

briefing notes - road safety issues

Timaru 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 Timaru District.

This report is the ninth road safety report for Timaru 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 Timaru 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

Timaru District

Loss of control

Intersections

2007 road trauma

Casualties

Timaru District

Deaths 6

Serious casualties 26

Minor casualties 117

Nationally

Speed

Alcohol

Failure to give way

Restraints

Crashes

Timaru District

Fatal crashes 6

Serious injury crashes 24

Minor injury crashes 85

Non-injury crashes 223

Overview

In 2007 on local roads in Timaru District there were 64 injury crashes and 137 non-injury crashes. In addition there were 51 injury crashes and 88 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 115 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	5	15	45	65
Urban	1	11	72	84
Total	6	26	117	149

The annual numbers of fatal and serious injury crashes in the district have fluctuated over the last ten years, and there is no obvious long term trend. The annual numbers of minor and non-injury crashes have generally increased from and has been over 300 in the last three years.

Crash trends				
Year	Fatal crashes	Serious injury crashes	Minor injury crashes	Non-injury crashes
1998	7	12	49	179
1999	5	17	49	205
2000	0	34	51	198
2001	4	24	58	189
2002	3	19	51	195
2003	5	20	53	221
2004	5	14	59	172
2005	2	19	65	244
2006	3	19	83	236
2007	6	24	85	225

Injury crashes 2003 - 2007

Crash type or contributory cause	Local Road Percent of injury crashes	Transit Road Percent of injury crashes
Alcohol	214%	16%
Too fast	23%	17%
Straight—lost control crash	25%	18%
Bend—lost control crash	13%	29%
Crossing / turning crash	33%	23%
Roadside hazard struck	44%	50%
Road factors	9%	10%
Vulnerable road users (Percent of casualties)	22%	12%
1, Pedestrians	5%	2%
2, Cyclists	8%	4%
3, Motorcyclists	9%	6%

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

- Worst month June
- Worst day Thursday
- 15 percent on wet roads
- 33 percent at night
- 44 percent at intersections
- Social cost of crashes in 2007 was \$29.9m

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

- Worst month March, April
- Worst day Saturday
- 18 percent on wet roads
- 29 percent at night
- 41 percent at intersections
- Social cost of crashes in 2007 was \$23.6m

Loss of Control

Between 2003 and 2007 35 percent of all crashes in Timaru District involved loss of control. These crashes resulted in 17 fatalities, 61 serious injuries and 198 minor injuries.

The number of injury crashes has risen in the last three years.

Loss of Control Crashes 2003 to 2007				
Crash year	Fatal crashes	Serious crashes	Minor crashes	Non-injury crashes
2003	1	11	19	73
2004	4	9	18	51
2005	1	11	26	74
2006	3	10	32	77
2007	4	12	32	77
Total	13	53	127	352

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 Timaru District were fences (35) poles (28), trees (18) and ditches (18) from a total of 167 objects struck.

Main characteristics of injury loss of control crashes	
Crash characteristic	Percentage of crashes
Bend	53%
Straight road	47%
Single vehicle	80%
Alcohol	26%
Excessive speed for the conditions	36%
Road factors	13%
Poor handling	38%
Rural road	66%
Wet road	22%
Night time	44%

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

- 11 deaths, 41 serious injuries and 108 minor injuries
- 69 percent of at fault drivers were male
- Most common crash type "Loss of control on bends"
- Most common age group 15-19 years
- 27 percent of crashes involved alcohol
- 46 percent of crashes involved speed
- Worst month August
- Worst day of week Saturday
- Worst time period 3 pm - 6 pm

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

- 6 deaths, 20 serious injuries and 90 minor injuries
- 67 percent of at fault drivers were male
- Most common crash type "Lost control on straight road"
- Most common age group 15-19 and 30-39 years
- 26 percent of crashes involved alcohol
- 24 percent of crashes involved speed
- Worst month August
- Worst day of week Friday and Saturday
- Worst time period 3 pm - 6 pm

Intersections

In Timaru District during the period 2003 to 2007 there were 206 injury crashes at intersections and 452 non-injury crashes. In these crashes, 3 people died, 47 received serious injuries and 239 received minor injuries.

83 percent of these crashes were in urban areas of the district. These crashes make up 53 percent of all urban crashes. There were 117 intersection crashes in rural areas of the District.

Junction type Injury and Non-injury crashes		
Junction Type	Urban	Rural
Roundabout	20	0
Tee	326	78
Cross (X)	225	37
Multi leg	3	2
Total	547	117

Over the last five years the number of injury crashes at intersections has risen,

Crashes at Intersections					
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Injury crash	34	31	40	52	49
Non-injury crash	83	75	109	97	88
Total	117	106	149	149	137

The most common intersection crash is one when two drivers crossing each others paths at right angles. The second most common crash is when a driver turns right at an intersection and is hit by a vehicle approaching from the opposite direction.

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

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

Locations with high crash numbers

Intersection name	Total crashes 2003-2006	Total 2007
Evans Street / Wai-iti Road	11	5
Evans Street / Ranui Avenue	13	3
Theodosia Street / North Street	15	0
Theodosia Street / Sophia Street	7	5
Evans Street / Grasmere Street	9	2
North Street / Woodlands Road	8	2

These locations are listed regardless of work done.

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

- 3 deaths, 30 serious injuries and 147 minor injuries
- 11 percent involved alcohol
- 23 percent involved speed
- 14 percent wet roads
- 22 percent night time
- Worst month May
- Worst day of week Thursday
- Worst time 3 pm - 6 pm

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

- No deaths, 17 serious injuries and 90 minor injuries
- 8 percent involved alcohol
- 17 percent involved speed
- 13 percent wet roads
- 21 percent night time
- Worst month January
- Worst day of week Thursday
- Worst time 9 am - midday

National issues

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

Speed

In Timaru District, "Too fast" was recorded in 93 fatal and injury crashes in the district in the last five years resulting in 9 deaths and 133 injuries. Speed as a factor in crashes is not reducing in the district.

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

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

Alcohol

In Timaru District, alcohol was involved in 64 fatal and injury crashes in the district in the last five years resulting in 3 deaths, and 87 other injuries. The number of injury crashes involving alcohol is not reducing.

65 percent of all alcohol crashes were in urban areas of the district. 43 percent were Lost control on a bend. Speed was the other factor often associated with alcohol in injury crashes.

72 percent of at fault drivers in these injury crashes were males. All ages of these drivers were represented.

Failure to give way

In Timaru District, failure to give way or stop was reported in 126 fatal and injury crashes during the last five years resulting in 2 deaths and 174 other injuries.

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

54 percent of at fault drivers in these injury crashes were males. The most common ages of these drivers were between the ages of 15 to 19 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/>

Contact details

Land Transport New Zealand
Geoff Holland
Manager Performance Information, Southern
PO Box 13364
Christchurch
Phone 03 964 2845

Road Safety Coordinator:
Daniel Naude
PO Box 522
Timaru
Phone 03 687 7200

Timaru District Council:
Andrew Dixon
2 King George Place
PO Box 522
Timaru
03 687 7284

New Zealand Police:
Derek Erasmus
Road Policing Manager
PO Box 2109
Christchurch
Phone 03 363 7417