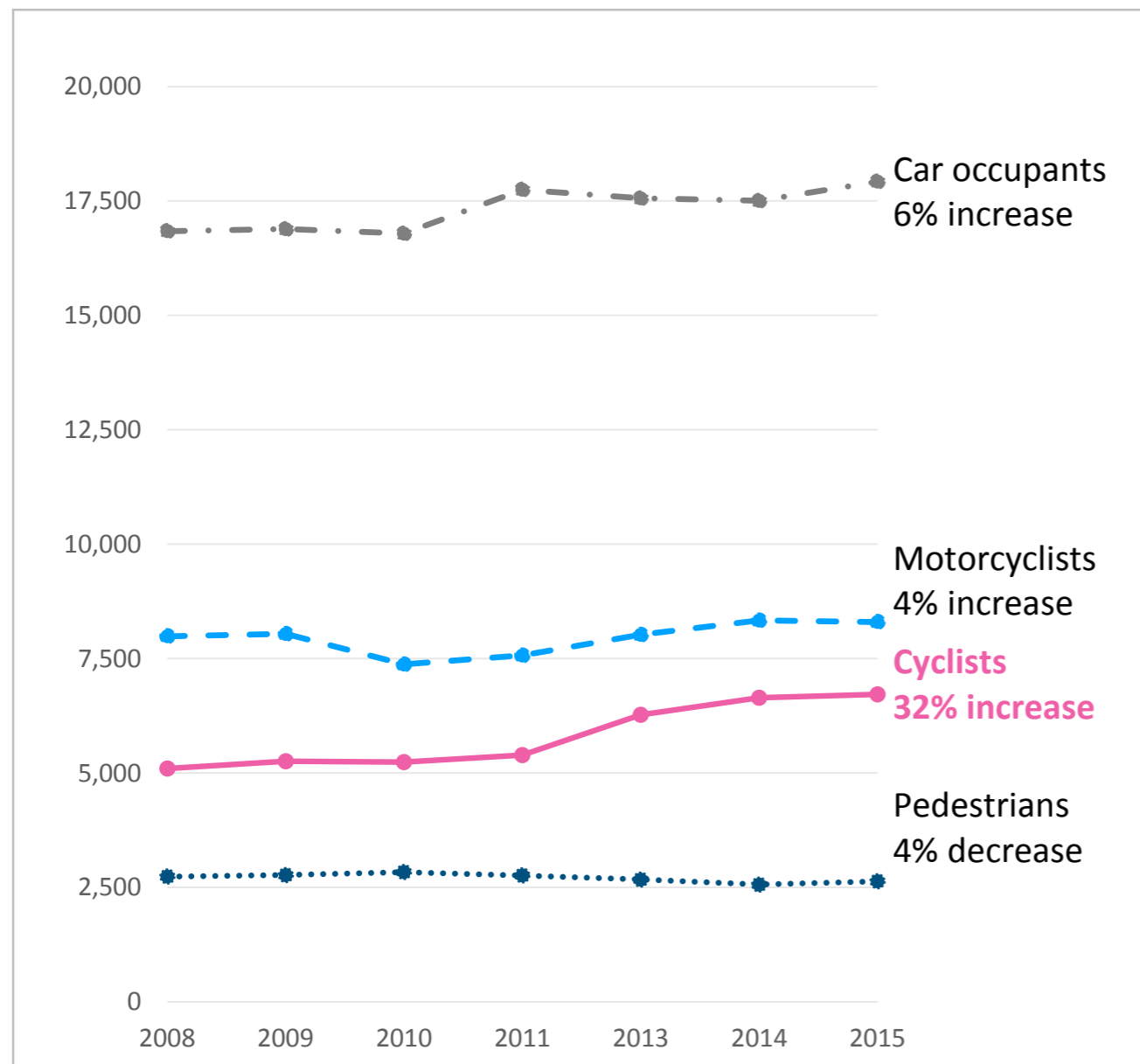
### **On bicycles – up 32%**

In 2008, 5,096 people were injured while riding a bike on Australian roads.

