

road safety issues

Porirua City

Land Transport New Zealand has prepared this road safety issues report. It is based on reported crash data and trends for the 2001–2005 period. The intent of the report is to highlight the key road safety issues in Porirua City.

Over the course of the 2001–2005 period, the increasing crash trend started to plateau with total crash numbers down slightly last year. In 2005, 105 injury crashes were reported, resulting in 147 casualties.

Injury crashes accounted for 20 percent of all crashes reported in the period. Fatal or serious crashes continue to make up 24 percent of all Porirua injury crashes.

Two thirds of all injury crashes occurred on local roads with the remainder occurring on state highways. They were primarily rural (59 percent) and at non-intersection locations (66 percent).

Local road injury crashes were predominantly urban with 34 percent happening at intersections. In 2005, the estimated social cost of injury crashes in Porirua City was \$32.6 million.

Both national and local road safety issues are identified below. Specific issues relating to Porirua City are considered overleaf. National issues are discussed on the back page.

Major road safety issues

Porirua City

Loss of control on bends

Pedestrians

Intersections

Nationally

Speed

Alcohol

Failure to give way

Restraints



2005 road trauma for Porirua City



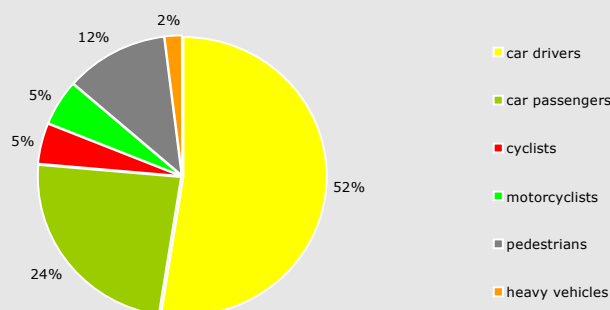
Deaths	2
Serious casualties	25
Minor casualties	120



Fatal crashes	2
Serious injury crashes	22
Minor injury crashes	81
Non-injury crashes	358

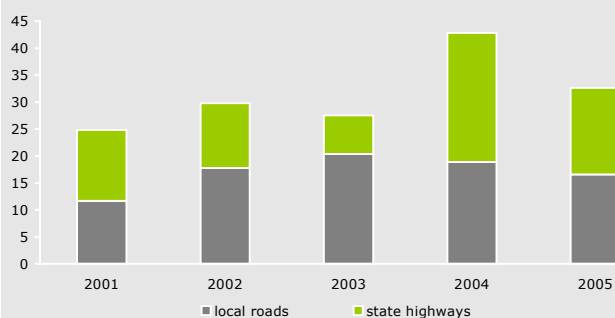
Road casualties 2001–2005

User type 2001–2005



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 2005 prices.

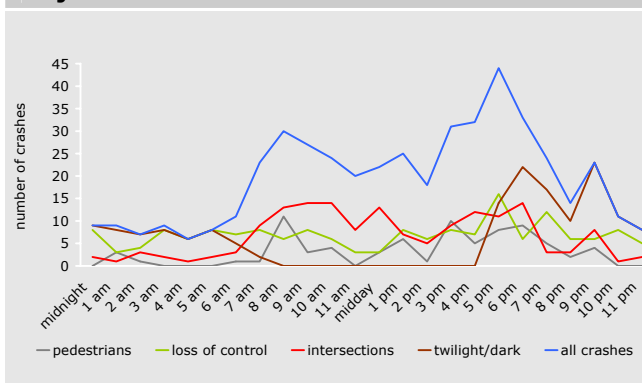
General issues

Seventy-seven percent of casualties in Porirua were either car drivers or their passengers. Sixty percent of driver casualties were aged 15 to 40 years and 60 percent of passenger casualties were aged 25 years or under.

Males made up 60 percent of all casualties. Male injuries were most common in the 15 to 24 year age group. The number of females injured were more evenly spread across the age range of 15 to 35 years.

A third of all injury crashes occurred during the hours of darkness. Night-time crashes have been increasing and the proportion of these crashes is significantly higher than similar authorities. Alcohol was a factor in 30 percent of night crashes and 13 percent of night crashes involved a pedestrian.

