

briefing notes road safety issues

Manawatu Wanganui Region

Land Transport New Zealand has prepared this road safety issues report. It is based on reported crash data and trends for the 2002–2006 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 Manawatu Wanganui Region.

This report is the eighth road safety report for Manawatu Wanganui Region. Most of the data in this report applies to both local roads and state highways. Where relevant the details of the crashes on the local road and state highways are provided and discussed.

In each new report the latest year's data is added to a five-year block and the oldest dropped, so it is unlikely that the core issues for any local body 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 Manawatu Wanganui Region is compared to national average or those with high social cost (relating mainly to high numbers of fatal and serious crashes).

We have included a brief overview of crashes in the region for 2006.

Major road safety issues		2006 road trauma	
Manawatu Wanganui Region		Casualties	
Fatigue		Deaths	32
National issues comparison		Serious casualties	192
		Minor casualties	696
Nationally		Crashes	
Speed		Fatal crashes	28
Alcohol		Serious injury crashes	145
Failure to give way		Minor injury crashes	456
Restraints		Non injury crashes	2035

Overview of crashes in 2006

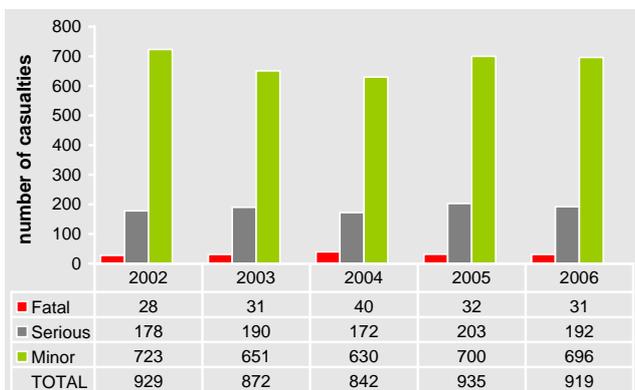
In 2006 on local roads in Manawatu Wanganui Region there were 629 injury crashes and 1404 non-injury crashes. In addition there were 281 injury crashes and 552 non-injury crashes on State Highways, as reported by the New Zealand Police.

The table below shows the number of injuries in 2006 resulting from crashes by rural or urban areas for both local roads and state highways (rural is defined as an area with a speed limit of 80km/h or more).

	Fatalities	Serious injuries	Minor injuries	Total
Rural	26	137	390	553
Urban	5	54	308	367
Total	31	191	698	920

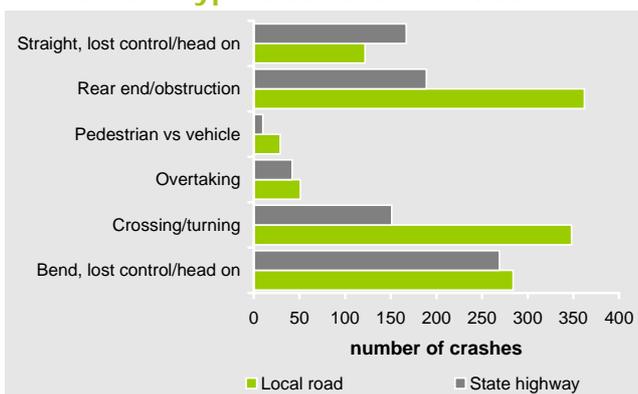
Number of casualties in 2006 is consistent with the five year average (2 percent above the norm). Both fatal (31/32) and the combined fatal and serious totals in 2006 are also relatively unchanged from the 5 year average (223/219). In general injury figures are similar year to year for the Manawatu Wanganui Region.

Casualties trend 2002-2006



The following chart shows the distribution of the injury and non-injury crashes on local roads and state highways in year 2006 by movement category.