In 2015, cyclist injuries had increased to 6,718 or by 32%

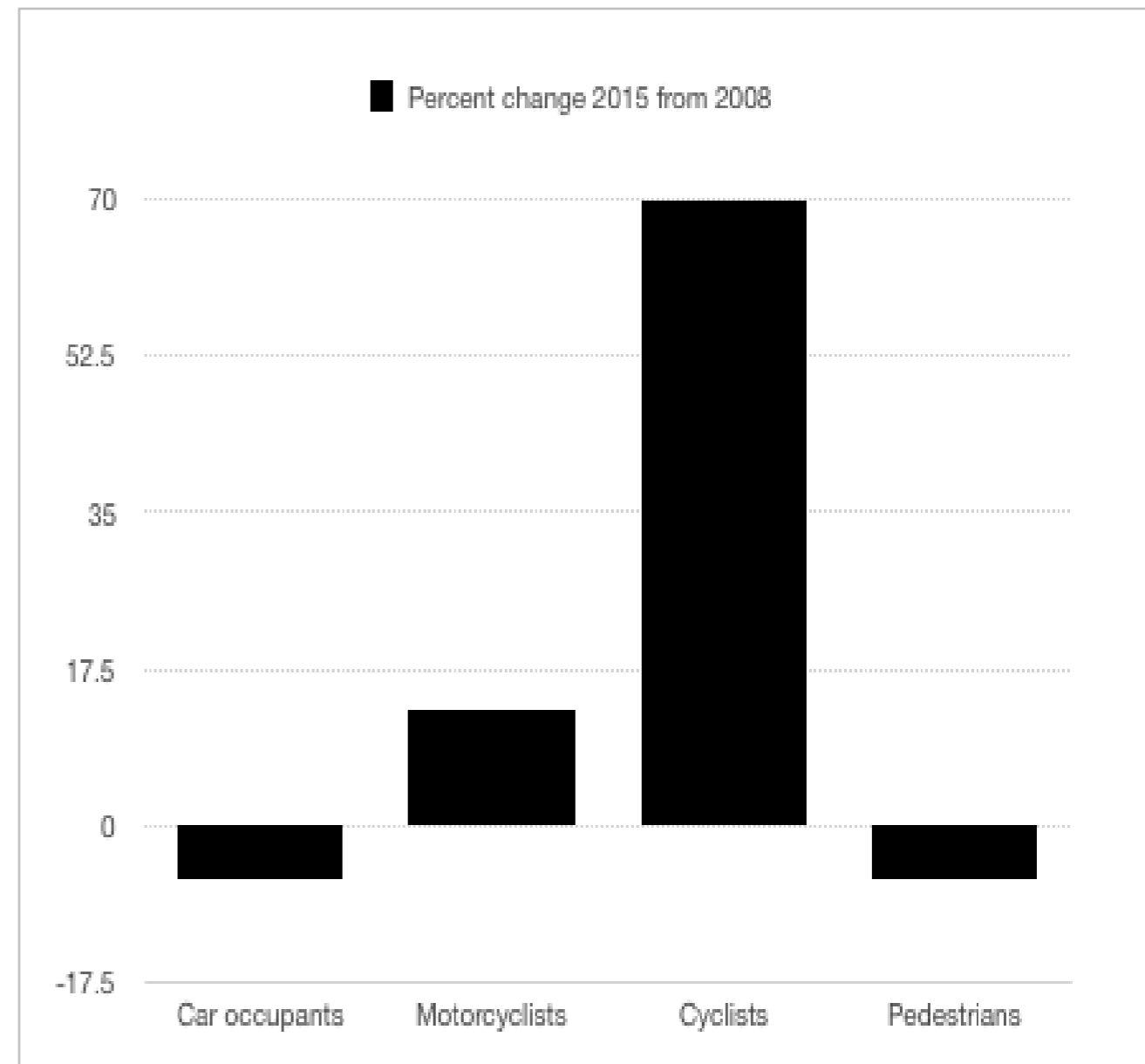
