

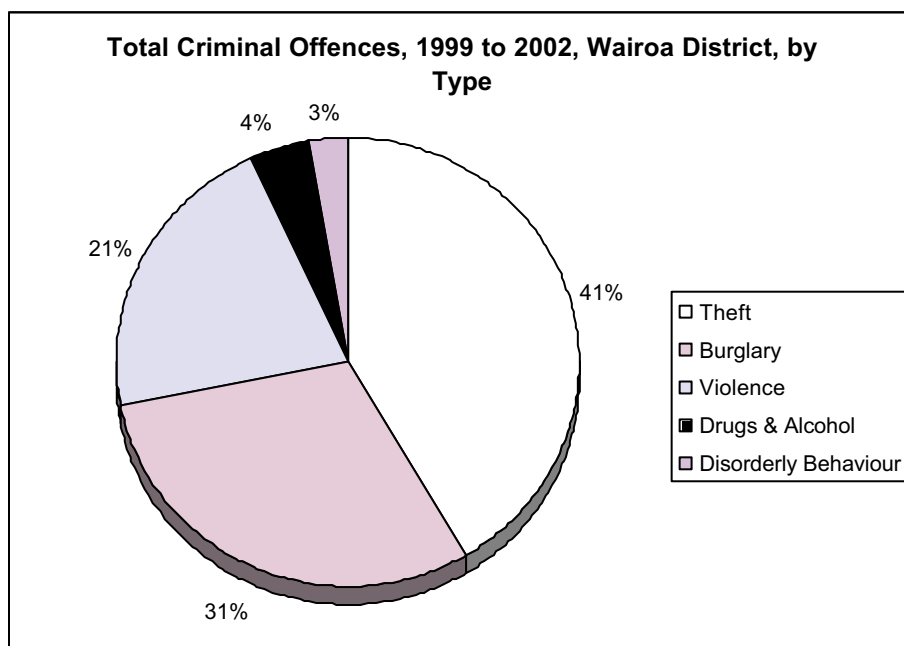
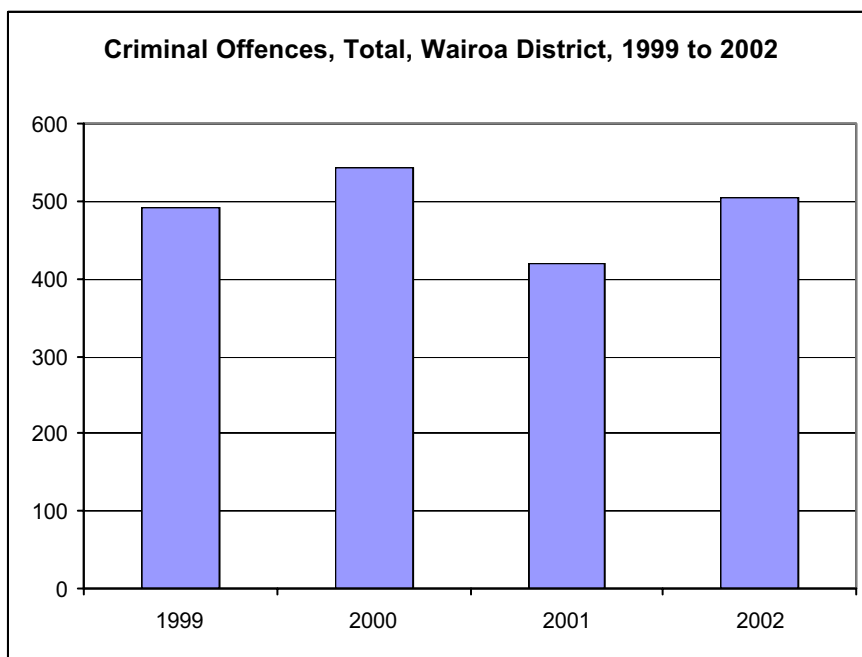
Community Safety

A range of statistics are available in the Wairoa District on factors relating to community safety. All of this data has been provided by the Wairoa Safer Community Council, which has a close liaison role with the New Zealand Police in the monitoring of community safety and criminal offending trends in the Wairoa District. Statistics are also available in regard to road safety and traffic incident statistics, which are presented in this chapter.

This chapter of the "Wairoa in Profile" report will serve as the base document for a "Wairoa District Community Safety Profile" to be prepared by the Wairoa Safer Community Council in 2004.

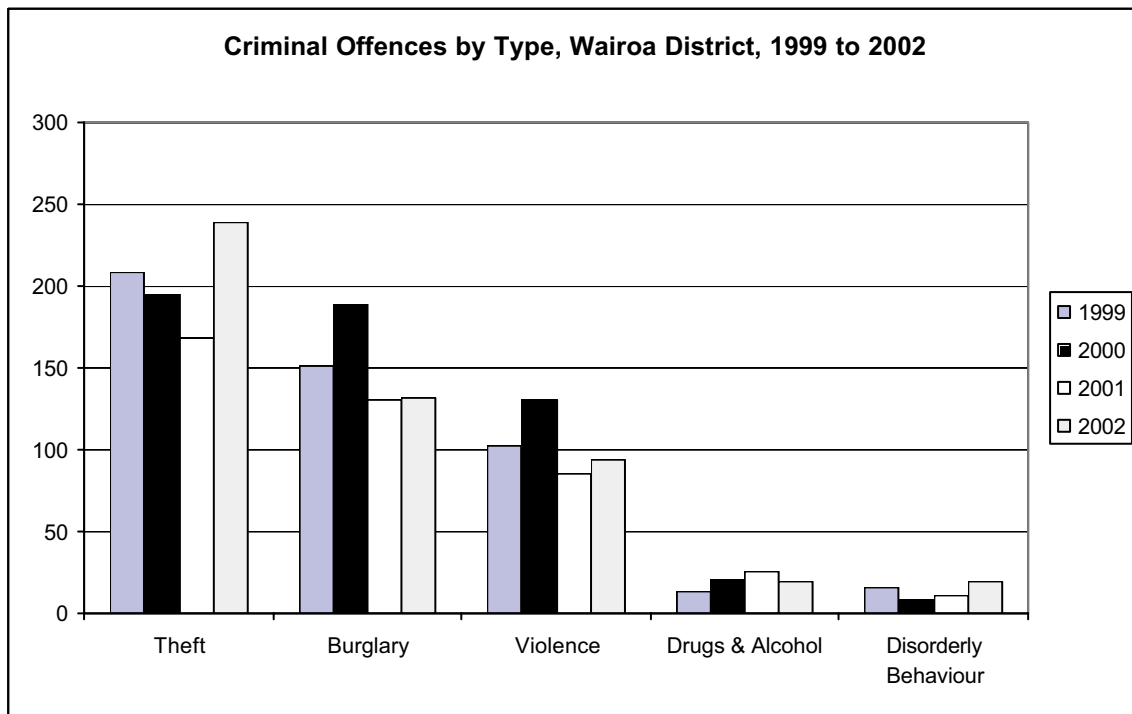
CRIMINAL OFFENCES

The level of criminal offending over the past five years has been relatively steady, with no clearly apparent trend of decline or increase. The majority of criminal offences were in the theft and burglary categories.

