

# Crime & Safety



## Sections

- Perceptions of safety
- Child safety
- Crime levels
- Injuries

## Introduction

Safety - freedom from physical and emotional harm - is a fundamental human right. It is a key influence on how people view quality of life in their city.

People subjected to violence, injury and crimes against property may face a whole range of serious and long term effects. The most extreme can be loss of life. Other effects include physical and emotional scars, difficulty in gaining or retaining employment and other economic losses. For children who experience violence, the effects are particularly damaging and are more likely to lead to lifelong emotional and developmental difficulties. In addition, such children are more likely to become violent as adults.

Unintentional injuries are a further threat to safety. They are leading cause of death and disability in both New Zealand and Waitakere City.

Safe cities promote community mobility and interaction. Environmental design has an impact on crime and injury prevention.

The World Health Organisation awarded Waitakere City 'Safe Community' status in 1999.



## Major Policy Influences and Directions

- The New Zealand Injury Prevention Strategy (June 2003) expresses the government's commitment to working with organisations and community groups to improve the country's injury performance. An implementation plan has been developed.
- The Crime Reduction Strategy. The Ministry of Social Development is leading a number of actions to improve the safety and security of children and their families e.g. Te Rito, the New Zealand Family Violence Prevention Strategy. The Ministry of Justice is leading the development of the Action Plan to Reduce Community Violence and Sexual Violence.
- The New Zealand Land Transport Strategy outlines the government's vision for transport in New Zealand. Safety is an underlying principle.
- The Road Safety Strategy to 2010 highlights priority areas to work on. These include engineering safer roads, combating drunk drivers, improving pedestrian and cycle safety, and reducing speed.
- Progress on Health Outcomes. This presents a series of targets for burns, poisonings, drownings and road traffic injuries.
- The Police's 2006 Strategic Plan underpins the Waitakere North Shore Rodney Police District Plan and its goals include community safety, crime reduction and developing capacity. The Police District Plan Goals include a key focus on Crime and Crash reduction.
- Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy. This outlines interventions needed for preventing youth suicide in the general population and Maori. A national strategy for all ages is under development.
- Great Start Te Korowai Manaaki is a new five year strategy to protect and nurture children aged under 5 years in Waitakere City.

## Key Issues

- The New Zealand Health Strategy outlines several injury prevention objectives, such as reducing the incidence and impact of road traffic injuries and reducing the incidence of and impact of injuries other than traffic. However, these have not been prioritised.
- There is a need for improvements in injury surveillance systems that look at the causes and circumstances of injury in a more detailed way.
- There is insufficient funding for local family violence prevention initiatives and for victim support programmes.
- There are problems with youth behaving in an intimidating and disorderly manner in malls and shopping centres. The police are working with Waitakere City Council to develop strategies to address these issues.
- The number of crashes on Waitakere roads increased between 2000 and 2002, but have only just exceeded the national average.
- The number of CYF referrals and cases requiring further action has been increasing.
- The hospitalisation rate from falls in those aged 65 years and over is increasing.
- There are high levels of Child Youth and Family notifications.