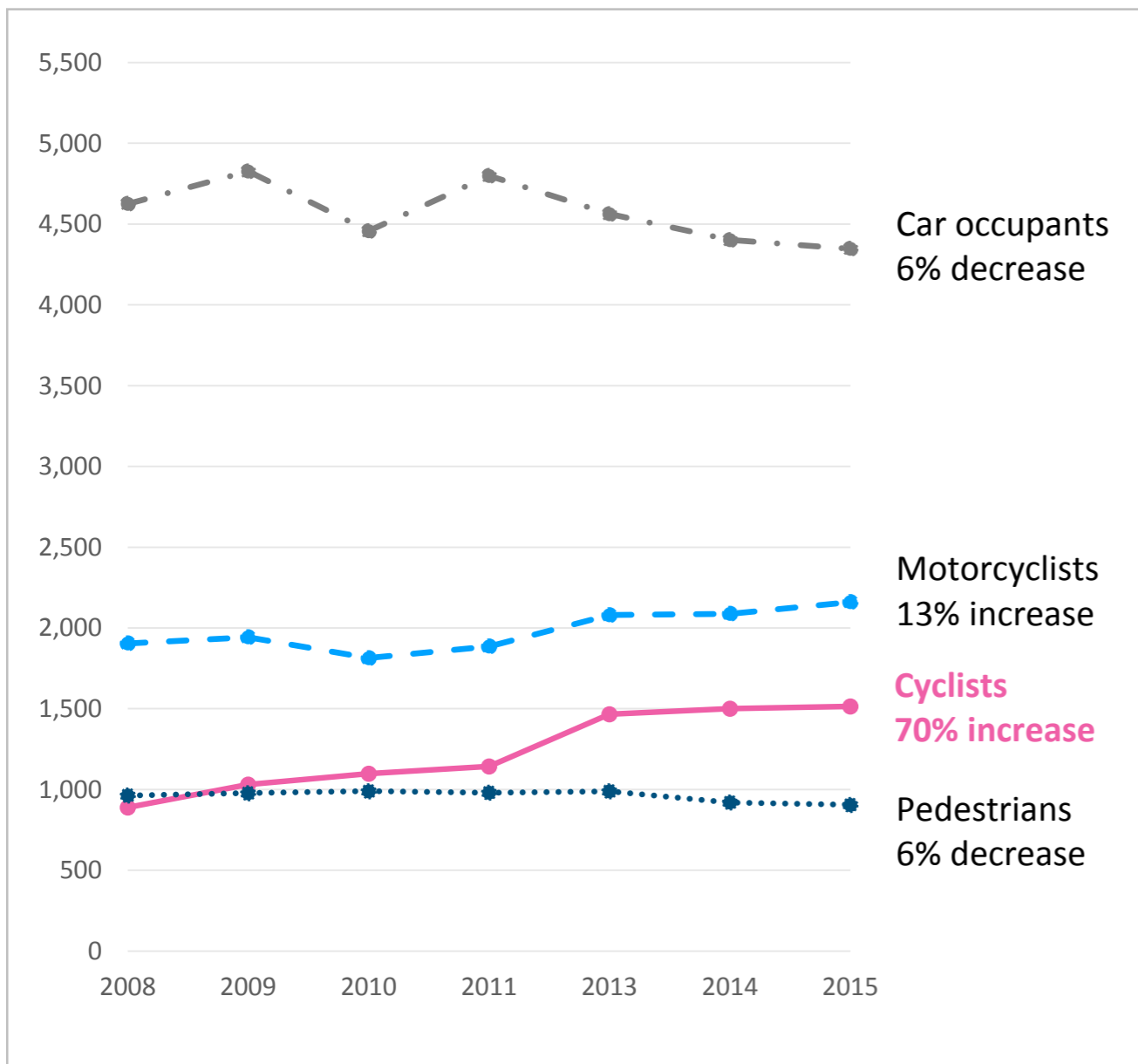
**Note:** 2012 data is omitted due to a change in case inclusion criteria.