Movement type distribution 2006



Further information about 2006 injury and non-injury crashes on:

Local roads

- Worst month March (10 percent), Best January (7 percent)
- Worst day Friday (17 percent), Best Sunday (10 percent)
- Wet road 23 percent
- Night time 30 percent
- Mid-block 53 percent
- At fault male driver (injury crashes) 64 percent
- Full NZ licence (injury crashes) 52 percent of at fault drivers

State highways

- Worst month June (10 percent), Best February (7 percent)
- Worst day Friday (17 percent), Best Monday (12 percent)
- Wet road 31 percent
- Night time 35 percent
- Mid-block 70 percent
- At fault male driver (injury crashes) 64 percent
- Full NZ licence (injury crashes) 68 percent of at fault drivers

It has been observed nationally that there is a growing group of drivers who have not been exiting the graduated licence system and who are choosing to stay on restricted licences. This is making it increasingly difficult to distinguish drivers who are truly inexperienced from those that should have moved to a full licence. As a consequence it is more difficult to target educational material.

We see recorded in Manawatu Wanganui Region that 29 percent of at fault drivers in injury crashes are *never licensed* or hold a *learner* or *restricted* driving licence in year 2006.

Licence status	Injury crashes percentage of at fault drivers	
	Manawatu Wanganui Region	New Zealand
Full	59.8	58.4
Learner	9.0	9.5
Restricted	19.8	17.6
Never licensed	2.1	2.2
Disqualified	2.4	1.7
Overseas	1.3	4.2
Expired	0.6	0.5
Other/unknown	5.0	5.6

Fatigue

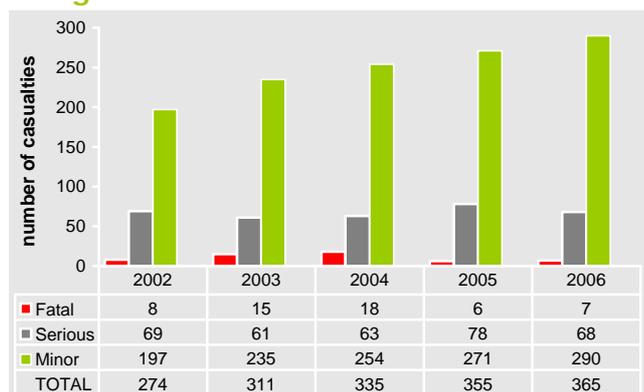
In 2006 driver *fatigue* was reported as a factor in 18 percent of all injury crashes in the Manawatu Wanganui Region. This compares to a national five year average of 6 percent.

Staying alert is crucial for safe driving. Research indicates that the effect of fatigue on cognitive skills of is similar to that of alcohol. Fatigued drivers may have slower reaction times, putting themselves and others in danger when they encounter unusual, unexpected or emergency situations.

Identifying the effects and presence of driver fatigue as a contributing cause to a crash is difficult and it is generally considered to be under reported.

Between 2002 and 2006 in Manawatu Wanganui Region, there were 296 injury crashes and 341 non-injury crashes recorded that involved *fatigue*. These resulted in 20 deaths, 112 serious injuries, 330 minor injuries. Thus we see that 46 percent of *fatigue* crashes result in injury.

Fatigue casualties 2002-2006



These are basically *loss of control* crashes and often result in the fatigued driver colliding with an object or with another vehicle.

After drivers lose control of their vehicles they 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 a loss of control crash in Manawatu Wanganui Region were: *fence* (220), followed by *ditch* (190), *post/pole* (90) and *tree* (87) from a total of 851 objects struck in 2002 –2006 period.

The following table lists the main characteristics of these driver *fatigue* crashes in 2002–2006.

Crash characteristic	Crashes
Single vehicle	86 percent
Roadside object struck (fence -most common)	851 objects
Alcohol	15 percent
Mid block crash location	90 percent
State highway	75 percent
Rural road	83 percent
Wet road	22 percent
Night time	53 percent

Most of the fatigue related crashes happened on state highways and in the rural area. It has been observed that significant number of drivers involved in the crashes, especially on the local roads, were above alcohol limit.

The following table lists the licence status of at fault drivers of driver *fatigue* crashes.

The higher than national average proportion of

Licence status	Injury crashes percentage of at fault drivers	
	Manawatu Wanganui Region	New Zealand
Full	63.2	57.7
Learner	9.3	10.1
Restricted	16.9	16.2
Never licensed	0.7	2.3
Disqualified	2.0	2.2
Overseas	2.0	4.2
Expired	2.0	1.3
Other/unknown	3.9	6.0

fatigued drivers being involved in the injury crashes in the Manawatu Wanganui Region is matter of concern.

