

road safety issues

Porirua City

Land Transport New Zealand has prepared this road safety issues report. It is 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 and to identify possible ways to reduce the number of road deaths and injuries in Porirua City

The total number of injury crashes in Porirua City in 2004 was nine higher than in 2003. There has been an upward trend in crash numbers over the last five years. The number of people killed in road crashes in 2004 was 11, the highest in over 10 years.

Pedestrians continue to feature prominently in the casualty statistics, particularly in urban areas. Cyclist casualties have shown an upward trend over the past five years.

Drivers losing control of a vehicle on a bend was the most common crash type for the city. The proportion of these crashes was higher than for similar authorities on both urban and rural roads.

The estimated social cost of crashes in Porirua City in 2004 was \$41.1 million, an overall increase on the previous year of \$14.4 million.

The specific concerns for Porirua City are considered overleaf, while the performance in relation to national issues is considered on the back page.

Major road safety issues

Porirua City

Pedestrians

Cyclists

Loss of control on bends

Nationally

Speed

Alcohol

Failure to give way

Restraints



2004 road trauma for Porirua City



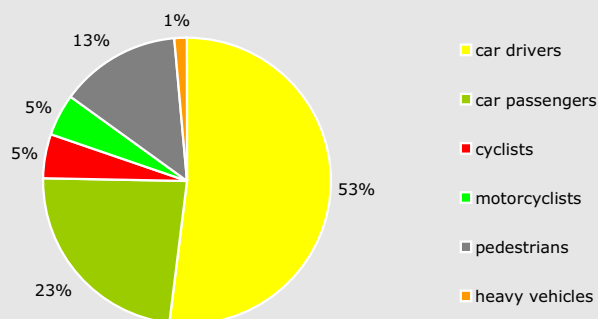
Deaths	11
Serious casualties	25
Minor casualties	134



Fatal crashes	5
Serious injury crashes	20
Minor injury crashes	87
Non-injury crashes	339

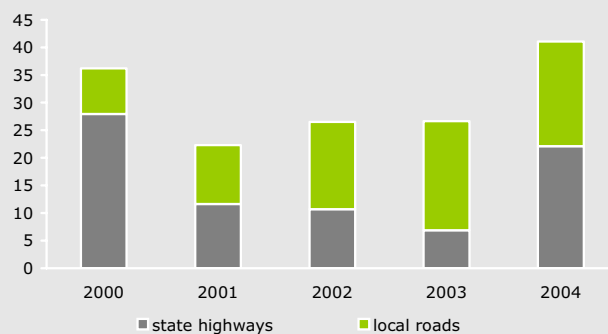
Road casualties 2000–2004

User type 2000–2004



Estimated social cost of crashes*

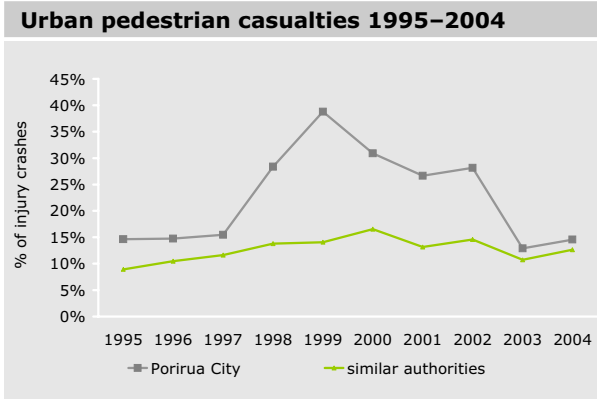
Social cost (\$ million)



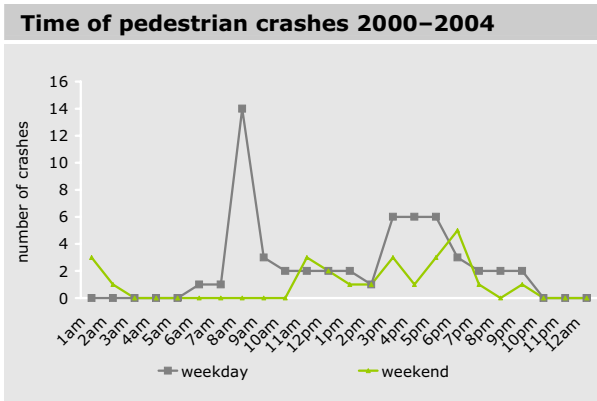
*The estimated social cost includes loss of life or life quality (estimated by the amount New Zealanders are prepared to pay to reduce their risk of fatal or non-fatal injury), loss of output due to injuries, medical and rehabilitation costs, legal and court costs, and property damage. These costs are expressed at June 2004 prices.

Pedestrians

Between 2000 and 2004 there was one pedestrian fatality and 81 pedestrian casualties as a result of road crashes. Pedestrians made up 21 percent of all urban casualties in the five-year period. It is encouraging that the number of pedestrian casualties was lower in 2003 and 2004, although still above the levels for similar authorities.



Half of the pedestrian casualties were under the age of 15 years. The peak time for pedestrian crashes was during the weekday morning school travel time between 8 am and 9 am. There were equal numbers of casualties in the afternoon, but spread between 3 pm and 6 pm.



