

# road safety issues

## South Wairarapa District

**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 the South Wairarapa District.**

The total number of injury crashes in the district in 2005 was 15 less than in 2004. The number of people injured in crashes decreased by 19 to 39 in 2005.

Car occupants accounted for 84 percent of casualties with motorcyclists (10 percent) and pedestrians (four percent) the next largest groups.

On urban roads, failure to give way and poor observation were the major contributing factors in crashes. On rural roads, drivers losing control of their vehicle was the most frequent type of crash. Poor driver skills such as vehicle handling, speed and alcohol were contributing factors in crashes.

The estimated social cost of crashes in the South Wairarapa District in 2005 was \$5.83 million, an overall decrease of \$5.47 million on the previous year.

The specific concerns for the South Wairarapa District are considered overleaf, while the performance in relation to national issues is considered on the back page.

### Major road safety issues

#### South Wairarapa District

Loss of control on bends

Speed

Motorcyclists

Driver skills

#### Nationally

Speed

Alcohol

Failure to give way

Restraints



### 2005 road trauma for South Wairarapa District



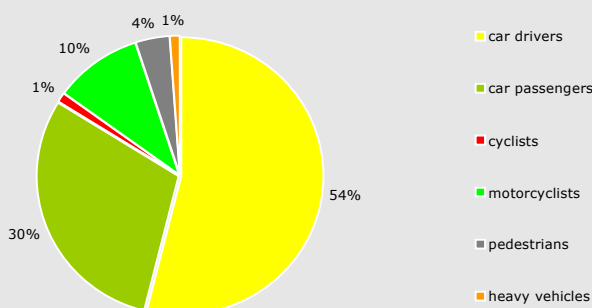
Deaths	0
Serious casualties	5
Minor casualties	34



Fatal crashes	0
Serious injury crashes	5
Minor injury crashes	21
Non-injury crashes	45

### Road casualties 2001–2005

#### User type 2001–2005



### Estimated social cost of crashes\*

#### Social cost (\$ million)

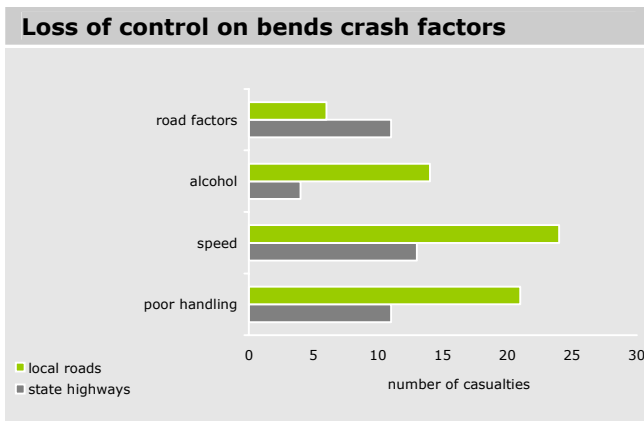


\* The estimated social cost includes loss of life or life quality (estimated by the amount New Zealanders are prepared to pay to reduce their risk of fatal or non-fatal injury), loss of output due to injuries, medical and rehabilitation costs, legal and court costs, and property damage. These costs are expressed at June 2005 prices.

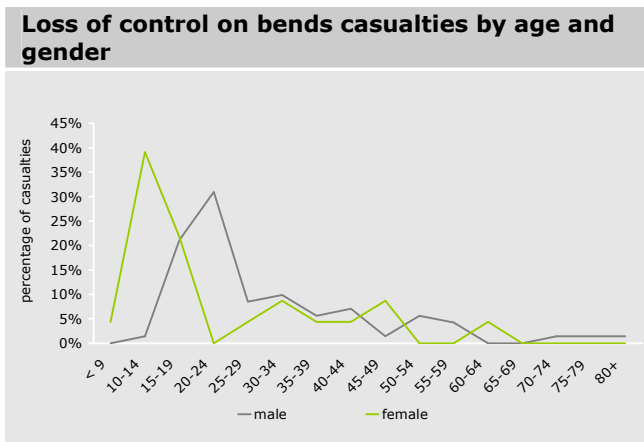
## Loss of control on bends

The most common type of crash between 2001 and 2005 in the South Wairarapa District involved drivers losing control of their vehicles. In rural areas, 73 percent of the injury crashes involving loss of control occurred on bends. In urban areas, the percentage of this type of crash was lower at 17 percent. The percentage of crashes in rural areas was substantially higher when compared with similar authorities and all New Zealand.

