

19 September 2013

Chelsea Blair
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Dear Chelsea

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 28 August 2013 to the New Zealand Police requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, information on alcohol-related vehicle crashes on rural and urban roads. As you were advised by the Police, your questions 2, 3, 4 and 5 have been transferred to the NZ Transport Agency to respond to.

I have set out each of your questions and our responses below.

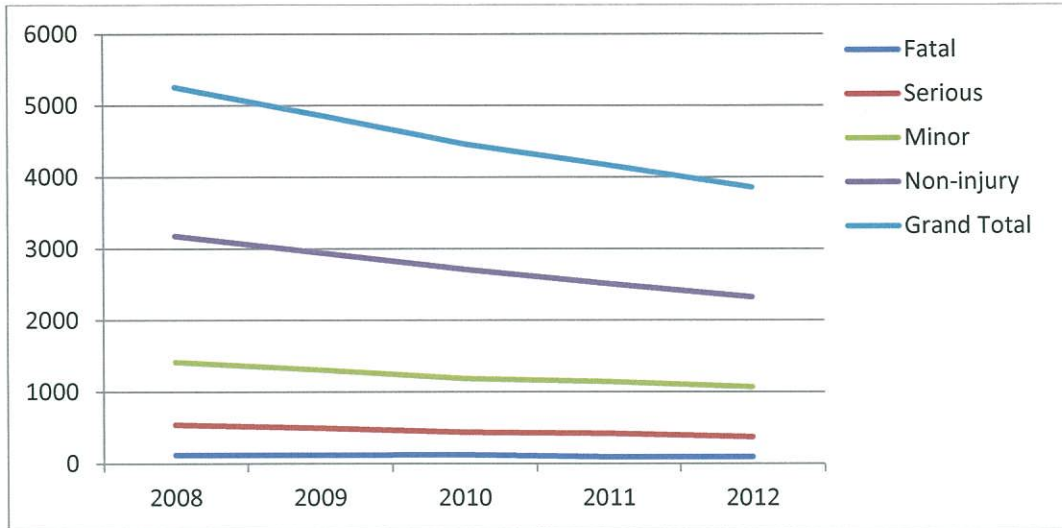
Please note that 'alcohol-related crashes' have been defined as those at which the attending police officer indicated '*alcohol suspected*', '*alcohol test below limit*', '*alcohol test above limit*', '*test refused*' or '*alcohol test result unknown*' as crash factors.

Question 2: What has been the trend for the number of alcohol-related road accidents over the past five years? Up or down?

This number of crashes for all of New Zealand is shown in the table below.

Number of alcohol-related crashes, 2008-2012						
Crash type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Total
Fatal	120	120	127	95	94	556
Serious	542	494	437	419	370	2,262
Minor	1,416	1,308	1,189	1,143	1,070	6,126
Non-injury	3,177	2,944	2,711	2,511	2,324	13,667
Total	5,255	4,866	4,464	4,168	3,858	22,611

As the chart below shows, there has been a downward trend in the number of alcohol-related crashes in the past five years.



Question 3: The number of non alcohol-related road accidents in rural areas vs urban areas.

The number of non alcohol-related crashes on rural roads for all of New Zealand is shown in the table below. Rural roads are defined as those with speed limits of 80km/h or higher.

Crash type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Total
Fatal	155	157	155	119	129	715
Serious	746	730	674	643	651	3,444
Minor	2,878	2,690	2,767	2,444	2,352	13,131
Non-injury	6,744	6,768	6,485	5,884	5,491	31,372
Total	10,523	10,345	10,081	9,090	8,623	48,662

The number of non alcohol-related crashes on urban roads for all of New Zealand is shown in the table below. Urban roads are defined as those with speed limits of 70km/h or lower.

Crash type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Total
Fatal	56	60	55	45	43	259
Serious	857	772	771	680	732	3,812
Minor	5,005	4,901	4,782	4,297	4,221	23,206
Non-injury	17,841	17,313	16,723	14,170	12,947	78,994
Total	23,759	23,046	22,331	19,192	17,943	106,271

Question 4: The number of alcohol-related road accidents in rural areas vs urban areas.

The number of alcohol-related crashes on rural roads for all of New Zealand is shown in the table below. Rural roads are defined as those with speed limits of 80km/h or higher.

Number of alcohol-related crashes on rural roads, 2008-2012						
Crash type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Total
Fatal	89	88	84	65	77	403
Serious	267	254	223	226	200	1,170
Minor	539	502	458	431	377	2,307
Non-injury	763	728	639	664	606	3,400
Total	1,658	1,572	1,404	1,386	1,260	7,280

The number of alcohol-related crashes on urban roads for all of New Zealand is shown in the table below. Urban roads are defined as those with speed limits of 70km/h or lower.

Number of alcohol-related crashes on urban roads, 2008-2012						
Crash type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Total
Fatal	31	32	43	30	17	153
Serious	275	240	214	193	170	1,092
Minor	877	806	731	712	693	3,819
Non-injury	2,414	2,216	2,072	1,847	1,718	10,267
Total	3,597	3,294	3,060	2,782	2,598	15,331

Question 5: How many fatalities in alcohol-related road accidents per year on rural roads vs urban roads?

This information is shown in the table below.

Number of fatalities from alcohol-related crashes, 2008-2012						
Type of road	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Total
Rural	104	103	97	72	100	476
Urban	35	37	51	31	20	174

If you would like to discuss this reply with the Transport Agency, please contact Andy Knackstedt, National Media Manager, by email to andrew.knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz or by phone on (04) 894 6285.

Yours sincerely



Barbara Tebbs
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