# Hospitalised compared with other modes



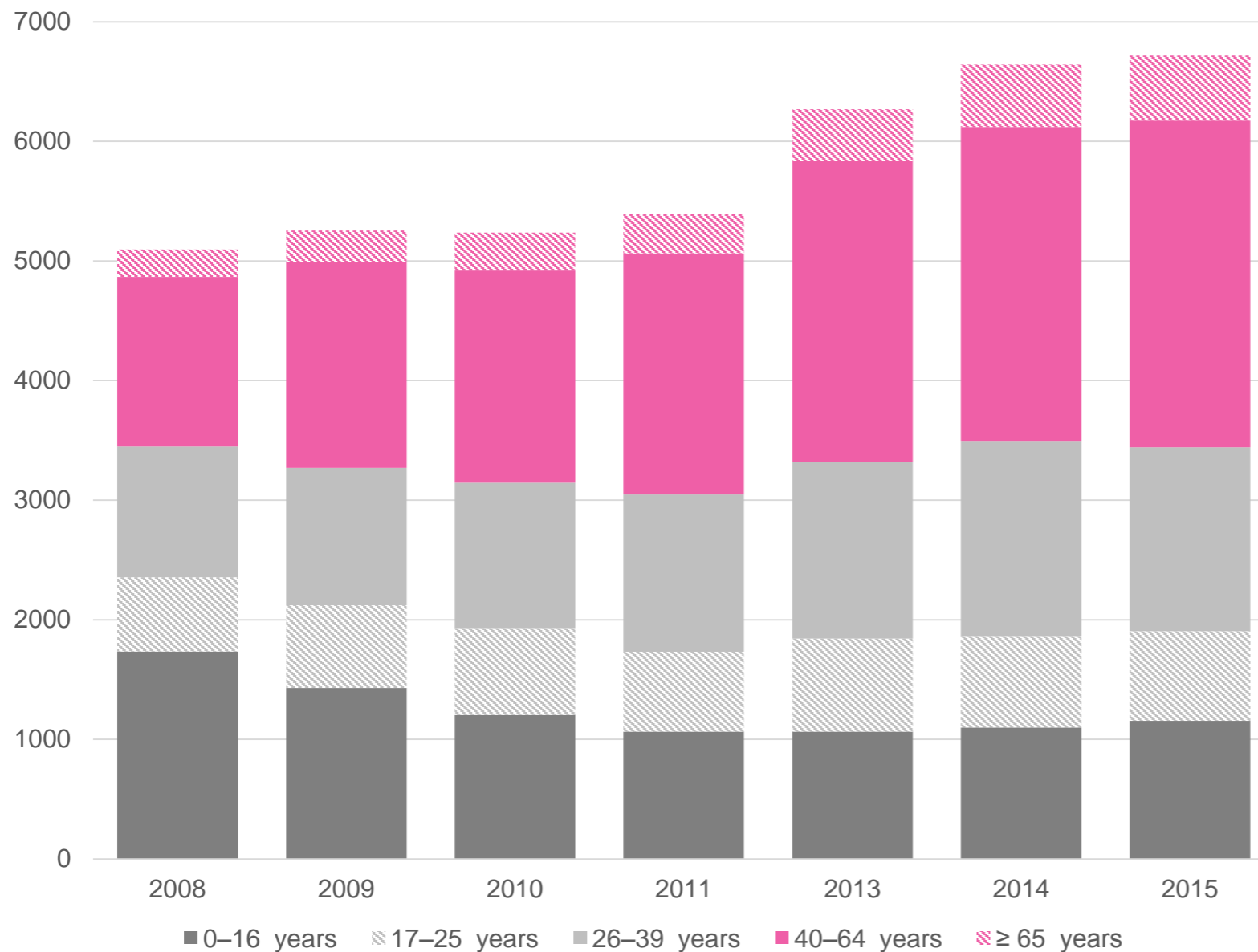
Note: 2012 data is omitted due to a change in case inclusion criteria.

# High Threat To Life compared with other modes



**Note:** 2012 data is omitted due to a change in case inclusion criteria.

# Injury burden falling increasingly on older cyclists



**Child cyclist injuries decreased by 33%**  
For 0-16 year olds, injuries have decreased by 1,736 in 2008 to 1,156 in 2015 or by 33%

