



briefing notes - road safety issues

East Waikato

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 identify possible ways to reduce the number of road deaths and injuries in the East Waikato area. In this report the East Waikato area includes Thames-Coromandel, Hauraki and Matamata-Piako district councils.

This report is the ninth road safety report for the East Waikato area. All the material in this report unless otherwise stated applies to local roads and 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 for any local body 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 the East Waikato area is compared to similar local bodies or those with high social cost (high numbers of fatal and serious crashes mainly).

We encourage local authorities to use the Ministry of Transport's Crash Analysis System (CAS) to further investigate the highlighted issues.

Major Road Safety Issues

East Waikato

Intersections
Alcohol
Speed
Bends – Loss of Control

Nationally

Speed
Alcohol
Failure to give way
Restraints

2007 road trauma

Casualties

Deaths	28
Serious casualties	61
Minor casualties	277

Crashes

Fatal crashes	24
Serious injury crashes	46
Minor injury crashes	193
Non-injury crashes	506

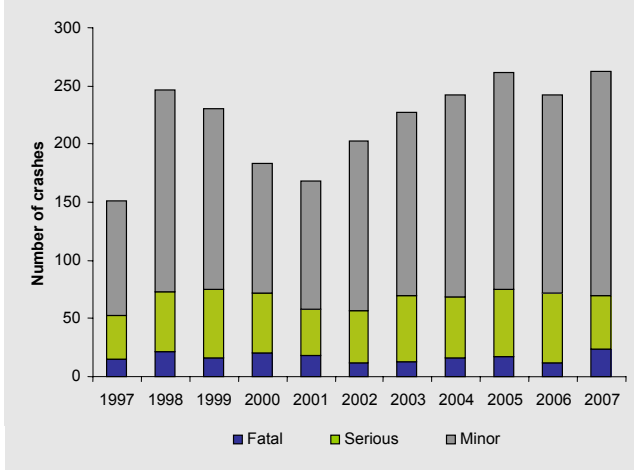
Overview of 2007

In 2007 on local roads in the East Waikato area there were 93 injury crashes and 206 non-injury crashes; in addition there were 170 injury crashes and 300 non-injury crashes on Transit NZ roads, as reported by the New Zealand Police.

The table below shows the number of injuries resulting from 2007 crashes by rural or urban areas, for both local and Transit roads (rural is defined as an area with a speed limit of 80km/h or more).

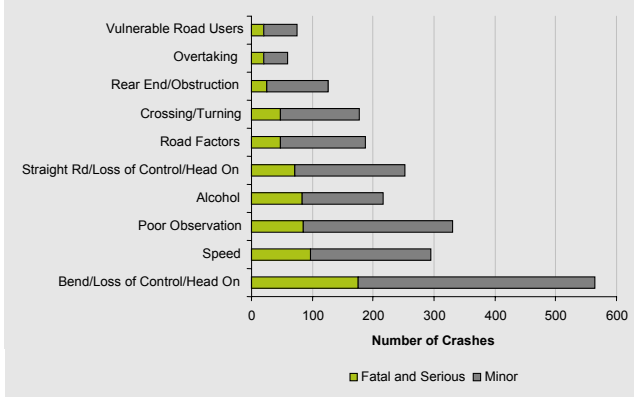
	Fatalities	Serious injuries	Minor injuries	Total
Rural	22	49	224	295
Urban	6	12	53	71
Total	28	61	277	366

East Waikato injury crashes 1997 - 2007



Numbers of fatal crashes in the district have been fluctuating over the last 10 years and have doubled between 2006 and 2007.

Main crash characteristics 2003 - 2007



Local road fatal and serious crashes		
Crash type or contributory cause 2003-2007	Percentage fatal and serious crashes of this type or contributory cause	Percentage all injury crashes of this type or contributory cause
Alcohol	33	23
Too fast	37	27
At bends	48	39
At intersections	23	45
Vulnerable road users		
1. Pedestrians	8	7
2. Cyclists	4	3
3. Motorcyclists	18	8
Roadside hazard struck	61	55
Road factors	14	14
Night time	39	35
Loss of control	65	61

Further information about 2007 injury and non-injury crashes on local roads in East Waikato:

- Worst month January, best June
- Worst day Wednesday, best Sunday
- 25 percent wet road
- 37 percent night time
- 68 percent midblock
- 57 percent of at fault drivers are male (injury crashes)
- Social cost of crashes in 2007 \$54m

Further information about 2007 injury and non injury crashes on Transit NZ roads in East Waikato:

- Worst month December, best May
- Worst day Friday, best Monday
- 32 percent wet road
- 25 percent night time
- 77 percent midblock
- 70 percent of at fault drivers are male (injury crashes)
- Social cost of crashes in 2007 \$103m

Speed

Nationally, speed is one of the major contributing factors to road crashes. For the 12 months to the end of December 2007, excessive speed contributed to around 33 percent of fatal crashes and 18 percent of injury crashes.