## Some Highlights

- In 1999 the World Health Organisation (WHO) accredited Waitakere City with 'Safe Community' status. A recommitment to the City's safety goals was made by a wide range of Waitakere stakeholders in April 2004.
- The Baseline Review increased funding to the CYF office in Waitakere City.
- In 2003/2004 2150 police hours were allocated to school road safety education.
- Junior Neighbourhood Support is a community safety programme for Primary and Intermediate School children developed by West Auckland Neighbourhood Support.
- Safety and Access by Design is a Safe Waitakere initiative that provides specialist advice on crime prevention, injury prevention and barrier-free access.
- The Safe Waitakere Alcohol Project is working in partnership to address and minimise alcohol related harm in Waitakere City.
- The Safe Waitakere Crime Prevention Project provides a focal point for Council's crime prevention activities in partnership with the Police and other government and community agencies, in particular:
  - Crime Prevention Reference Group provides strategic planning and advice
  - Council/Police City Safety Liaison Group focuses on particular issues and 'hot spots'
  - Council/Police Memorandum of Understanding sets out protocols for communication and joint planning
- Safe Waitakere Injury Prevention is working to reduce injuries in Waitakere City. Its work includes safety, road safety, Kidsafe week promotions, free playground safety audits (council), keeping injury records in schools (see below) and falls prevention. The project has three parts:
  - The whole city population, which seeks to reduce injuries city-wide.
  - The Puriri Project (Maori) focuses on the Maori communities of the city and aims to reduce injuries to Maori.
  - The Pacific Peoples Project focuses on all the different Pacific communities in Waitakere City and aims to reduce injuries in those communities.
- The national injury prevention network was established and an Injury Prevention Conference held in 2003.
- The 'Community Action on Youth and Drugs' project has been developed to increase the community's ability to address the social and family harm associated with the misuse and abuse of drugs.
- A Burglary Desk at the Waitakere Area Police Headquarters aims to reduce the waiting times for people who have been burgled as well as increase the resolution rate for burglaries.
- Funding has been secured for a local "Strengthening Families/Effective Practice" Coordinator.
- Local interagency training to recognise and respond to family violence in young families is underway.
- There has been a Billboard Campaign to raise awareness of the impact of family violence on children initiated as part of the Great Start – Te Korowai Manaaki.
- The resolution rate for all recorded crime in Waitakere is continuing to rise.
- The Family Violence Unit is focusing on reducing the level of repeat offending and working with partner agencies.

## Perceptions of Safety

While perceptions of safety may not relate directly to crime rates, they are an important factor in the wellbeing of the community. If people feel unsafe, they are more likely to be anxious, alter their behaviour and participate less in community activities.

### Survey of Residents' Perceptions of Personal Safety

People in Waitakere City were surveyed<sup>1</sup> to find out how safe or unsafe they felt in their home, local neighbourhood and city during the day or after dark.

- Most (91%) felt safe during the day at home, in their neighbourhood (91%) or in the city (82%).
- More residents felt unsafe after dark, particularly in the city.
- Residents in Waitakere City were less likely to feel safe than those living on the North Shore but more safe than those living in Auckland and Manukau Cities.

### Percentage of residents in Waitakere City and North Shore who reported feeling safe, 2003.

Location	Time	Percentage for Waitakere	Percentage for North Shore
At home	Day/Dark	91/81	93/84
In neighbourhood	Day/Dark	91/57	96/73
In city centre <sup>2</sup>	Day/Dark	82/31	90/47

Source: Quality of Life Residents' Survey 2002

"Railway stations and corridors, parks, a lack of lighting – all invite criminal activity and tagging. If the street lighting is not working or maintained – it encourages criminal elements to come out –in regard to car theft in particular." West Auckland Neighbourhood Support.

### City Safety

Waitakere City residents were asked whether some key safety and types of behaviour had been a problem over the past 12 months.

In 2003:

- Nearly half (49%) reported dangerous driving as the major safety issue.
- The second most reported issue was car damage or theft (36%).

### Percentage of Residents reporting various safety issues

Safety/Behaviour Issues	Percentage
Rubbish and litter	19
Vandalism	17
Car damage/theft	36

<sup>1</sup> Source: Quality of Life Report 2003.

<sup>2</sup> Not all residents shared a view of where their city centre was. 36% said it was Henderson, 21% said Queen Street, downtown Auckland, 11% said New Lynn, 9% said West City and 2% Kelston.

### Percentage of Residents reporting various safety issues continued

Safety/Behaviour Issues	Percentage
Dangerous driving	49
Traffic risk	31
Behaviours and appearance	16

**Source: Waitakere City Council, 2004**

Other problems reported included:

- People acting suspiciously
- Incidents of violence
- Disorder
- Public intoxication
- Hand bag snatching
- Intimidation by youths
- Theft of and from cars
- A lack of police

### Child Safety

Under half (42%) of Waitakere City residents felt it was safe for children to play unsupervised in their local neighbourhood. Most concerns related to:

- Stranger danger (55%), or
- Traffic (43%).<sup>3</sup>

### Child Safety

In order to develop to their full potential, children need to be cared for in an atmosphere of love, understanding and respect. The importance of the right of children to grow up free from abuse and violence cannot be overstated.

Article 19 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child<sup>4</sup> states that: "Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse."

