

road safety issues

The Land Transport Safety Authority (LTSA) has prepared this road safety issues report. It is based on reported crash data and trends for the 1999–2003 period. The intent of the report is to highlight the key road safety issues in Porirua City.

The total number of injury crashes in Porirua City in 2003 was 101, which was an increase of 27 on 2002 figures. However, the combined number of fatalities and serious casualties dropped by two during this period.

The most frequent type of crash on rural roads involved drivers losing control of their vehicles on a bend. The proportion of these crashes was significantly higher than in other similar local authorities.

Car drivers made up over half of all the casualties from road crashes. In particular, learner and restricted licence holders were over-represented within this casualty group.

Pedestrians continue to feature prominently in the casualty statistics, particularly in urban areas.

The estimated social cost of crashes in Porirua City for 2003 was \$27.5 million. While the overall social cost was similar to last year, the social cost on local roads has been increasing since 2000. The social cost on state highways has decreased, reflecting the change in crash numbers and severity levels recorded on each road type.

Both local and national road safety issues are identified below. The specific concerns for Porirua City are considered in detail overleaf, while performance in relation to national issues is considered in detail on the back page.

Major road safety issues




Porirua City

- Loss of control
- Novice drivers
- Pedestrians

Nationally

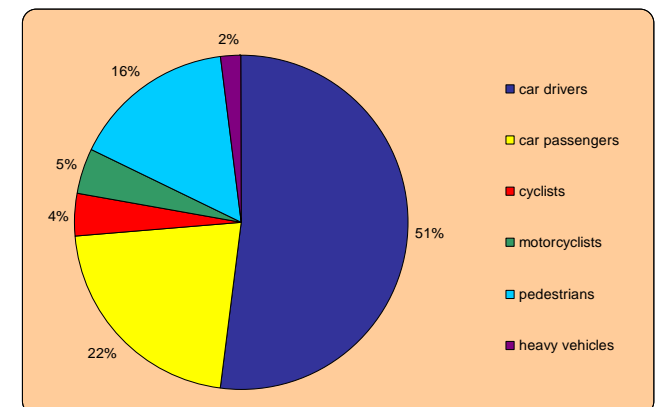
- Speed
- Alcohol
- Failure to give way
- Restraints

2003 road trauma for Porirua City

	Deaths	1
	Serious casualties	23
	Minor casualties	111
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	Fatal crashes	1
	Serious injury crashes	21
	Minor injury crashes	79
	Non-injury crashes	376

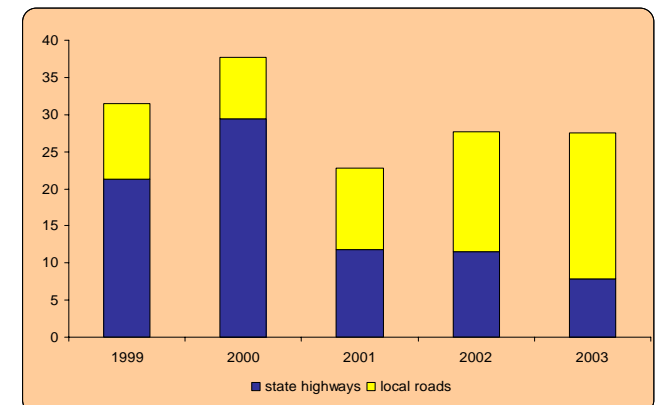
Road casualties 1999–2003

User type 1999–2003



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 2002 prices.



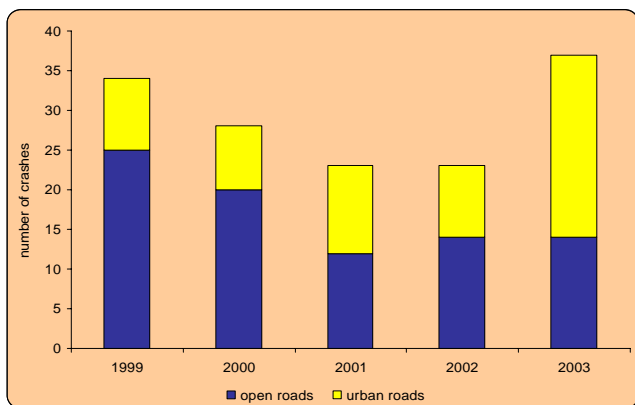
Loss of control

The most common type of injury crash between 1999 and 2003 in Porirua City involved a driver losing control of their vehicle on a bend.

