



# briefing notes - road safety issues

## Southland District

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 Southland District.

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 Southland District 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 the district.

We encourage Southland District to use its free access to the Ministry of Transport's Crash Analysis System (CAS) to delve deeper into the highlighted issues, and other road safety issues in the District. Also the NZTA Christchurch Performance Information team is available to provide further information if required. All data and maps in this note are from CAS.

### Major road safety issues

#### Southland District

Bend - loss of control or head-on

Young drivers

Road factors - including roadside hazards

Overseas drivers

#### Nationally

Speed

Alcohol

Failure to give way

Restraints

### 2008 road trauma

#### Casualties

#### Southland District

Deaths 4

Serious casualties 54

Minor casualties 181

#### Crashes

#### Southland District

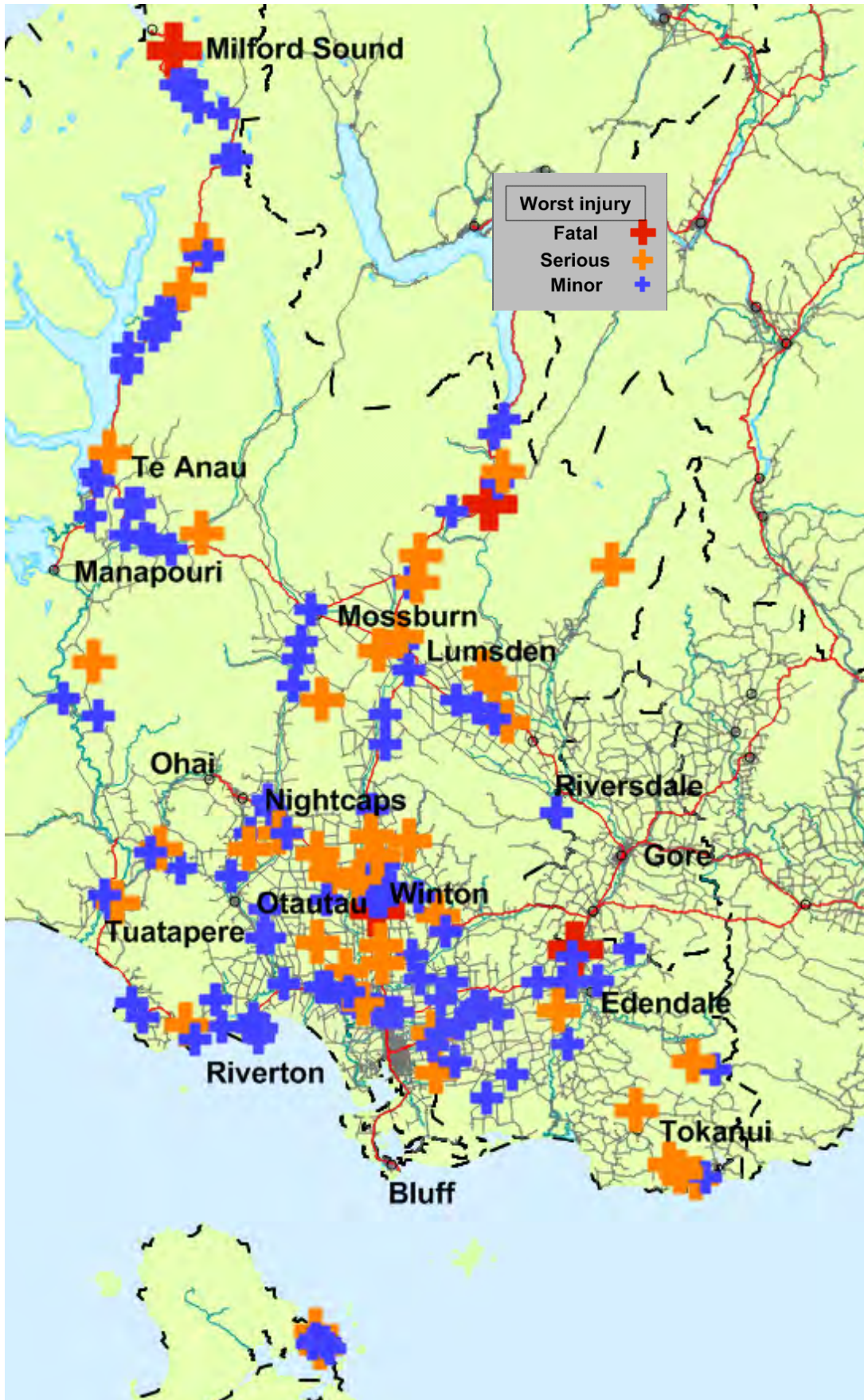
Fatal crashes 4

Serious injury crashes 42

Minor injury crashes 117

Non-injury crashes 168

Fatal and injury crashes  
Southland District  
2008



## Overview

In 2008 on local roads in Southland District there were 67 injury crashes and 63 non-injury crashes. In addition there were 96 injury crashes and 105 non-injury crashes on State Highways both as reported by the New Zealand Police.

