



briefing notes - road safety issues

Waimate District

New Zealand Transport Agency has prepared this road safety issues report. It is based on reported crash data and trends for the 2004–2008 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 Waimate District.

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 Waimate 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 Waimate District to delve deeper into the highlighted issues, and other road safety issues in the District. Contact the NZTA Christchurch Performance Information team for additional information from the Ministry of Transport's Crash Analysis System (CAS). All data and maps in this note are from CAS.

Major road safety issues

Waimate District

Straight Road—Loss of control / Head-on

Bend—Loss of control / Head on

Fatigue

2008 road trauma

Casualties

Waimate District

Deaths 3

Serious casualties 8

Minor casualties 18

Nationally

Speed

Alcohol

Failure to give way

Restraints

Crashes

Fatal crashes

Serious injury crashes

Minor injury crashes

Non-injury crashes

Waimate District

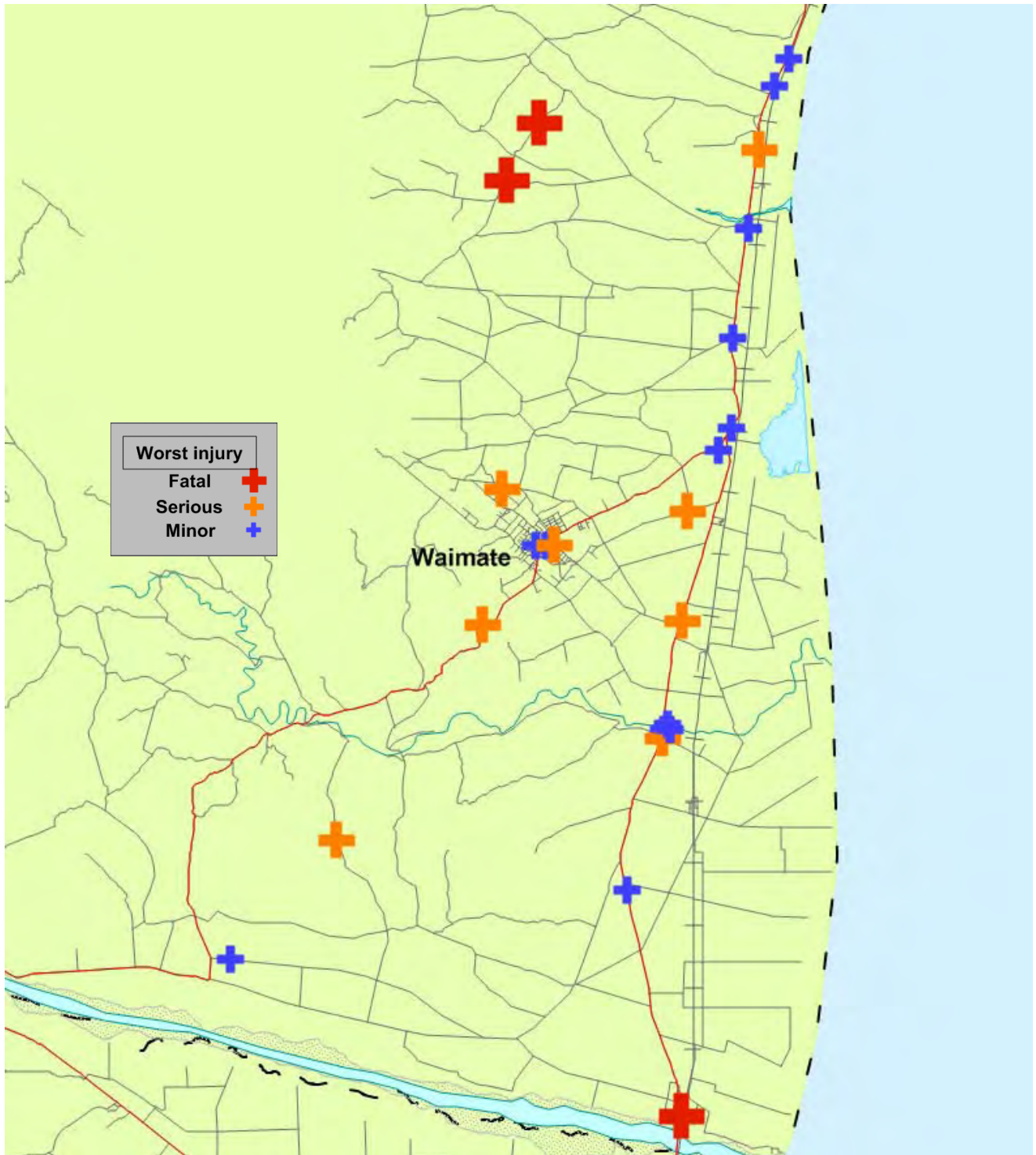
3

8

13

45

Fatal and injury crashes
Waimate District
2008



Overview

In 2008 on local roads in Waimate District there were 8 injury crashes and 12 non-injury crashes. In addition there were 16 injury crashes and 33 non-injury crashes on State Highways both as reported by the New Zealand Police.

The table below shows the number of injuries resulting from the 24 injury crashes by rural or urban areas for local roads (rural is defined as an area with a speed limit of 80km/h or more).

Casualties by urban / rural 2008

