



briefing notes - road safety issues

Chatham Islands Council

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 the Chatham Islands.

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 Chatham Islands Council 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 Chatham Islands.

We encourage Chatham Islands Council to delve deeper into the highlighted issues, and other road safety issues in the district. Contact the 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

Chatham Islands Council

Alcohol

Bend—Lost control or Head-on

Young drivers

2008 road trauma

Casualties

Chatham Islands

Deaths 1

Serious casualties 0

Minor casualties 3

Nationally

Speed

Alcohol

Failure to give way

Restraints

Crashes

Chatham Islands

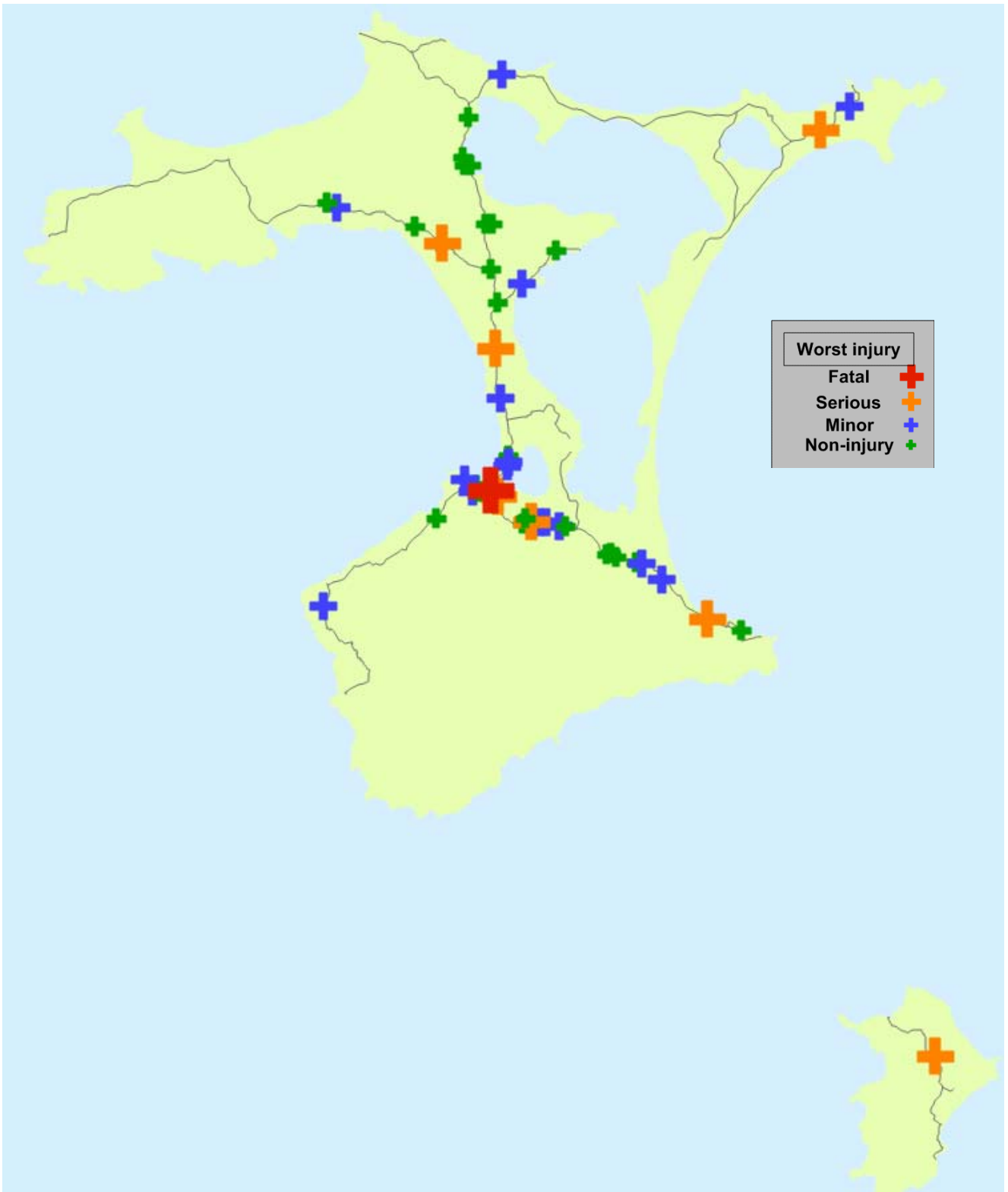
Fatal crashes 1

Serious injury crashes 0

Minor injury crashes 3

Non-injury crashes 9

Reported Crashes
Chatham Islands Council
2004 - 2008



Overview

In 2008 on roads in Chatham Islands there were 4 injury crashes and 9 non-injury crash as reported by the New Zealand Police.

The table below shows the number of injuries resulting from the 13 crashes in 2008 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 2004 -2008				
	Fatalities	Serious injuries	Minor injuries	Total
Rural	1	10	15	26
Urban	0	0	2	2
Total	1	10	17	28

More than nine of every ten casualties result from crashes in rural areas of the islands.

There was a fatal crash in 2008. This was the only fatal crash in the last ten years. The annual numbers of serious, minor and non-injury crashes vary from years to years, and there are no long term trends apparent

Crash trends in Chatham Islands				
Year	Fatal Crashes	Serious Crashes	Minor Crashes	Non-injury Crashes
1999	0	4	0	5
2000	0	0	1	13
2001	0	1	0	10
2002	0	4	2	9
2003	0	2	2	4
2004	0	2	3	4
2005	0	1	3	6
2006	0	2	4	3
2007	0	2	3	5
2008	1	0	3	9

Injury crashes 2004 to 2008

Crash type or contributory cause 2004 to 2008	Percentage injury crashes
Alcohol	29
Too fast	25
At bends	71
At intersections	4
Road factors	29
Young drivers at fault (under 25 years old)	48% (of at fault drivers)