The table below shows the number of injuries resulting from the 163 injury crashes by rural or urban areas (rural is defined as an area with a speed limit of 80km/h or more).

### Casualties by urban / rural 2008

	Fatalities	Serious injuries	Minor injuries	Total
Rural	4	47	158	209
Urban	0	7	23	30
Total	4	54	181	239

In Southland District in 2008, all fatalities, 87 per cent of both serious injuries and minor injuries resulted from crashes in the rural areas of the district.

2008 was one of the three years with the lowest number of fatal crashes in the last 10 years. There are no obvious trends in the numbers of serious and minor injury crashes.

### Crash trends in Southland District

Year	Fatal Crashes	Serious Crashes	Minor Crashes	Total Crashes
1999	8	32	56	96
2000	10	31	48	89
2001	10	59	125	194
2002	10	58	112	180
2003	8	58	113	179
2004	4	50	78	132
2005	6	61	118	185
2006	6	56	115	177
2007	4	56	119	179
2008	4	42	117	163

### Injury crashes 2004 to 2008

Crash type or contributory cause 2004 to 2008	Local road Percentage injury crashes	State Highway Percentage of injury crashes
Alcohol	18	13
Too fast	22	24
At bends	44	49
At intersections	16	14
Road factors	27	31
Young drivers (% of at fault drivers)	44	39
Overseas drivers (% of at fault drivers)	12	24

### Vulnerable road users - casualties

Road user type	Local road Percentage of all casualties	State Highway Percentage of all casualties
Pedestrians	2	1
Cyclists	1	1
Motorcycles	9	2
<b>Total vulnerable</b>	12	4

Further information about 2004 to 2008 injury crashes on local roads in Southland District :