| | Fatalities | Serious injuries | Minor injuries | Total |
|-------|------------|------------------|----------------|-------|
| Rural | 3 | 7 | 15 | 25 |
| Urban | 0 | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| Total | 3 | 8 | 18 | 29 |

All fatalities, and more than eight of every ten casualties from crashes in Waimate District were from crashes in rural areas of the district.

The number of deaths in 2008 was equal to the highest in the ten year period. In 2007 the total number of injury crashes was the highest in the last ten years. These were mostly minor injury crashes. In 2008 numbers dropped.

Crash trends in Waimate District

| Year | Fatal Crashes | Serious Crashes | Minor Crashes | Total Crashes |
|------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1999 | 1 | 6 | 13 | 20 |
| 2000 | 0 | 9 | 11 | 20 |
| 2001 | 1 | 10 | 12 | 23 |
| 2002 | 2 | 5 | 12 | 19 |
| 2003 | 1 | 4 | 12 | 17 |
| 2004 | 3 | 11 | 13 | 27 |
| 2005 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 19 |
| 2006 | 0 | 2 | 12 | 14 |
| 2007 | 2 | 8 | 26 | 36 |
| 2008 | 3 | 8 | 13 | 24 |

Injury crashes 2004 to 2008

| Crash type or contributory cause 2004 to 2008 | Local road Percentage injury crashes | State Highway Percentage of injury crashes |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| Alcohol | 21 | 17 |
| Too fast | 24 | 14 |
| At bends | 45 | 29 |
| At intersections | 29 | 19 |

Vulnerable road users - casualties

| Road user type | Local road Percentage of all casualties | State Highway Percentage of all casualties |
|-------------------------|---|--|
| Pedestrians | 0 | 0 |
| Cyclists | 5 | 1 |
| Motorcycles | 14 | 4 |
| Total vulnerable | 19 | 5 |