Major issues 2001–2005



Based on injury crashes, severity and current trends, the three key safety issues identified in Porirua for the period 2001–2005 were:

- loss of control
- intersections
- pedestrians.

These three groups accounted for 75 percent of all fatal or serious crashes in Porirua between 2001 and 2005.

Other issues to consider, but not discussed in detail are:

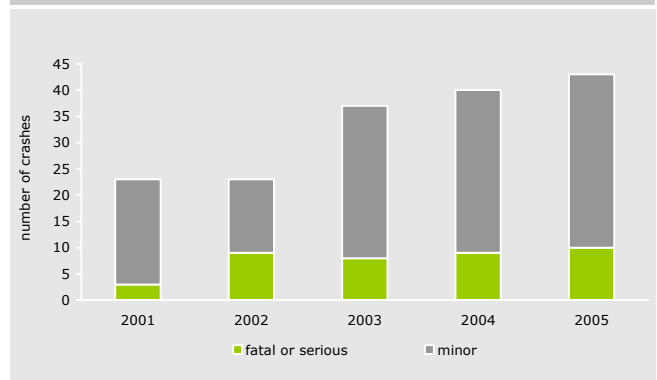
- rear-end/obstruction type crashes – accounted for 17 percent of injury crashes, and 34 percent of all reported crashes in Porirua were rear-end collisions
- motorcycles – there were 30 motorcycle crashes in the period, 10 each in 2004 and 2005. Sixty-seven percent of motorcycle crashes occurred at intersections
- learner drivers – a quarter of all injury crashes involved a driver on a learner or restricted licence. Between 2001 and 2005, learner licence holders' involvement in injury crashes in Porirua increased.

Loss of control on bends

Drivers losing control of their vehicle on a bend continued to be the major crash type in Porirua City (166 crashes). Between 2001 and 2005 loss of control on bends made up 36 percent of all injury crashes and resulted in the death or serious injury of 39 people.

The number of loss of control crashes is increasing in Porirua. In the period 2001–2005, they accounted for 36 percent of all serious crashes and 40 percent of all casualties, injuring 254 people.

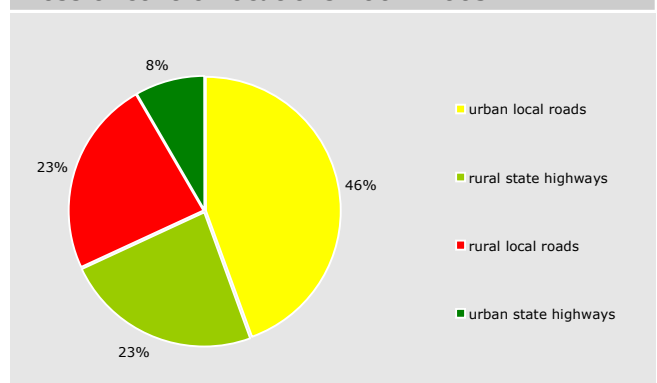
Loss of control crashes 2001–2005



Main contributing factors involved in loss of control crashes were driving too fast for the conditions (51 percent), alcohol (30 percent) and poor handling (25 percent).

Half of the loss of control crashes occurred on urban roads. A high proportion (45 percent) occurred at night with 26 percent occurring on weekend nights. Most occurred mid-block (83 percent) and 46 percent were on wet roads.

Loss of control locations 2001–2005



A high proportion of loss of control crashes, 28 percent, noted road factors as an issue. Road factors included slippery road (rain, ice, oil, etc), surface problems (glass, gravel, potholes, etc), flooding, visibility restrictions and road works.

