

# road safety issues

## Southland 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 Southland District.

Four people died on Southland District roads in 2004. This is equal to the lowest number in 25 years and well below the average of 10 over the last five years.

Road crashes in the Southland District over the five-year period killed 44 people and injured over 1,100. There were more than 750 reported non-injury crashes over the same period.

The number of reported injury crashes fell significantly in 2004, from 178 to 127. This fall was made up of a drop in rural crashes while urban crash numbers actually increased.

Although the majority of crashes last year took place on rural roads, the severity of the urban crashes increased dramatically. In 2003, 20 percent of urban crashes resulted in serious injuries; in 2004 that figure was closer to 60 percent.

The proportion of different road users injured over the last five years in the Southland District is shown to the right and is further detailed overleaf.



### 2004 road trauma for Southland District



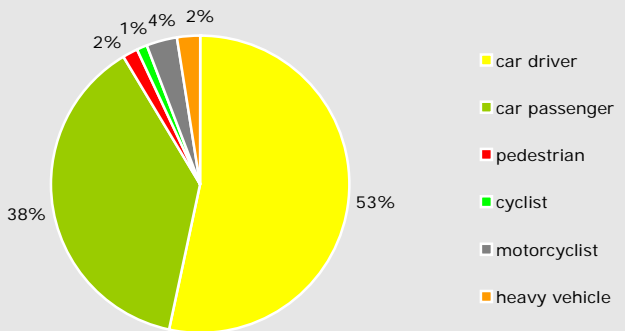
Deaths	4
Serious casualties	51
Minor casualties	146



Fatal crashes	4
Serious injury crashes	46
Minor injury crashes	77
Non-injury crashes	162

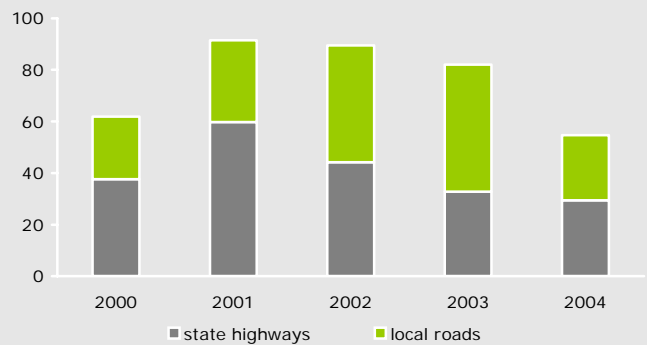
### Road casualties 2000–2004

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

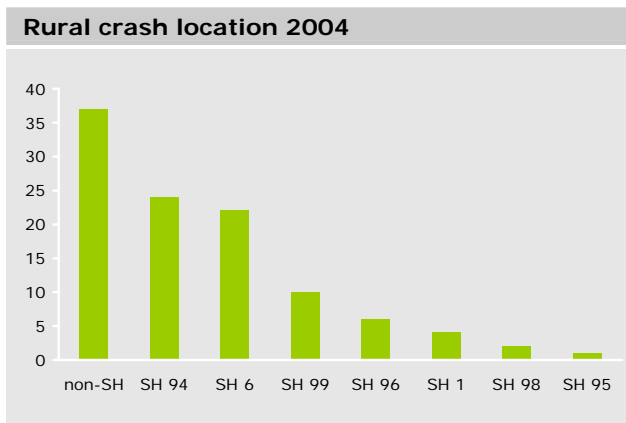
Restraints

## Rural crashes

Eighty-five percent of injury crashes within the Southland District last year occurred on rural roads – 106 crashes resulted in three deaths, 40 serious injuries and 132 minor injuries. There were a further 128 non-injury crashes reported to the Police.

The most common age group across the country to be injured in a road crash is 15 to 19 year olds. However, in the Southland District those aged 20 to 24 years are over-represented, particularly females.

Nearly two thirds of all rural injury crashes within the district occurred on the state highway network, with most being on SH 94 and SH 6. The following graph shows the location of all rural injury crashes in 2004.



The majority of rural crashes involved a single vehicle losing control either on a bend or straight. Only eight of these crashes were as a result of winter conditions – most occurred on a dry road.

The proportion of rural injury crashes that involved alcohol increased slightly last year to 16 percent. This figure is above the national and peer group level for the first time since 2000. Speed involvement remained the same as in 2003 at 25 percent.

With such a high number of vehicles leaving the road it is not surprising that in three quarters of rural crashes a roadside object was hit. While fences were the most commonly hit object, cliffs, banks and trees also featured.

Nineteen reported rural crashes last year were caused by wandering stock, cows and deer being the most commonly hit animals.

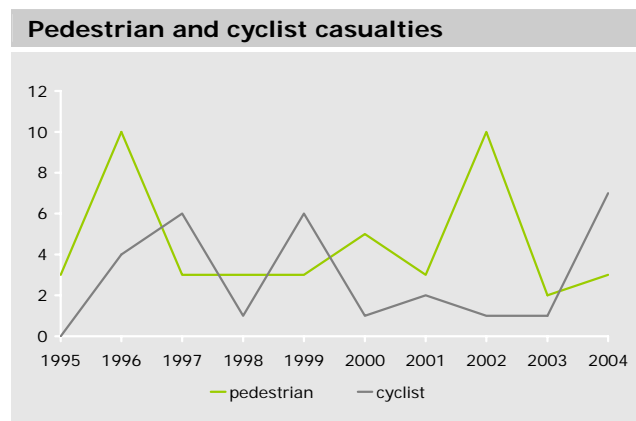
Over one quarter of the crashes that occurred off the state highway network took place on unsealed roads, although the actual number of 10 was less than half that of the previous year.

## Other issues

The number of injury crashes in urban areas increased to 21. While not a high number, these crashes were unusually severe in 2004. Around 20 percent of urban injury crashes nationally result in serious or fatal injuries. In the Southland District last year the rate was nearly three times that. More people were seriously injured on urban roads in 2004 than in any of the last 20 years.

The number of alcohol-related crashes fell but is still above the national level. Nearly 20 percent of urban crashes last year involved alcohol.

Including non-injuries, there were 55 crashes reported in urban areas of the district last year. Thirteen of these were in Winton, seven each in Te Anau and Riverton and six in Lumsden.



Three pedestrians were injured on Southland District roads last year while the seven cyclists injured was the highest number in at least 20 years. The graph above shows the 10-year trend for both groups of road users.

Restraint wearing rate surveys carried out in 2004 showed that more people were buckling up in the Southland District. The front seat wearing rate increased from 87 percent in 2003 to 94 percent last year.

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



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