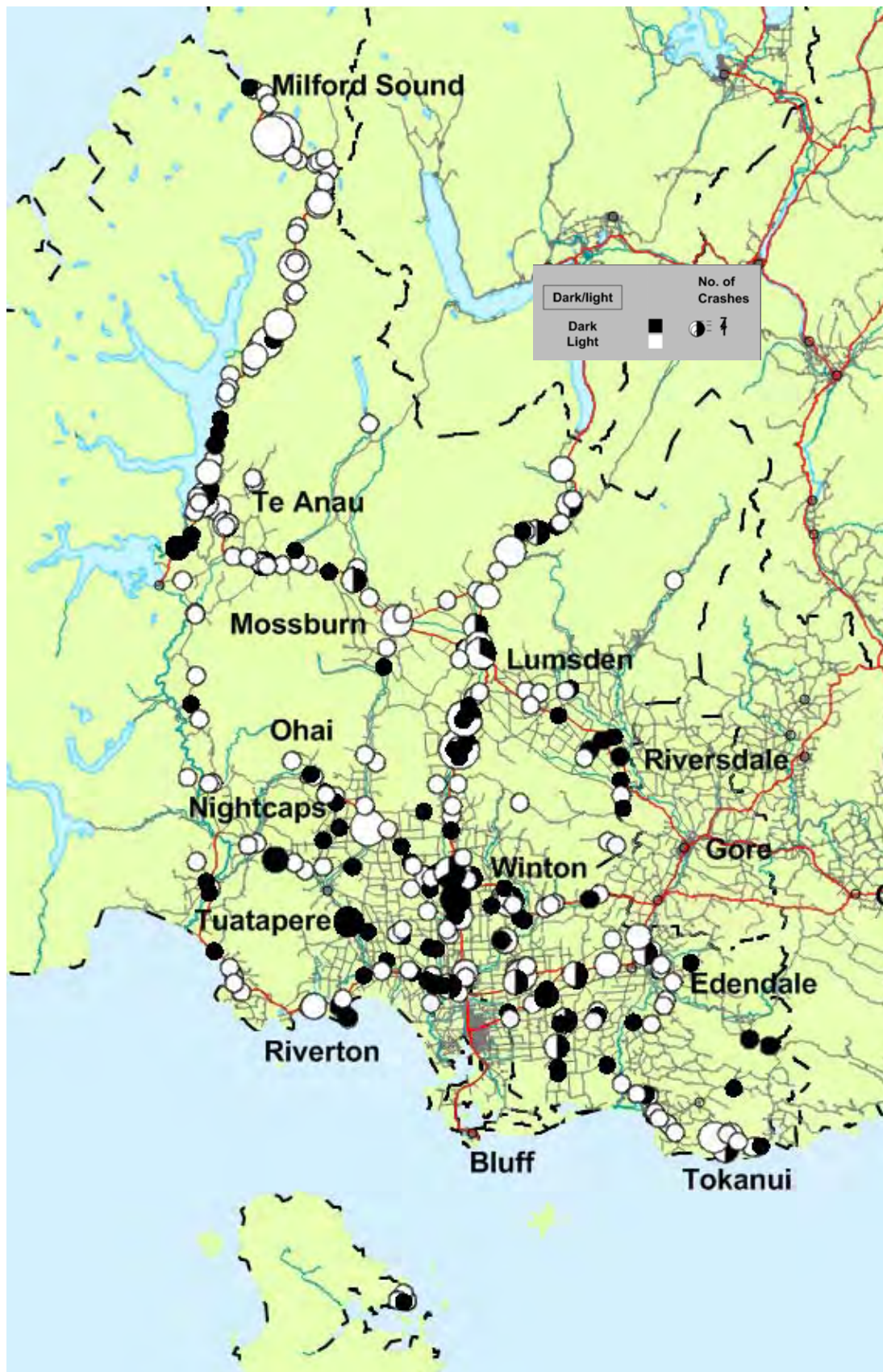
- Worst month February
- Worst day Sunday
- 26 percent on wet or icy roads
- 35 percent at night
- 16 percent at intersections
- 313 roadside objects struck
- Social cost of crashes in 2008 \$20.5 m

Further information about 2004 to 2008 injury crashes on State Highways in Southland District :

- Worst month July
- Worst day Sunday
- 40 percent on wet or icy roads
- 32 percent at night
- 14 percent at intersections
- 482 roadside objects struck
- Social cost of crashes in 2008 \$38.3 m



Injury bend - loss of control or head on crashes  
Southland District  
2004 - 2008



## Bend - loss of control or head on

Between 2004 and 2008 forty seven percent of all injury crashes in Southland District were bend - loss of control or head on crashes. These 393 crashes resulted in 11 fatalities, 156 serious injuries and 466 minor injuries.

Crash numbers in 2007 and 2008 are lower than in 2005 and 2006.

