



briefing notes - road safety issues

Canterbury Region

New Zealand Transport Agency has prepared this road safety issues report. It is based on reported crash data and trends for the 2004–2008 period.

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

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 Canterbury Region is compared to national figures or those with high social cost (high numbers of fatal and serious crashes mainly).

We have included a brief overview of crashes in the region.

We encourage Canterbury Region to delve deeper into the highlighted issues, and other road safety issues in the region. Contact the NZTA Performance Information team for additional information from to the Ministry of Transport's Crash Analysis System (CAS). All data and maps in this note are from CAS.

Major road safety issues

Canterbury Region

Bend - loss of control or head-on

Straight road - loss of control or head-on

Intersections

Cyclist crashes

Nationally

Speed

Alcohol

Failure to give way

Restraints

2008 road trauma

Casualties

Canterbury Region

Deaths 48

Serious casualties 354

Minor casualties 1571

Crashes

Canterbury Region

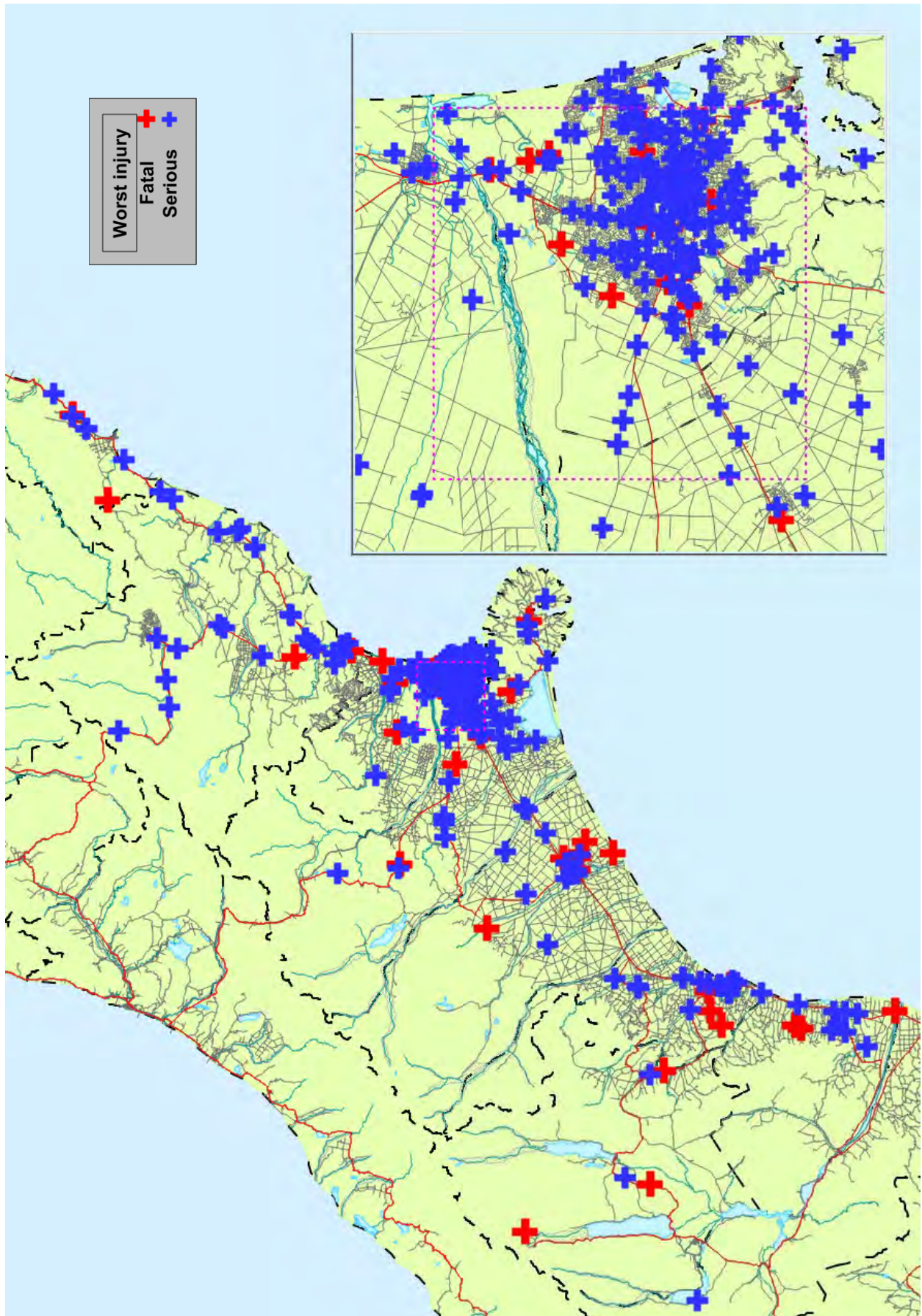
Fatal crashes 44

Serious injury crashes 311

Minor injury crashes 1170

Non-injury crashes 2649

Fatal and serious crashes
Canterbury Region
2008



Overview

In 2008 on local roads in Canterbury Region there were 1139 injury crashes and 1945 non-injury crashes. In addition there were 386 injury crashes and 704 non-injury crashes on State Highways as reported by the New Zealand Police.