Speed, poor handling, road factors and alcohol were contributing factors in rural loss of control crashes. Speed was a factor in 47 percent, poor handling in 39 percent, road factors in 24 percent and alcohol in 21 percent of these injury crashes. Road factors included slippery road due to rain, oil spills or loose metal.



Seventy-two percent of the vehicles involved were cars, 14 percent involved vans or utility vehicles and six percent involved motorcycles. Seventy-five percent of the drivers were men and 52 percent of these drivers were aged between 15 to 24 years. Twenty-five percent of drivers involved held either a learner or a restricted licence.

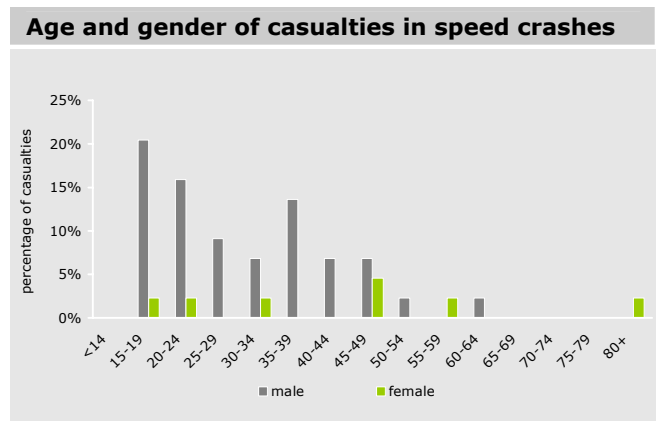


Striking a roadside object increases the severity of loss of control crashes. Apart from another vehicle, the most common objects struck were fences (25 percent), posts or poles (16 percent) or trees (13 percent).

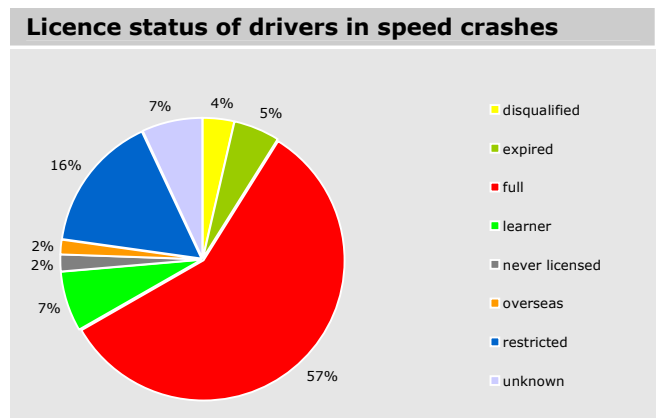
## Speed

Travelling at a speed too fast for the conditions was a significant factor in rural crashes between 2001 and 2005. It contributed to 36 rural crashes (26 percent) and six urban crashes (four percent). These percentages are well above the level experienced in similar authorities and in New Zealand as a whole. The number of speed-related crashes was lowest in 2005 (four crashes only).

Excessive speed caused 90 percent of loss of control crashes on bends. Seventy-eight percent of the vehicles involved were cars followed by 20 percent each for vans and motorcycles. The majority of the crashes occurred on local roads.



Eighty-four percent of the drivers involved in these crashes were male. Males aged 15 to 24 were involved in 38 percent of the crashes. Forty-three percent of males involved were local residents. Twenty-three percent of these male drivers held a learner or restricted licence.

