

# *briefing notes - road safety issues*

## *Selwyn 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 Selwyn District.

This report is the ninth road safety report for Selwyn 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 Selwyn 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

#### Selwyn District

Loss of control

Intersections

### 2007 road trauma

#### Casualties

#### Selwyn District

Deaths 17

Serious casualties 36

Minor casualties 93

#### Nationally

Speed

Alcohol

Failure to give way

Restraints

#### Crashes

#### Selwyn District

Fatal crashes 14

Serious injury crashes 26

Minor injury crashes 60

Non-injury crashes 144

## Overview

In 2007 on local roads in Selwyn District there were 51 injury crashes and 81 non-injury crashes. In addition there were 49 injury crashes and 63 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 100 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	17	33	85	135
Urban	0	3	8	11
Total	17	36	93	146

In 2007 there were more fatal, serious, minor, and non-injury crashes than in any of the years since 2000. There were 40 fatal and serious crashes in 2007 compared with the previous high of 32 in 2000 and 2001. The annual number of non-injury crashes has generally increased from 85 in 1998 to a high of 144 in 2007.

Crash trends				
Year	Fatal crashes	Serious injury crashes	Minor injury crashes	Non-injury crashes
1998	5	25	45	85
1999	6	15	41	97
2000	5	27	41	97
2001	11	21	59	125
2002	4	17	54	96
2003	4	21	45	116
2004	5	17	46	126
2005	9	18	55	109
2006	4	18	60	130
2007	14	26	60	144

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	16%	12%
Too fast	14%	18%
Straight—lost control crash	31%	28%
Bend—lost control crash	20%	30%
Crossing / turning crash	29%	17%
Road factors	10%	9%
Vulnerable road users (Percent of casualties)	14%	8%
1, Pedestrians	3%	1%
2, Cyclists	6%	2%
3, Motorcyclists	6%	5%

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

- Worst month July
- Worst day Saturday
- 28 percent on wet or icy roads
- 34 percent at night
- 43 percent at intersections
- Social cost of crashes in 2007 was \$47.3m

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

- Worst month December
- Worst day Sunday
- 26 percent on wet or icy roads
- 34 percent at night
- 22 percent at intersections
- Social cost of crashes in 2007 was \$37.9m

## Loss of Control

Fifty five percent of all crashes in Selwyn District between 2003 and 2007 involved loss of control. These crashes resulted in 24 fatalities, 81 serious injuries and 217 minor injuries.

In 2007 there was a higher number of reported fatal, serious injury and non-injury crashes than in the previous four years.

Loss of Control Crashes 2003 to 2007				
Crash year	Fatal crashes	Serious crashes	Minor crashes	Non-injury crashes
2003	1	12	23	71
2004	2	11	21	61
2005	4	12	35	70
2006	3	6	35	63
2007	11	17	26	86
Total	21	58	140	351

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 injury crashes in Selwyn District were posts (46) and fences (43), from a total of 192 objects struck.

Main characteristics of injury loss of control crashes	
Crash characteristic	Percentage of crashes
Bend	46%
Straight road	54%
Single vehicle	80%
Alcohol	21%
Excessive speed for the conditions	25%
Road factors	14%
Poor handling	44%
Rural road	97%
Wet / icy road	33%
Night time	36%

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

- 16 deaths, 27 serious injuries and 82 minor injuries
- 75 percent of at fault drivers were male
- Most common crash type "Lost control on straight roads"
- Most common age group 15-19 years
- 27 percent of crashes involved alcohol
- 25 percent of crashes involved speed
- Worst month April
- Worst day of week Sunday
- Worst time period 3 pm - 6 pm

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

- 8 deaths, 54 serious injuries and 135 minor injuries
- 73 percent of at fault drivers were male
- Most common crash type "Lost control on bends"
- Most common age group 30-39 years
- 16 percent of crashes involved alcohol
- 26 percent of crashes involved speed
- Worst month January
- Worst day of week Sunday
- Worst time period 3 pm - 6 pm

## Intersections

In Selwyn District during the period 2003 to 2007 there were 130 injury crashes at intersections and 203 non-injury crashes. In these crashes, 13 people died, 33 received serious injuries and 151 received minor injuries.

80 percent of these crashes were in rural areas of the district. These crashes make up 30 percent of all rural crashes. There were 69 intersection crashes in urban areas of the District.

Junction type Injury and Non-injury crashes		
Junction Type	Urban	Rural
Roundabout	9	1
Tee	21	108
Cross (X)	37	135
Multi leg	2	24
Total	69	268

Over the last five years the number of crashes at intersections has trended upward.

Crashes at Intersections					
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Injury crash	22	26	25	25	32
Non-injury crash	34	44	33	43	49
Total	56	70	58	68	81

The most common intersection crash is one where two drivers cross each other's paths at right angles and collide. The second most common crash is when a driver turns right at an intersection and is hit by a vehicle approaching from the right.

The main causes contributing to crashes described in Police reports were:

- Not checking properly
- Failure to stop and give way
- Poor handling
- Speed

### Locations with high crash numbers

Intersection name	Total crashes 2003-2006	Total 2007
Tennyson St / Rolleston Drive	7	4
Shands Road / Weedons Road	8	3
SH 1 / Tennyson Street	9	1
Springs Road / Gerald Street	9	0
SH 1 / Aylesbury Road	4	5
Ellesmere Road / Tosswill Road	5	3

These locations are listed regardless of work done.

Further information about injury crashes at intersections from 2003 to 2007 on local roads in Selwyn District :

- 12 deaths, 25 serious injuries and 87 minor injuries
- 15 percent involved alcohol
- 15 percent involved speed
- 24 percent wet roads
- 27 percent night time
- Worst month March
- Worst days of week Monday, Wednesday, Friday
- Worst time 3 pm - 6 pm

Further information about injury crashes at intersections from 2003 to 2007 on Transit NZ roads in Selwyn District:

- 1 death, 8 serious injuries and 64 minor injuries
- 9 percent involved alcohol
- 17 percent involved speed
- 4 percent wet roads
- 26 percent night time
- Worst month August
- Worst day of week Tuesday
- Worst time 3 pm - 6 pm

## National issues

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

### Speed

In Selwyn District, "Too fast" was recorded in 62 fatal and injury crashes in the district in the last five years resulting in 10 deaths and 99 injuries. Speed as a factor in crashes is increasing in the district.

82 percent of all speed-related crashes were Loss of control on bends. Poor handling was the other driver factors most often associated with speed in injury crashes.

84 percent of at fault drivers in these injury crashes were males. The most common ages of these drivers were between 15 and 24 years .

### Alcohol

In Selwyn District, alcohol was involved in 56 fatal and injury crashes in the district in the last five years resulting in 14 deaths, and 76 other injuries. The number of injury crashes involving alcohol is increasing.

91 percent of all alcohol crashes were in rural areas of the district. 86 percent were Lost control. Speed and Poor handling were the other factors often associated with alcohol in injury crashes.

83 percent of at fault drivers in these injury crashes were males. The most common ages of these drivers were between 30 and 39 years .

### Failure to give way

In Selwyn District, failure to give way or stop was reported in 90 fatal and injury crashes during the last five years resulting in 9 deaths and 134 other injuries.

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

60 percent of at fault drivers in these injury crashes were males. The most common ages of these drivers were between 40 and 49 years .

### 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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