

briefing notes - road safety issues

Waitaki 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 Waitaki District.

This report is the ninth road safety report for Waitaki 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 Waitaki 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

Waitaki District

Loss of control

Intersections

2007 road trauma

Casualties

Waitaki District

Deaths

3

Serious casualties

20

Minor casualties

115

Nationally

Speed

Alcohol

Failure to give way

Restraints

Crashes

Fatal crashes

Serious injury crashes

Minor injury crashes

Non-injury crashes

Waitaki District

2

17

75

105

Overview

In 2007 on local roads in Waitaki District there were 38 injury crashes and 41 non-injury crashes. In addition there were 56 injury crashes and 65 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 94 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	3	11	75	89
Urban	0	9	40	49
Total	3	20	115	138

The annual numbers of fatal and serious injury crashes increased from 13 in 1988 to a high of 40 in 2003. They have since decreased to 19 in 2007. The number of minor and non-injury crashes reached a high of 181 in 2007, continuing a slightly increasing long term trend.

Crash trends				
Year	Fatal crashes	Serious injury crashes	Minor injury crashes	Non-injury crashes
1998	5	8	46	119
1999	5	9	30	81
2000	0	19	42	110
2001	6	17	51	93
2002	1	26	60	106
2003	3	37	48	88
2004	2	31	70	106
2005	2	22	74	100
2006	3	22	71	108
2007	2	17	75	106

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	10%	10%
Too fast	24%	12%
Straight—lost control crash	15%	19%
Bend—lost control crash	36%	30%
Crossing / turning crash	29%	16%
Road factors	21%	14%
Vulnerable road users (Percent of casualties)	19%	14%
1, Pedestrians	4%	6%
2, Cyclists	8%	3%
3, Motorcyclists	7%	5%

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

- Worst month February,
- Worst day Thursday
- 16 percent on wet roads
- 37 percent at night
- 31 percent at intersections
- Social cost of crashes in 2007 was \$7.0m

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

- Worst month February
- Worst day Friday
- 19 percent on wet roads
- 27 percent at night
- 24 percent at intersections
- Social cost of crashes in 2007 was \$19.7m

Loss of Control

Between 2003 and 2007 46 percent of all crashes in Waitaki District involved loss of control. These crashes resulted in 12 fatalities, 93 serious injuries and 256 minor injuries.

Crash numbers rose in 2003 and have remained fairly constant for the past four years.

Loss of Control Crashes 2003 to 2007				
Crash year	Fatal crashes	Serious crashes	Minor crashes	Non-injury crashes
2003	3	18	19	35
2004	1	18	26	47
2005	1	16	36	46
2006	3	15	39	44
2007	2	8	34	44
Total	10	75	154	216

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 Waitaki District were cliffs or banks (40), ditches (48) and fences (69) from a total of 287 objects struck.

Main characteristics of injury loss of control crashes	
Crash characteristic	Percentage of crashes
Bend	65%
Straight road	35%
Single vehicle	85%
Alcohol	15%
Excessive speed for the conditions	27%
Road factors	23%
Poor handling	44%
Rural road	87%
Wet road	26%
Night time	39%

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

- 1 deaths, 31 serious injuries and 88 minor injuries
- 63 percent of at fault drivers were male
- Most common crash type "Lost control on a bend"
- Most common age group 15-19 years
- 14 percent of crashes involved alcohol
- 39 percent of crashes involved speed
- Worst month January, March, December
- Worst day of week Thursday
- Worst time period Midday - 3 pm

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

- 11 deaths, 62 serious injuries and 168 minor injuries
- 69 percent of at fault drivers were male
- Most common crash type "Lost control on bend"
- Most common age group 20-24 years
- 16 percent of crashes involved alcohol
- 20 percent of crashes involved speed
- Worst month October
- Worst day of week Saturday
- Worst time period Midday - 3 pm

Intersections

In Waitaki District during the period 2003 to 2007 there were 120 injury crashes at intersections and 139 non-injury crashes. In these crashes, 2 people died, 28 received serious injuries and 135 received minor injuries.

78 percent of these crashes were in urban areas of the district. These crashes make up 40 percent of all urban crashes. There were 58 intersection crashes in rural areas of the District.

Junction type Injury and Non-injury crashes		
Junction Type	Urban	Rural
Roundabout	15	0
Tee	96	47
Cross (X)	77	11
Multi leg	17	0
Total	195	58

Over the last five years the number of crashes at intersections has generally increased.

Crashes at Intersections					
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Injury crash	16	24	30	18	32
Non-injury crash	21	31	23	27	37
Total	37	55	53	45	69

The most common intersection crash is one where two drivers cross each others 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
- Speed
- Poor handling

Locations with high crash numbers

Intersection name	Total crashes 2003-2006	Total 2007
Thames Street / Eden Street	7	6
Thames Street / Severn Street	10	2
Thames Street / Usk Street	8	1
Towey Street / Severn Street	3	3
Thames Street / Caledonian Road	5	1

These locations are listed regardless of work done.

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

- 1 deaths, 14 serious injuries and 55 minor injuries
- 6 percent involved alcohol
- 15 percent involved speed
- 19 percent wet roads
- 17 percent night time
- Worst month March
- Worst day of week Tuesday
- Worst time 3 pm - 6 pm

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

- 1 deaths, 14 serious injuries and 80 minor injuries
- 4 percent involved alcohol
- 7 percent involved speed
- 18 percent wet roads
- 25 percent night time
- Worst month May
- Worst day of week Monday
- Worst time 3 pm - 6 pm

National issues

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

Speed

In Waitaki District, "Too fast" was recorded in 77 fatal and injury crashes in the district in the last five years resulting in 3 deaths and 110 injuries. Speed as a factor in crashes is not reducing in the district.

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

76 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 .

Alcohol

In Waitaki District, alcohol was involved in 45 fatal and injury crashes in the district in the last five years resulting in 4 deaths, and 61 other injuries. The number of injury crashes involving alcohol is not reducing.

60 percent of all alcohol crashes were in urban areas of the district. 46 percent were Lost control on a bend. Speed was the other factor often associated with alcohol in injury crashes.

68 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 .

Failure to give way

In Waitaki District, failure to give way or stop was reported in 95 fatal and injury crashes during the last five years resulting in 2 deaths and 122 other injuries.

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

62 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/>