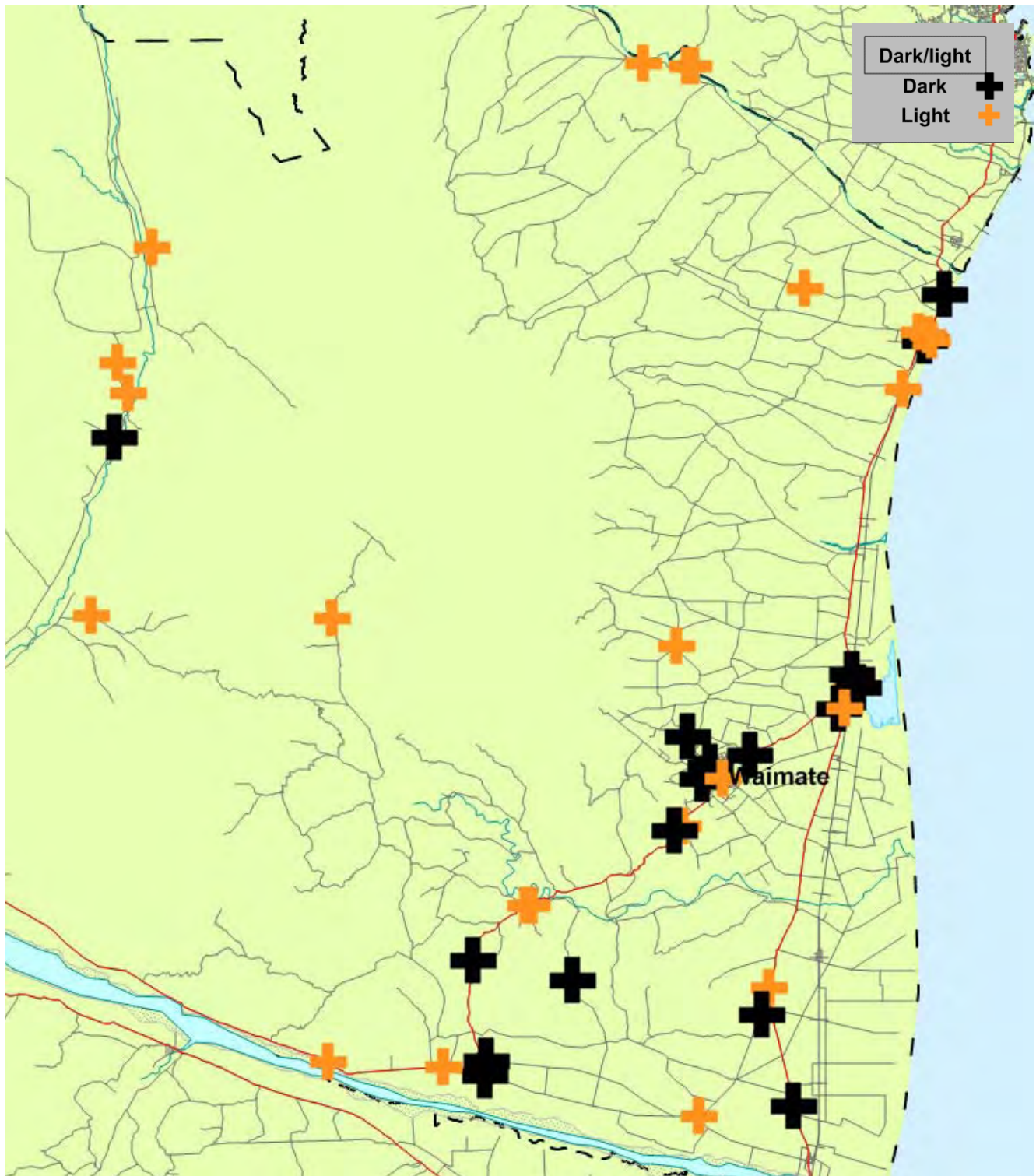
Further information about 2004 to 2008 injury crashes on local roads in Waimate District :

- Worst month April, May
- Worst day Saturday
- 10 percent on wet or icy roads
- 33 percent at night
- 29 percent at intersections
- 26 roadside objects struck
- Social cost of crashes in 2008 \$11.1 m

Further information about 2004 to 2008 injury crashes on State Highways in Waimate District :

- Worst month May, June
- Worst day Saturday
- 21 percent on wet or icy roads
- 33 percent at night
- 19 percent at intersections
- 53 roadside objects struck
- Social cost of crashes in 2008 \$9 m

Injury bend - loss of control or head on crashes
Waimate District
2004 - 2008



Bend - loss of control or head on

Between 2004 and 2008 35 percent of all injury crashes in Waimate District were bend - loss of control or head on. These 42 crashes resulted in 3 fatalities, 21 serious injuries and 45 minor injuries.

Crash numbers rose in 2007 and fell again in 2008.

| Crashes at bends 2004 to 2008 | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|-------|
| Crash year | Fatal crashes | Serious crashes | Minor crashes | Total |
| 2004 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 11 |
| 2005 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| 2006 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| 2007 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 13 |
| 2008 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Total | 3 | 18 | 21 | 42 |

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 most common roadside hazards struck in injury loss of control or head on crashes on bends in Waimate District were fences (11), cliff or bank (6), posts or poles (4) and trees (4) from a total of 35 objects struck.

| Main characteristics of injury lost control or head on crashes at bends | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Crash characteristic | Percentage of crashes |
| Single vehicle | 83 |
| Alcohol | 24 |
| Excessive speed for the conditions | 38 |
| Road factors | 24 |
| Poor handling | 60 |
| Rural road | 83 |
| Wet or icy road | 24 |
| Night time | 40 |