The number of children reported to Child Youth and Family Services (CYF) as being in need of care and protection is one key measure of the safety of children.<sup>5</sup>

### Notifications to Child Youth and Family (CYF)

Care and protection notifications relate to issues such as child abuse, neglect, children left at home alone, the ill treatment of children.

In 2003, the Waitakere office of CYF handled the greatest volume of work of any of the Department's offices nationwide.

<sup>3</sup> Source: Waitakere City Council, 2002.

<sup>4</sup> This Convention was ratified by NZ on 6 April 1993.

<sup>5</sup> Note, changes may not be due to changes in incidence. They could, for example, be due to administrative changes or changes in reporting patterns.

Between 1998 and 2003 the Waitakere office dealt with a total of 12,291 notifications.<sup>6</sup>

- 10,875 (88.5%) concerned the care and protection of children.
- 1416 (11.5%) related to youth justice.<sup>7</sup>

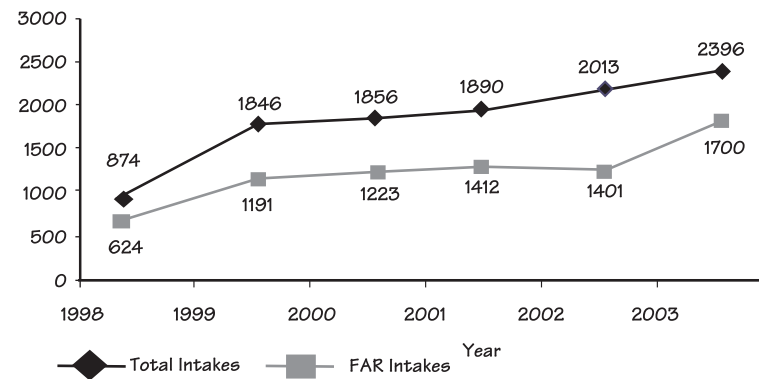
### Care and Protection

There has been a substantial increase in the number of notifications relating to the care and protection of children in Waitakere City in the past six years.

Notifications increased from 874 in 1998 to 2396 in 2003.

- Between 1998 and 2002 the average increase was 30% per year in Waitakere City, compared with 3.4% nationally. The estimated increase in 0-14 population for the same period was 4.5% or around 1930 young people.<sup>8</sup>
- Between 2002 and 2003 notifications to Waitakere increased by 19%.<sup>9</sup>
- Most of these notifications required further action.<sup>10</sup>

Number of total and Further Action Required notifications for Waitakere from 1998 to 2003



Source: CYF 2003

### Ethnicity

The number and percentage of notifications relating to NZ Pakeha and Maori increased between 2002 and 2003.

<sup>6</sup> There were 165,702 nationally over the same period.

<sup>7</sup> Note: The CYF data relates to financial years (ending 30 June).

<sup>8</sup> Source: Statistics New Zealand Population Estimates

<sup>9</sup> CYF 2003.

<sup>10</sup> In 2003 71% of Waitakere notifications required further action, compared with 86.2% nationally.

Financial years	Waitakere			
	2002		2003	
Primary ethnicity	No.	%	No.	%
NZ Pakeha	462	33.0	594	34.9
NZ Maori	439	31.3	637	37.5
Pacific Peoples	208	14.8	238	14.0
Other	63	4.5	50	2.9
Not recorded	229	16.3	181	10.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>1401</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1700</b>	<b>100</b>

### The Criticality of Notifications

CYF notifications are rated according to how critical they are and how soon they should be dealt with. The priorities are:

- Critical (24 hours)
- Very urgent (48 hours)
- Urgent (7 days)
- Low urgency (28 days)

In Waitakere City the average increase in critical cases between 1998 and 2002 was 14.1%.

Between 2002 and 2003:

- Critical cases decreased by 6.5%

- Very urgent cases decreased by two-thirds (68.6%).
- Urgent cases increased by 22.7%.
- Low urgency cases increased by 456.9% (329 cases). This compares with a 21% rise in low urgency cases nationally.

