

briefing notes - road safety issues

Hurunui 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 Hurunui District.

This report is the ninth road safety report for Hurunui 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 Hurunui 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

Hurunui District

Bends

Speed

2007 road trauma

Casualties

Hurunui District

Deaths

5

Serious casualties

21

Minor casualties

95

Nationally

Speed

Alcohol

Failure to give way

Restraints

Crashes

Hurunui District

Fatal crashes

5

Serious injury crashes

16

Minor injury crashes

62

Non-injury crashes

92

Overview

In 2007 on local roads in Hurunui District there were 16 injury crashes and 28 non-injury crashes. In addition there were 67 injury crashes and 64 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 83 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	5	18	87	110
Urban	0	3	9	12
Total	5	21	96	122

The annual numbers of fatal and serious injury crashes in the district have fluctuated over the last ten years, and there is no obvious long term trend in the numbers. In 2007 the number of minor injury crashes increased notably. In 2007 the number of minor injury crashes reported was one and a half times the previous high of 41 crashes in 2003 and 2004.

Crash trends

Year	Fatal crashes	Serious injury crashes	Minor injury crashes	Non-injury crashes
1998	2	24	21	38
1999	3	21	28	70
2000	4	12	38	75
2001	2	19	33	80
2002	4	16	35	67
2003	7	10	41	60
2004	2	10	41	69
2005	6	19	38	69
2006	5	22	40	78
2007	5	16	62	92

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	27%	10%
Too fast	31%	34%
Straight—lost control crash	26%	17%
Bend—lost control crash	53%	65%
Crossing / turning crash	7%	4%
Road factors	22%	23%
Vulnerable road users (Percent of casualties)	15%	7%
1, Pedestrians	4%	1%
2, Cyclists	2%	1%
3, Motorcyclists	9%	6%

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

- Worst month April, September, December
- Worst day Saturday
- 18 percent on wet roads
- 36 percent at night
- 16 percent at intersections
- Social cost of crashes in 2007 was \$4.9m

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

- Worst month January
- Worst day Friday
- 31 percent on wet roads
- 31 percent at night
- 9 percent at intersections
- Social cost of crashes in 2007 was \$35.4m

Crashes at bends

Between 2003 and 2007 62 percent of all crashes in Hurunui District occurred at bends. These crashes resulted in 20 fatalities, 69 serious injuries and 237 minor injuries.

There were more reported injury and non-injury crashes at bends in 2007 than in other years. Crash numbers have generally increased since 2004.

Crashes at bends 2003 to 2007				
Crash year	Fatal crashes	Serious crashes	Minor crashes	Non-injury crashes
2003	6	5	28	33
2004	1	6	28	43
2005	2	14	23	45
2006	2	13	34	43
2007	4	14	37	47
Total	15	52	150	211

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 three most common roadside hazards struck in injury crashes in Hurunui District were cliff or bank (39), trees (35) and fences (34) from a total of 185 objects struck.

Main characteristics of injury crashes at bends	
Crash characteristic	Percentage of crashes
Single vehicle	74%
Alcohol	11%
Excessive speed for the conditions	45%
Road factors	26%
Poor handling	44%
Rural road	97%
Wet road	40%
Night time	28%

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

- 1 deaths, 11 serious injuries and 41 minor injuries
- 75 percent of at fault drivers were male
- Most common crash type "Lost control turning right"
- Most common age group 40-49 years
- 18 percent of crashes involved alcohol
- Worst month December
- Worst day of week Saturday
- Worst time period 3 pm - 6 pm

Further information about injury crashes on bends (2003 to 2007) on Transit NZ roads in Hurunui District:

- 19 deaths, 58 serious injuries and 196 minor injuries
- 69 percent of at fault drivers were male
- Most common crash type "Lost control turning right"
- Most common age group 30-39 years
- 9 percent of crashes involved alcohol
- Worst month January
- Worst day of week Thursday
- Worst time period midday - 6 pm

Over 80% of crashes at bends in Hurunui District happened on State highways. Most were single vehicle crashes involving male drivers losing control on right hand bends.

Speed

Nationally, speed is one of the major contributing factors to road crashes. Reducing speeds is an important road safety goal. Excessive speed increases the likelihood of a crash occurring by reducing the time available for drivers to respond to situations and it leads to more serious injuries. Research has shown that a one km/h reduction in mean speed can produce a three percent reduction in injury crashes.

Between 2003 and 2007 34 percent of injury crashes in Hurunui District involved travelling too fast for the conditions. These crashes resulted in 13 fatalities, 34 serious injuries and 118 minor injuries.

Speed related crashes					
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Rural	32	25	37	51	61
Urban	1	1	1	2	4
Total	33	26	38	53	65

In 2006 and in 2007 there were increases in rural speed-related crashes in the district. In 2007 there were almost twice the number in 2003. Most (over 90%) of speed related crashes were in rural areas

The most common speed related crash is Loss of control on right hand bends, followed by Loss of control on left hand bends.

The main causes contributing to speed related crashes were:

- Poor handling
- Road factors
- Poor judgement

Age and sex of at fault speeding drivers

Drivers at fault in speed related injury crashes (2003- 2007)	Male	Female	Total
15 - 19 years	12	5	17
20 - 24	15	8	23
25 - 29	8	2	10
30 - 39	11	8	19
40 - 49	13	8	21
50 - 59	4	5	9
60 - 69	3	2	5
70+	3	0	3
Total	69	38	107

Males represented 64 percent of at fault drivers in speed related crashes. All age groups were represented.

Further information about speed related injury crashes in Hurunui District on local roads (2003 to 2007):

- 1 death, 8 serious injuries and 72 minor injuries
- Most common crash type "Lost control on bends"
- 86 percent mid-block
- 18 percent wet or icy road
- 36 percent night time
- Worst month December
- Worst day of week Sunday
- Worst time midday - 3 pm

Further information about speed related injury crashes in Hurunui District on Transit NZ roads (2003 to 2006):

- 12 deaths, 26 serious injuries and 93 minor injuries
- Most common crash type "Lost control on bend"
- 94 percent mid-block
- 56 percent wet or icy road
- 30 percent night time
- Worst month April, May
- Worst day of week Thursday

National issues

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

Speed

In Hurunui District, "Too fast" was recorded in 109 fatal and injury crashes in the district in the last five years resulting in 13 deaths and 152 injuries. Speed as a factor in crashes is increasing in the district.

87 percent of all speed-related crashes were Lost control on bends. Poor handling and poor judgement were the other driver factors most often associated with speed in injury crashes.

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

Alcohol

In Hurunui District, alcohol was involved in 40 fatal and injury crashes in the district in the last five years resulting in 6 deaths, and 54 other injuries. The number of injury crashes involving alcohol is not reducing.

89 percent of all alcohol crashes were in rural areas of the district. 92 percent were Lost control crashes. Speed, Poor handling and Fatigue were the other factors often associated with alcohol in injury crashes.

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

Failure to give way

In Hurunui District, failure to give way or stop was reported in 16 fatal and injury crashes during the last five years resulting in 2 deaths and 26 other injuries.

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

61 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/>

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