

briefing notes - road safety issues

Central Otago District

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 Central Otago District.

This report is the ninth road safety report for Central Otago District. All the material unless otherwise stated in this report applies to both local roads and to Transit New Zealand (Transit NZ) roads.

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 Central Otago District 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

Central Otago District

Loss of Control

2007 road trauma

Casualties

Central Otago

Deaths	6
Serious casualties	19
Minor casualties	83

Nationally

Speed
 Alcohol
 Failure to give way
 Restraints

Crashes

Central Otago

Fatal crashes	5
Serious injury crashes	12
Minor injury crashes	57
Non-injury crashes	57

Overview

In 2007 on local roads in Central Otago District there were 35 injury crashes and 22 non-injury crashes. In addition there were 39 injury crashes and 35 non-injury crashes on Transit New Zealand (Transit NZ) roads, both as reported by the New Zealand Police.

The table below shows the number of injuries resulting from the 74 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	6	18	67	91
Urban	0	1	16	17
Total	6	19	83	108

The annual numbers of fatal and serious crashes increased from 8 in 1998 to 34 in 2005. They then decreased to 17 in 2007. In 2007 there were slightly fewer minor and non-injury crashes than in 2006, but still more than other years in the 1998 - 2007 period.

Crash trends				
Year	Fatal crashes	Serious injury crashes	Minor injury crashes	Non-injury crashes
1998	3	5	21	46
1999	6	12	15	65
2000	3	14	22	77
2001	1	20	46	66
2002	1	24	40	73
2003	4	28	45	56
2004	0	32	54	58
2005	3	31	51	48
2006	1	26	48	74
2007	5	12	57	57

Injury crashes 2003 - 2007		
Crash type or contributory cause 2003 to 2007	Local Road Percent of injury crashes	Transit Road Percent of injury crashes
Alcohol	18%	7%
Too fast	22%	12%
Straight—lost control crash	16%	23%
Bend—lost control crash	46%	46%
Crossing / turning crash	16%	12%
Road factors	26%	19%
Vulnerable road users (Percent of casualties)	15%	7%
1, Pedestrians	5%	1%
2, Cyclists	3%	2%
3, Motorcyclists	7%	5%

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

- Worst month December
- Worst day Saturday
- 19 percent on wet roads
- 34 percent at night
- 23 percent at intersections
- Social cost of crashes in 2007 was \$13.6m

Further information about 2003 to 2007 injury and non-injury crashes on Transit NZ roads

- Worst month January
- Worst day Friday
- 19 percent on wet roads
- 31 percent at night
- 17 percent at intersections
- Social cost of crashes in 2007 was \$20.5m

Loss of Control

Between 2003 and 2007 59 percent of all crashes in Central Otago District involved loss of control. These crashes resulted in 16 fatalities, 129 serious injuries and 429 minor injuries.

Crash numbers have remained fairly constant for the five year period.

Loss of Control Crashes 2003 to 2007				
Crash year	Fatal crashes	Serious crashes	Minor crashes	Non-injury crashes
2003	4	28	45	56
2004	0	32	54	58
2005	3	31	51	48
2006	1	26	48	74
2007	5	12	57	57
Total	13	129	255	293

Most loss of control crashes occur when a driver loses control of their vehicle and either runs off the road or collides 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 three most common roadside hazards struck in these crashes in Central Otago District were fences (106), ditches (94) and upright banks (94) from a total of 603 objects struck.

Main characteristics of injury loss of control crashes	
Crash characteristic	Percentage of crashes
Bend	69%
Straight road	31%
Single vehicle	90%
Alcohol	14%
Excessive speed for the conditions	22%
Road factors	19%
Poor handling	50%
Rural road	94%
Wet road	34%
Night time	32%

Further information about injury loss of control crashes (2003 to 2007) on local roads in Central Otago District :

- 2 deaths, 32 serious injuries and 93 minor injuries
- 78 percent of at fault drivers were male
- Most common crash type "Bend-Lost/Head on"
- Most common age group 15-24 years
- 20 percent of crashes involved alcohol
- 32 percent of crashes involved speed
- Worst month January
- Worst day of week Saturday
- Worst time period 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Further information about injury loss of crashes (2003 to 2007) on Transit NZ roads in Central Otago District :

- 10 deaths, 79 serious injuries and 178 minor injuries
- 64 percent of at fault drivers were male
- Most common crash type "Bend-Lost/Head on"
- Most common age group 15-24 years
- 11 percent of crashes involved alcohol
- 17 percent of crashes involved speed
- Worst month January
- Worst day of week Saturday
- Worst time period Midday - 6:00 pm

National issues

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

Speed

In Central Otago District "Too fast" was recorded in 59 fatal and injury crashes in the district in the last five years resulting in 4 deaths and 100 injuries. Speed as a factor in crashes is not reducing in the district.

91 percent of all speed-related crashes were loss of control on a bend crash. Poor handling was the other driver factor most often associated with speed in injury crashes.

85 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

Alcohol

In Central Otago District, alcohol was involved in 42 fatal and injury crashes in the district in the last five years resulting in 4 deaths, and 56 other injuries. The number of injury crashes involving alcohol is not reducing.

64 percent of all alcohol crashes were in rural areas of the district. 81 percent of these were loss of control crashes. Speed and poor handling were the other factors often associated with alcohol in injury crashes.

90 percent of at fault drivers in these injury crashes were males. The most common ages of these drivers were between the ages of 20 to 39 years

Failure to give way

In Central Otago District, failure to give way or stop was reported in 48 fatal and injury crashes during the last five years resulting in 1 deaths and 80 other injuries.

Poor observation was the driver factor most often associated with failure to give way.

56 percent of at fault drivers in these injury crashes were males. All ages of these drivers were represented.

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/>