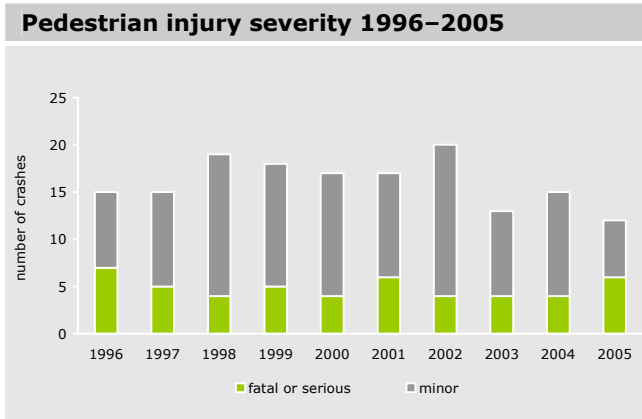
Loss of control crashes in Porirua City were clustered in the following areas:

- Pauatahanui Inlet and Grays Road
- Paekakariki Hill Road
- East Porirua
- portions of State Highways 1 and 58.

Pedestrians

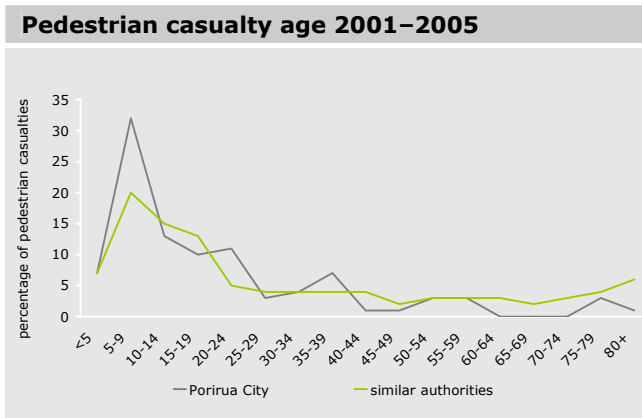
The number of pedestrian crashes has reduced over the 2001–2005 period. Pedestrian crashes continue to be an issue with severity levels remaining high.

Pedestrian crashes accounted for 12 percent of all crashes in Porirua and 20 percent of all casualties. In 2005 there were 12 pedestrian crashes. Half of these involved either a fatal or serious injury.



Pedestrian crashes were most likely to be in urban areas, away from an intersection (75 percent were mid-block and eight percent on state highways). Eighty percent of pedestrian crashes occurred on a dry road surface, 30 percent in the dark and 20 percent involved a pedestrian that was not crossing the road.

Child pedestrians were particularly vulnerable to injury. In Porirua, half the pedestrian crashes involved children of school age and younger (40 percent were aged under 10 years).



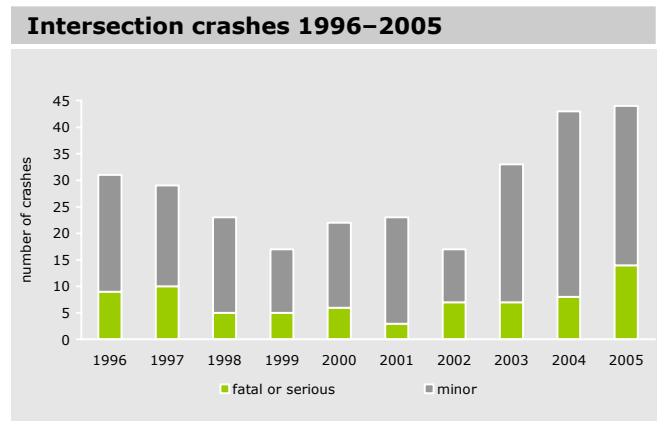
Crash factors involved both pedestrian and driver causes:

- 33 percent involved pedestrians crossing heedless of traffic.
- 20 percent involved a driver failing to give way.
- 14 percent involved pedestrians stepping from behind a parked vehicle.

Other driver causes noted were speed, inattention or distraction and simply misjudging the pedestrian's intention.

Intersections

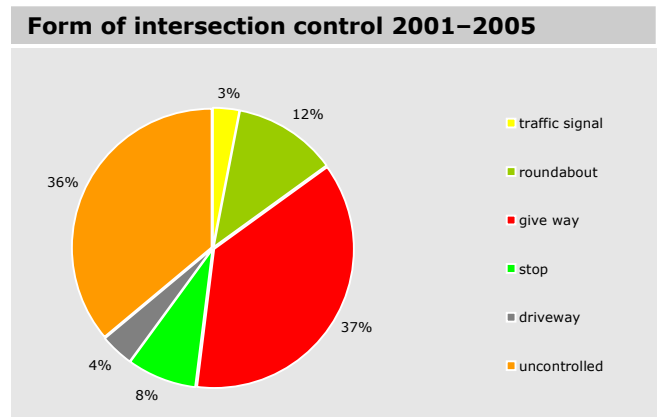
Crashes at intersections accounted for 34 percent of all crashes in Porirua. Between 2001 and 2005, there were 160 crashes resulting in the death or serious injury of 39 people. There was an increasing trend of serious and minor crashes at intersections.