### Source of Notification

In 2003 the largest percentage of notifications in Waitakere City came from:

- Police (31.9%)
- Friends, neighbours or individuals (16.6%)
- Agencies such as the Courts, Iwi/Cultural Social Services (13.7%)
- GPs or health workers (12.6%)
- Family or whanau (12.1%)
- Schools or Kindergartens (12.1%)

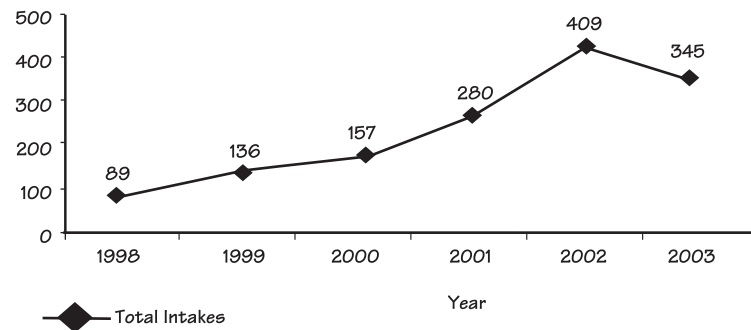
### Youth Justice

Youth justice covers any youth offending that could result in prosecution (or possible prosecution) by the police. This includes burglary, shop lifting and violent offending.

In Waitakere City youth justice intakes increased from:

- 89 in 1998 to 409 in 2002 (an increase of 359%).
- This was followed by a fall in 2003 to 345 cases (a decrease of 15.6%).

Number of total youth justice intakes for Waitakere City from 1998 to 2003



Source: CYF 2003

In 2003 most of the youth justice referrals resulted from:

- A direction by the Court (61.2%)
- An intention to charge (27.5%).<sup>11</sup>

“Child Youth and Family were recently subject to an in-depth review focusing on CYF’s role, capability and resourcing. The aim of the review was to set out an integrated strategy for CYF in order for it to move forward on a sustainable basis i.e. being clear about its role, expectations and outcomes, what it has to do and how.

The recommendation from the review has had a positive impact on CYF Waitakere operations. There has been increased funding for social workers and the units’ work”.

Changes for CYF as a result of the Baseline review and the development of Family Services in the Ministry of Social Development will impact on the core business of the organisation.<sup>12</sup>

### Crime Levels

Because of its widespread social and economic effects on the community, crime is a public concern. There is a wide spread perception that crime rates are increasing.

Changes in levels of recorded crime may not represent a real increase in criminal activity and should be treated with caution. A number of factors need to be taken into consideration when interpreting these statistics including:

- Not all crimes are reported to police.
- Changes in legislation may generate additional recorded offences.
- Changes in the pro-active tactics of local authorities or police tactics.
- Changes in methods of recording data.

<sup>11</sup> A small number were referred under other circumstances, e.g. they had been arrested, were in police custody or involved in a family group conference.

<sup>12</sup> Source: CYF 2004.

There were 18,398 crimes recorded in Waitakere City in the year ending December 2003, an increase of 2.7% from 2002. This is consistent with population growth resulting in a steady or slightly reducing crime rate per 10,000 population.

- Just over half (51.8%) were resolved.<sup>13</sup>
- The resolution rate in Waitakere City was higher than the national rate (43.5%).<sup>14</sup>

#### Total Number of Crimes in Waitakere City and Percent Resolved 2001-2003

Year	Total Crimes	Percent Resolved
2001	16973	50.7
2002	17915	51.6
2003	18398	51.8

Source: NZ Police 2004.

#### Crime Rate

Waitakere is part of the Police District that includes North Shore, Rodney and Auckland Metro Policing. The District has the lowest rate of offending per 10,000 of the population. The Waitakere rate is higher than the North Shore and Rodney rate. It is, however, lower than the national crime rate.

#### The rate of crime per 10,000 people for Waitakere City, the police district and NZ, 2000-2003

Year	Waitakere City	Waitakere/ North Shore/Rodney District	New Zealand
2001	963.3	834	1099
2002	991.4	859	1117
2003	991.3	863	1104

Source: NZ Police 2004.

“There is a lot of confusion in the ethnic community in terms of understanding how the Police work. We also need the Police to have an understanding about cultural protocols, what is important to ethnic communities and how they work, about the stigma on a family if Police are involved with them – we need an ethnic liaison officer in Waitakere like they have in Manukau.” Praveen Chandra, President Waitakere Ethnic Board.