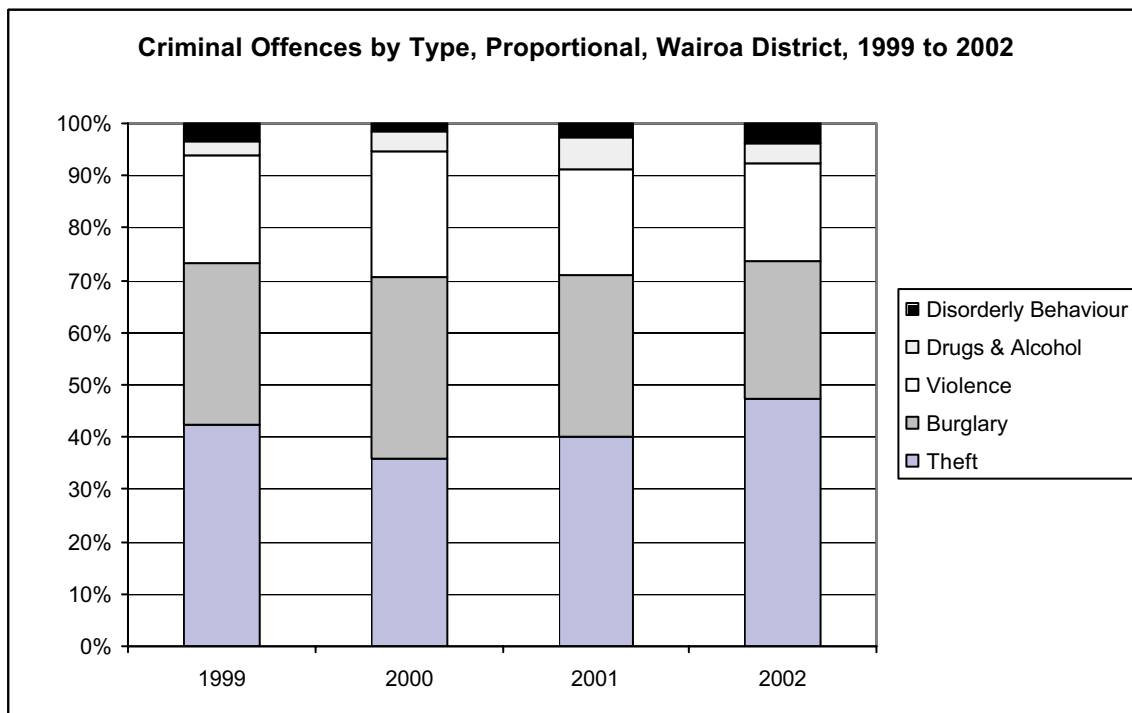


Criminal Offences By Type

Looking at criminal offences over time, there has been some decrease in burglary and violent offences, and a commensurate increase in theft. There has been a trend over time toward a small increase in disorderly behaviour.



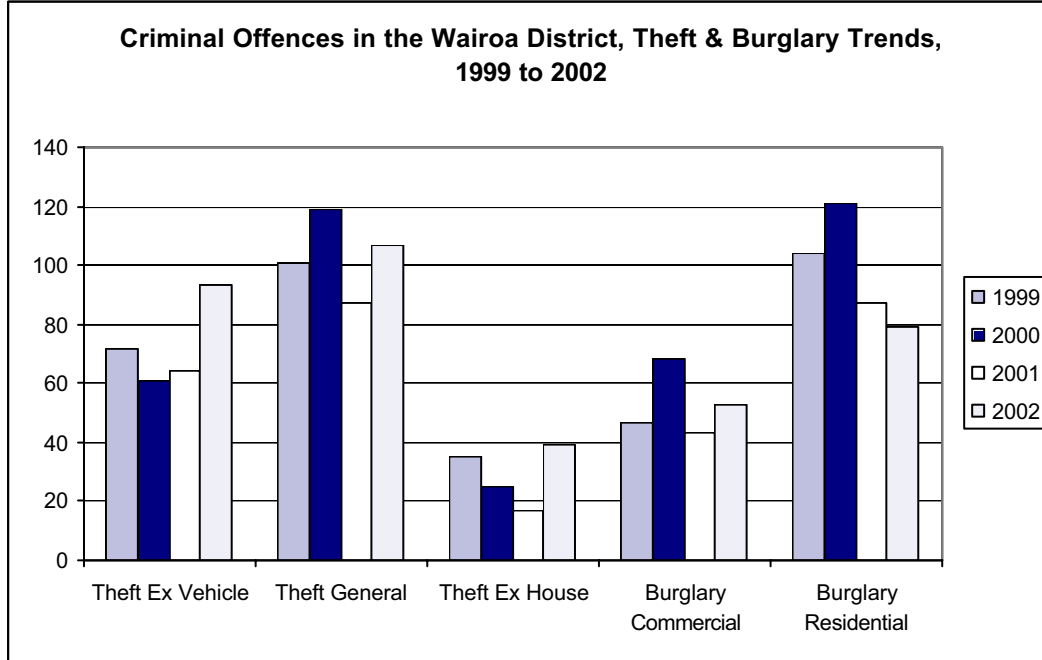
Looking at criminal offences by proportion, it can be seen that the largest proportion every year is in the category of burglary and theft. Over two thirds of criminal offences in each year were in either of these two related categories. Violent offending is the next highest proportion, with drug and alcohol offences and disorderly behaviour offences relatively lower.



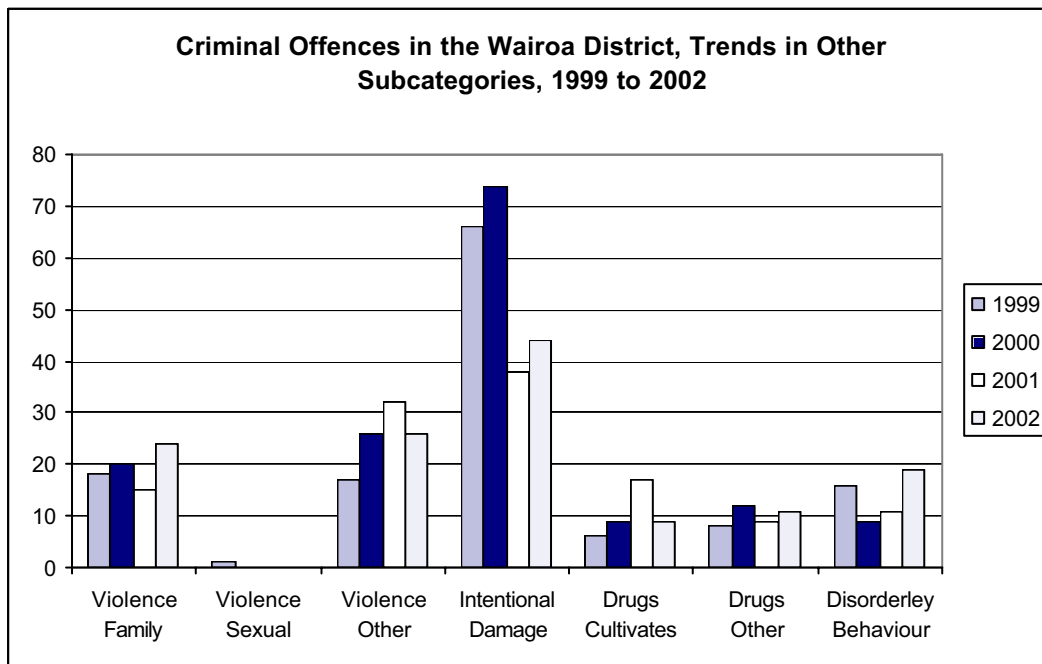
Criminal Offences By Sub-Type

The categories of criminal offences are able to be broken down into “sub-type” to see other crime trends emerge.