The table below shows the number of injuries resulting from the 1090 injury crashes by rural or urban areas (rural is defined as an area with a speed limit of 80km/h or more).

Casualties by urban / rural 2008

	Deaths	Serious injuries	Minor injuries	Total
Rural	34	132	434	600
Urban	14	222	1137	1373
Total	48	354	1571	1973

Overall just under one third of casualties were from crashes in rural areas of the district, but for fatal and serious casualties only, 41 percent were in rural areas.

In 2007 the numbers of serious and minor crashes were the highest in the last ten years. The number of fatal crashes was second highest in the ten years. In 2008 the number of fatal, serious and minor injury crashes dropped from the 2007 number.

Crash trends in Canterbury Region

Year	Fatal Crashes	Serious Crashes	Minor Crashes	Total Crashes
1999	53	235	802	1090
2000	31	251	815	1097
2001	42	261	880	1183
2002	41	235	910	1186
2003	46	248	900	1194
2004	41	218	870	1129
2005	40	277	931	1248
2006	30	259	1115	1404
2007	48	331	1255	1634
2008	44	311	1170	1525

Injury crashes 2004 to 2008

Crash type or contributory cause 2004 to 2008	Local road Percentage injury crashes	State Highway Percentage of injury crashes
Alcohol	14	11
Too fast	14	16
At bends	17	27
At intersections	51	37
Road factors	8	11

Vulnerable road users - casualties

Road user type	Local road Percentage of all casualties	State Highway Percentage of all casualties
Pedestrians	8	2
Cyclists	11	4
Motorcycles	8	8
Total vulnerable	27	14