Common factors in pedestrian crashes were:

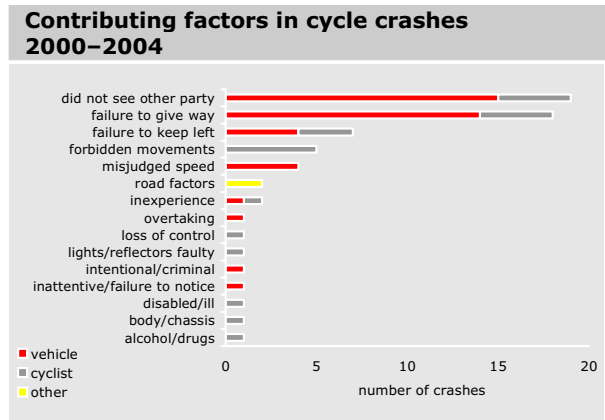
- running across the road without regard for traffic (34 percent)
- stepping out from behind a parked vehicle (19 percent)
- crossing without regard for traffic (14 percent)
- failure to give way to a pedestrian on a crossing (12 percent).

Cyclists

Between 2000 and 2004 there were 30 cyclists injured on Porirua City roads. Twenty-two percent of cyclist injuries occurred on the state highway network. There has been an upward trend of cyclist injuries in the last 10 years. Cycling surveys carried out by Porirua City Council show there has also been an increase in the number of people cycling in the last five years.



The most common crash factors involved either the driver or cyclist failing to look properly until too late, or failing to give way.



The cyclists were predominantly male (87 percent) and aged over 20 years (77 percent). The majority of the crashes (80 percent) could be at least partially attributed to the other vehicle, ie the non-cyclist, while only 46 percent of the cyclists' actions were considered to have played a part in the crash.

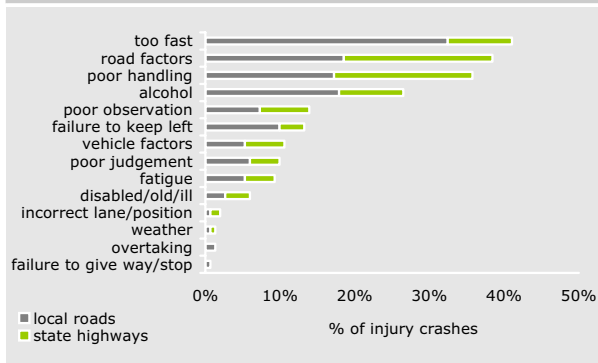
Loss of control on bends

A driver losing control of a vehicle on a bend was the major crash type recorded in Porirua City between 2000 and 2004.

During this period there were 151 crashes of this type. In the urban environment this accounted for 24 percent of crashes which was significantly higher than in similar authorities. Fifty-six percent of rural crashes involved a driver losing control of a vehicle on a bend.

Forty-one percent of loss of control crashes involved a driver travelling too fast for the conditions. Other significant factors included road factors, poor handling on the part of the driver and alcohol. Road factors included the road being slippery due to rain, frost, spillages, flooding or roadworks.

Contributing factors in loss of control crashes 2000–2004



Drivers are more likely to lose control of their vehicle on a bend if the road is wet. Fifty-six percent of rural loss of control on bend crashes occurred in wet weather, compared with 27 percent of all crashes in Porirua City.

Drivers involved in loss of control crashes were predominantly male (71 percent). Forty-eight percent lived locally in the Porirua City area, with another 46 percent living in the Greater Wellington Region. Twenty-one percent of the drivers held a learner or restricted licence.

Speed

The faster drivers go, the more likely they are to crash and the greater the risk of serious injury or death. Speed was a factor in 76 injury crashes in Porirua City between 2000 and 2004. This comprised 17 percent of all injury crashes.

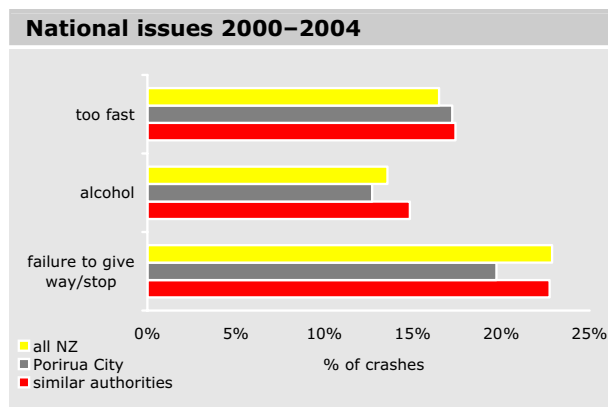
Alcohol

Drivers with a blood alcohol level over the legal limit (80 mg per 100 ml) are three times more likely to be involved in a crash than a sober driver. Between 2000 and 2004, alcohol was a factor in 56 injury crashes. This comprised 13 percent of all injury crashes in Porirua City.

Failure to give way

Failure to give way at intersections is the third largest cause of death and injury crashes on New Zealand roads.

Eighty-seven injury crashes in Porirua City between 2000 and 2004 involved a vehicle failing to give way. This accounted for 20 percent of all injury crashes.



Restraints

Wearing a safety belt reduces the chance of being killed or suffering serious injury in a crash by 40 percent.

Between 2000 and 2004 there were 23 driver or passenger fatalities on Porirua City roads. Of those who died, it is estimated that at least one would have been saved if they had been wearing a restraint.

In a 2004 survey, 96 percent of front seat adults were wearing safety belts in Porirua City. This was higher than the New Zealand average.

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