There has been an apparent trend in decline of burglaries in homes, compared to an increase in vehicle theft, in the period 1999 to 2002.



Looking at the other sub-categories from 1999 to 2002, there has been a significant decrease in “intentional damage” crimes, with some small increases in violence “family” and violence “other.”

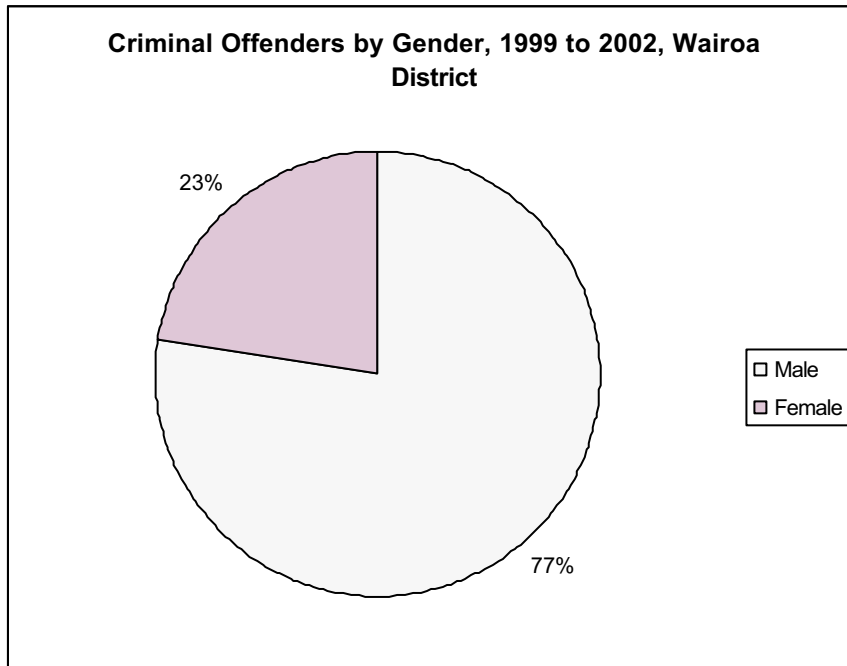


CRIMINAL OFFENDERS

This section presents some general analysis of the “make-up” of criminal offenders in the Wairoa district, including by gender, age group, and ethnicity. Statistics are for the period 1999 to 2002. Note that the statistics are by criminal event as opposed to criminal offender; i.e. any individual criminal offender could be recorded a number of times in any given year or sequence of years if they are a multiple offender.

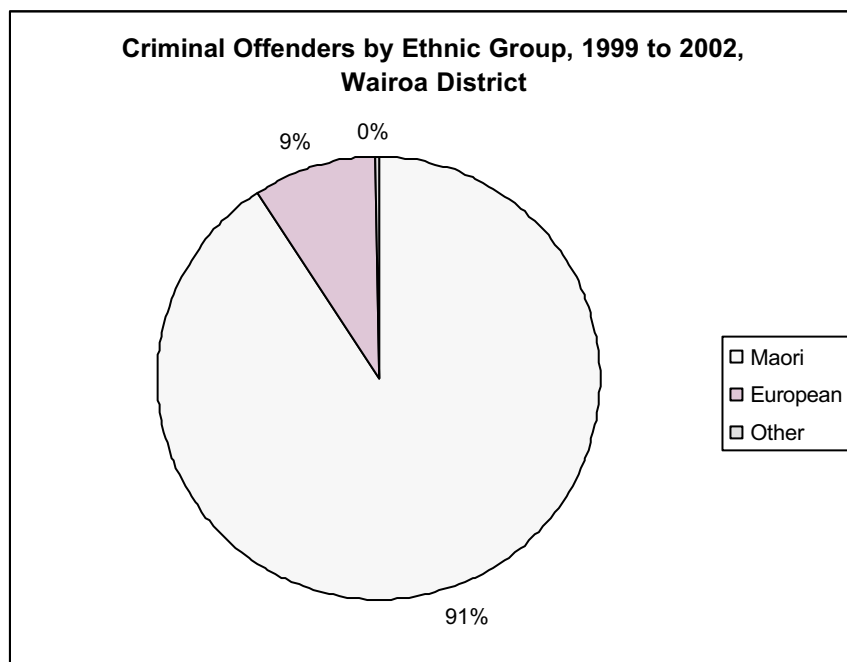
Criminal Offenders by Gender

There is a tendency for criminal offenders to be male. A total of 77% of criminal offenders recorded during the period 1999 to 2002 were male. This compares to 50% of the population being male at the 2001 Census.



Criminal Offenders by Ethnic Group

There is a tendency for criminal offenders to be Māori. A total of 91% of criminal offenders recorded during the period 1999 to 2002 were Māori. This compares to 55% of the population being Māori at the 2001 Census.



Criminal Offenders by Employment Status

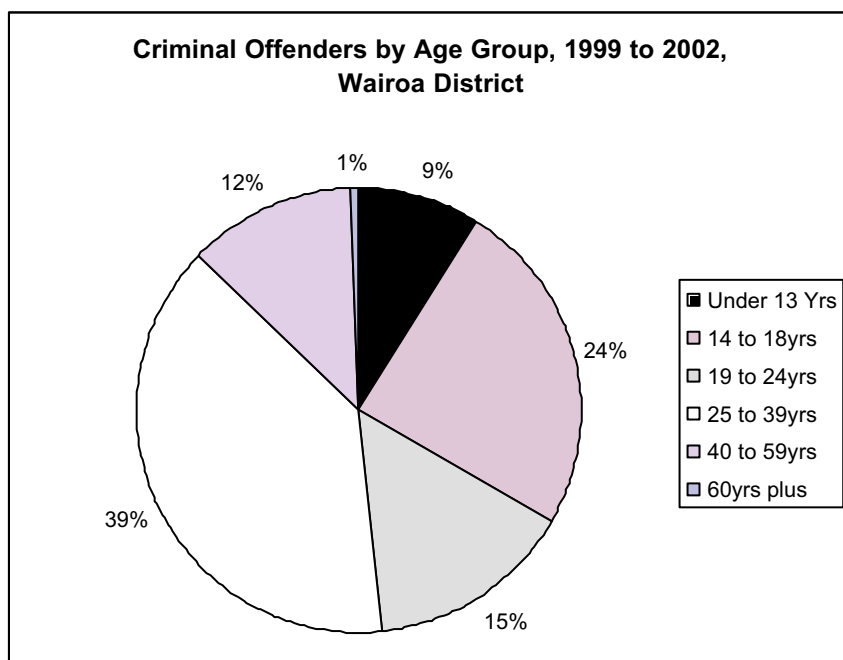
There is a tendency for criminal offenders to be unemployed. A total of 52% of criminal offenders recorded during the period 1999 to 2002 were unemployed. This compares to 11.9% of the population being unemployed at the 2001 Census.