During 2007, there were 2103 injury crashes where the driver was travelling too fast for conditions.

Reducing speeds to appropriate levels is an important road safety goal. Excessive speed increases the likelihood of a crash occurring by reducing the time available for drivers to respond to hazardous situations and it also leads to more serious injuries. Research has shown that a one km/h reduction in mean speed can produce up to a three percent reduction in injury crashes.

In the East Waikato area, excessive speed was a factor in 26 percent of injury crashes in 2007.

There were 295 speed related injury crashes reported in the last five years

Speed related injury crashes	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Urban	12	5	17	8	8
Rural	40	50	39	56	60
Total	52	55	56	64	68

Males represented 74 percent of at fault drivers in speed related injury crashes.

Drivers at fault or part fault in speed related injury crashes (2002-2007) *	Male	Female	Total
15- 19 years	66	24	90
20 - 24	34	17	51
25 - 29	25	6	31
30 - 39	35	15	50
40 - 49	36	5	41
50 - 59	11	5	16
60 - 69	7	4	11
70+	3	0	3
Total	217	76	293

* (note ranges are not equal)

Further information about speed related injury crashes (2003 to 2007) on local roads in East Waikato:

- 10 deaths, 34 serious injuries, 126 minor injuries
- 77 percent of at fault drivers were male
- Most common crash type, Bend – loss of control/head on
- 78 percent at midblock
- 30 percent wet road
- 43 percent night time
- Worst month March, best September
- Worst day of week Saturday, best Monday

Further information about speed related injury crashes (2003 to 2007) on Transit NZ roads in East Waikato:

- 26 deaths, 53 serious injuries, 200 minor injuries
- 72 percent of at fault drivers were male
- Most common crash type Bend – loss control/head on
- 90 percent midblock
- 48 percent wet road
- 36 percent night time
- Worst month February, best September
- Worst day of week Saturday, best Tuesday

Intersections

Crashes at intersections are the most common crash type in urban areas of the East Waikato.

During the five year period 2003 to 2007 there were 294 injury crashes at intersections and 726 non-injury crashes. In these 17 people died, 73 received serious injuries and 355 received minor injuries.

Intersection crashes	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Injury crash	63	65	55	55	56
Non-injury crash	142	142	146	147	149
Total	205	207	201	202	205

The table below shows the locations of the five intersections with the highest number of crashes in the East Waikato between 2003 and 2007.

Intersection name	Total crashes 2003 - 2007	Injury crashes 2003 - 2007	Total crashes in 2007
SH25/SH26	27	13	9
SH2/SH 25	16	6	-
SH25/Kenny Street	15	4	4
MacKay Street/ Richmond Street	13	2	1
SH 27/Hinuera Road	13	3	1

Crashes at Tee junctions in urban areas are the most common type of intersection crash reported, followed by crashes at Tee junctions in rural areas.

Junction type	Rural	Urban
Roundabout	3	27
Tee	254	336
Cross (X)	84	231
Y	20	31
Other (includes driveways)	11	22

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

- Failure to stop and give way
- Poor Observation
- Alcohol

The most common crash is one when a driver fails to give way and crosses the path of a vehicle coming at a right angle to them. The second most common crash is when a driver turns right at an intersection and is hit by a vehicle approaching from the right.