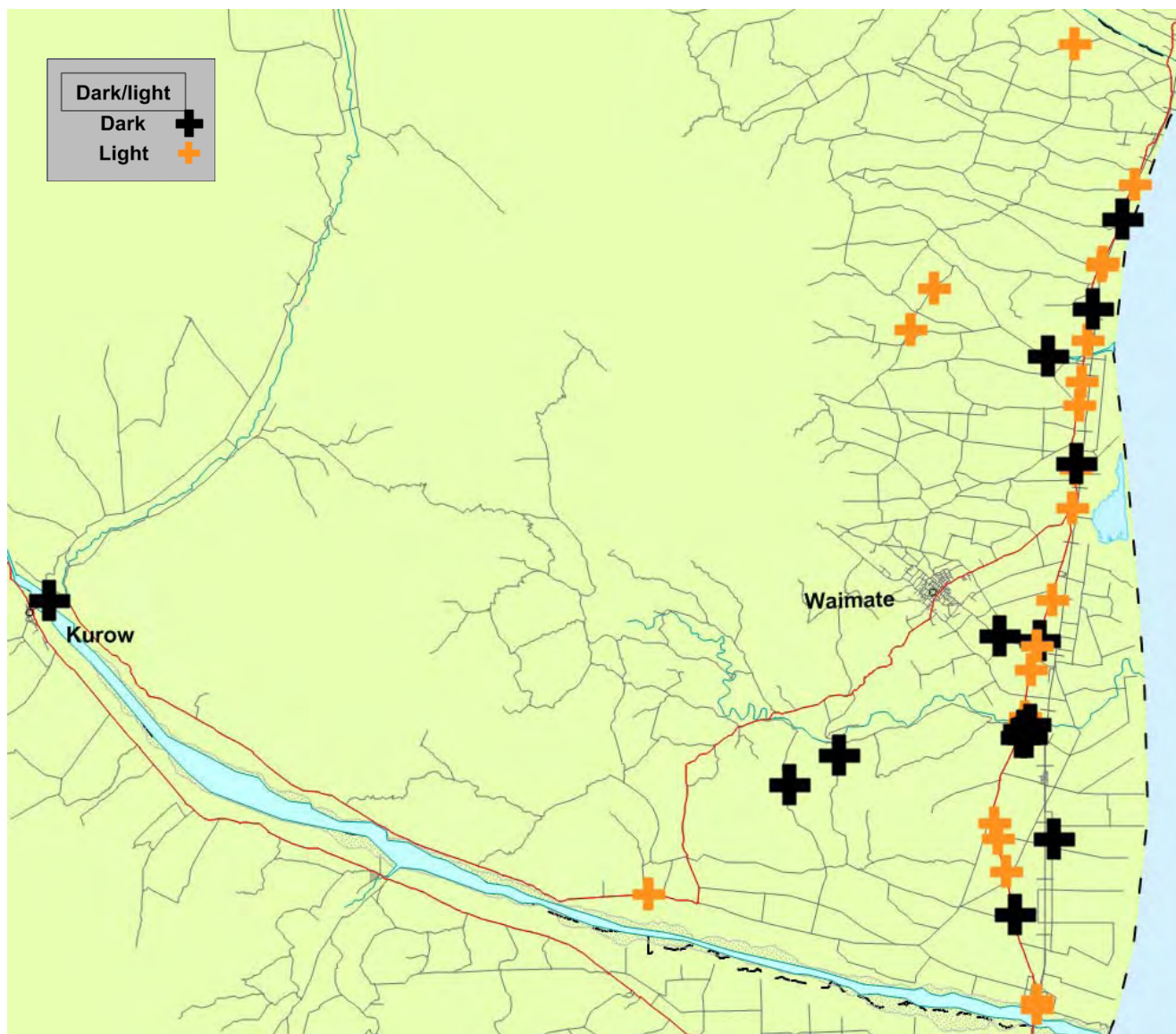
Further information about the 19 injury bend - loss of control or head on crashes (2004 to 2009) on local roads in Waimate District :