Criminal Offenders by Age Group

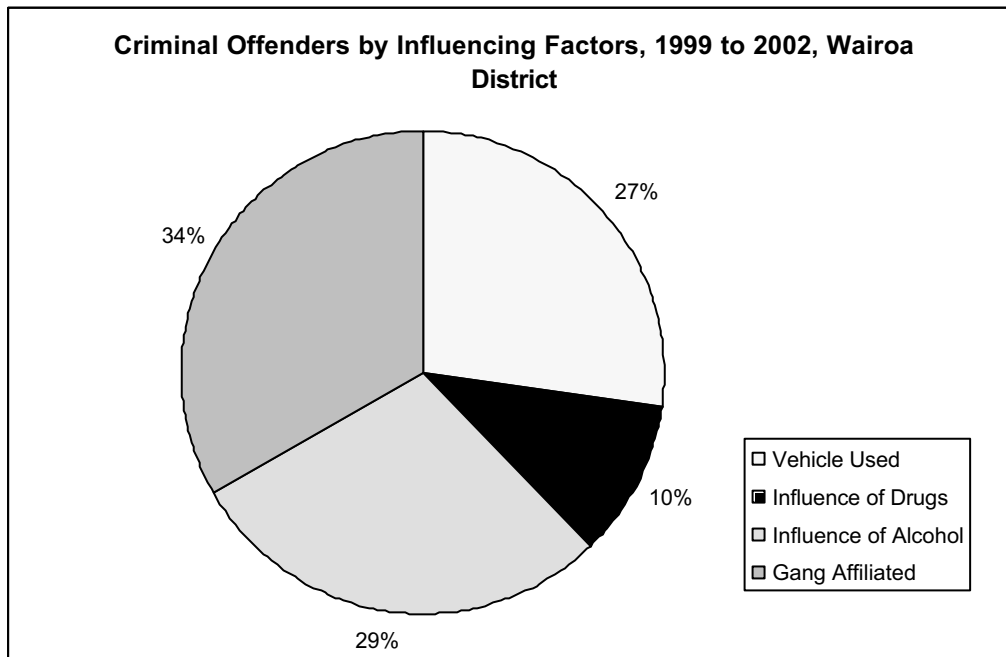
There is a relatively even spread of criminal offenders by age groups. Juvenile offenders are those aged under 18, which totalled 24% for age 14 to 18 and 9% for aged Under 13 years. Those aged 19 to 24 counted for 25% of all criminal offenders, whilst the largest group was aged 25 to 39, totalling 39% of all age groups.

In total, criminal offenders aged 39 and under totalled 87% of all criminal offenders recording crime in the period 1999 to 2002. This compares to only 58% of the population being aged 39 and under at the 2001 Census.



Criminal Offenders by Influencing Factors

There are a range of influencing factors recorded for criminal offenders. Over a third of criminal offenders (34%) were gang affiliated, for criminal offences recorded in the period 1999 to 2002. Drugs and alcohol are also a significant influence.

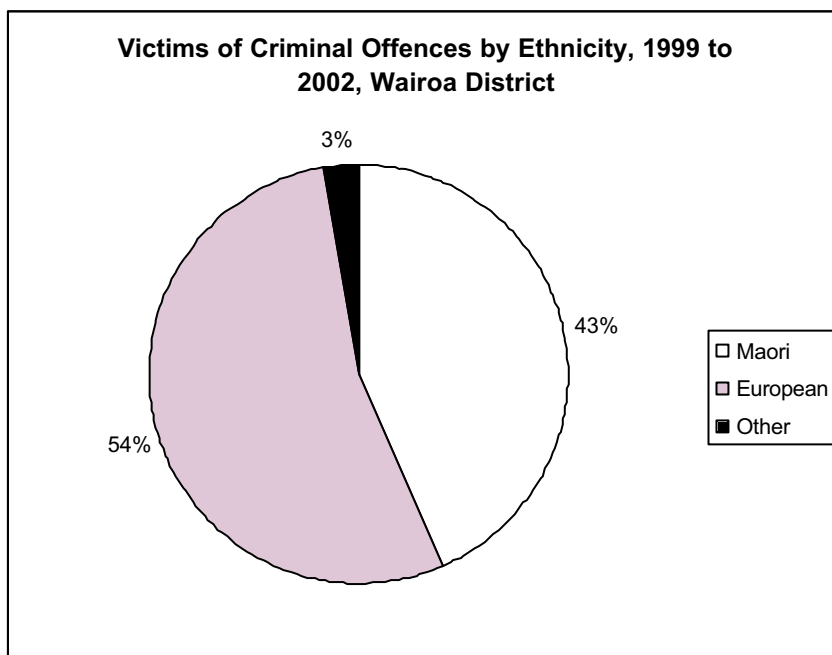


VICTIMS OF CRIMINAL OFFENCES

Similar to criminal offenders, those who are victims of crime are not necessarily recorded in the statistics only once. Therefore, these statistics should be approached with similar caution.

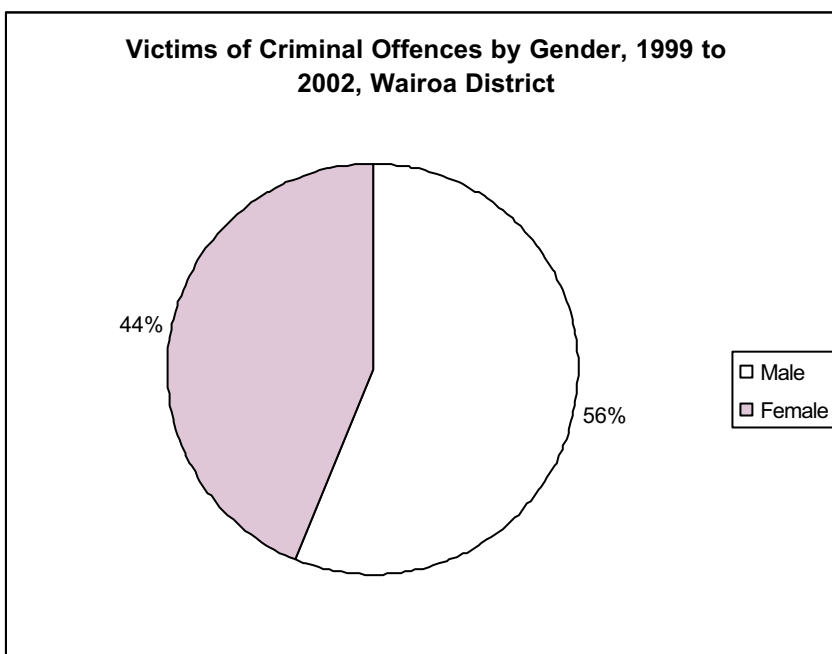
Victims Of Criminal Offences by Ethnic Group

Māori made up 43% of victims of crime in the Wairoa district in the period 1999 to 2002. This compares to 55% for the total population as at the 2001 Census.