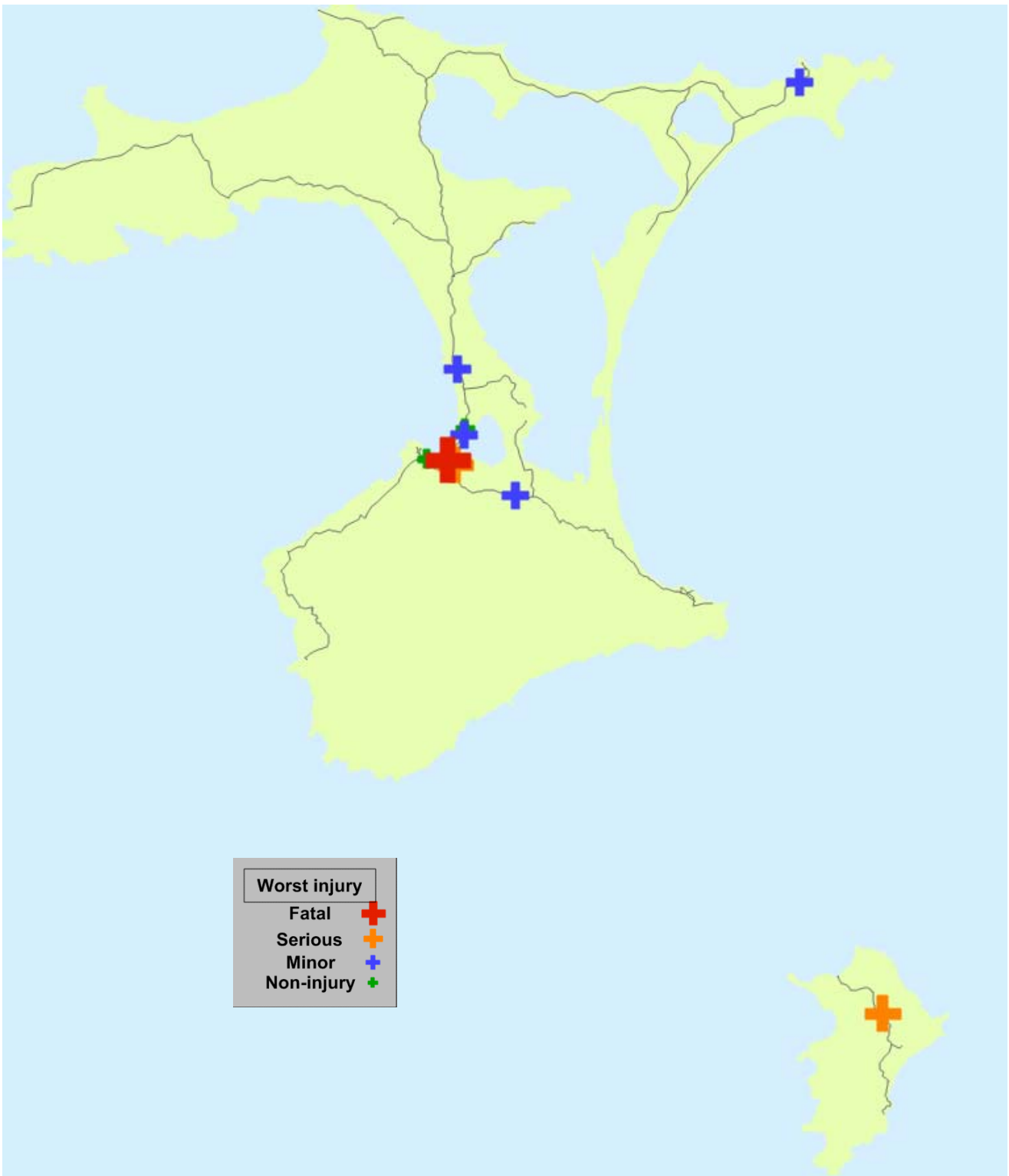
Vulnerable road users - casualties

Road user type	Percentage of all casualties
Pedestrians	2
Cyclists	0
Motorcycles	6
Total vulnerable	8

Further information about 2004 to 2008 injury crashes on roads in Chatham Islands:

- Worst month December
- Worst day Wednesday
- 14 percent on wet or icy roads
- 49 percent at night
- 4 percent at intersections
- 50 roadside objects struck
- Social cost of crashes in 2008 \$4.4 m

Alcohol related crashes
Chatham Islands
2004 - 2008



Alcohol

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 a sober driver in the same crash, and if injured, they are also more likely to encounter complications in their recovery.

In New Zealand in 2008, alcohol-affected drivers contributed to 15 percent of all fatal and injury crashes. There were 1785 alcohol-related fatal and injury crashes reported in New Zealand in that year.

In Chatham Islands, alcohol was a factor in 29 percent of fatal and injury crashes from 2004 to 2008

Number of alcohol related injury and non-injury crashes 2004 - 2008			
Crash year	Rural road	Urban road	Total
2004	2	0	2
2005	2	0	2
2006	2	1	3
2007	1	0	1
2008	1	0	1
Total	8	1	9

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

Most at fault drivers in alcohol-related fatal and injury crashes were males. The most common age group was the 20 - 24 years old group.

The other contributing factors in alcohol-related crashes were Poor handling and Too fast for the conditions.