Further information about injury crashes at intersections (2003 to 2007) on local roads in East Waikato:

- 4 deaths, 25 serious injuries, 137 minor injuries
- 66 percent of at fault drivers were male
- 25 percent involved alcohol
- 19 percent wet roads
- 30 percent night time
- Worst month December, best July
- Worst day of week Saturday, best Tuesday

Further information about injury crashes at intersections (2003 to 2007) on Transit NZ roads in East Waikato:

- 13 deaths, 48 serious injuries, 218 minor injuries
- 63 percent of at fault drivers were male
- 12 percent involved alcohol
- 21 percent wet roads
- 31 percent night time
- Worst month November, best June
- Worst day of week Sunday, best Monday

Drink Driving

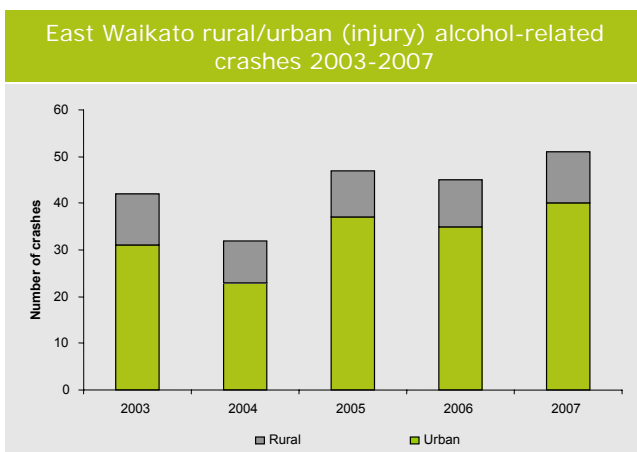
Alcohol affects the way people drive. Studies show that the risk of being involved in a crash increases rapidly as a driver's blood alcohol level rises. A driver over the legal limit (80mg of alcohol per 100ml of blood) is three times more likely to be involved in a crash than a sober driver.

Contrary to popular opinion, people with high blood alcohol levels are more likely to be injured or killed in a crash than sober drivers in the same crash and if injured, they are also more likely to encounter complications in their recovery.

In New Zealand for the 12 months to December 2007, alcohol-affected drivers contributed to 34 percent of all fatal crashes and 15 percent of all injury crashes.

In the East Waikato area alcohol was a factor in 18 percent of injury crashes in 2007, a slight decrease from 2006.

There were 217 alcohol-related injury crashes reported in the last five years.



Key locations

The following provides a breakdown of the key locations in the East Waikato area at which drink-driving crashes occurred during the 2003 to 2007 period.

East Waikato
SH 25, 500m north of Tiki Quarry Road
SH 26, 2000m east of Piako Road
SH 26, 200m south of Hubbard Road
SH 25, 1200m south of Wade Road
Pollen Street / Pahau Street intersection

Further information about alcohol related injury crashes (2003 to 2007) on local roads in East Waikato:

- 10 deaths, 29 serious injuries, 95 minor injuries
- 83 percent of at fault drivers were male
- 69 percent midblock
- 36 percent urban
- 27 percent wet road
- 84 percent night time
- Worst month November, best October
- Worst day of week Saturday, best Monday

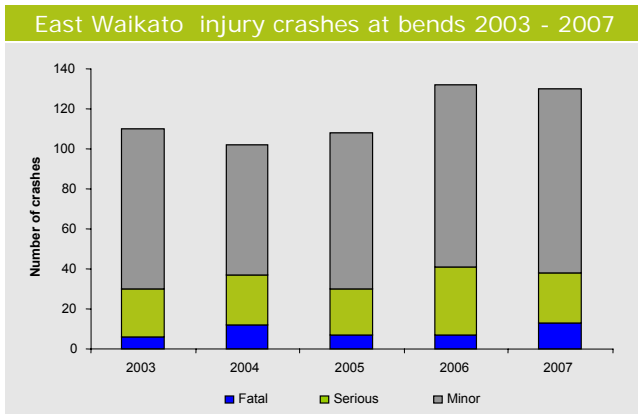
Further information about alcohol related injury crashes (2003 to 2007) on Transit NZ roads in East Waikato:

- 14 deaths, 42 serious injuries, 101 minor injuries
- 76 percent of at fault drivers were male
- 83 percent midblock
- 13 percent urban
- 28 percent wet road
- 72 percent night time
- Worst month September, best December
- Worst day of week Saturday, best Monday

Crashes at Bends

Between 2003 and 2007, 47 percent of all injury crashes in the East Waikato area occurred at bends. These crashes resulted in 57 fatalities, 172 serious injuries and 567 minor injuries.

Crash numbers rose between 2004 and 2006 but declined slightly in 2007.



Most crashes at bends involved a driver losing control of their vehicle and either running off the road, or colliding with another vehicle.

After drivers lose control, their vehicles they often crash into roadside hazards, such as ditches, banks, poles and 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 East Waikato were banks (129), fences (97) and ditches (77) from a total of 534 objects struck.