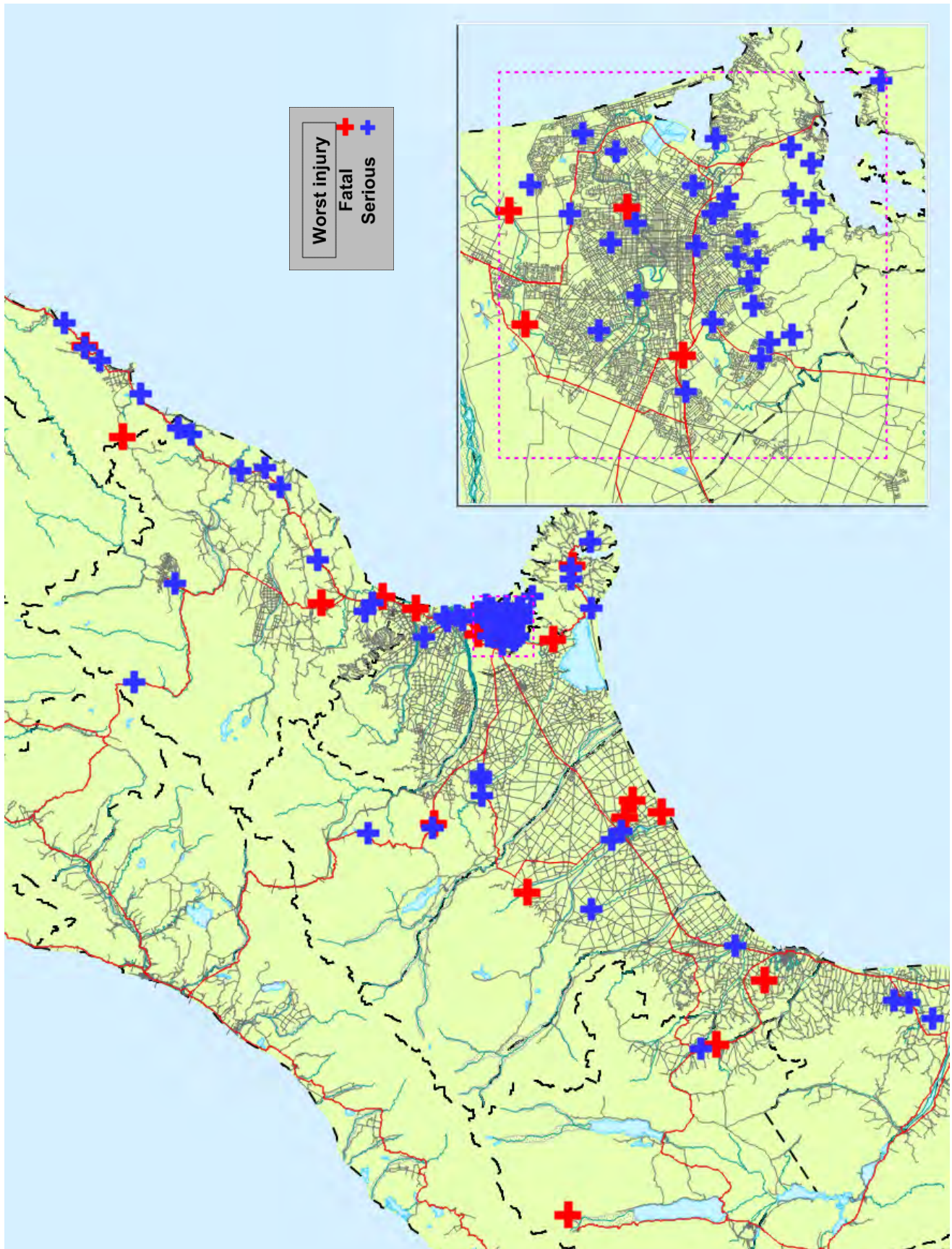
Further information about the 5028 injury crashes on local roads in Canterbury Region 2004 to 2008 :

- Worst month March
- Worst day Friday
- 17 percent on wet or icy roads
- 31 percent at night
- 51 percent at intersections
- 2125 roadside objects struck
- Social cost of crashes in 2008 \$353 m

Further information about the 1912 injury crashes on State Highways in Canterbury Region 2004 to 2008:

- Worst month December
- Worst day Friday
- 21 percent on wet or icy roads
- 30 percent at night
- 37 percent at intersections
- 971 roadside objects struck
- Social cost of crashes in 2008 \$151m

Fatal and serious bend - loss of control or head on crashes
Canterbury Region
2008



Bend - loss of control or head on

Between 2004 and 2008 20 percent of all injury crashes in Canterbury Region were bend - loss of control or head on crashes. These 1378 crashes resulted in 91 deaths, 420 serious injuries and 1420 minor injuries.

