

Tracking New Zealand's road safety performance

new regional dashboard and other analytics

"People make mistakes, but we have to stop viewing these road deaths as inevitable."

A new regional road crash dashboard and factsheets make it easier for communities to understand their year-on-year road safety trends and monitor their performance.

The Ministry of Transport's new [sub-regional dashboard](#) captures the annual crash data for deaths and serious injuries across the country going back 27 years in an interactive format.

New [road safety factsheets](#) reporting on different crash types (cycling, fatigue, young drivers etc.) are also available.

The new resources make it easy to access long-term information at a national and regional level, including the numbers of deaths and serious injuries, proportions of deaths and injuries by road user type (drivers, pedestrians, cyclists etc.), and ages of those killed or injured in serious crashes.

For example, at a national level, for the past 5 years (2013 -to 2017)

- 1,500 people were killed –and the numbers have increased over the past five years at an unprecedented level
- 57 of those killed were children under the age of 16, a further 167 were aged 15-19
- Nearly 40% of those killed were not driving (they were cycling, walking, passenger etc.)
- Losing control, driving too fast for conditions, alcohol and drugs, and failing to keep left were the top four factors contributing to serious crashes.

Users are able to analyse this and other data at a regional level to help them to understand some of the issues specific to their region.

The dashboard builds on the annual crash statement 2017 and we will continue to add further detail into the dashboards in the New Year.

The Ministry of Transport and partners are working to develop a new road safety strategy for New Zealand, with the clear ambition of reducing the trauma on our roads. As the dashboard shows, it is a complex problem, and there is no simple solution.

Regional dashboard: <http://www.transport.govt.nz/mot-resources/new-road-safety-resources/regional-road-casualties-dashboard/>

Road safety factsheets: <http://www.transport.govt.nz/mot-resources/new-road-safety-resources/>

Comment from Brent Johnston, Manager, Mobility and Safety, Ministry of Transport.

“The hundreds of lives lost and the thousands injured on our roads this year are an absolute tragedy. On average, one person is killed every day on New Zealand roads, another is injured about every hour of every day. It is horrific, and we need to do something differently.

Road travel in New Zealand is uniquely challenging –we live in a long hilly country, and many of our roads are narrow and lack median barriers or other safety infrastructure used overseas on higher-speed roads.

“We all have a responsibility to make good choices when we are on the road. But we also need to acknowledge that people make mistakes.

“We need to design a road system for people, instead of blaming people for failing to survive in the system that we’ve designed”.

People make mistakes, but we have to stop viewing these road deaths as inevitable.

“The Ministry of Transport is leading the development of a new road safety strategy, working with our road safety partner agencies and a wide range of stakeholder groups. We are reviewing every part of the road safety system to create a strategy and priority actions that will save lives. We will be seeking public input into the new road safety strategy in March / April of next year.

“We’re also working on new road safety initiatives right now, and in the New Year we’ll be consulting on a number of significant road safety policies including speed management, drug driving and ABS Brakes for motorcycles to name just a few.

“In the meantime, we’re asking all drivers and riders this summer to make good choices on the roads. No one thinks a crash will happen to them, but we all make mistakes, so please:

- Follow the rules and use good judgement when travelling on challenging roads
- Drive and ride carefully: slow down a little, put your phone away, pay special attention at intersections
- Watch out for each other, especially for people who aren’t in cars

Some additional road safety points of note:

- International data shows that about 30% serious crashes are caused by risk-taking and deliberate violations, and the rest are caused by simple errors of judgement (from [International Transport Forum](#) report).
- Each year, nearly 40% of the people killed on our roads were not driving the vehicle – they were walking, cycling, or car passengers.
- New Zealand’s roads are uniquely challenging – we live in a long hilly country and long stretches of our highway networks lack median barriers or other safety infrastructure that are international best practice for 100kph speed limits.
- The safety of your car, and the car you buy your teenagers, matters: you’re 90% more likely to die in a 1 star car than a 5 star car.
- The posted speed limit isn’t a target and it isn’t necessarily the safe speed for the road. 87% of New Zealand roads do not have a safe and appropriate speed limit, according to NZTA analysis.
- In the event of a crash, regardless of its cause, the speed you are driving is the most important influence on whether you live or die or how badly you are injured. For example, research shows that if you have a head on collision at 100km/h you are more likely to die than survive.

Additional information:

This section provides links and information to provide a snapshot of road safety in your region. We can provide provisional data for deaths in 2018 to date, as well as issues and trends in your region.

This year's road deaths, to date

Provisional information about the road deaths for 2018 is available at the following link: <https://www.transport.govt.nz/mot-resources/road-safety-resources/road-deaths/>

We will be updating this website around 11am daily over the summer holiday period.

Christmas is a dangerous time on our roads everywhere

Christmas and the summer period are an especially dangerous time on New Zealand roads. Last year, 12 people were killed and 469 were injured across the country in the 12 days of the official Christmas period.

Regional Christmas details available [here](#).

Road risk

You can look up the risk rating for your roads at www.kiwirap.co.nz

Communities at risk in your region

The NZTA has just published its 2018 [communities at risk register](#) that identifies areas of high and low risk at a community level.

Important road safety initiatives underway this year:

There is a huge amount of work going on across the country to improve road safety and prevent crashes from occurring.

This includes:

- work underway to develop a new road safety strategy and action plan to drive substantial improvements in road safety in New Zealand (due for public consultation in March / April 2019)
- increased prioritisation for safety initiatives through the National Land Transport Programme, reflecting the Government Policy Statement on land transport 2018
- introducing mandatory alcohol interlocks – since this was introduced in July 2017, over 1000 alcohol interlock sentences have been issued
- increased funding for road policing to enable 1070 dedicated road police supporting safe travel
- work to streamline regional speed management to make it easier for regional authorities to set safe and appropriate speeds
- reviewing speed limits around schools
- working to improve the safety of footpaths
- reviewing the graduated driver licensing system
- considering options to improve vehicle safety standards.

At the same time, local road controlling authorities are continuing their work to review safe and appropriate speeds and improve road infrastructure.

About the safe system approach

New Zealand uses the world-leading safe system approach to road safety, which operates under the principle that while we all have a responsibility to make good choices, that humans make mistakes but they shouldn't have to pay for those mistakes on the roads with their lives.

The safe system states that we therefore have a responsibility to build a road system that protects people from death and serious injury when they crash. Under a safe system, we should work to:

- improve our roads, for example with median barriers, improved road sides, and separated cycle lanes and foot paths;
- set safe and appropriate speeds so that road users can survive the crashes that happen
- improve the safety of our vehicles e.g. electronic stability control, front and side curtain airbags, and collision avoidance systems
- support road users who are alert and aware of the risks and drive or ride to the conditions

Read more: <https://saferjourneys.govt.nz/about-safer-journeys/the-safe-system-approach/>

For media enquiries to the Ministry of Transport over the summer period, please email media@transport.govt.nz or call 022 015 8213.