

# road safety issues

## Central Otago District

**Land Transport New Zealand has prepared this report based on reported crash data and trends for the 2000–2004 period. The intent of the report is to highlight the key road safety issues within the Central Otago District.**

Road crashes in the Central Otago District over the five-year period have resulted in nine deaths and more than 500 injuries. In the same period there were 330 non-injury crashes reported to the Police.

For the first time since 1997 there were no fatalities on roads in the district. However, the number of both serious and minor injury crashes increased compared with the previous year. This increase was mainly on rural roads where 70 of the total 85 injury crashes occurred.

This rise in crash numbers is reflected in the road safety performance measured as crashes per 10,000 population. In 2004 the figure was 56, an increase from 52 the previous year and well above the national level of 25.

The proportion of different road users injured on Central Otago District roads over the last five years is shown to the right and is detailed overleaf.



### 2004 road trauma for Central Otago District



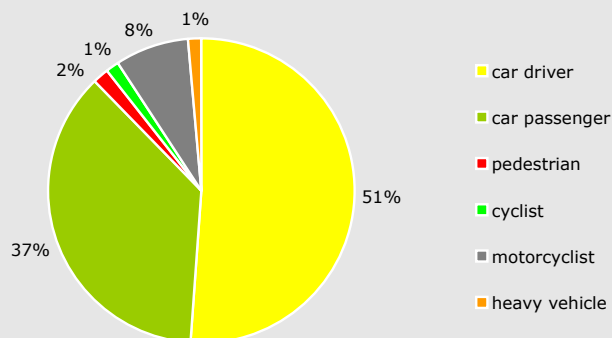
|                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| Deaths             | 0  |
| Serious casualties | 35 |
| Minor casualties   | 95 |



|                        |    |
|------------------------|----|
| Fatal crashes          | 0  |
| Serious injury crashes | 32 |
| Minor injury crashes   | 53 |
| Non-injury crashes     | 58 |

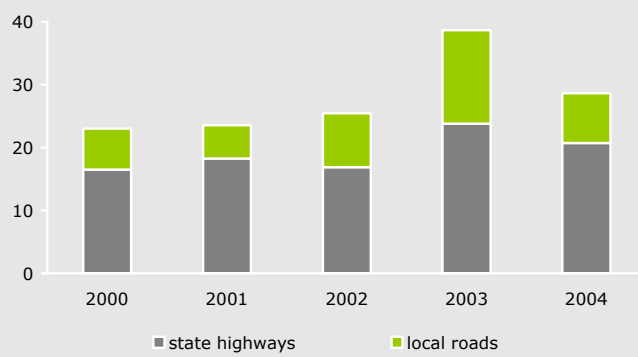
### Road casualties 2000–2004

User type 2000–2004



### 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 2004 prices.

### Major road safety issues

#### Nationally

Speed

Alcohol

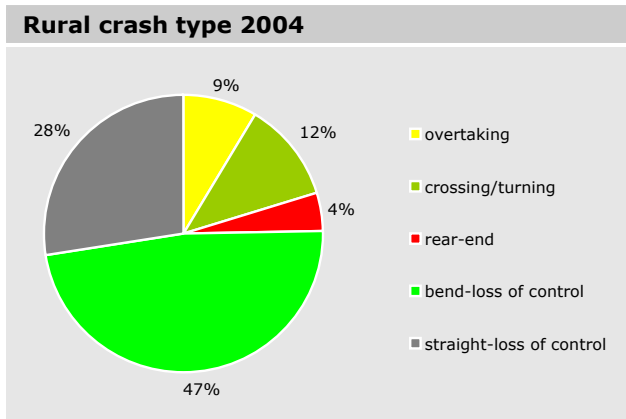
Failure to give way

Restraints

## Rural crashes

Over 80 percent of injury crashes in the Central Otago District last year occurred on the rural road network. There were 70 recorded injury crashes in 2004, of which 56 occurred on state highways. These crashes resulted in 28 people being seriously injured and 86 receiving minor injuries. There were also 33 non-injury crashes reported on rural roads in 2004.

The following chart shows the type of crashes that occurred on rural roads in the district in 2004.



Three quarters of all rural crashes involved a vehicle losing control, either on a bend or straight section of road. Nearly 40 percent of rural crashes resulted in serious injuries last year.

The majority of rural crashes last year happened on a dry road. There were 10 crashes on wet roads, and five as a result of an icy surface. Three quarters of all rural crashes involved a single vehicle.

Following the 2003 reduction in alcohol-related crashes, the number increased slightly last year to over 10 percent. Speed-related rural crashes also increased, although both levels were still below the national figure of 14 and 25 percent respectively.

Four out of five rural crashes last year took place on the state highway network – 37 on SH 8, 10 on SH 85, six on SH 6 and three on SH 8B. Fourteen crashes occurred on local roads.

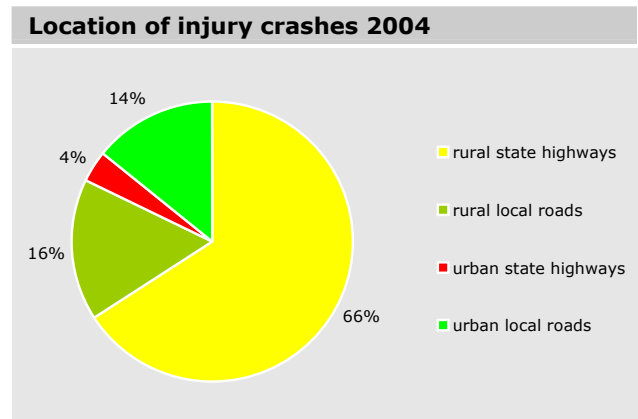
Nearly 20 percent of drivers involved in rural crashes in the Central Otago District last year were on a learner or restricted licence. Just over 10 percent were from overseas.

Over the last five years nearly 90 percent of casualties in the district occurred on rural roads. Twenty-five percent of male casualties were in the 15 to 19 year age group, higher than the national rate. While nationally this age group is also the peak for female casualties, in the Central Otago District they are under-represented. In contrast, females aged 55 to 70 are over-represented when compared with national levels.

## General issues

Last year there were 15 injury and 25 non-injury crashes in urban areas of the Central Otago District. Twenty-three crashes were reported in Alexandra and 13 in Cromwell.

Eight of the 23 recorded crashes in Alexandra last year took place on Centennial Avenue; however, most urban crashes occurred off the state highway network. The following graph shows the proportion of crashes in both urban and rural areas on local roads and state highways in 2004.



Over the last five years there were 160 crashes reported in urban areas of the district. Just under half of these occurred at intersections.

Although urban crash numbers in the district were relatively low, one quarter of them last year were alcohol related. Across the Central Otago District, one in seven injury crashes had alcohol as a factor in 2004.

Two cyclists were injured last year, both in Alexandra, and three pedestrians were hurt, the same number as in 2003.

This report is a brief summary of crashes that took place on roads in the Central Otago District in 2004. For more detailed information contact Land Transport New Zealand at the address below.



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