Crashes at bends 2004 to 2008				
Crash year	Fatal crashes	Serious crashes	Minor crashes	Total
2004	14	57	155	226
2005	15	79	184	278
2006	9	66	209	284
2007	23	75	235	333
2008	19	67	171	257
Total	80	344	954	1378

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 most common roadside hazards struck in injury bend - loss of control or head on crashes in Canterbury Region were fence (252), post or pole (223), trees (167) and cliff/bank (130) from a total of 1368 objects struck.

Main characteristics of injury bend - lost control or head on crashes	
Crash characteristic	Percentage of injury crashes
Single vehicle	81
Alcohol	26
Excessive speed for the conditions	46
Road factors	19
Poor handling	51
Rural road	57
Wet or icy road	28
Night time	48

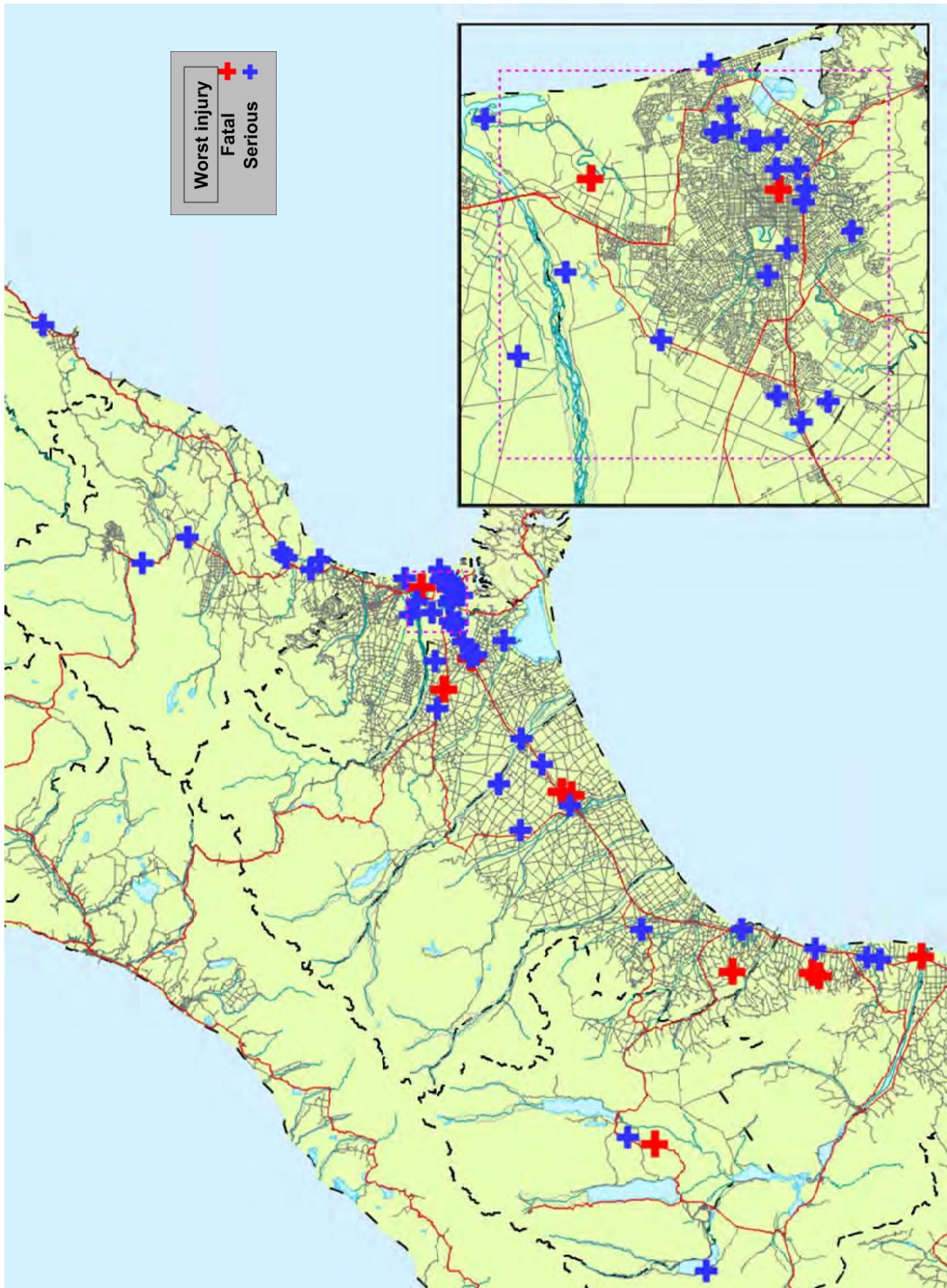
Further information about the 859 injury bend - loss of control or head on crashes (2004 to 2008) on local roads in Canterbury Region :