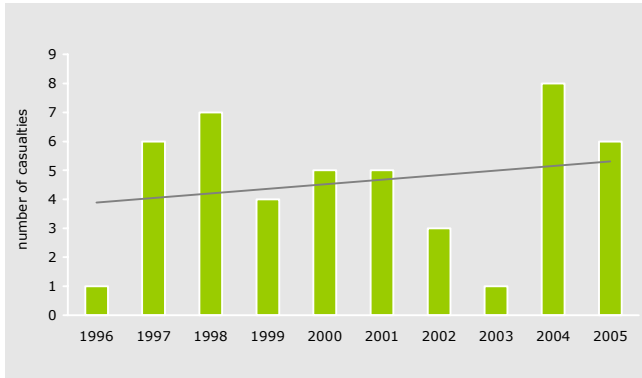


Fifty-nine percent of speed-related crashes happened on weekends. Thirty-four percent occurred in the dark and a similar percentage occurred in wet road conditions.

## Motorcyclists

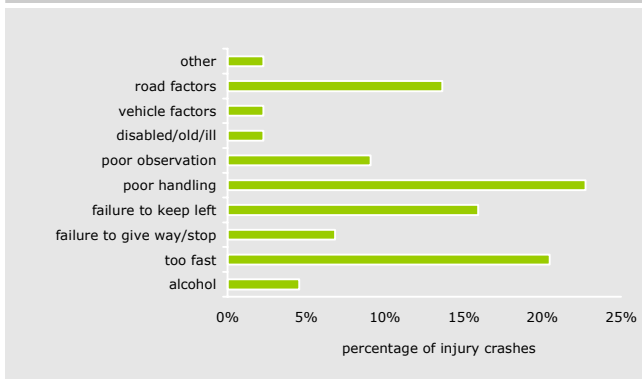
Between 2001 and 2005, 21 motorcyclists were injured in the South Wairarapa District, accounting for 15 percent of total injury crashes. This was higher than percentages in similar authorities and all of New Zealand. In the past 10 years there has been an upward trend in motorcyclist casualties.

### Motorcyclist casualties 1996–2005



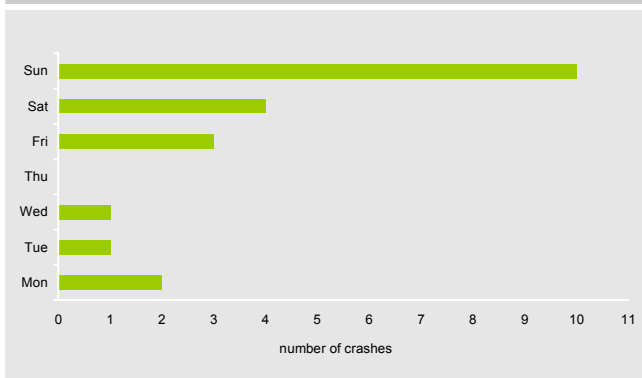
Seventy-six percent of the crashes occurred on rural roads with the majority (63 percent) occurring on rural state highways. Poor vehicle handling, speed and road factors were the biggest contributors in these crashes.

### Motorcyclist crash factors



The drivers involved in these crashes were predominantly male (90 percent) and over half were aged between 25 to 44. Over 70 percent of crashes occurred on weekends with the majority between 12 pm and 6 pm and 16 percent of the drivers held a learner or restricted licence.

### Motorcyclist crashes by day of week

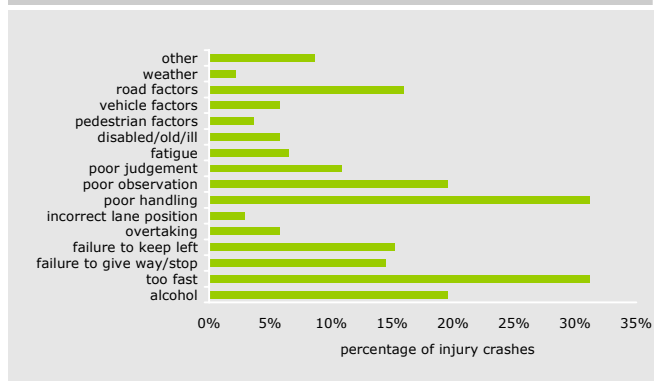


## Driver skills

Poor observation, poor handling, failure to give way or stop and failure to keep left were some of the contributing factors in urban and rural road crashes between 2001 and 2005. Sixty-five percent of injury crashes involved one or more of these factors.