Further facts about injury and non-injury crashes loss of control at bends in 2002—2006 period are:

Local roads

- 1 death, 21 serious injuries 63 minor injuries
- 70 percent of at fault drivers are male
- Most common crash factors are *alcohol* and *poor handling*
- Most common at fault age range drivers under 24 years old (38 percent)
- 23 percent involve *alcohol over limit*
- Worst month December (13 percent), best January (5 percent)
- Worst day of week Sunday (22 percent), best Tuesday (8 percent)

State highways

- 19 deaths, 91 serious injuries 267 minor injuries
- 72 percent of at fault drivers are male
- Most common crash factor is *poor handling*
- Most common at fault age ranges are 15-19 and 20-24 years old (14 percent each)
- 6 percent of *fatigue* are *over alcohol limit*
- Worst months December and January (11 percent each), best July and November (5 percent each)
- Worst day of week Sunday (20 percent) best Wednesday (10 percent)

National issues

Speed

Speed *too fast* was recorded in 17 percent of all nationally reported injury crashes in the last five years. In Manawatu Wanganui Region, this factor was recorded in 19 percent of injury crashes resulting in 49 deaths, 247 serious and 648 minor injuries. There were also 1024 non-injury speed-related crashes reported. Speed as a factor in crashes is not reducing in the region.

Seventy-one percent of speed-related injury crashes were *bend-lost control/head on*. Male drivers aged less than 25 years are the largest group of *at fault/part-fault drivers* (47 percent) involved in speed related crashes.

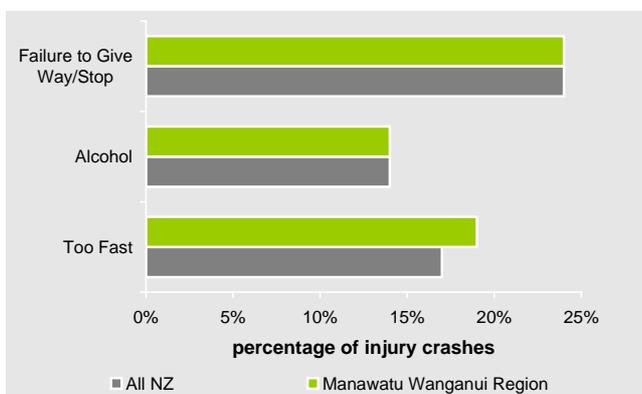
Alcohol

Alcohol was involved in 14 percent of all nationally reported injury crashes in the last five years. In Manawatu Wanganui Region, alcohol was involved in 14 percent of injury crashes resulting in 41 deaths, 195 serious and 408 minor injuries. The number of injury crashes involving alcohol is not reducing in the region. In 2006 there were ten fatalities and 42 serious injuries resulting from alcohol related crashes.

Sixty percent of alcohol crashes were in urban areas of the region and 71 percent on *local roads*. Just over half (52 percent) of alcohol related crashes were *lost control at bends*.

Failure to give way

Failure to give way or stop was reported in 24 percent of all nationally reported injury crashes for the last five years. In Manawatu Wanganui Region, this factor was recorded in 24 percent of injury crashes resulting in 19 deaths and 197 serious and 1109 minor injuries. There was also 2435 non-injury crashes reported with this factor. 91 percent of the crashes were in urban areas of the region.



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/>

Contacts

Land Transport New Zealand

Palmerston North Office

Level 3, IRD Building
 Corner Ashley and Ferguson Streets
 PO Box 1947, PALMERSTON NORTH
 Telephone 06 953 6396
 Fax 06 953 6203

www.landtransport.govt.nz

Partnerships Manager Central

Ian Hunter (04 931 8904)

Performance Information Manager Central

Nabin Pradhan (04 931 8928)

Senior Area Engineer

Sol Hessel (06 953 6211)
 Palmerston North Office

Education Advisor

Jane Street (06 953 6204)

Horizons Regional Council

Transport Services Manager

Anne Redgrave
 PO Box 11025 Palmerston North
 (06 952 2894)

Transit New Zealand

Regional Manager

Errol Christiansen
 PO Box 345, Wanganui
 Phone 06 349 6520

New Zealand Police

Road Policing Manager Central District

Neil Wynne (06 351 3600)
 Central District Headquarters
 Private Bag 11040, Palmerston North