

road safety issues

Palmerston North City

Land Transport New Zealand has prepared this road safety issues report. It is based on reported crash data and trends for the 2000–2004 period. The intent of the report is to highlight key road safety issues in Palmerston North City.

The number of people killed or injured on the road network in the Palmerston North City area increased from 178 in 2003 to 203 in 2004. These deaths and injuries last year were the result of 161 injury crashes, an increase from 147 in 2003.

Occupants of cars and vans were the largest casualty group from 2000 to 2004. Despite a downward trend in the number of cyclist and motorcyclist casualties over the last 10 years, numbers of these two groups were above the New Zealand and similar authority averages on urban roads.

Within Palmerston North City, the most frequent type of crash movements were loss of control on rural roads and those connected with driving through intersections on urban roads.

Poor driver skills related to judgement, observation or handling techniques were regularly recorded as contributing factors in injury crashes.

An increasing percentage (over 20 percent in 2004) of all the drivers involved in injury crashes held learner or restricted licences.

Major road safety issues

Palmerston North City

- Intersections
- Loss of control
- Speed
- Vulnerable road users

Nationally

- Speed
- Alcohol
- Failure to give way
- Restraints



2004 road trauma for Palmerston North City



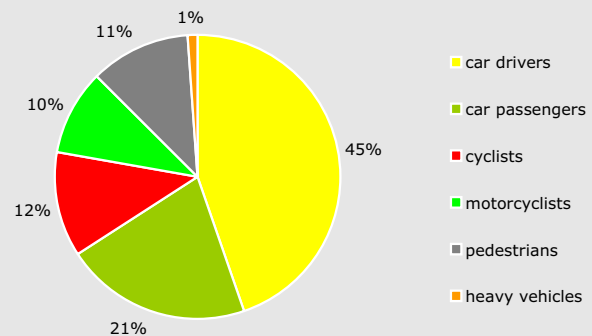
Deaths	6
Serious casualties	32
Minor casualties	165



Fatal crashes	5
Serious injury crashes	25
Minor injury crashes	131
Non-injury crashes	522

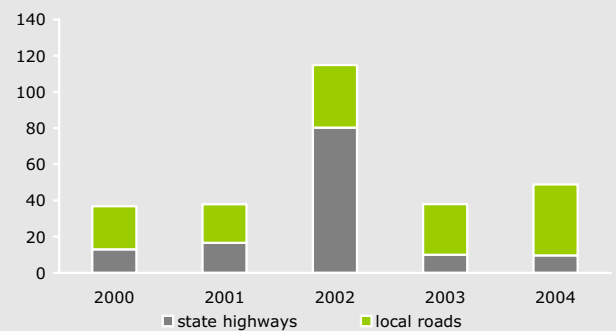
Road casualties 2000–2004

User type 2000–2004



Estimated social cost of crashes*

Social cost (\$ million)

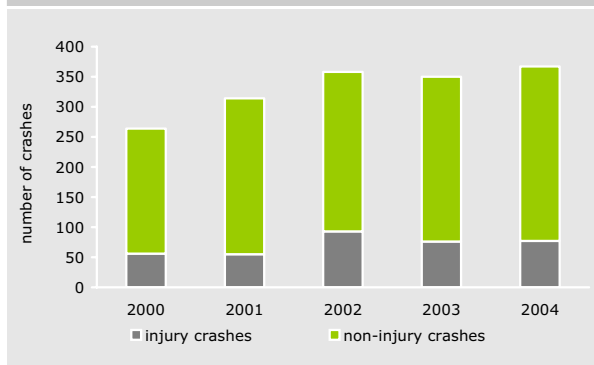


*The estimated social cost includes loss of life or life quality (estimated by the amount New Zealanders are prepared to pay to reduce their risk of fatal or non-fatal injury), loss of output due to injuries, medical and rehabilitation costs, legal and court costs, and property damage. These costs are expressed at June 2004 prices.