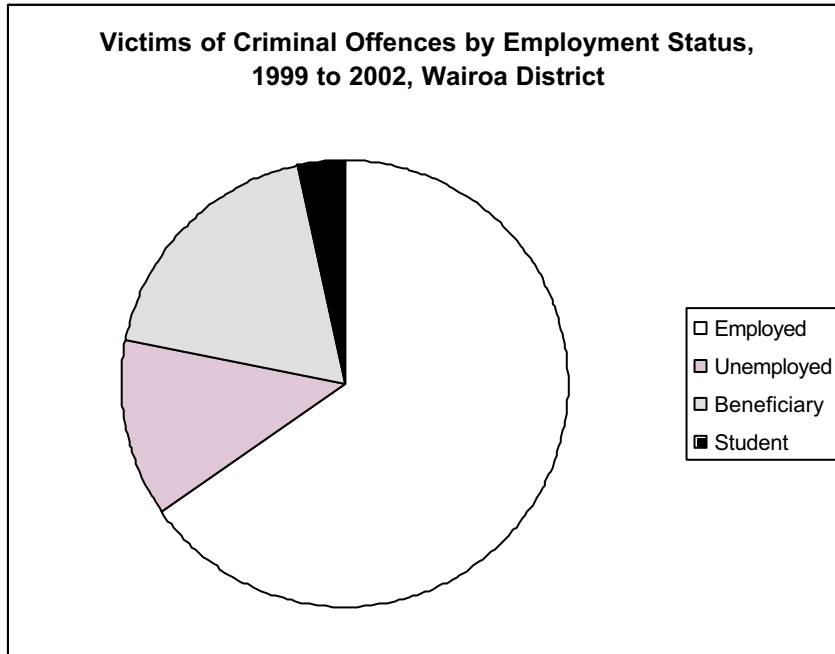
Victims Of Criminal Offences by Gender

Males not only tend to be perpetrators of criminal offences, they are also more likely to be victims of crime. In the period 1999 to 2002, 56% of the victims of crime in the Wairoa district were male.



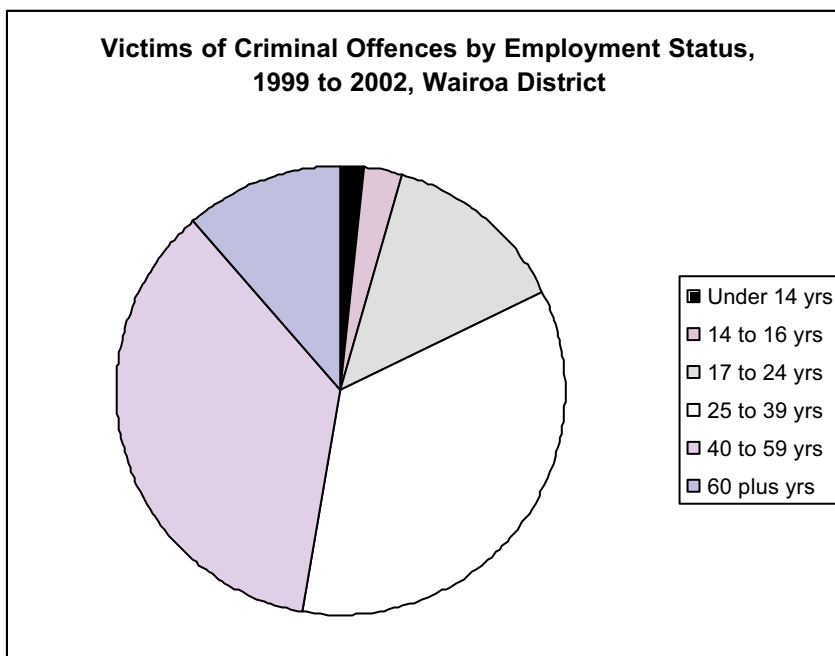
Victims of Criminal Offences by Employment Status

When looking at employment status, victims of criminal offences have a similar composition to the overall adult population as a whole in the Wairoa district.



Victims Of Criminal Offences By Age Group

Victims of criminal offences have a similar age composition to the overall adult population as a whole in the Wairoa district.



WAIROA SAFER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The Safer Community Council is unique in that it was established in the late 1980s as one of only three national pilot programmes aimed at initiative community-based crime prevention programmes. Since that time, Safer Community Council's have been established right across the country, with the Wairoa Safer Community Council growing from strength to strength. The Safer Community Council is funded jointly by the Crime Prevention Unit and Wairoa District Council. Its' core functions are the Governments' seven key crime prevention areas:

- Supporting "at risk" families
- Reducing family violence
- Targeting "youth at risk" of offending
- Minimising the formal involvement of casual offenders within the criminal justice system (diversion)
- Developing an approach for the management of programmes that address the misuse and abuse of both alcohol and drugs
- Addressing the incidence of organised crime
- Addressing the concerns of victims and potential victims.

Activities that are related to these seven key crime prevention areas are eligible for funding either by the Wairoa Safer Community Council or the Crime Prevention Unit, under the Ministry of Justice. The Coordinator, Here Nissen, is available to assist in planning programmes and identify funding.

Current priority areas of the Wairoa Safer Community Council include:

- **Community Crime Prevention:** Working in partnership with Police and Community to raise awareness of crime and facilitate community involvement in crime reduction;
- **Truancy:** The Wairoa Safer Community Council are represented on the District Truancy Service Coordinating Committee.
- **Education:** Lobbying for freedom of, access to, choice of quality education delivered appropriately for all in Wairoa District. Providing advocacy for those who are presently outside the system.
- **Youth:** Supporting and encouraging Youth to find their solutions to those issues which affect them. Encouraging youth to participate in the community and in those decisions which will effect them now and in the future.



The Wairoa Safer Community Council is chaired by the Deputy Mayor Judy Harrison and has membership drawn from: Wairoa Police, Children & Young Persons Service, Community Corrections, Community Health, Manaaki House, Māori Women's Welfare League, Māori Wardens, Kahungunu Executive, Wairoa District Council, Wairoa REAP, Wairoa School Principals Association, Wairoa College, Wairoa Youth Services Trust, Work and Income NZ, Te Puni Kokiri, Kimihia Te Ora Trust, NZ Community Funding Agency, Plunket/PAFT (Parents as first teachers) and Age Concern.

The Land Transport Safety Authority (LTSA) has prepared a road safety issues report based on reported crash data and trends for the 1998-2002 period in the Wairoa District. This section of the "Wairoa in Profile" draws extensively from this report, to present a profile of road safety statistics in the Wairoa District.

Road Safety Issues In The Wairoa District

The intent of the LTSA report was to highlight the key road safety issues and to identify possible ways to reduce the number of road deaths and injuries in the Wairoa District. The following are the key road safety issues that the LTSA identified:

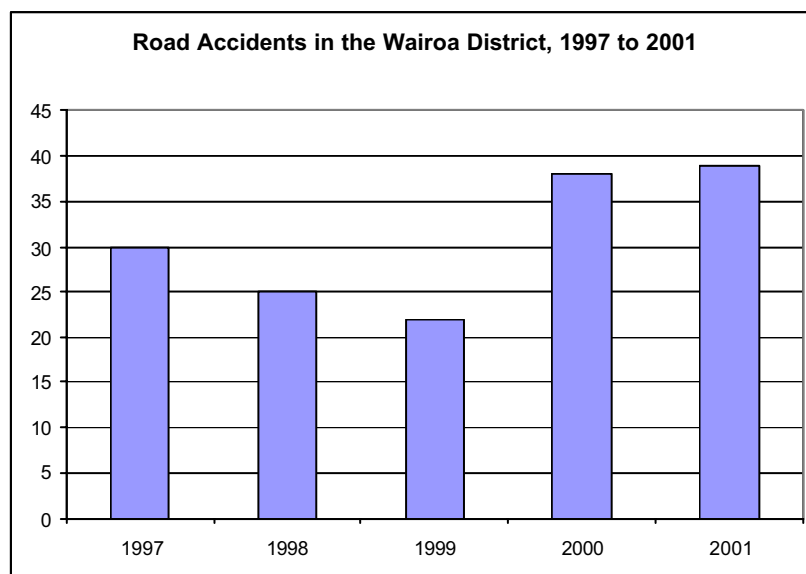
- The estimated social cost of road crashes reported in the Wairoa District last year was \$16.33 million.
- In 2002, 41 injury and 71 non-injury crashes were reported in the district. One person died and 72 suffered injuries in these crashes.
- Of the 41 injury crashes reported last year, 10 (25 percent) occurred on urban roads and 31 (75 percent) occurred on rural roads.
- Since record low numbers of casualties (40 in both 1998 and 1999) the number of people injured in road crashes in the district has steadily increased reaching 73 last year. This is the highest number reported over the past 10 years. Crashes on rural roads have caused the increase in people injured.
- A high proportion (61 percent) of injury crashes in the district occurred on rural state highways where drivers frequently lost control of their vehicles on curves.
- In the five-year period 1998 to 2002, 12 pedestrians, four cyclists, 13 motorcyclists and 22 heavy vehicle occupants were injured in road crashes. Last year, 10 drivers or occupants of heavy vehicles were injured in crashes. This is a significant increase on previous years.
- Further effort and commitment is required to address safety issues and reduce the number of people injured in road crashes in the district.

Source: LTSA. 2002.

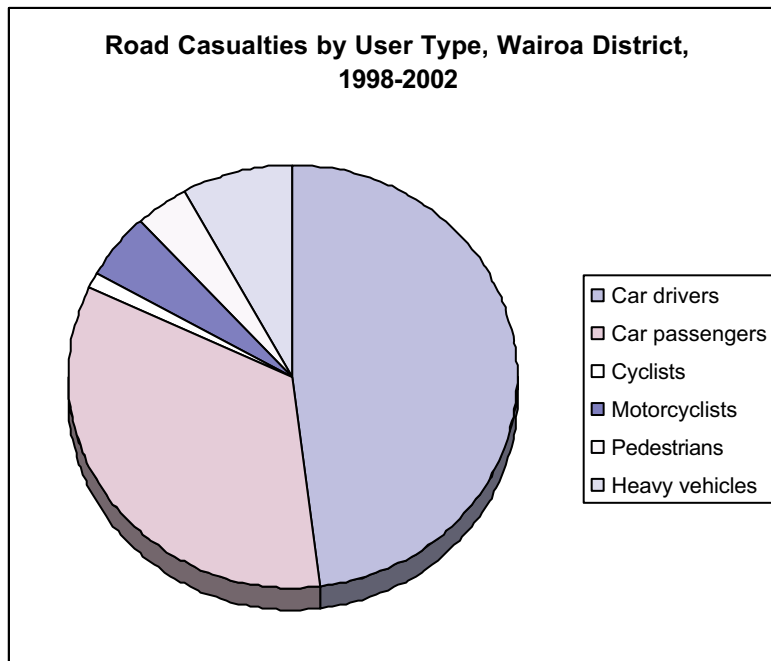
Road Trauma for Wairoa District 2002

Deaths	1
Serious casualties	12
Minor casualties	60
Fatal Crashes	1
Serious injury crashes	10
Minor injury crashes	30
Non-injury crashes	71

Road Accidents 1997-2001

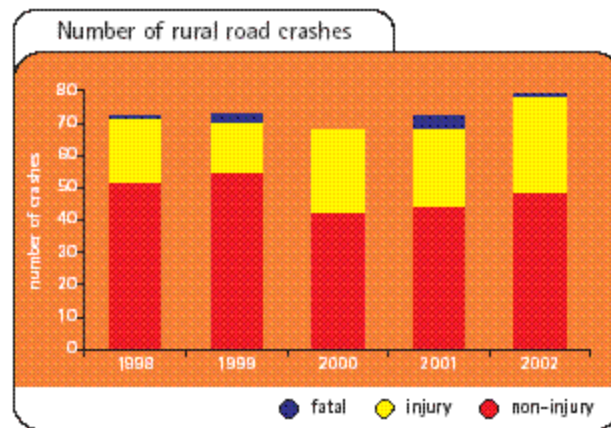


Road Casualties by Type



Loss of Control on Rural Roads

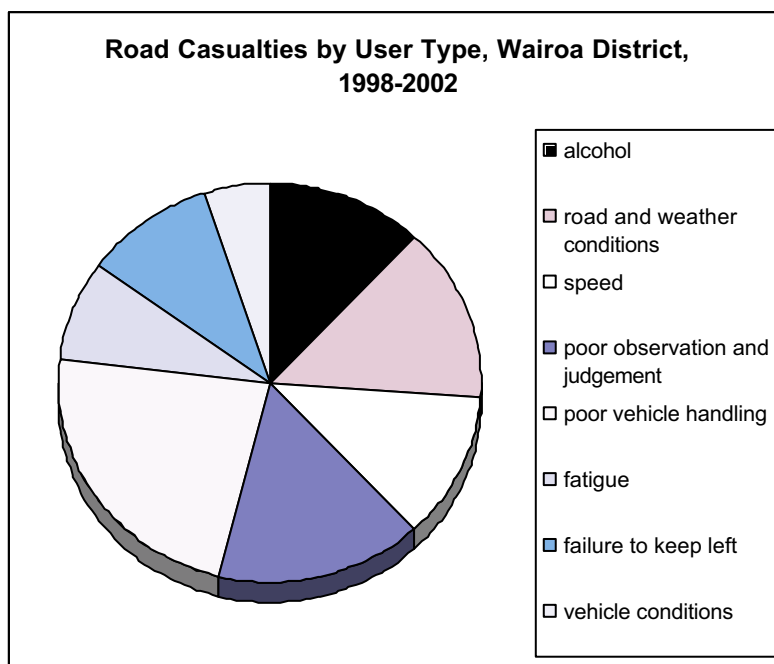
In the past five years, 108 loss of control or head-on type crashes on rural roads resulted in people being injured. These accounted for 64 percent of the injury crashes reported throughout the district. There has been a significant increase in the number of heavy vehicles involved in rural injury crashes. Ten were reported in the district in 2002.



Seventy four percent of rural injury crashes occurred on state highways in the region. The crash and casualty rate on rural state highways in the Wairoa District is higher than reported in similar districts.

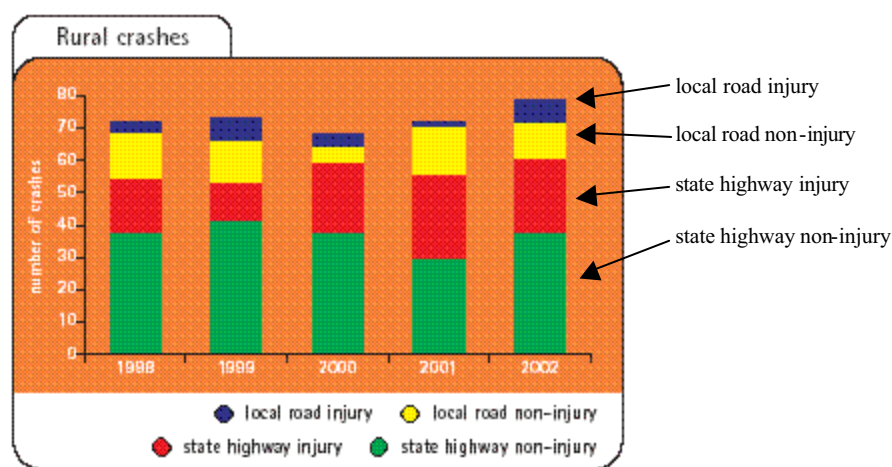
Factors that were commonly associated with rural road crashes included: poor vehicle handling, failure to keep left, driver's inattention, poor judgement and observation, fatigue and road and vehicle conditions. Speed and alcohol were also commonly reported contributing factors.