- 1 death, 11 serious injuries and 22 minor injuries
- 90 percent of at fault drivers were male
- Most common at fault driver age groups 20 - 24 years and 30 - 39 years (50 percent of all at fault drivers)
- 26 percent of crashes involved alcohol
- 37 percent of crashes involved speed too fast for the conditions
- Worst month October
- Worst day of week Saturday
- Worst time Midday till 6 pm

Further information about the 23 injury bend - loss of control or head on crashes (2004 to 2008) on State Highways in Waimate District:

- 2 deaths, 10 serious injuries and 23 minor injuries
- 65 percent of at fault drivers were male
- Most common at fault driver age group 15 - 19 years (26 percent of at fault drivers)
- 22 percent of crashes involved alcohol
- 39 percent of crashes involved speed too fast for the conditions
- Worst month March
- Worst day of week Saturday, Sunday
- Worst time midnight to 3 am

Injury straight road - loss of control or head on crashes
Waimate District
2004 - 2008



Straight road -loss of control or head on

Between 2004 and 2008 31 percent of all injury crashes in Waimate District were straight road - loss of control or head on crashes. These 37 crashes resulted in 6 fatalities, 15 serious injuries and 37 minor injuries.

Injury Straight road - loss of control or head on crashes 2004 to 2008

| Crash year | Fatal crashes | Serious crashes | Minor crashes |
|------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 2004 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 2005 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 2006 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| 2007 | 0 | 1 | 11 |
| 2008 | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| Total | 6 | 8 | 23 |

Most of these crashes occurred when a driver lost control of their vehicle and either ran off the road or collided 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 most common roadside hazards struck in injury crashes in Waimate District were fence (14), poles or posts (6) and ditch (6) from a total of 37 objects struck.

Main characteristics of injury straight road - loss of control or head on crashes 2004 to 2008

| Crash characteristic | Percentage of crashes |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Single vehicle | 70 |
| Alcohol | 24 |
| Excessive speed for the conditions | 5 |
| Road factors | 16 |
| Poor handling | 27 |
| Rural road | 100 |
| Wet or icy road | 16 |
| Night time | 41 |

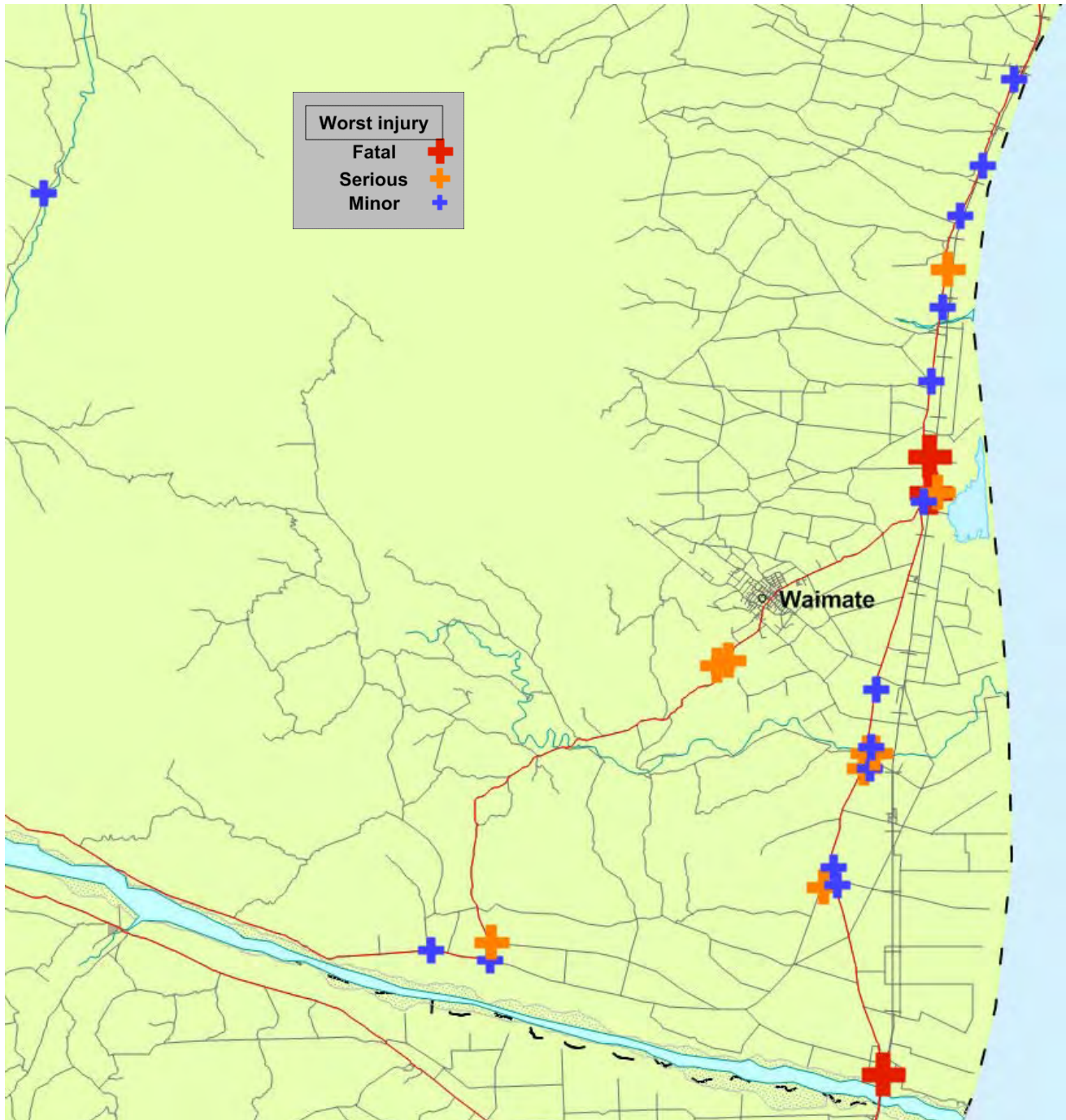
Further information about the 8 injury straight road - loss of control or head on crashes on (2008 to 2008) on local roads in Waimate District:

- 2 deaths, 2 serious injuries and 9 minor injuries
- 78 percent of at fault drivers were male
- Most common crash type "off road to left"
- Most common at fault driver age group 15 to 19 years
- 38 percent of crashes involved alcohol
- 13 percent of crashes involved speed
- 63 percent involved "road factors"
- No crashes involved fatigue
- 25 percent in wet or icy conditions
- 63 percent at night
- Worst month May
- Worst day of week Friday, Sunday
- Worst time period Midnight to 3 am, 3 pm to 9 pm

Further information about the 29 injury straight road - loss of control or head on crashes on (2004 to 2008) on State Highways in Waimate District:

- 4 deaths, 13 serious injuries and 28 minor injuries
- 58 percent of at fault drivers were female
- Most common crash type "off road to left"
- Most common at fault driver age group 20 to 24 years
- 21 percent of crashes involved alcohol
- 3 percent of crashes involved speed
- 3 percent involved "road factors"
- 59 percent involved fatigue
- 14 percent in wet or icy conditions
- 34 percent at night
- Worst month May, June
- Worst day of week Saturday
- Worst time period 3 pm to 6 pm

Fatigue related injury crashes
Waimate District
2004 - 2008



Fatigue

Fatigue is a condition that can occur long before a driver falls asleep. It has a negative impact on reaction time, the ability to concentrate, and a driver's general understanding of the prevailing road and traffic conditions. In New Zealand in 2008 fatigued drivers were reported as contributing to 12 percent of all fatal crashes and 6 percent of all injury crashes.

In Waimate District in 2008, fatigue was reported as a factor in 22 percent of fatal and injury crashes in 2008. These crashes resulted in 3 deaths, 11 people with serious injuries and 21 with minor injuries.

Number of fatigue related injury crashes

| Crash year | Rural road | Urban road | Total |
|--------------|------------|------------|-----------|
| 2004 | 6 | 0 | 6 |
| 2005 | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| 2006 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2007 | 6 | 1 | 7 |
| 2008 | 8 | 0 | 8 |
| Total | 25 | 1 | 26 |

(Rural road is defined as any area with a speed limit of 80km/hr or more)

Age and sex of at fault drivers in fatigue related injury crashes 2004 - 2008

| Drivers age * | Male | Female | Total |
|---------------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| 15-19 years | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| 20 - 24 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| 25 - 29 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| 30 - 39 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| 40 - 49 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| 50 - 59 | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| 60 - 69 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 70+ | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Total | 22 | 4 | 26 |

All but one crash where fatigue was reported were on rural roads in the district, and all but two were on State highways. Drivers aged 15 - 19 years and 50 - 59 years were those most likely to be involved in fatigue crashes. Almost 6 of every ten drivers were local residents.