Intersections

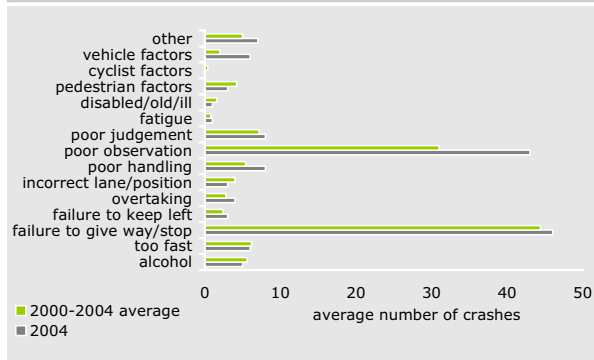
Injury crashes at intersections made up 51 percent of the reported urban road injury crashes in 2004 and 37 percent in the rural environment. Following the increase in the number of these crashes on urban roads in Palmerston North City during 2002, there was a reduction in 2003 and again in 2004. The percentage of injury crashes occurring at urban road intersections has been higher than for similar authorities in 2002 and 2003 and nationally for the last three years. At rural road intersections the percentage of these crashes recorded during 2004 was the highest for the last eight years.

Crashes at intersections 2000–2004



Failure to give way or stop and poor observation were the two most common crash factors contributing to the intersection injury crashes in the district.

Factors in intersection crashes 2000–2004

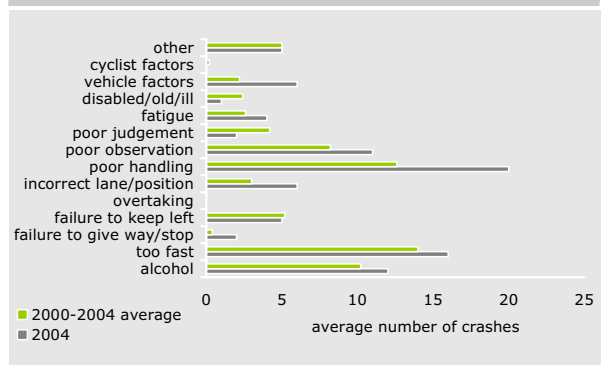


During the five years from 2000 to 2004, 60 percent (994) of the injury and non-injury crashes reported at the intersections in Palmerston North City involved a collision between vehicles making a crossing or turning movement, while 19 percent (315) involved a rear-end collision. Loss of control contributed to 15 percent (254) of these crashes.

Loss of control

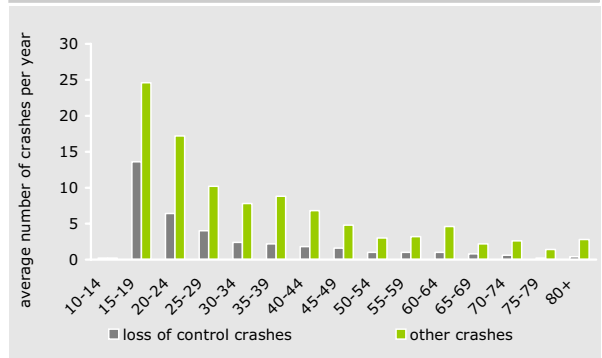
From 2000 to 2004, 61 percent (83) of the injury crashes on the rural roads in Palmerston North City involved a driver losing control of a vehicle. On urban roads this figure was 20 percent (111 crashes). The number of rural crashes on bends reported each year had been decreasing since 2002. A slight increase in the overall numbers was recorded for 2004, although loss of control crashes were still the most common injury crash type on rural roads in the area. A total of 46 loss of control crashes were recorded on all roads in Palmerston North City during 2004, an increase from 42 in 2003.

Factors in loss of control crashes 2000–2004



Travelling too fast for the conditions, alcohol, poor handling and poor observation were the main contributory factors in the loss of control injury crashes over the five years from 2000 to 2004.

Driver age in loss of control crashes 2000–2004

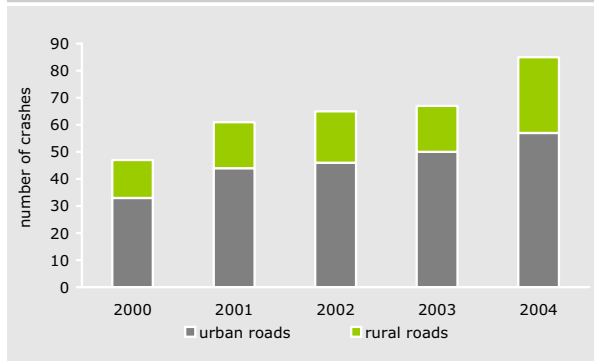


From 2000 to 2004, young drivers in the 15 to 19 year age group were involved in the highest number of loss of control crashes, with drivers aged less than 25 being involved in over half the injury crashes of this type reported. Where licence types were recorded, over 45 percent of the drivers losing control of their vehicles did not hold a full licence.