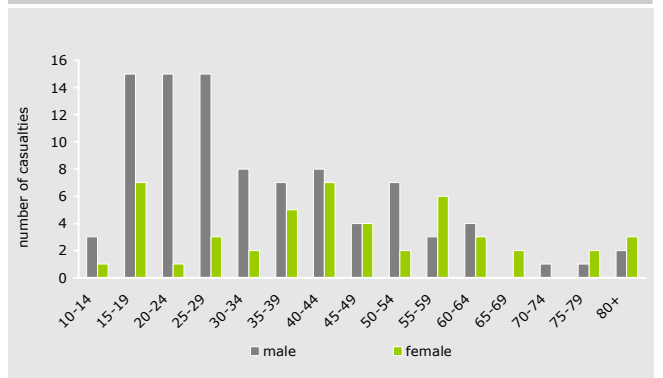
Poor observation resulted in 30 percent of both crossing/turning and loss of control crashes on bends. Examples of poor observation include inattention and not looking for other vehicles. Poor handling predominantly (86 percent) featured in loss of control crashes. Twenty-one percent of these crashes involved motorcyclists. Failure to give way or stop and failure to keep left featured in 20 percent and 15 percent of crashes respectively.

### Driver skill crash factors



Drivers exhibiting poor driver skills were predominantly male (64 percent). Thirty-eight percent of the drivers were in the 15–29 year age group. Sixteen percent of the drivers held a learner or restricted licence. Twenty percent of crashes occurred on wet roads and 26 percent during the hours of darkness.

### Age and gender of drivers 2001–2005



## National issues

### Alcohol

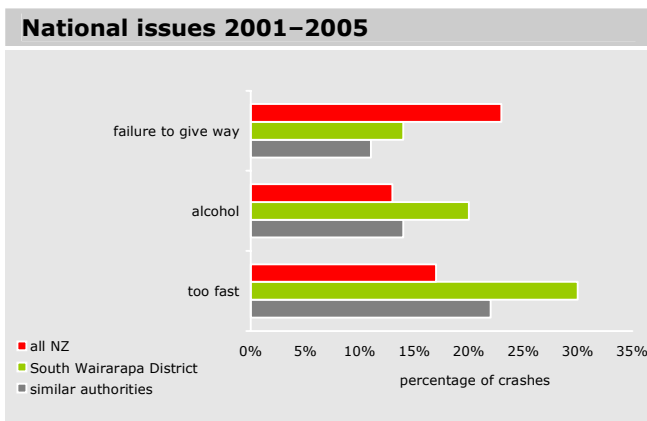
Drivers with a blood alcohol level over the legal limit (80 mg per 100 ml) are three times more likely to be involved in a crash than a sober driver.

Between 2001 and 2005, alcohol was a factor in 27 injury crashes. This comprised 20 percent of all injury crashes in the district, which was higher 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.

Twenty injury crashes in the South Wairarapa District involved vehicles failing to give way. This accounted for 14 percent of all crashes and was greater than in similar authorities and all of New Zealand in urban areas.



## Restraints

Wearing a safety belt reduces the chance of being killed or suffering serious injury in a crash by 40 percent.

In a 2005 national survey, 91 percent of front seat adults were wearing safety belts in the South Wairarapa District. This was lower than the New Zealand average of 95 percent.

## Contacts

### Land Transport New Zealand

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

### Road Safety Coordinator

Ruth Locker  
Masterton District Council  
PO Box 444  
Masterton  
Phone 06 378 9666

### Territorial Local Authority

Ravi Mangar  
PO Box 6  
Martinborough  
Phone 06 306 9611

### New Zealand Police

Road Policing Manager  
Wellington Central  
Cnr Victoria and Harris Streets  
PO Box 693  
Wellington  
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](http://www.landtransport.govt.nz)