

briefing notes - road safety issues

Chatham Islands Council

Land Transport New Zealand has prepared this road safety issues report. It is based on reported crash data and trends for the 2003–2007 period.

The intent of the report is to highlight the key road safety issues and be a resource to help identify possible ways to reduce the number of road deaths and injuries in Chatham Islands.

This report is the ninth road safety report for Chatham Islands.

In each new report one year's data is added to a five year block and the oldest dropped so it is unlikely that the core issues would change radically from report to report.

The issues chosen for this report are drawn from either the most common crash types, those that appear over-represented when Chatham Islands is compared to similar local bodies or those with high social cost (high numbers of fatal and serious crashes mainly). We have included a brief overview of crashes in the district.

We encourage local bodies to use the free access to the Ministry of Transport's Crash Analysis System to delve deeper into the highlighted issues.

Major road safety issues

Chatham Islands

Alcohol

Bends

2007 road trauma

Casualties

Chatham Islands

Deaths

0

Serious casualties

2

Minor casualties

3

Nationally

Speed

Alcohol

Failure to give way

Restraints

Crashes

Fatal crashes

Serious injury crashes

Minor injury crashes

Non-injury crashes

Chatham Islands

0

2

3

10

Overview

In 2007 on local roads in Chatham Islands there were five injury crashes and five non-injury crashes. There are no State Highways (Transit New Zealand roads) in the Chatham Islands.

The table below shows the number of injuries resulting from the five injury crashes, by rural or urban areas for all roads, (rural is defined as an area with a speed limit of 80km/h or more).

Casualties by environment 2007				
	Fatalities	Serious injuries	Minor injuries	Total
Rural	0	2	2	4
Urban	0	0	1	1
Total	0	2	3	5

There have been no fatal crashes on the Chatham Islands in the last ten years. The annual numbers of reported serious, minor and non-injury crashes fluctuates with no obvious long term trend.

Crash trends				
Year	Fatal crashes	Serious injury crashes	Minor injury crashes	Non-injury crashes
1998	0	0	1	7
1999	0	4	0	5
2000	0	0	1	13
2001	0	1	0	10
2002	0	4	2	9
2003	0	2	2	4
2004	0	2	3	4
2005	0	1	3	6
2006	0	2	4	3
2007	0	1	3	5

Injury crashes 2003 - 2007	
Crash type or contributory cause 2003 to 2007	Percent of injury crashes
Alcohol	38%
Too fast	25%
Straight—lost control crash	17%
Bend—lost control crash	71%
Crossing / turning crash	0%
Road factors	29%
Vulnerable road users (Percent of casualties)	7%
1, Pedestrians	0%
2, Cyclists	0%
3, Motorcyclists	7%

Further information about 2003 to 2007 injury and non-injury crashes on local roads:

- Worst month September, December
- Worst day Sunday
- 13 percent on wet roads
- 57 percent at night
- 2 percent at intersections
- Social cost of crashes in 2007 was \$2.0m

Alcohol

Alcohol affects the way people drive. Studies show that the risk of being involved in a crash increases rapidly as a driver's blood alcohol level rises. A driver over the legal limit (80mg of alcohol per 100ml of blood) is three times more likely to be involved in a crash than a sober driver.

Contrary to popular opinion, people with high blood alcohol levels are more likely to be injured or killed in a crash than sober drivers in the same crash and if injured, they are also more likely to encounter complications in their recovery. In New Zealand for the 12 months to December 2007, alcohol-affected drivers contributed to 29 percent of all fatal crashes and 13 percent of all injury crashes.

Nationally, there were 7376 alcohol-related fatal and injury crashes reported in the last five years. In Chatham Islands, in the last five years, alcohol was a factor in 38 percent of injury crashes and in 23 percent of reported non-injury crashes. In 2003 there were six crashes reported on the Chatham Islands where alcohol was involved. In 2007 there was only one.

Almost two thirds of the alcohol crashes were in rural areas. Loss of control on a bend was the most common type of alcohol crash, followed by loss of control on a straight road. These two crash types represented 79 percent of all crashes. Most at fault drivers were males, most commonly in the 15-24 years age group. Poor handling and speed were commonly associated with alcohol in injury crashes.