Thirty-three percent of the injury crashes in rural areas occurred during the hours of darkness. Twenty-eight percent of all rural injury crashes occurred in wet weather.



The objects most commonly struck in these crashes were: fences, banks, ditches, trees, poles, bridges and guard rails. A number of vehicles lost control on steep shoulders of the road or when returning to the seal from an unsealed steep shoulder.

Other commonly recorded contributing factors relating to state highways and roads in the district were: slippery road surface in wet weather, limited visibility, unusually narrow road and loose metal or road under construction.



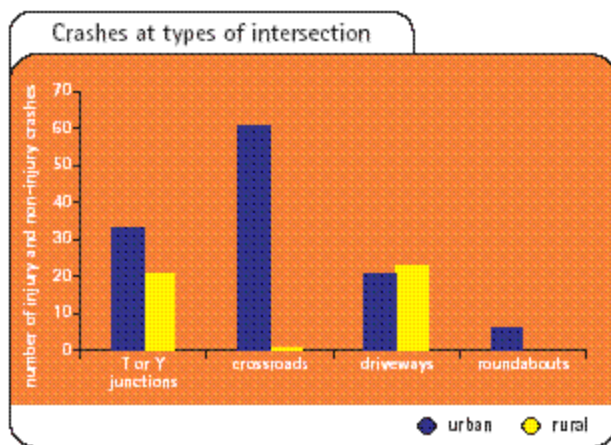
Intersections

Approximately 30 percent of all crashes reported in the Wairoa District occurred at intersections. In the past five years, 27 injury crashes and 142 non-injury crashes were reported at intersections, including driveways.

Of the injury and non-injury crashes reported at intersections during the past five years:

- 67 occurred at intersections with Give Way controls
- 33 occurred at intersections with Stop controls
- 44 occurred at driveways.

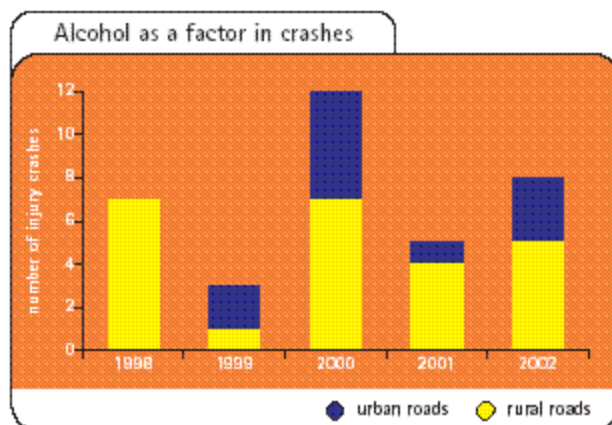
Factors recorded in crashes at intersections in the Wairoa District were commonly failure to give way or stop when required and poor observation. Alcohol was also a driver factor in some crashes reported at intersections.



Alcohol

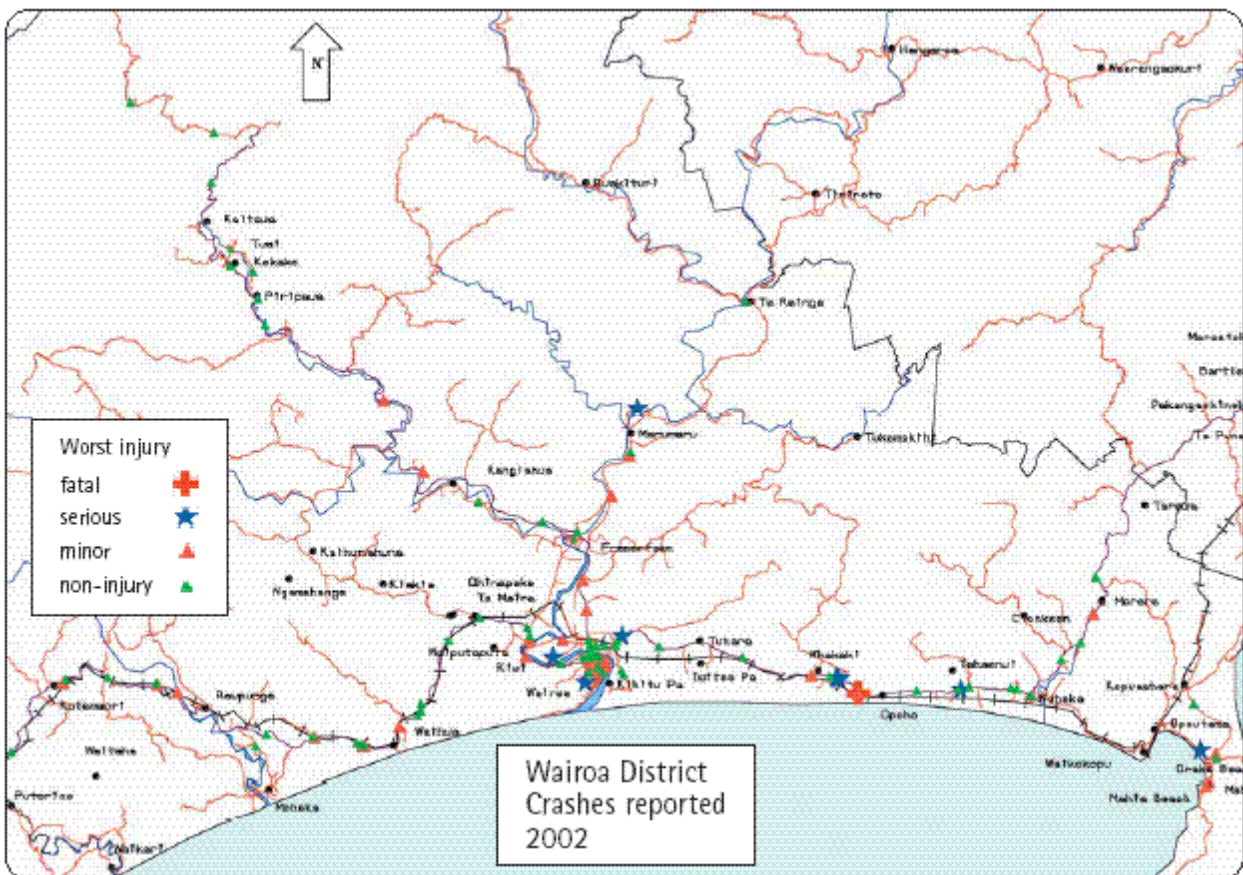
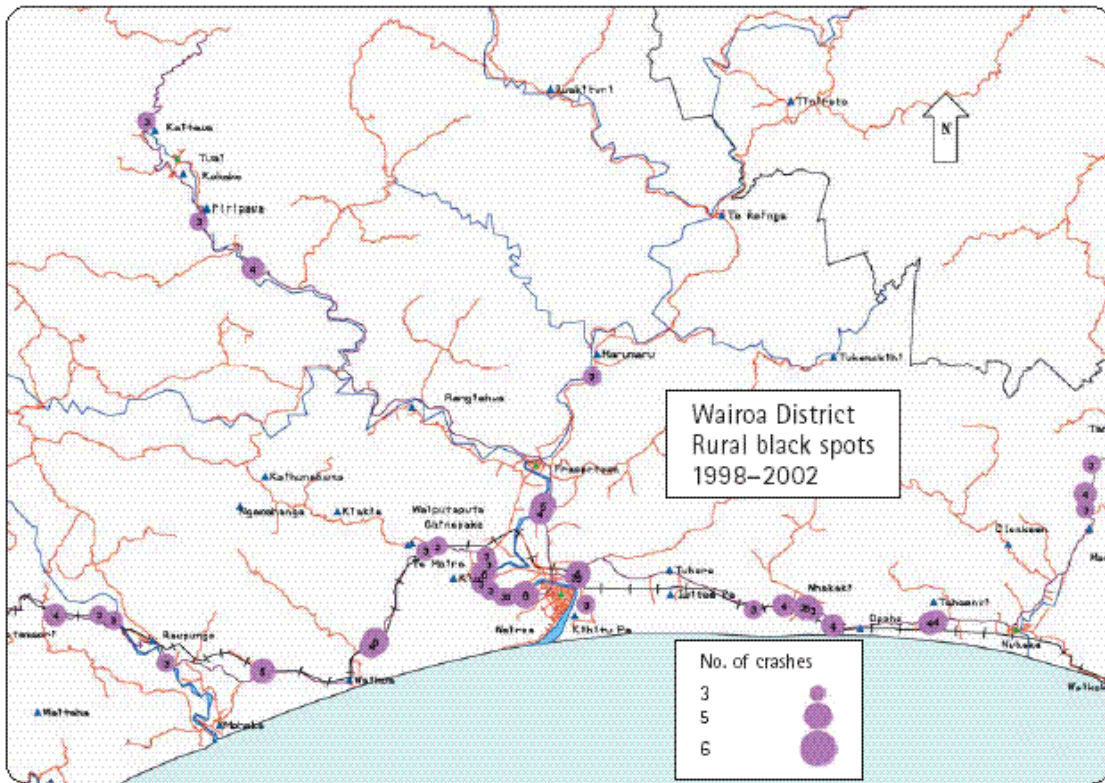
When compared with similar districts and all of New Zealand, alcohol-related injury crashes continued to be over-represented in both urban and rural areas of the Wairoa District.