- 50 death, 242 serious injuries and 884 minor injuries
- 73 percent of at fault drivers were male
- Most common at fault driver age group 15 -19 years (34 percent of all at fault drivers)
- 34 percent of crashes involved alcohol
- 50 percent of crashes involved speed too fast for the conditions
- Worst month March
- Worst day of week Saturday
- Worst time 9 pm till 3 am

Further information about the 519 injury bend - loss of control or head on crashes (2004 to 2008) on State Highways in Canterbury Region:

- 41 deaths, 178 serious injuries and 536 minor injuries
- 71 percent of at fault drivers were male
- Most common at fault driver age group 30 - 39 years (21 percent of at fault drivers)
- 14 percent of crashes involved alcohol
- 39 percent of crashes involved speed too fast for the conditions
- Worst month January
- Worst day of week Sunday
- Worst time midday - 6 pm

Fatal and serious straight road - loss of control or head on crashes
Canterbury Region
2008



Straight road -loss of control or head on

Between 2004 and 2008 13 percent of all injury crashes in Canterbury Region involved straight road loss of control or head on crashes.

These 1002 crashes resulted in 60 fatalities, 295 serious injuries and 1014 minor injuries.

Injury straight road - loss of control or head on crashes 2004 to 2008

Crash year	Fatal crashes	Serious crashes	Minor crashes
2004	10	42	113
2005	10	51	137
2006	8	40	143
2007	9	48	176
2008	11	46	158
Total	48	227	727

Most of these crashes occur when a driver loses control of their vehicle and either runs off the road or collided 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 most common roadside hazards struck in injury crashes in Canterbury Region were poles or posts (216), fences (184) and trees (128), from a total of 985 objects struck.

Main characteristics of injury straight roads- loss of control or head on crashes 2004 to 2008

Crash characteristic	Percentage of crashes
Single vehicle	81
Alcohol	24
Excessive speed for the conditions	15
Road factors	13
Poor handling	31
Rural road	57
Wet or icy road	22
Night time	44

Further information about the 611 injury straight road - loss of control or head on crashes (2004) to 2008) on local roads in Canterbury Region:

- 27 deaths, 145 serious injuries and 612 minor injuries
- 66 percent of at fault drivers were male
- Most common crash type "off road to left"
- Most common at fault driver age group 15 to 19 years
- 27 percent of crashes involved alcohol
- 19 percent of crashes involved speed
- 15 percent involved "road factors"
- 13 percent involved fatigue
- Objects commonly struck Post or pole (154), Fence (110) and trees (87)
- 22 percent in wet or icy conditions
- 47 percent at night
- Worst month November
- Worst day of week Friday
- Worst time 3 pm -to 6 pm

Further information about the 391 injury straight road - loss of control or head on crashes (2004 to 2008) on State Highways in Canterbury Region:

- 33 deaths, 150 serious injuries and 402 minor injuries
- 69 percent of at fault drivers were male
- Most common crash type "off road to left"
- Most common at fault driver age group 15 to 19 years
- 19 percent of crashes involved alcohol
- 9 percent of crashes involved speed
- 10 percent involved "road factors"
- 35 percent involved fatigue
- Objects commonly struck Fence (74), post or pole (62), ditch (41) and trees (41)
- 22 percent in wet or icy conditions
- 38 percent at night
- Worst month October
- Worst day of week Saturday, Sunday
- Worst time 3 pm to 6 pm

Intersections

During the period 2004 to 2008 within Canterbury Region there were a total of 9544 crashes at intersections. 3260 of these were injury crashes and 6284 non-injury.