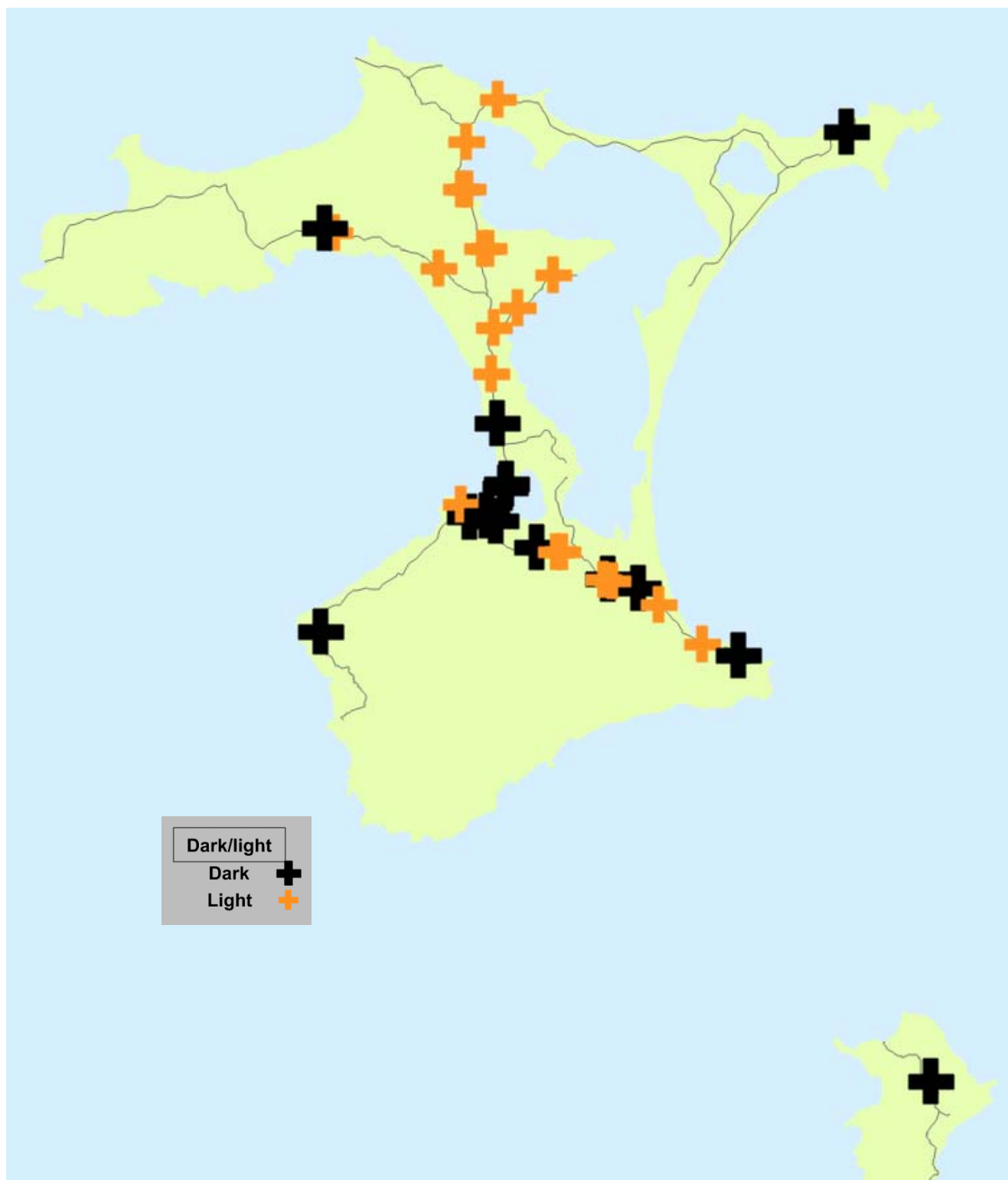
Age and gender of drivers in fatal and injury alcohol related crashes 2004 - 2008

Age (years)	Male	Female	Total
15-19	1	0	1
20-24	2	1	3
30-39	2	0	2
40-49	1	0	1
Total	6	1	7

Further information about the 9 alcohol related crashes on Chatham Islands roads 2004 to 2008:

- 1 death, 2 serious injuries and 4 minor injuries
- Most common crash type "bend - loss of control or head on"
- 33 percent wet or icy road
- 78 percent night time
- Worst time period midnight till 9am
- Worst day of week Sunday

Bend - loss of control or head on crashes
Chatham Islands Council
2004 - 2008



Bend - loss of control or head on

Between 2004 and 2008 all reported 71 percent of all reported injury and non-injury crashes in Chatham Islands were bend - loss of control or head on crashes. These crashes resulted in 1 death, 7 serious injuries and 15 minor injuries.

Bend - loss of control or head on crashes 2004 to 2008

Crash year	Fatal crashes	Serious crashes	Minor crashes	Non-injury crashes
2004	0	2	2	1
2005	0	1	3	4
2006	0	1	3	1
2007	0	1	3	2
2008	1	0	3	8
Total	1	5	14	16

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 bend - loss of control or head on crashes in Chatham Islands were fences (11), cliffs or banks (8), fences (4), post or pole (4) and ditches (4) from a total of 34 objects struck.

