

20 January 2021

s 9(2)(a)

REF: OIA-7538

Dear s 9(2)
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Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your request for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), which was transferred to Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency on 5 January 2021. You have requested:

[...] Under the official information Act 1982 I am requesting statistics of vehicle crashes causing death for the previous 10 years, broken down into annual data per year and as a percentage of the total road toll for each year.

I want this information specifically in regards to speeding being the proven cause of these crashes, not speed as a "factor" in the fatal nature of the crash. For example I am not interested in a vehicle crash causing death that happened on a 100kmh posted highway where the driver was traveling too fast around a slower posted recommended speed limit for that particular corner but still traveling under the posted legal speed limit. I want the data from accidents causing fatalities where actual speeding ABOVE the posted speed limit was the number one CAUSE of the crash as determined by your crash investigation teams.

Please note I want purely "speeding" causes of death, not "speed"

The table below shows:

fatal crash count and road death count by year and whether one or more vehicles involved in the crash were travelling at a speed greater than the speed limit prior to the crash (speeding) for 2011-2020 fatal crashes.

Year	Count of fatal crashes		Road death count		Percentage of total road deaths from speeding crashes
	Speeding crashes	All crashes	Speeding crashes	All crashes	
2011	32	259	38	284	13%
2012	32	267	40	308	13%
2013	30	238	35	253	14%
2014	16	265	17	292	6%
2015	43	289	50	317	16%
2016	48	285	52	327	16%
2017	70	342	80	378	21%

Year	Count of fatal crashes		Road death count		Percentage of total road deaths from speeding crashes
	Speeding crashes	All crashes	Speeding crashes	All crashes	
2018	78	332	91	378	24%
2019	58	300	71	352	20%
2020*	42	269	52	293	18%
Total	449	2846	526	3,182	17%

* Data for 2020 is not yet complete

Waka Kotahi is unable to determine whether speeding was the top cause of a crash based on the crash data available. However, the following table lists the road safety factor groups with a contributing cause factor present for fatal crashes where one or more vehicles involved in the crash are recorded as travelling at a speed greater than the speed limit prior to the crash (speeding) for 2011-2020 (449 crashes as per previous table)

Road safety factor group	Total crashes with one or more factors in factor group
Alcohol	276
Disabled, old age or illness	15
Failed to give way or stop	40
Fatigue	25
Incorrect lanes or position	58
Miscellaneous factors	108
Overtaking	28
Pedestrian factors	14
Poor handling	200
Poor judgement	66
Poor observation	69
Position on Road	73
Road factors	45
Travel Speed	323
Vehicle factors	72
Weather	15

Please note the following regarding this data:

- This data is provided from the road traffic crash database; Crash Analysis System (CAS) version 2.1.0.
- Waka Kotahi maintains the Crash Analysis System (CAS) which is updated once a Traffic Crash Report (TCR) is received from NZ Police sometime after the crash.
- A crash, to be recorded in CAS has to have occurred on a road. The CAS definition of a road is any street, motorway or beach or a place to which the public have access with a motor vehicle, whether as of right or not (eg a public car park).
- Due to the police reporting time frame and subsequent data processing there is a lag from the time of a crash to full and correct crash records within CAS.
- Data for 2020 is not yet complete due to the police reporting time frame to Waka Kotahi and subsequent data processing.

- Deaths as result of suicide or medical events (eg heart attacks) are excluded from the official count of road deaths.
- Data is limited to fatal crashes occurring on or after 1 January 2011.
- A vehicle's speed prior to a crash is calculated based on the attending police officer's estimation.
- Whether a vehicle had speed greater than the speed limit prior to the crash is based on TCR data recorded. There are cases where a vehicle's speed has been unable to be determined prior to the crash, the vehicle's speed prior to the crash has not been recorded, or the speed limit (including temporary speed limit) has not been recorded. In these instances, the crash is excluded from this category.
- The cause of a crash is unable to be attributed to any one aspect of the crash (eg Travel Speed, or vehicle speed prior to the crash) based on TCR data.
- The road safety factor group "Travel Speed" includes factors such as "Too fast for conditions" as well as "Over the speed limit."
- Contributing factors are selected manually when recorded in a TCR, as such not all relevant factors (for example, "Over the speed limit") may be selected when crash details are recorded.
- Most crashes have factors in multiple road safety factor groups, as such the sum of the total crashes across the road safety factor groups is more than the total number of crashes.

I trust this information fulfills your request. In accordance with the policy of Waka Kotahi, this response will be published on the external website shortly.

If you would like to discuss this reply with Waka Kotahi, please contact Kerry Greig, Manager Data Services, by email at kerry.greig@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely



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