Common movements were crossing or turning (52 percent), loss of control (18 percent) and rear-end (14 percent) crashes. Poor handling, poor observation or poor judgement by drivers were common contributing factors. Other features of intersection crashes included:

- 50 percent involved failure to stop or give way
- 34 percent occurred on state highways
- 30 percent occurred during the hours of darkness
- 13 percent involved motorcyclists
- nine percent involved pedestrians.

Give-way controlled and unsigned intersections were the most common locations for intersection crashes.



Driveway crashes accounted for four percent of intersection crashes. The majority of intersection crashes in Porirua (68 percent) occurred at T junctions. Of these crashes:

- 34 percent were Give Way controlled
- 28 percent were uncontrolled
- six percent were compulsory Stops.

Fourteen percent of intersection crashes occurred at the more complicated crossroad junction layout.

National issues

Speed

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

During this period, speed too fast for the conditions was a factor in 20 percent of injury crashes in Porirua City. This percentage involvement was higher than both similar authorities and for all roads in New Zealand.

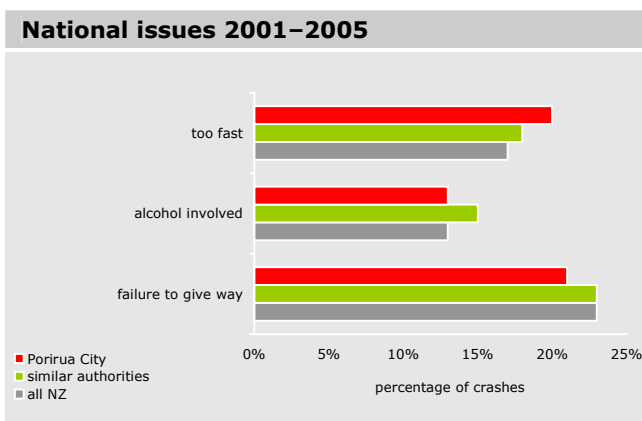
Alcohol

Alcohol has a big effect on the way people drive. People that drink and drive (with a blood alcohol level over 80 mg per 100 ml) are three times more likely to be involved in a crash than a sober driver.

Between 2001 and 2005, alcohol was identified as a factor in 13 percent of crashes on roads in Porirua City which is the same as for all roads in New Zealand and lower than for similar authorities.

Failure to give way

While most failure to give way crashes result in non-injury or minor injury crashes, many can have serious consequences. Failure to give way was a factor in 21 percent of the crashes on roads in Porirua between 2001 and 2005. This was lower than similar authorities and all roads in New Zealand.



Restraints

Wearing a safety belt reduces the chance of death or serious injury in a crash by 40 percent. Whether you sit in the front or the back seat, the risk of serious or fatal injury is virtually the same.

Results from the 2005 national restraint wearing survey showed that the national average of front seat safety belt wearing was 95 percent. The Porirua City wearing rate in 2005 was also 95 percent.

Contacts

Land Transport New Zealand

Ian Hunter
Partnership Manager
See contact details at the bottom of the page.

Territorial Local Authority

Geoff Marshall
Porirua City Council
PO Box 50218
Porirua, 5240
Phone 04 237 5089

Road Safety Coordinator

Mark Kairua
Porirua City Council
PO Box 50218
Porirua, 5240
Phone 04 237 5089

New Zealand Police

Road Policing Manager
Wellington Central
Cnr Victoria and Harris Streets
PO Box 693
Wellington, 6140
Phone 04 381 2000



Wellington Office
Master Builders House, L5
234-242 Wakefield Street
PO Box 27-249
Wellington

Telephone 04 931 8900
Fax 04 931 8929

www.landtransport.govt.nz