Alcohol crashes 2003 - 2007			
Crash year	Open road	Urban road	Total
2003	2	4	6
2004	2	0	2
2005	2	0	2
2006	2	1	3
2007	1	0	1
Total	9	5	14

Further information about alcohol related injury crashes in Chatham Islands on local roads 2003 to 2007:

- no deaths, three serious injuries and seven minor injuries
- 89 percent of at fault drivers were male
- Most common crash type "Lost control on bend"
- no crashes at intersections
- 36 percent urban
- 22 percent wet road
- 89 percent night time
- Worst day of week Sunday
- Worst times 3 am - 6 am, 9 pm - mid-night

Crashes at bends

Between 2003 and 2007 59 percent of all crashes in Chatham Islands occurred at bends.

Annual crash numbers show no obvious trends.

Crashes at bends 2003 to 2007				
Crash year	Fatal crashes	Serious crashes	Minor crashes	Non-injury crashes
2003	0	0	1	0
2004	0	2	2	3
2005	0	1	3	4
2006	0	1	3	1
2007	0	1	3	2
Total	0	5	12	10

Most crashes at bends involved a driver losing control of their vehicle and either running off the road or colliding with another vehicle. After drivers lose control their vehicles often crash into roadside hazards such as ditches, banks, poles or trees. Hitting these objects can result in a relatively minor off-road event turning into something far more serious.

The two most common roadside hazards struck in injury crashes in Chatham Islands were cliffs or banks (5), and ditches (3) from a total of 13 objects struck.

Main characteristics of injury crashes at bends	
Crash characteristic	Percentage of crashes
Single vehicle	100%
Alcohol	35%
Excessive speed for the conditions	35%
Road factors	35%
Poor handling	71%
Rural road	88%
Wet road	18%
Night time	53%

Further information about injury crashes on bends (2003 to 2007) on local roads in Chatham Islands :

- no deaths, 7 serious injuries and 14 minor injuries
- 88 percent of at fault drivers were male
- Most common crash type "Lost control turning left "
- Most common age group 20-24 years
- 35 percent of crashes involved alcohol
- Worst month September
- Worst day of week Sunday
- Worst time period 6 pm - 9 pm

National issues

This section contains some brief information on the key national road safety issues as measured in Chatham Islands. They may have been covered elsewhere in this document or not be a specific issue.

Speed

In Chatham Islands, "Too fast" was recorded in 6 injury crashes in the district in the last five years, resulting in 0 deaths and 9 injuries. Speed as a factor in crashes is not reducing in the district.

All speed-related crashes were Lost control on a bend. Alcohol and Poor handling were the other driver factors most often associated with speed in injury crashes.

83 percent of at fault drivers in these injury crashes were males. The most common ages of these drivers were between the ages of 15 to 29 years

Alcohol

In Chatham Islands, alcohol was involved in 9 injury crashes in the district in the last five years resulting in 0 deaths, and 10 other injuries. The number of injury crashes involving alcohol may be reducing.

64 percent of all alcohol crashes were in rural areas of the district. 50 percent were Lost control on a bend. Speed and Poor handling were the other factors often associated with alcohol in injury crashes.

88 percent of at fault drivers in these injury crashes were males. The most common ages of these drivers were between the ages of 15 to 24 years

Failure to give way

In Chatham Islands there were no crashes of this type reported.

Restraints

The Ministry of Transport conducts surveys of restraint use. The results of these surveys are at a regional level, and may not be fully appropriate to a Territorial Authority. The results are obtainable from the Ministry of Transport website.

<http://www.transport.govt.nz/belts-index/>

Contact details

Land Transport New Zealand
Geoff Holland
Manager Performance Information Southern
PO Box 13364
Christchurch
Phone 03 964 2866

Chatham Islands Council:
Owen Pickles
General Manager
PO Box 24
Waitangi 8942
Phone 03 305 0033

New Zealand Police
John Thompson
PO Box 45
Waitangi 8942
Phone 03 305 0334