Speed

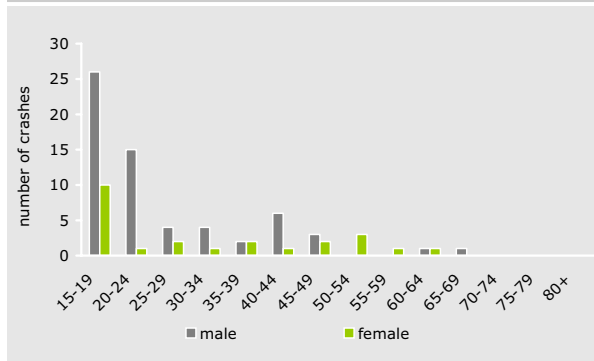
Driving at a speed too fast for the conditions was one of the main contributory factors in the rural and urban road injury crashes in Palmerston North City for the period 2000 to 2004. Excessive speed can be attributed to 36 (27 percent) of the rural road injury crashes and 59 (11 percent) of the urban road injury crashes over these five years. The involvement of speed in injury crashes on rural roads was at a significantly higher level than experienced in other similar authorities but was similar on urban roads.

All speed-related crashes 2000–2004



Excessive speed was more likely to be a contributory factor in crashes with young drivers than with older drivers. Over 60 percent of the injury crashes where speed was a factor from 2000 to 2004 involved a driver under the age of 25.

Driver age in speed-related crashes 2000–2004



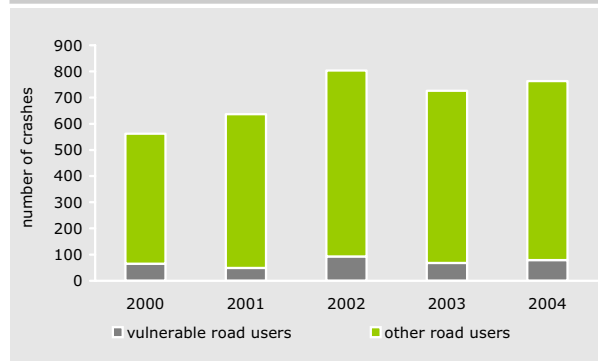
Vehicle speed is a major determinant of the outcome of a crash. Research has shown that as speed increases, the likelihood of a crash also increases. Higher speeds will result in more severe injuries in the event of a crash.

Excessive speed was a factor in 78 percent of all the crashes where a driver lost control of their vehicle. Alcohol was also identified as a contributory factor in a quarter of the speed-related injury crashes.

Vulnerable road users

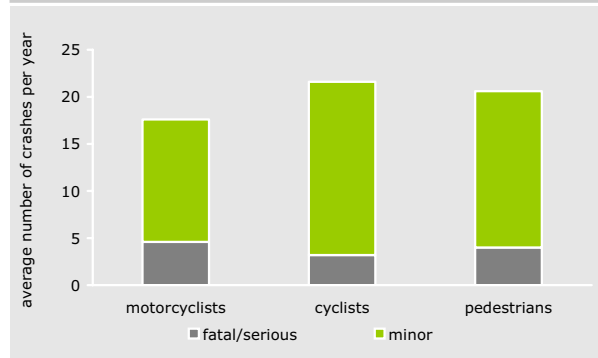
Travel in Palmerston North City is dominated by occupants of light and heavy vehicles, such as cars and trucks, but motorcyclists, cyclists and pedestrians also use the roads. These vulnerable road users account for only a small proportion of the road user population and distance travelled on the roading network but have experienced approximately a third of the injuries from crashes over the five years from 2000 to 2004.