Bend - loss of control or head on injury crashes 2004 to 2008				
Crash year	Fatal crashes	Serious crashes	Minor crashes	Total
2004	1	23	34	58
2005	3	29	57	89
2006	2	28	59	89
2007	1	32	45	78
2008	4	17	58	79
Total	11	129	253	393

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 injury loss of control or head on crashes on bends in Southland District were fences (106), cliff or bank (71), ditch (64), and over bank (58) from a total of 452 objects struck.

Main characteristics of injury bend - lost control or head on crashes	
Crash characteristic	Percentage of crashes
Single vehicle	88
Alcohol	17
Excessive speed for the conditions	36
Road factors	37
Poor handling	58
Rural road	92
Wet or icy road	42
Night time	33

Further information about the 158 injury bend - loss of control or head on crashes (2004 to 2009) on local roads in Southland District :

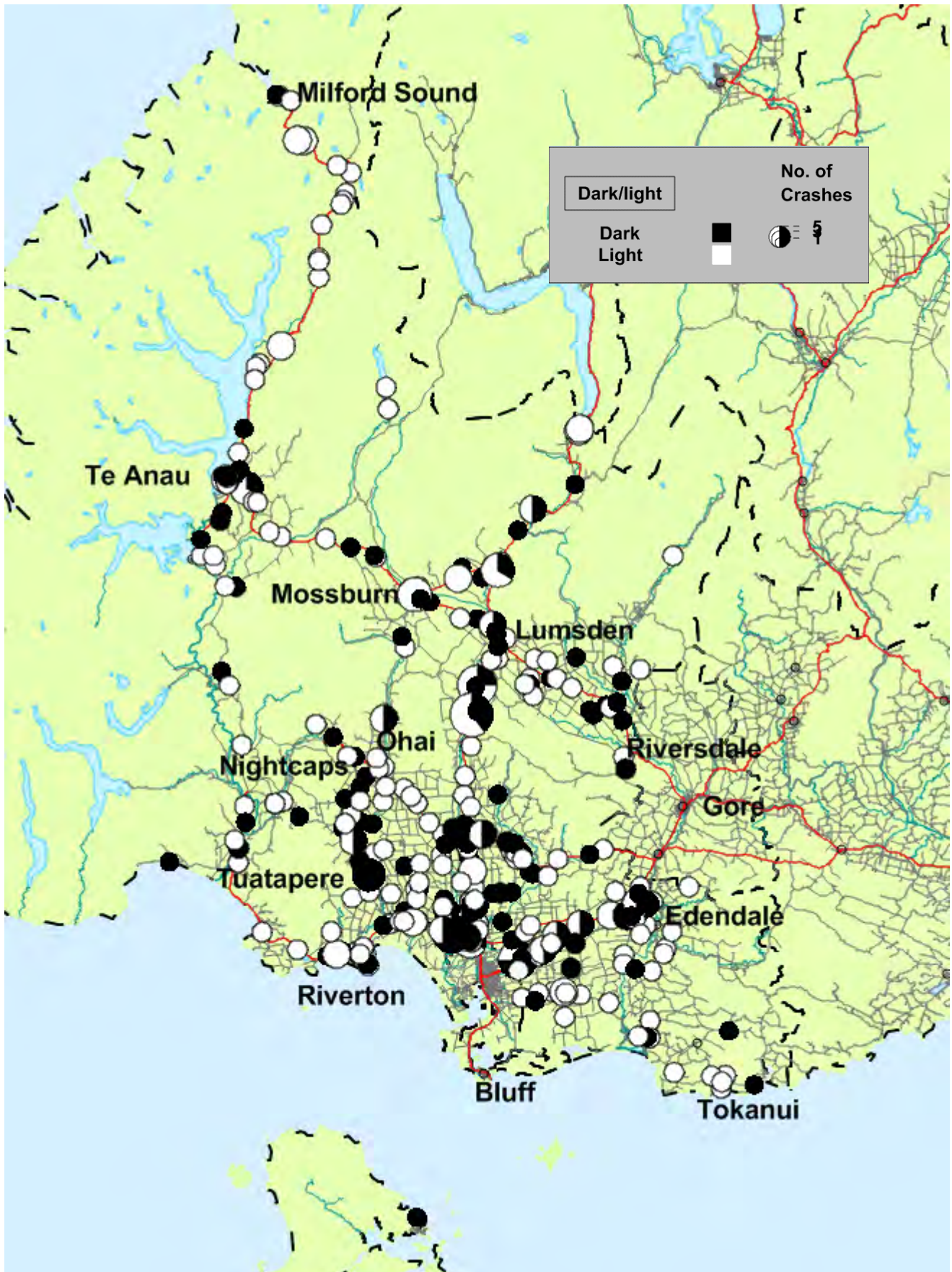
- 1 death, 72 serious injuries and 170 minor injuries
- 68 percent of at fault drivers were male
- Most common at fault driver age group 15 -24 years (44 percent of all at fault drivers)
- 22 percent of crashes involved alcohol
- 29 percent of crashes involved speed too fast for the conditions
- Worst month January
- Worst day of week Sunday
- Worst time period 3 pm till 6 pm

