



# *briefing notes - road safety issues*

## *Chatham Islands*

Land Transport New Zealand has prepared this road safety issues report, it is based on reported crash data and trends for the 2002–2006 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 injuries from crashes on the Chatham Islands.

The issues chosen for this report are drawn from either the most common crash types, those that appear over-represented when the Chatham Islands are compared to other local bodies or those with a high social cost (high numbers of fatal and serious crashes mainly).

In 2006 on roads in the Chatham Islands there were nine crashes reported to the Police resulting in three serious injuries and 5 minor injuries. With so few crashes recorded this report concentrates on the five year period between 2002 and 2006.

We encourage local bodies to use their free access to the Ministry of Transport Crash Analysis System to delve deeper into the highlighted issues.

Major road safety issues		2006 road trauma	
<b>Chatham Islands</b>		<b>Casualties</b>	
Loss of control on rural roads		Deaths	0
Speed		Serious casualties	3
Alcohol		Minor casualties	5
<b>Nationally</b>		<b>Crashes</b>	
Speed		Fatal crashes	0
Alcohol		Serious injury crashes	2
Failure to give way		Minor injury crashes	4
Restraint use		Non-injury crashes	3

## Overview

Over the last five years there have been 25 injury crashes recorded on the island. These crashes resulted in 15 serious injuries and 16 minor injuries. There were a further 26 crashes reported that involved damage only.

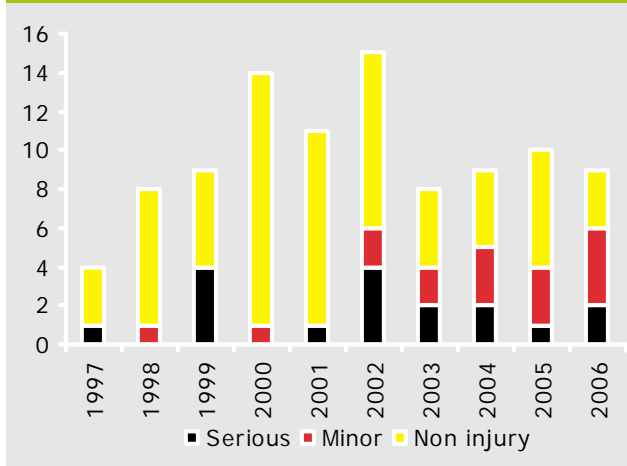
The table below shows the number and type of crashes recorded over the last five years on urban and rural roads. Rural is defined as an area with a speed limit of 80km/h or more.

### Casualties by injury type 2006

	Fatalities	Serious injuries	Minor injuries	Total
Rural	6	26	69	101
Urban	0	2	4	6
Total	6	28	73	107

The three serious injuries recorded in 2006 are equal to the five year average and the same as recorded in 2005. Minor injuries increased from three to five which is the highest number seen since 1999. The last fatal crash on the Chatham Islands was recorded back in 1992.

### All reported crashes 1997 to 2006



Further information about crashes on the Chatham Islands 2002-2006:

- Over half of all crashes involved a vehicle losing control on a bend
- One quarter of crashes involved a vehicle losing control on a straight section of road
- 52 percent of injury crashes involved excess alcohol.
- 20 percent of injury crashes involved a vehicle travelling too fast for the conditions

- 88 percent of drivers at fault in injury crashes were male
- 65 percent of crashes occurred at night
- 84 percent of crashes occurred on a dry road
- 62 percent of crashes occurred on an unsealed section of road
- Only one crash occurred at an intersection
- 82 percent of crashes involved a single vehicle

Three quarters of all crashes involved a vehicle losing control and either leaving the road or colliding with an oncoming vehicle. After drivers lose control of their vehicles they often crash into roadside hazards increasing the severity of the crash. The following table shows the number and type of roadside hazards hit during the last five years.

Type of roadside hazard	Number hit
Bridge ends	2
Cliff or bank	11
Ditch	7
Fence	9
Guard rail	1
Over bank	1
Parked vehicle	4
Post or pole	5
Stray animal	3
Tree	2
Water/River	2

The following table shows the licence status of drivers who were at fault in injury crashes on the Chatham Islands over the last five years compared to all of New Zealand in 2006.

Driver licence status 2006	Percentage of total 'at fault' drivers (NZ value in brackets)
Full	36.0 (58.4) %
Learner	8.0 (9.5) %
Restricted	28.0 (17.6) %
Never licenced	16.0 (2.2) %
Disqualified	0 (1.7) %
Overseas	4.0 (4.2) %
Expired	4.0 (0.5) %
Other / unknown	4.0 (5.6) %