In these crashes 58 people were killed, 640 received serious injuries and 3603 received minor injuries. 87 percent of these crashes were at urban intersections.

Crashes at Intersections					
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Injury crash	518	578	690	766	708
Non-injury crash	1108	1205	1373	1383	1215
Total	1626	1783	2063	2149	1923

In 2007 the numbers of both reported injury crashes and reported non-injury crashes at intersections in the region was the highest in the last five years.

Casualties from crashes at intersections 2004 - 2008			
Authority	Deaths	Serious injury	Minor injury
Ashburton District	6	26	140
Canterbury Region	29	477	2782
Hurunui District	2	9	39
Kaikoura District	0	4	9
Mackenzie District	1	4	13
Selwyn District	11	33	172
Timaru District	4	44	239
Waimakariri District	4	35	174
Waimate District	1	8	31

Junction control Injury and non-injury crashes				
Junction control	Traffic signals	Nil	Give Way	Stop
Number of crashes	3286	1389	3200	1650

The most common crash type at intersections was when a vehicle travelling straight through an intersection was struck by a vehicle also travelling straight through from a side road.

The main causes contributing to crashes described in Police reports were:

- Poor observation
- Failure to give way or stop

Junction type Injury and Non-injury crashes		
Junction Type	Rural	Urban
Roundabout	159	591
Tee	621	3581
Cross	420	3898
Multi leg	39	96
Other (includes driveways)	13	126

Further information about the 2553 injury crashes at intersections on local roads in Canterbury Region 2004 to 2008:

- 46 deaths, 491 serious injuries and 2783 minor injuries
- 18 percent wet or icy roads
- 28 percent night time
- Worst month May
- Worst day of week Friday
- Worst time 3 pm till 6 pm

Further information about the 707 injury crashes at intersections on State Highways in Canterbury Region 2004 to 2008:

- 12 deaths, 149 serious injuries and 820 minor injuries
- 15 percent wet or icy roads
- 30 percent night time
- Worst month December
- Worst day of week Friday
- Worst time 3 am till 6

Cyclists in urban areas

Overall, cyclist injuries represent 9 percent of casualties from crashes in Canterbury Region. In urban areas they make up 12 percent and in rural areas, 2 percent.

The number of cyclists injured has almost doubled in the last five years.

Cyclist casualties					
Cyclist injuries	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Urban	104	107	151	184	185
Rural	11	19	15	19	16
Total	115	126	166	203	201

The most common type of cyclist crash was when a cyclist travelling straight through an intersection is struck by a vehicle turning right across the cyclist's path. Other common crash types were right angle collisions at intersections, right turning vehicles pulling out from the cyclist's left at intersections, and cyclists being struck by opening doors of parked vehicles.

Injury cycle crashes, Canterbury Region, 2004-2008		
Local body	Open road	Urban road
Ashburton District	3	20
Christchurch City	29	619
Hurunui District	4	1
Kaikoura District	1	1
Mackenzie District	1	1
Selwyn District	12	5
Timaru District	5	40
Waimakariri District	15	6
Waimate District	1	3

Major crash causes in injury cycle crashes, Canterbury Region, 2004-2008

Cause	Cyclist at fault	Other road users at fault
Poor observation	127	425
Failed to stop or give way	81	308
Incorrect lane or position	85	41
Poor judgement	17	27
Failed to keep	21	7
Overtaking	9	13
Vehicle factors	20	0

Ages of cyclist casualties

Ages	Female	Male	Total
0 to 9	7	19	26
10 to 19	54	134	188
20 to 29	68	61	129
30 to 39	38	90	128
40 to 49	47	103	150
50 to 59	29	56	85
60 to 69	2	15	17
70 and over	7	20	27

