

briefing notes - road safety issues

Waimate District

Land Transport New Zealand has prepared this road safety issues report. It is based on reported crash data and trends for the 2003–2007 period.

The intent of the report is to highlight the key road safety issues and be a resource to help identify possible ways to reduce the number of road deaths and injuries in Waimate District.

This report is the ninth road safety report for Waimate District. All the material unless otherwise stated in this report applies to both local roads and to Transit New Zealand (Transit NZ) roads.

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 Waimate 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 local bodies to use the free access to the Ministry of Transport's Crash Analysis System to delve deeper into the highlighted issues.

Major road safety issues

Waimate District

Loss of Control

2007 road trauma

Casualties

Waimate District

Deaths	2
Serious casualties	11
Minor casualties	40

Nationally

Speed
 Alcohol
 Failure to give way
 Restraints

Crashes

Waimate District

Fatal crashes	2
Serious injury crashes	8
Minor injury crashes	26
Non-injury crashes	33

Overview

In 2007 on local roads in Waimate District there were nine injury crashes and 15 non-injury crashes. In addition there were 27 injury crashes and 18 non-injury crashes on Transit New Zealand (Transit NZ) roads, both as reported by the New Zealand Police.

The table below shows the number of injuries resulting from the 36 injury crashes, by rural or urban areas for all roads, (rural is defined as an area with a speed limit of 80km/h or more).

Casualties by environment 2007				
	Fatalities	Serious injuries	Minor injuries	Total
Rural	2	9	35	46
Urban		2	5	7
Total	2	11	40	53

The annual numbers of fatal and serious injury crashes in the district have fluctuated over the last ten years, and there is no obvious long term trend in the numbers. In 2007 the number of minor injury crashes increased notably and was twice the previous high of 13 crashes in 1999 and 2004.

Crash trends				
Year	Fatal crashes	Serious injury crashes	Minor injury crashes	Non-injury crashes
1998	1	9	8	21
1999	1	6	13	21
2000		9	11	28
2001	1	10	12	26
2002	2	5	12	36
2003	1	4	12	27
2004	3	11	13	49
2005	2	9	8	30
2006		2	12	35
2007	2	8	26	33

Injury crashes 2003-2007

Crash type or contributory cause	Local Road Percent of injury crashes	Transit Road Percent of injury crashes
Alcohol	26%	11%
Too fast	26%	15%
Bend—lost control crash	50%	32%
Straight—lost control crash	19%	37%
Crossing / turning crash	14%	13%
Road factors	24%	10%
Vulnerable road users (Percent of casualties)	15%	6%
1, Pedestrians	0%	0%
2, Cyclists	5%	2%
3, Motorcyclists	11%	4%

Further information about 2003 to 2007 injury and non-injury crashes on local roads:

- Worst month February, April, December
- Worst day Saturday
- 20 percent on wet roads
- 36 percent at night
- 30 percent at intersections
- Social cost of crashes in 2007 was \$5.7m

Further information about 2003 to 2007 injury and non-injury crashes on Transit NZ roads

- Worst month April
- Worst day Saturday, Sunday
- 20 percent on wet roads
- 35 percent at night
- 19 percent at intersections
- Social cost of crashes in 2007 was \$11.5m

Loss of Control

Between 2003 and 2007 64 percent of all injury crashes in Waimate District involved loss of control. These crashes resulted in 7 fatalities, 33 serious injuries and 89 minor injuries.

Annual crash numbers can vary considerably year to year. There were 50 such crashes in 2007.

Loss of Control Crashes 2003 to 2007

Crash year	Fatal crashes	Serious crashes	Minor crashes	Non-injury
2003	1	2	10	13
2004	2	6	7	15
2005	2	7	5	14
2006		2	9	11
2007	2	5	18	25
Total	7	22	49	78

Most loss of control crashes occur when a driver loses control of their vehicle and either runs off the road or collides with another vehicle.

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 three most common roadside hazards struck in these injury crashes in Waimate District were fences (25), poles (10) and ditches (10) from a total of 70 objects struck.

Main characteristics of injury loss of control crashes

Crash characteristic	Percentage of crashes
Bend	56%
Straight road	44%
Single vehicle	82%
Alcohol	19%
Excessive speed for the conditions	24%
Road factors	15%
Poor handling	47%
Rural road	88%
Wet road	19%
Night time	37%

Further information about injury loss of control crashes (2003 to 2007) on local roads in Waimate District :

- 2 deaths, 13 serious injuries and 36 minor injuries
- 79 percent of at fault drivers were male
- Most common crash type "Bend - lost control / head on"
- Most common driver age group 15 - 19 years
- 31 percent of crashes involved alcohol
- 31 percent of crashes involved speed
- Worst month April, October
- Worst day of week Saturday
- Worst time period 3 pm to 6 pm

Further information about injury loss of control crashes (2003 to 2007) on Transit NZ roads in Waimate District :

- 5 deaths, 20 serious injuries and 53 minor injuries
- 60 percent of at fault drivers were male
- Most common crash type "Straight road - lost control / head-on"
- Most common driver age group 15 - 19 years
- 12 percent of crashes involved alcohol
- 20 percent of crashes involved speed
- Worst months March, June
- Worst day of week Saturday
- Worst time period 3 pm to 6 pm

National issues

This section contains some brief information on the key national road safety issues as measured in Waimate District. They may have been covered elsewhere in this document or not be a specific issue.

Speed

In Waimate District, "too fast" was recorded in 20 fatal and injury crashes in the district in the last five years resulting in one death and 28 injuries. Speed related crashes in the district increased from 2003 to 2007.

76 percent of speed-related crashes were lost control / head-on on a bend. Poor handling, alcohol and poor observation were the other driver factors most often associated with speed in injury crashes.

81 percent of at fault drivers in these injury crashes were males. The most common ages of these drivers were between 15 to 24 years.

Alcohol

In Waimate District, alcohol was involved in 19 fatal and injury crashes in the district in the last five years resulting in one death, and 26 other injuries. The number of injury crashes involving alcohol may be reducing.

68 percent of all alcohol crashes were in rural areas of the district. 55 percent these were lost control / head-on on a bend. Poor handling, too fast and poor observation were the other factors often associated with alcohol in injury crashes.

80 percent of at fault drivers in these injury crashes were males.

Failure to give way

In Waimate District, failure to give way or stop was reported in 13 fatal and injury crashes during the last five years resulting in 1 death and 17 other injuries.

Poor Observation was the driver factor most often associated with failure to give way in injury crashes.

50 percent of at fault drivers in these injury crashes were males. The most common ages of these drivers were between 30 to 49 years

Restraints

The Ministry of Transport conducts surveys of restraint use. The results of these surveys are at a regional level, and may not be fully appropriate to a Territorial Authority. The results are obtainable from the Ministry of Transport website.

<http://www.transport.govt.nz/belts-index/>

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