Between 1999 and 2003, 62 percent of injury crashes in rural areas involved this type of crash. In urban areas the percentage was lower at 23 percent. Both urban and rural proportions were significantly higher than in similar authorities.

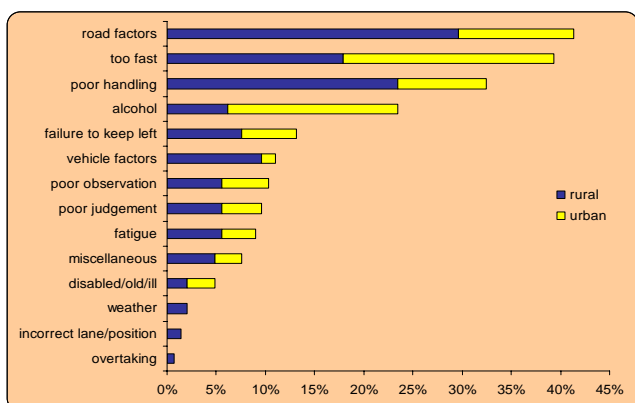
While the annual number of loss of control crashes on urban roads between 1999 and 2002 remained static, in 2003 the number of urban loss of control crashes more than doubled from nine to 23.

Loss of control crashes 1999–2003



Road factors continue to be the most common contributing factor in loss of control crashes. Road factors include the road being slippery due to rain, frost, spillages, flooding or road works. The percentage of loss of control crashes occurring in the wet was 66 percent in rural areas. In urban areas, the percentage was lower at 33 percent. Speed was a major contributing factor in loss of control crashes. Thirty-nine percent of loss of control crashes involved excessive speed.

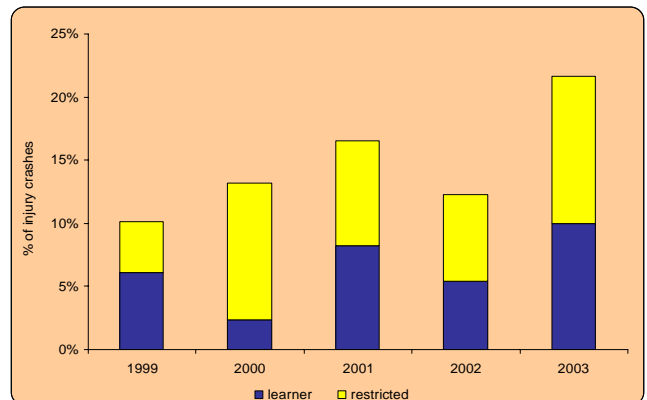
Contributing factors in loss of control crashes 1999–2003



Novice drivers

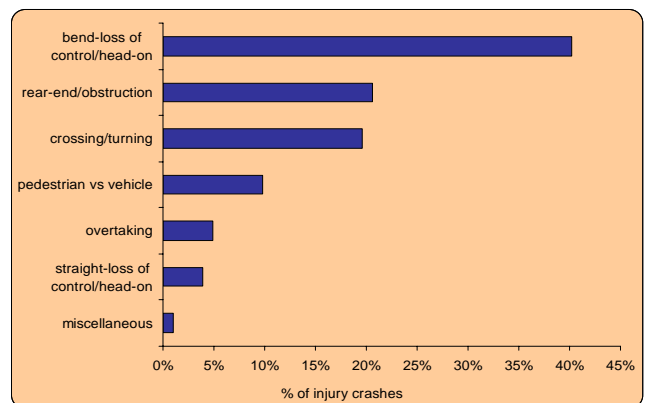
Between 1999 and 2003, 15 percent of drivers involved in injury crashes were novice drivers on a learner or restricted licence. However, in 2003 there was an upward trend with 22 percent of drivers in injury crashes recorded as being novice drivers.

Novice drivers 1999–2003



The most common type of crash involving novice drivers was caused by a driver losing control of a vehicle on a bend. Also prominent were crashes where a vehicle hit a stationary car or vehicle from the rear, and crashes while attempting a crossing or turning manoeuvre at an intersection or driveway.