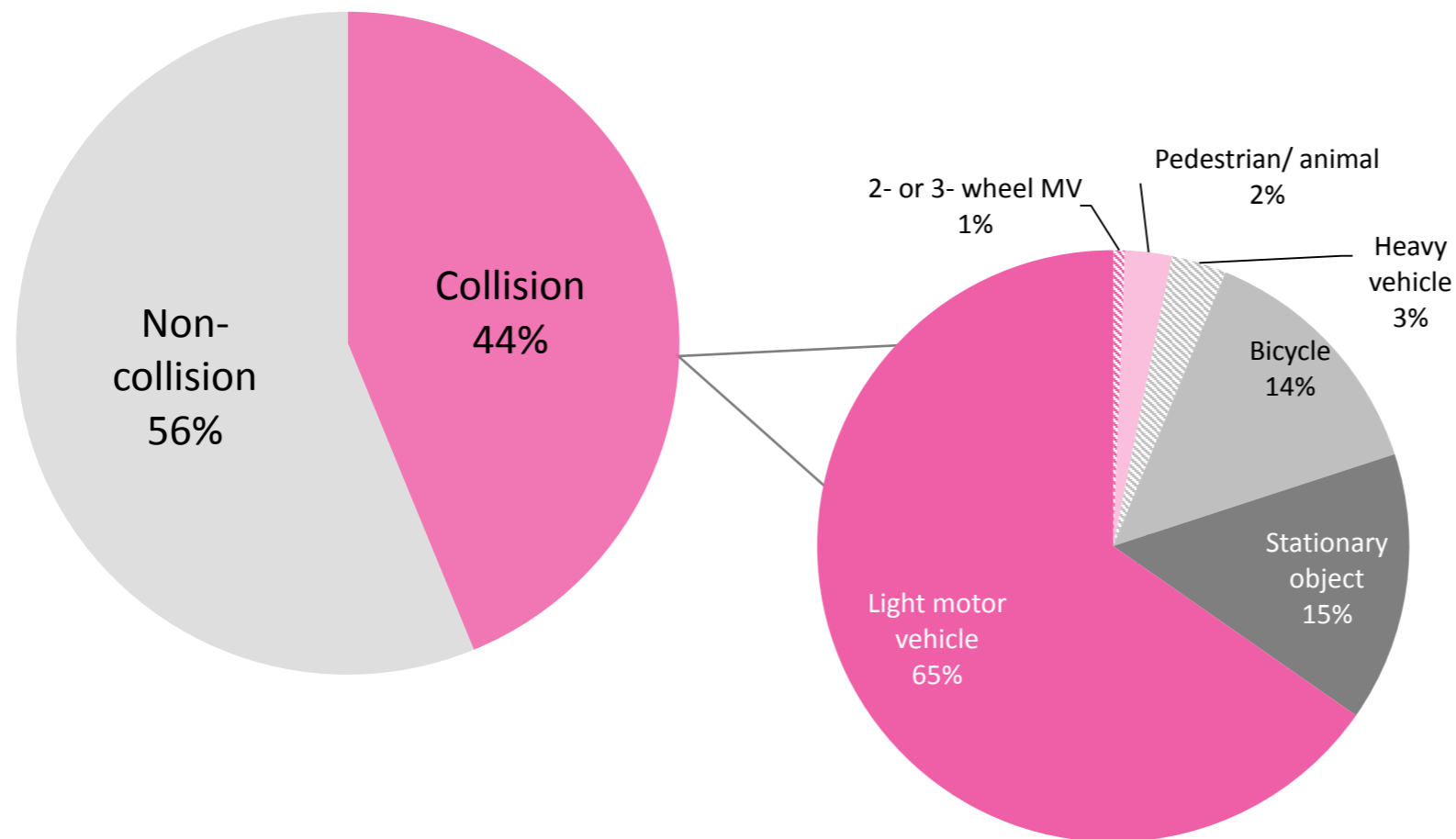
**Adult injuries increased by up to 138%**  
Injuries have increased for all adult age groups including:

17-25 years	up 21%
26-39 years	up 41%
40-64 years	up 92%
≥65 years	up 138%

**Note:** 2012 data is omitted due to a change in case inclusion criteria.



# Cars involved in most collision injuries



2008-2015

## Cyclist only crashes = 56%

Over half of the crashes resulting in cyclist injuries did not involve a collision counterpart.

## Main counterpart, light motor vehicles

Of the cyclist injury crashes with a counterpart (n=1954), the majority involved a light motor vehicle which includes car, pick-up truck or van (65.2%).

**Note:** 2012 data is omitted due to a change in case inclusion criteria.

---

Amy Gillett Foundation  
For further information go to:  
[amygillett.org.au](http://amygillett.org.au)

September 2018