Further information about the 767 injury cyclist crashes in Canterbury Region 2004 to 2008:

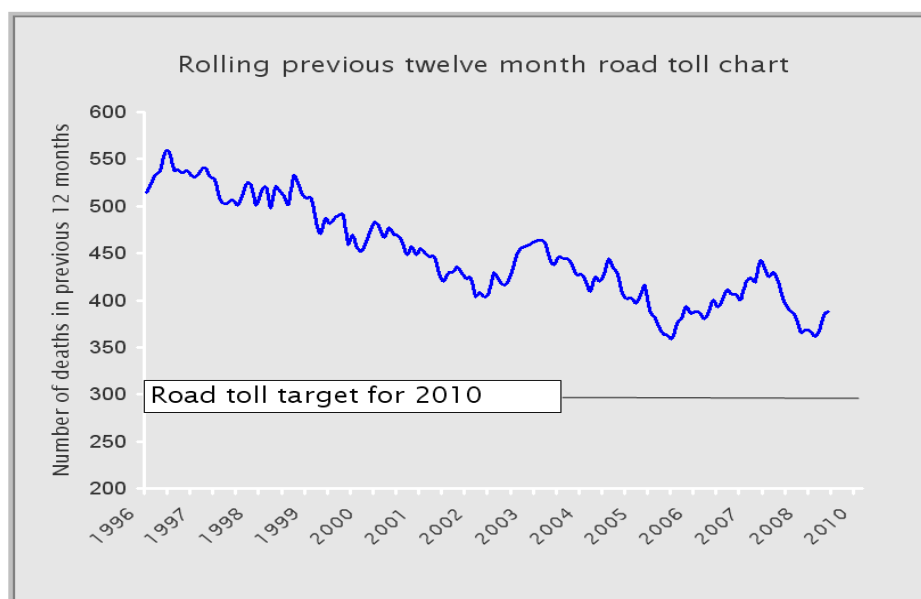
- 6 deaths, 183 serious injuries, 622 minor injuries
- 2 percent of crashes involved alcohol
- 1 percent of crashes involved speed too fast for the conditions
- 59 percent at intersections
- 10 percent on wet or icy roads
- 14 percent at night
- Worst month March
- Worst day of week Wednesday
- Worst time 3 pm - 6 pm

The next ten years—moving beyond Road Safety 2010

In August this year the Ministry of Transport (MoT) will embark on a nationwide road safety consultation programme as it moves to formulate priorities for the next ten years.

The chart on the right illustrates the progress made during the life of the Road Safety 2010 strategy and while progress has been made it would seem unlikely that the target of 300 or fewer fatalities will be met.

Information will be published on the Ministry of Transport web site and we would encourage any person or group with an interest in road safety to watch the site carefully for developments.



Follow this link: <http://www.transport.govt.nz/ourwork/Land/landsafety/SaferJourneys-RoadSafetyStrategyto2020/>

Restraints

The Ministry of Transport conducts surveys of restraint use. Results are available for front, rear and child restraints although not all at a local authority level. The results of these surveys are available at the MoT website: <http://www.transport.govt.nz/research/safetybeltstatistics/>

Contacts

New Zealand Transport Agency

Performance Information Manager (Southern)
Geoff Holland
PO Box 13364
Christchurch
03 964 2845

Regional Communications Advisor
Bob Nettleton
PO Box 9058
Dunedin
03 951 3005

www.nzta.govt.nz

Regional Authority

Regional Road Safety Coordinator
Maureen Bishop
PO Box 419
Ashburton
Phone 03 308 8377

Regional Transport Planner
Environment Canterbury
PO Box 345
Christchurch 8140
Phone 03 371 7180

www.ecan.govt.nz

New Zealand Police

Road Policing Manager Canterbury
New Zealand Police
PO Box 2109
Christchurch
Phone 03 363 7417

www.police.govt.nz