Novice drivers crash types 1999–2003



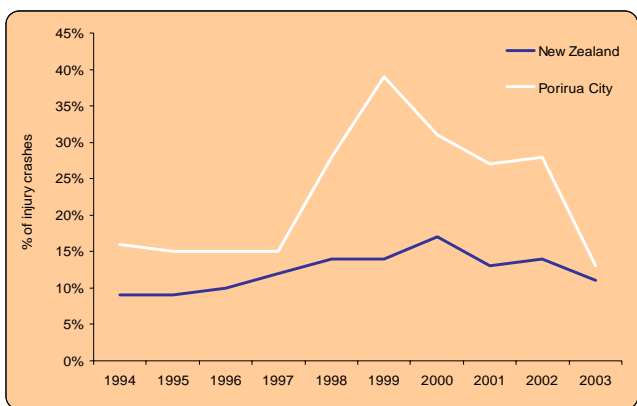
The ages of the novice drivers involved in crashes ranged from 16 to 51 years. They were predominantly male (65 percent), living in Porirua City (74 percent), and under the age of 25 years.



Pedestrians

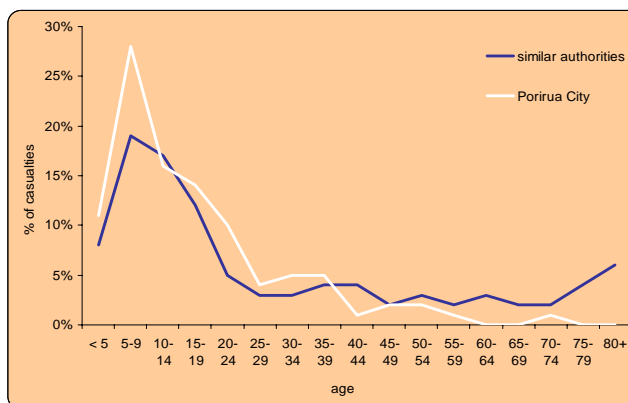
Between 1999 and 2003, collisions involving a pedestrian in the Porirua urban area resulted in one pedestrian fatality and 83 pedestrian casualties. Pedestrians made up more than 25 percent of all urban road casualties in the five-year period. This was high compared with similar authorities. It is encouraging that the numbers of pedestrian casualties dropped in 2003, although they were still above national levels.