Vulnerable road user crashes 2000–2004

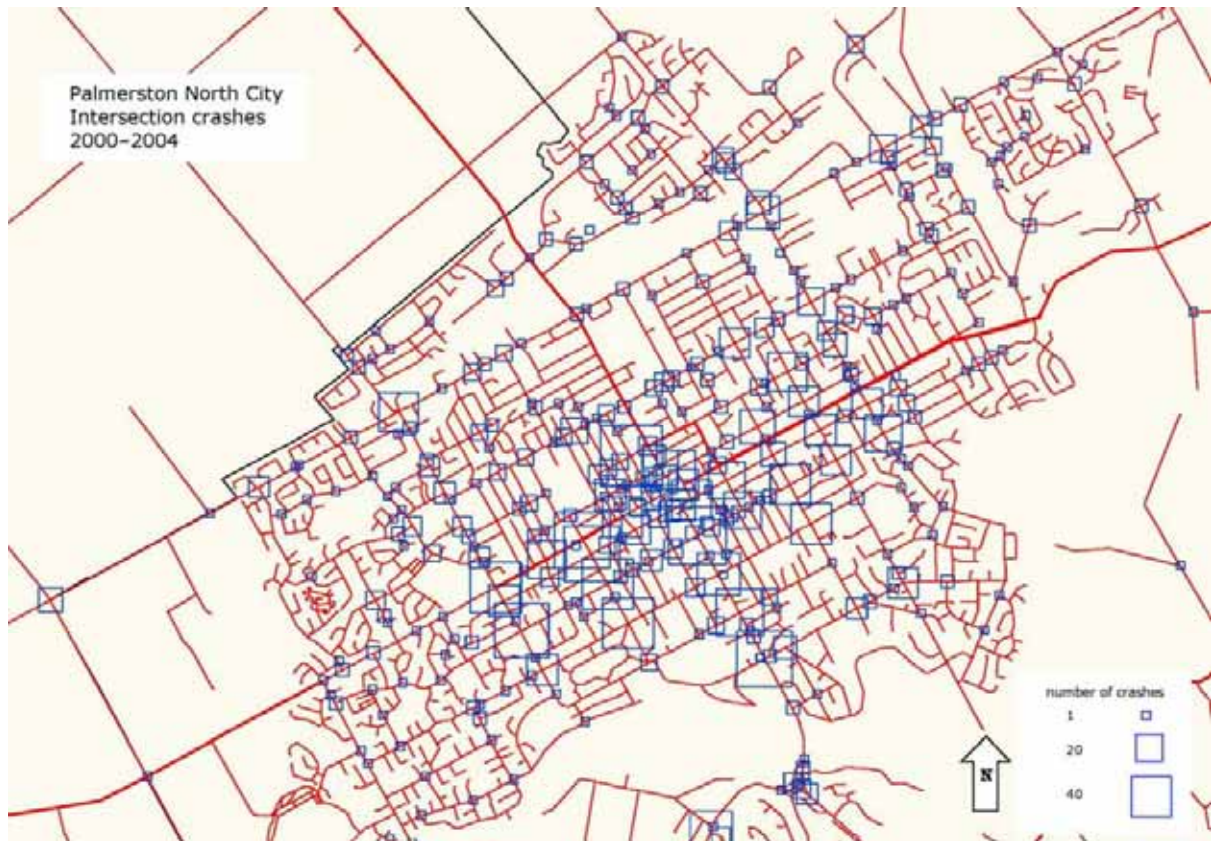


Generally, vulnerable road users have less protection than vehicle drivers and passengers, making the injuries sustained by these road users more severe. Within Palmerston North City during recent years, approximately 21 percent of injured vulnerable road users experienced fatal or serious injuries compared with 17 percent of other injured road users.

Vulnerable road user injury severity 2000–2004



Approximately 94 percent of the injuries incurred by vulnerable road users happened within urban speed limits (70 km/h and less) and six percent within rural speed limits (greater than 70 km/h). Urban injuries occurred approximately equally between intersections and mid-block locations, whereas less than two percent of rural vulnerable road user injuries occurred at intersections.



Contacts

Land Transport New Zealand
Ian Hunter
Partnership Manager Central
Phone 04 931 8900

Road Safety Engineer
Dave Curson
Phone 06 953 6211

Regional Education Advisor
Barbara Broederlow
Phone 06 953 6204

Also see contact details at bottom right of the page.

Horizons Regional Council (Roadsafe Central)
Road Safety Co-ordinator
Mary Mitchell
Private Bag 10025
Palmerston North
Phone 06 952 2810

Palmerston North City Council
Roading Manager
Graeme Tong
Private Bag 11034
Palmerston North
Phone 06 356 8199

Transit New Zealand
Regional Manager
Errol Christiansen
PO Box 345
Wanganui
Phone 06 345 4173

New Zealand Police
Road Policing Manager Central District
Neil Wynne
Central District Headquarters
Private Bag 11040
Palmerston North
Phone 06 351 3600

Accident Compensation Corporation
Neesha Gouldsbury
Private Bag 110022
Palmerston North
Phone 06 952 5226



**Palmerston North
Regional Office**
Level 3, IRD Building
Corner Ashley and Ferguson
Streets
PO Box 1947
Palmerston North

Telephone 06 953 6396
Fax 06 953 6203

www.landtransport.govt.nz