Further information about the 235 injury bend - loss of control or head on crashes (2004 to 2008) on State Highways in Southland District:

- 10 deaths, 84 serious injuries and 296 minor injuries
- 69 percent of at fault drivers were male
- Most common at fault driver age group 15 - 24 years (42 percent of at fault drivers)
- 14 percent of crashes involved alcohol
- 40 percent of crashes involved speed too fast for the conditions
- Worst month July
- Worst day of week Sunday
- Worst time period 9 am to midday



Injury crashes involving young drivers  
Southland District  
2004 - 2008



## 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 Southland District between 2004 and 2008, 44 percent of injury crashes involved young drivers. These 370 injury crashes resulted in 12 fatalities, 148 serious injuries and 441 minor injuries.

The total number of injury crashes involving young drivers is not reducing. This is largely due to an increase in reported minor injury crashes.

### Injury crashes involving young drivers

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	Total
2004	3	27	37	67
2005	5	25	58	88
2006	3	25	43	71
2007	0	30	44	74
2008	1	15	54	70
Total	12	122	236	370

Over 4 of every 10 of the 393 young drivers in these crashes had a learner or restricted licence. Nearly two thirds of them were males and 53 percent were 15 - 19 year olds. There were 10 drivers under 15 years involved in crashes

Nearly all the young drivers were local residents.

### Young drivers in injury crashes

Licence type	Female	Male	Total
Full	41	90	131
Learner	12	29	41
Restricted	58	64	122
Overseas	18	26	44
Never licensed	10	13	23
Disqualified	3	13	16
Other (unknown, wrong class)	3	13	16
Total	145	248	393

### Injury crashes involving young drivers

Crash type or contributory cause	% of injury crashes
Alcohol	19
Speed	29
Failed to give way or stop	11
Poor handling	44
Poor observation	30
Lost control - straight	28
Lost control - bend	44
Rear end / obstruction	9
Crossing / turning	11

Further information about the 172 injury crashes involving young drivers on local roads in Southland District 2004 to 2008:

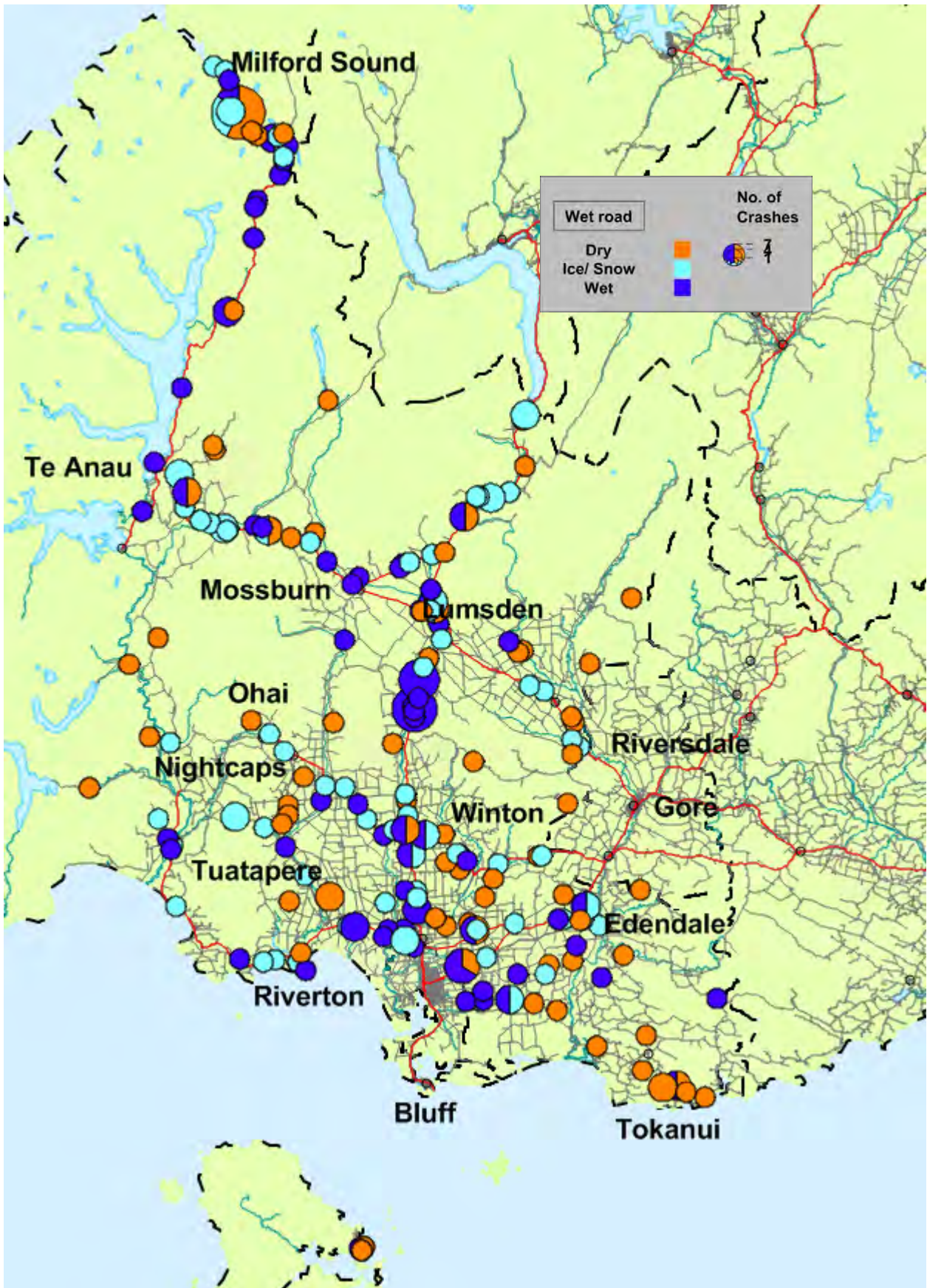
- 69 percent were single vehicle crashes
- 22 percent were on urban roads
- 16 percent at intersections
- 42 percent at night
- 24 percent in wet or icy conditions
- Worst month April
- Worst day of week Sunday
- Worst time 3 pm - 6 pm

Further information about the 198 injury crashes involving young drivers on State highways in Southland District 2004 to 2008:

- 68 percent were single vehicle crashes
- 10 percent were on urban roads
- 17 percent at intersections
- 42 percent at night
- 43 percent in wet or icy conditions
- Worst month January, February, May, July
- Worst day of week Sunday
- Worst time 3 pm - 6 pm



Injury crashes with a Road factor  
Southland District  
2004 - 2008





## Road Factors - including roadside hazards

A safe road environment includes appropriate geometric design standards, good delineation, adequate surface skid resistance and a roadside free of unforgiving hazards.