Urban pedestrian casualties 1994–2003

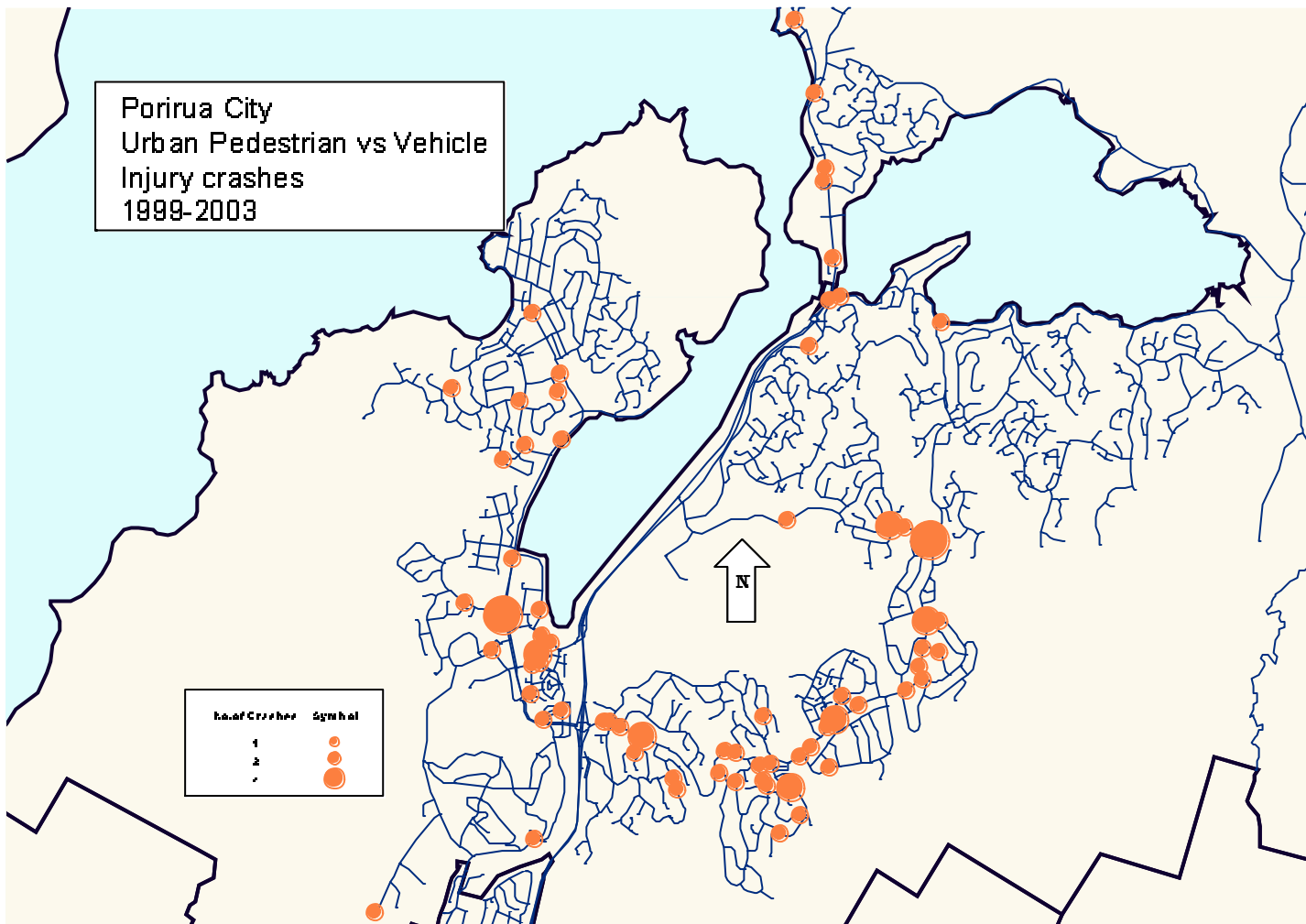


The majority of pedestrian casualties (54 percent) were under the age of 15 years.

Pedestrian casualties 1994–2003



Sixty-seven percent of crashes involving a pedestrian could be at least partially attributed to a pedestrian's actions. Pedestrian behaviour contributing to collisions included crossing the road without checking for traffic, and stepping out from behind a parked vehicle.



Speed

The faster drivers go, the more likely they are to crash and the greater the risk of serious injury or death.

Speed was a factor in 70 injury crashes in Porirua City between 1999 and 2003. This comprised 18 percent of all injury crashes in Porirua City and was slightly higher than for all of New Zealand and similar authorities.

Alcohol

Drivers with a blood alcohol level over the legal limit (80 mg per 100 ml) are three times more likely to be involved in a crash than a sober driver.

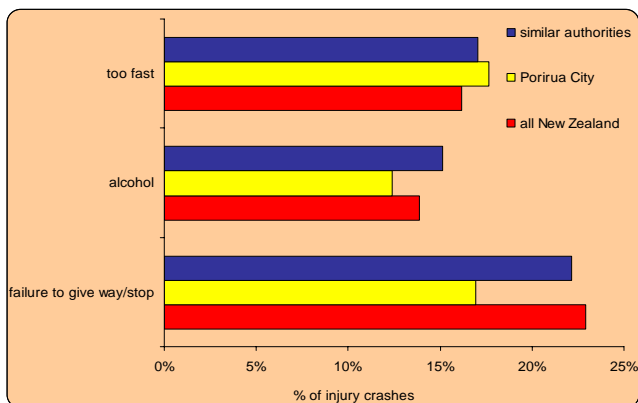
Between 1999 and 2003, alcohol was a factor in 49 injury crashes in Porirua City. This comprised 12 percent of all injury crashes in Porirua City and was less than in similar authorities and New Zealand as a whole.

Failure to give way

Failure to give way at intersections is the third largest cause of death and injury crashes on New Zealand roads.

Sixty-seven injury crashes in Porirua City between 1999 and 2003 involved a vehicle failing to give way. This amounted to 17 percent of all crashes and was less than for similar authorities and New Zealand as a whole.

National issues 1999–2003



Restraints

Wearing a safety belt reduces the chances of death or suffering serious injuries in a crash by 40 percent.

Between 1999 and 2003, there were 16 fatalities on Porirua roads. Of those who died, at least one would have been saved if they had been wearing a restraint.

Results from a 2003 survey showed that 95 percent of front seat adults and 88 percent of rear seat passengers wore safety belts in Porirua City. This was higher than the New Zealand average.

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