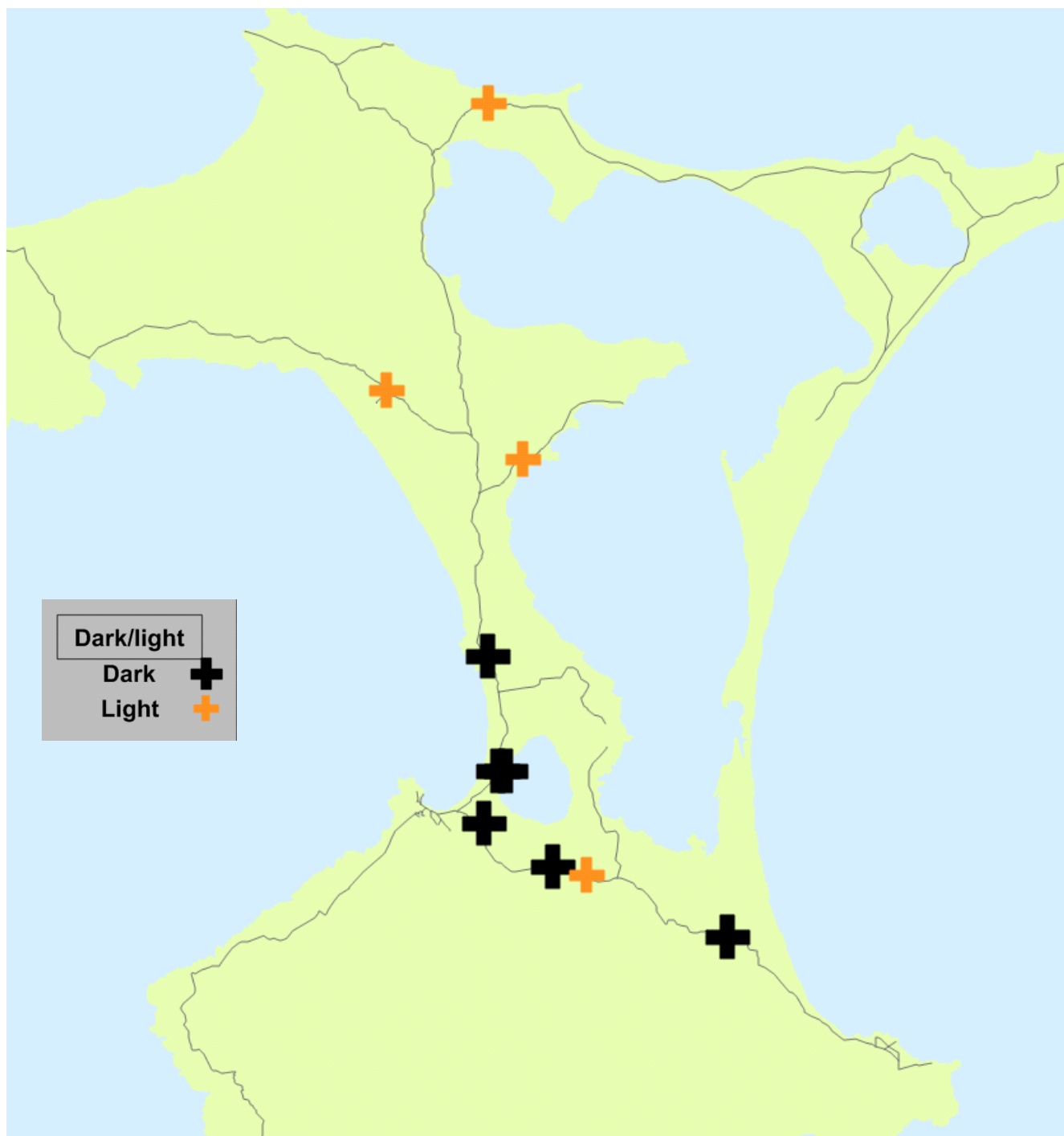
Main characteristics of injury bend - loss control or head on crashes 2004 - 2008