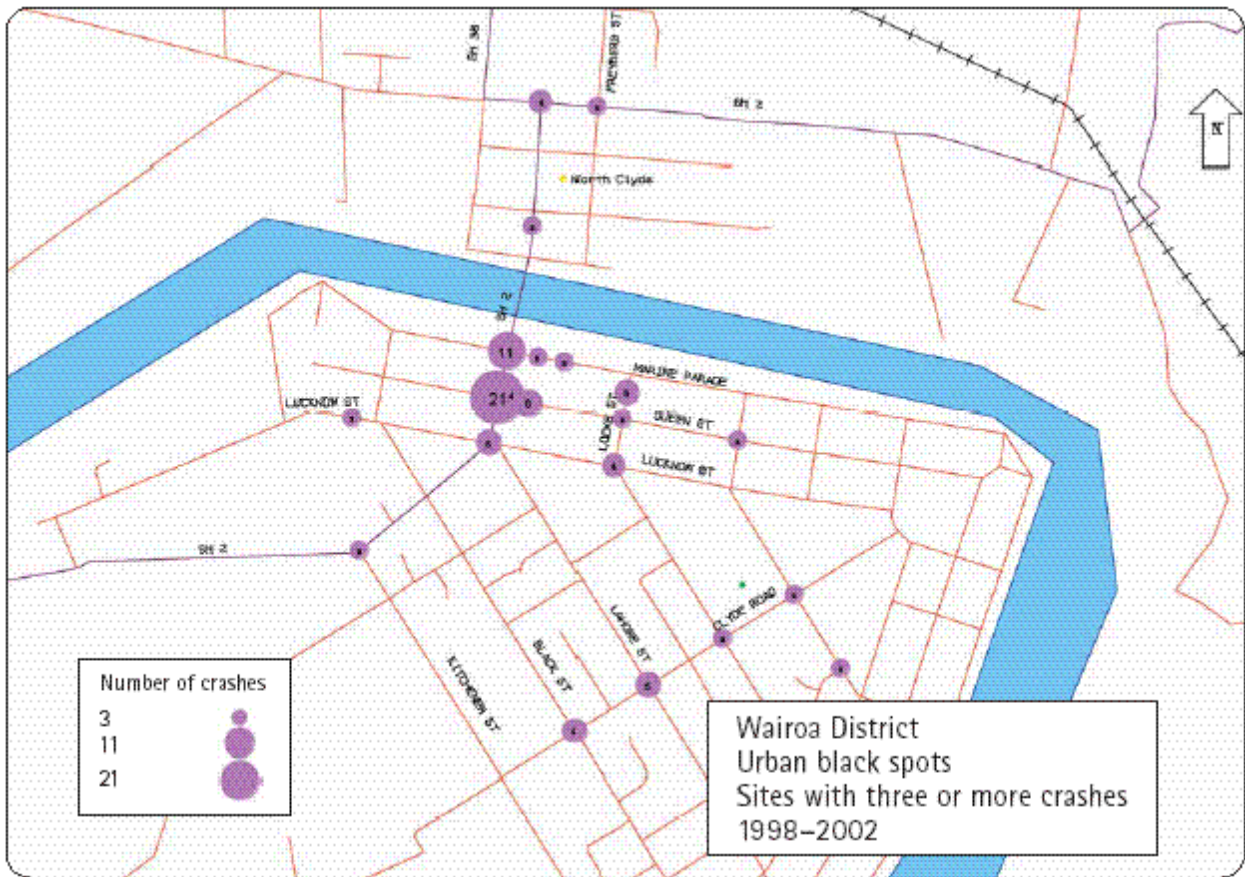
Of the 168 injury crashes reported in the Wairoa District in the past five years, 35 (21 percent) had alcohol recorded as a key factor. Eleven (31 percent) of these injury crashes occurred in urban areas and 24 (69 percent) occurred in rural areas. While the percentage of injury crashes involving alcohol in rural areas has trended down slightly, continued attention to drink driving is required in both urban and rural areas.



Males in the 15 to 40 year age group were predominantly involved in crashes where alcohol was a recorded driver factor. However, drink-drive campaigns should be targeted to all drivers in the district to reduce crashes and injuries and to enhance safety for all road users in the region.

ROAD CRASH “BLACK SPOTS”





The three maps on this page and the previous page show road crash “black spots” in the Wairoa district, i.e. areas with high tendencies for motor vehicle accidents. It can be seen that the busier streets in urban Wairoa along with the main State Highway 2 travel routes are the location for much of the major road crashes in the Wairoa district.