In 2008 in Southland District, "road factors" were a contributing factor in 22 percent of injury crashes.

Additionally in Southland District between 2004 and 2008 69 percent of injury crashes involved a roadside hazards were being struck.

Road factor related injury crashes					
Road type	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Urban	3	4	5	5	6
Rural	36	45	56	53	30
Total	39	49	61	58	36

Roadside hazards normally contribute to the overall crash outcome by increasing injury severity but can in themselves be a contributory factor in a crash. For example occupants in an errant vehicle striking a large tree close to the road edge are likely to sustain worse injuries than if the tree was not present. If the same tree had low branches and was located at an intersection it could also contribute to a lack of visibility.

In the injury crashes in Southland District where a roadside hazard was struck 13 people died, 195 received serious injuries and 650 minor injuries.

The most commonly struck objects are shown below. In total 795 objects were struck

Most common types of hazard struck (all injury crashes in Southland District)	
Type of hazard 2004 to 2008	Number of times hazard struck
Fence	202
Ditch	115
Cliff or bank	114
Tree	90
Over bank	74
Post or pole	64

### Types of road factors in injury crashes

Road factor type 2004 to 2008	Number of occasions reported
Slippery road	194
Road surface in poor condition	68
Road obstructed	2
Visibility limited	29
Signs or signals (needed or faulty)	10
Markings (needed or faulty)	2

Further information about the 96 road factor related injury crashes in Southland District on local roads (2004 to 2008):

- 46 serious injuries and 102 minor injuries
- Most common crash type, loss of control at bends
- 11 percent at intersections
- 17 percent urban
- 43 percent wet or icy road
- 22 percent night time
- Worst month January, February
- Worst time 3 pm - 6 pm

Further information about the 147 road factor related injury crashes in Southland District on State Highways (2004 to 2008):

- 6 deaths, 34 serious injuries and 210 minor injuries
- Most common crash type, loss of control at bends
- 7 percent at intersections
- 5 percent urban
- 83 percent wet or icy road
- 37 percent night time
- Worst month July
- Worst time 3 pm - 6 pm

## Overseas drivers

In Southland District between 2004 and 2008 there were 165 injury crashes that involved overseas drivers. These crashes resulted in 2 fatalities, 64 serious injuries and 235 minor injuries.

These drivers include both tourists and New Zealand residents driving on an overseas licence.

Over the last five years, the annual number of casualties from injury crashes in the district involving overseas drivers reached a high in 2006. Since then the numbers have been significantly lower. This is primarily a result of fluctuations in the number of people with minor injuries.

Casualties in crashes involving overseas drivers					
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Fatal	0	0	0	1	1
Serious	6	17	13	16	12
Minor	25	46	77	44	43
Total	31	63	90	61	56