Crash characteristic	Percentage of crashes
Single vehicle	100
Alcohol	30
Excessive speed for the conditions	30
Road factors	40
Poor handling	75
Rural road	90
Wet or icy road	15
Night time	50

Further information about the 20 injury bend - loss of control or head on crashes (2004 to 2009) on roads in Chatham Islands Council :

- 85 percent of at fault drivers were male
- Most common at fault driver age group 20 -24 years (30 percent of all at fault drivers)
- Worst month January, September
- Worst day of week Sunday
- Worst time period 6 pm till 9 pm

Injury crashes involving young drivers
Chatham Islands
2004 - 2009



Young drivers

Young drivers are those aged less than 25 years. This analysis is based on injury crashes only as driver age is not recorded in non-injury crashes.

In Chatham Islands between 2004 and 2008 46 percent of injury crashes involved young drivers. These 11 crashes resulted in 4 serious injuries and 9 minor injuries.

There is no obvious trend in the annual number of crashes involving young drivers.

Casualties from injury crashes involving young drivers 2004 - 2008

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	Total
2004	0	1	2	3
2005	0	3	2	5
2006	0	0	2	2
2007	0	0	0	0
2008	0	0	3	3
Total	0	4	9	13

Eight of the 11 young drivers in these crashes had a learner or restricted licence. Seven of them were males and nearly two thirds were 20-24 year olds.

Young drivers at fault in injury crashes 2004 - 2008

Licence type	Male	Female	Total
Full	0	1	1
Learner	2	0	2
Restricted	3	3	6
Overseas	1	0	1
Never licensed	1	0	1
Total	7	4	11

Injury crashes involving young drivers 2004 - 2008

Crash type or contributory cause	Number of injury crashes
Alcohol	4
Speed	4
Poor handling	9
Lost control - straight	1
Lost control - bend	9
Rear end / obstruction	1

Further information about the 11 injury crashes involving young drivers on roads in Chatham Islands 2004 to 2008:

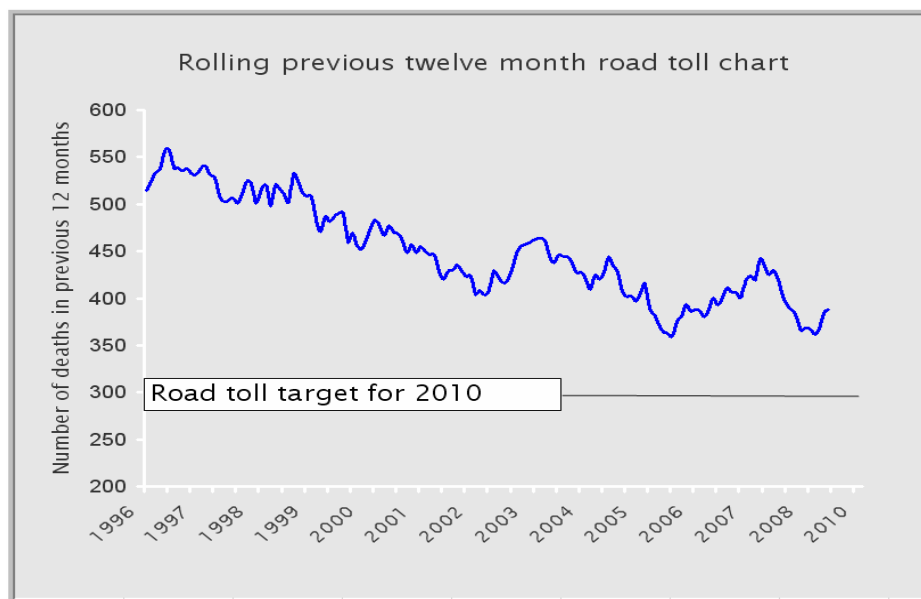
- all were single vehicle crashes
- none were on urban roads
- None were at intersections
- 55 percent at night
- 18 percent in wet or icy conditions
- Worst month January
- Worst day of week Saturday, Sunday

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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