Home locations of fatigued drivers in fatigue related injury crashes in Waimate District 2004 - 2008

| | |
|--|----|
| Local (Timaru - Waimate - Burow) | 15 |
| Christchurch | 7 |
| Other south Island (Invercargill, West Coast, Dunedin) | 3 |
| Overseas | 1 |

Further information about the 2 fatigue related injury crashes in Waimate District on local roads 2004 to 2008:

- 1 serious injury and 1 minor injury
- all at fault drivers were male
- Both were "bend - loss of control or head on crashes"
- None at intersections
- None in urban areas
- 1 on wet or icy road
- both at night time
- Worst time period midnight till 3am

Further information about the 24 fatigue related injury crashes in Waimate District on State Highways 2004 to 2008:

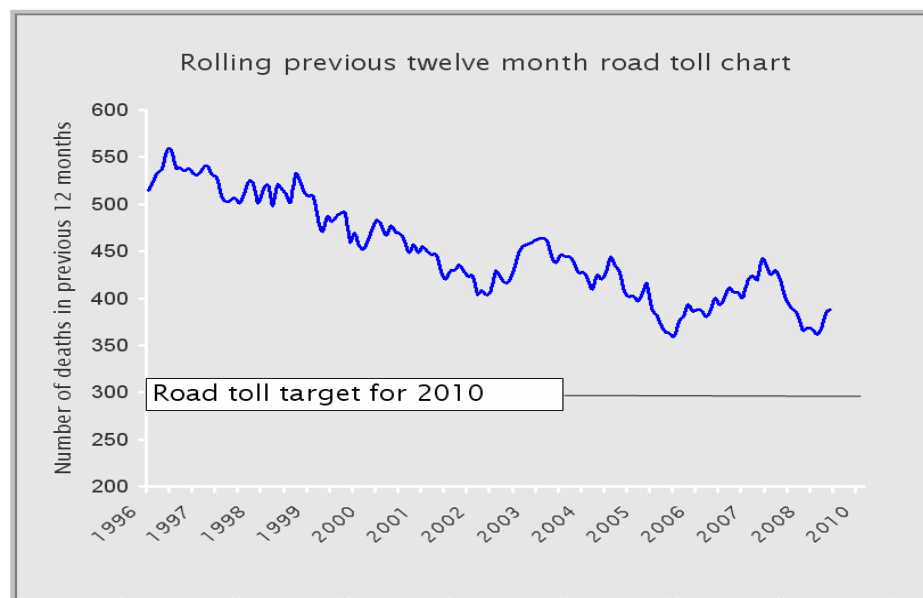
- 3 deaths, 10 serious injuries and 20 minor injuries
- 83 percent of at fault drivers were male
- Most common crash type "off road to left on a straight road"
- 2 crashes at intersections
- 1 crash on urban road
- 17 percent on wet or icy road
- 42 percent night time
- Worst time 3 pm till 6 pm
- Worst month June
- Worst day of week Saturday

The next ten years—moving beyond Road Safety 2010

In August this year the Ministry of Transport (MoT) will embark on a nationwide road safety consultation programme as it moves to formulate priorities for the next ten years.

The chart on the right illustrates the progress made during the life of the Road Safety 2010 strategy and while progress has been made it would seem unlikely that the target of 300 or fewer fatalities will be met.

Information will be published on the Ministry of Transport web site and we would encourage any person or group with an interest in road safety to watch the site carefully for developments.



Follow this link: <http://www.transport.govt.nz/ourwork/Land/landsafety/SaferJourneys-RoadSafetyStrategyto2020/>

Restraints

The Ministry of Transport conducts surveys of restraint use. Results are available for front, rear and child restraints although not all at a local authority level. The results of these surveys are available at the MoT website :<http://www.transport.govt.nz/research/safetybeltstatistics/>

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