The following table lists the main characteristics of these crashes.

Crash characteristic	Crashes
Single vehicle	75 percent
Alcohol	22 percent
Excessive speed for the conditions	43 percent
Road factors	23 percent
Poor handling	32 percent
Rural road	87 percent
Wet road	40 percent
Night time	35 percent

Further information about injury crashes on bends (2003 to 2007) on local roads in East Waikato:

- 8 deaths, 47 serious injuries, 167 minor injuries
- 72 percent of at fault drivers were male
- Most common crash type: Too fast for conditions causing loss of control
- Most common age group 15-19 years
- 32 percent of crashes involved alcohol
- Worst month January, best October
- Worst day of week Friday, best Monday
- Worst time period, 3 – 6pm

Further information about injury crashes on bends (2003 to 2007) on Transit NZ roads in East Waikato:

- 49 deaths, 125 serious injuries, 400 minor injuries
- 71 of at fault drivers were male
- Most common crash type: Too fast for conditions causing loss of control
- Most common age group 30-39 years
- 18 percent of crashes involved alcohol
- Worst month January, best May
- Worst day of week Sunday, best Tuesday
- Worst time period, 3 - 6pm

Loss of Control

Between 2003 and 2007 64 percent of all injury crashes in the East Waikato area involved loss of control. These crashes resulted in 73 fatalities, 241 serious injuries and 844 minor injuries.

Crash numbers have fluctuated over the past 5 years.

Loss of Control Crashes				
Crash year	Fatal crashes	Serious crashes	Minor crashes	Total
2003	8	38	98	144
2004	13	36	101	150
2005	13	40	125	178
2006	9	42	112	163
2007	16	32	134	182
Total	59	188	570	817

Most loss of control crashes involved a driver losing control of their vehicle and either running off the road or colliding with another vehicle.

After drivers lose control their vehicles often crash into roadside hazards such as ditches, banks, poles and 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 East Waikato were cliffs or banks (155), fences (148), ditches (146) and from a total of 788 objects struck.

Main characteristics of loss of control injury crashes	
Crash characteristic	Percentage of crashes
Bend	69
Straight road	31
Single vehicle	76
Alcohol	22
Excessive speed for the conditions	33
Road factors	19
Poor handling	29
Rural road	87
Wet road	34
Night time	35

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

- 16 deaths, 70 serious injuries, 260 minor injuries
- 70 percent of at fault drivers were male
- Most common crash type, Bend – loss of control/head on
- Most common age group 15-19 years
- 30 percent involved alcohol
- Worst month January, best October
- Worst day of week Friday, best Tuesday

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

- 57 deaths, 171 serious injuries, 583 minor injuries
- 69 percent of at fault drivers were male
- Most common crash type, Bend – loss of control/head on
- Most common age group 30-29 years
- 18 percent involved alcohol
- Worst month January, best May
- Worst day of week Saturday, best Tuesday

Partnerships

Land Transport NZ works closely with many road safety partners at national, regional and local levels. These include government departments, enforcement agencies, territorial local authorities, health authorities and local service providers.

Some of the key road safety partners in the East Waikato area include:

New Zealand Police

Waikato District Road Policing Manager
Inspector Leo Tooman
PO Box 3078
Hamilton
Phone 07 850 7063

Road Safety Co-ordinator

East Waikato Area
To be appointed

Local Authority Engineers

Matamata-Piako District Council
Neville Boag
P O Box 266
Te Aroha
Phone 07 884 0060

Hauraki District Council
Gene Thomsen
P O Box 17
Paeroa
Phone 07 862 8609

Thames-Coromandel District Council
Steve Bremner
Private Bag
Thames
Phone 07 868 6025

Transit New Zealand Area Engineer

Alan Burkett
P O Box 973
Hamilton
Phone 07 957 1610

Accident Compensation Corporation

Injury Prevention Consultant
Lisa Taylor
P O Box 952
Hamilton
Phone 07 957 5826

Contacts

Land Transport New Zealand

Rosalie Orr
Partnership Manager - Midlands
See contact details at end.

Andrew McKillop
Manager Programmes – Waikato/Bay of Plenty/Taranaki
See contact details at end.



Midland Regional Office
183 Collingwood Street
Private Bag 3081
HAMILTON

Telephone 07 958 7840
Fax 07 958 7866

www.landtransport.govt.nz