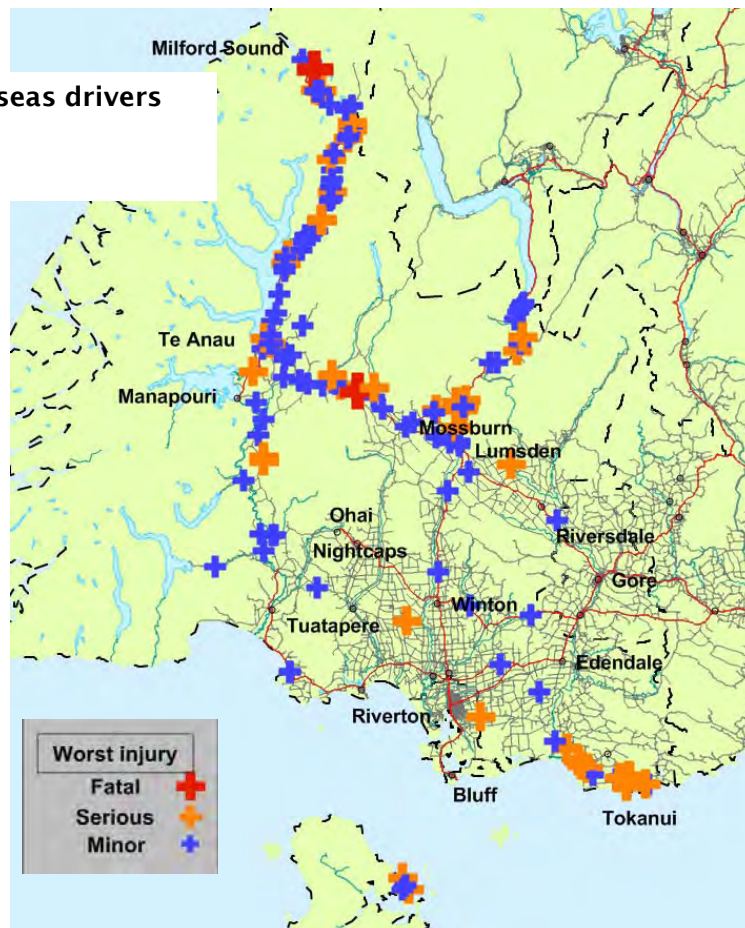
In Southland District, Lost control accounted for 86 percent of all crashes involving overseas drivers. Male drivers of all ages made up 69 percent of at fault drivers in these crashes.

The home locations of the overseas drivers were	
Asia	41
Europe	32
United Kingdom	23
Australia	20
USA	13
South America	1

Further information about the 165 injury crashes involving overseas drivers in Southland District 2004 to 2008:

- Most common crash factors Poor handling
- 62 percent of crashes at bends
- 10 percent of crashes at intersections
- 8 percent of crashes at night
- 28 percent in of crashes in wet or icy conditions
- Worst month February
- Worst day of week Saturday
- Worst time 3 pm - 6 pm

Injury crashes involving overseas drivers Southland District 2004 - 2008

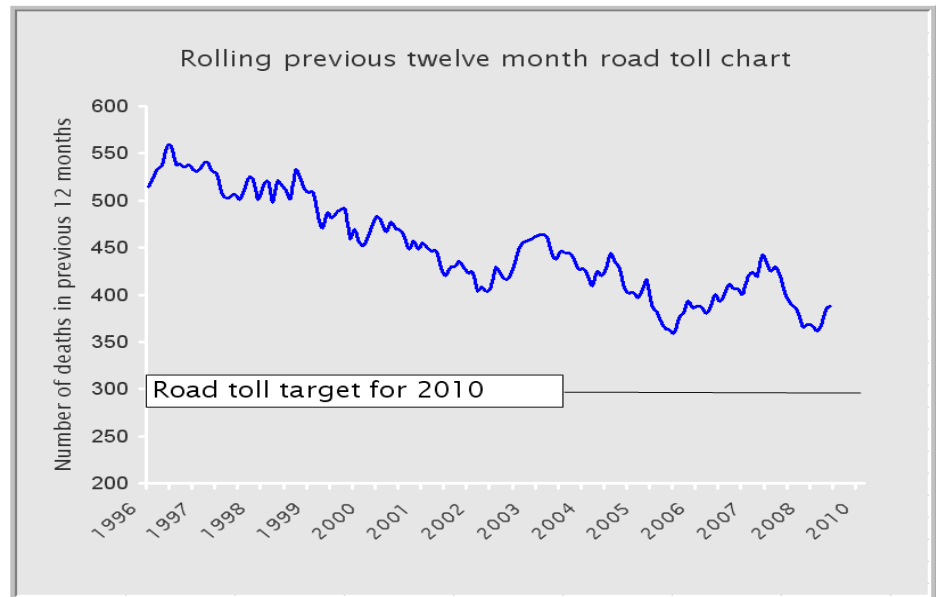


## The next ten years—moving beyond Road Safety 2010

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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