“Funding for staff to administer the safety network in the city is a huge problem because we create a safety network for residents of Waitakere City, but on a shoe string. We survive purely on the generosity of funding organisations. We spend more time keeping ourselves afloat than getting the job done that the organisation has been created to do.” West Auckland Neighbourhood Support.

<sup>13</sup> A crime is considered to be resolved if an offender has been identified and a police officer has dealt with it.

<sup>14</sup> A focus on house burglaries meant the resolution rates rose from 10.8% in 2002 to 17% in 2003.

### **Youth Crime in Year ending June 2002.**

- There were 1075 apprehensions involving young people in Waitakere City aged between 0 and 13 years.<sup>15</sup>
- A further 2986 apprehensions involved young people aged 14-16 years.<sup>16</sup>

"We are going to end up with growing youth crime. The time has come to put a package in place for upcoming youth – for young kids before the teen years – to get the basic values in place. By the time they are 14-17, they are so set in their ways.

"There is a huge gap in youth initiatives and in rewarding the good kids. We developed Junior Neighbourhood Support in three schools (supported by Rotary and the Trusts) and recently extended to a fourth school in Massey. The message is 'It's cool to care' – the aim is to create a safer city and for the younger generation to get the safety message. It's been so successful that we have had requests from lots of schools in Waitakere City to implement the programme in their school -but we do not have the staffing to run it." West Auckland Neighbourhood Support.

### **Crimes affecting vehicles and property (dishonesty)**

Crimes affecting property and vehicles, such as burglaries and car conversion (thefts), are on the increase in Waitakere City.

### **House Burglaries**

House burglaries in Waitakere had been declining since 1994 but in 2003 there was an increase.

In 2003 there were 1877 house burglaries.<sup>17</sup> This was a 4.3% increase from the number of burglaries committed in 2002 (1799 the previous year).

However the resolution rate for house burglaries increased dramatically from:

- 10.8% in 2002 to
- 17% for 2003.

### **Vehicle Crime**

"The Police are attempting to reduce vehicle crime through targeting hot spots." Police, North Shore/Waitakere Police District 2004

"Car break-ins are an issue on West Coast beaches and walkways – it may be time to put in cameras or employ someone to go around." West Auckland Neighbourhood Support.

### **Violent Crime**

Violent crime is often perpetrated by people known to the victim. These

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<sup>15</sup> Note that the figures are only up until the year ending June 2002.

<sup>16</sup> Source: Quality of Life Report 2003. It is important to note that these figures do not equate to number of youths apprehended as, for example, one offender may be apprehended for several offences. The police say that variations in administration make comparing data between years inadvisable. Section 21 of the Crimes Act 1961 states the "no person shall be convicted of an offence by reason of any act done or omitted by him when under the age of 10 years". Similarly Section 22 of the Crimes Act 1961 states that "no person shall be convicted of an offence by reason of any act done or omitted by him when of the age of 10 but under the age of 14 unless he knew either that the act or omission was wrong or that it was contrary to the law". Therefore Police will often take appropriate action other than apprehension.

<sup>17</sup> Burglaries of dwellings.

statistics include both 'stranger' crimes and those where the offender is known to the victim, such as in the case of family violence.

Although the rate of violent crime is higher in Waitakere City than the rate in the district or the national rate, there was a significant fall in 2003.

In 2003 most of these crimes in Waitakere City (around 86%) were resolved.<sup>18</sup>

**The Rate of Violent Offences per 10,000 people in Waitakere City, the North Shore/Waitakere/Rodney Police District and New Zealand, 2000 - 2003**

Year	Waitakere	North Shore/ Waitakere/Rodney Police District	New Zealand
2001	136.1	108.2	113.4
2002	141.3	109.1	114.1
2003	134.1	105.4	113.8

Source: Police 2004

**Family Violence**

Programmes to prevent family violence have received increased government funding and attention in recent years.

In Waitakere, the Police deal with around 250 incidents involving family violence each month. The Police have established a family violence unit that works closely with local agencies and community groups.

- Before the family violence unit was established, there were several

homicides relating to family violence in Waitakere each year. In the years 2001 to 2003 there were none.

"Home visiting agencies have a key role in identifying families with family violence issues – it's a wasted opportunity not to use it.

We need to find a way of keeping more women safe in their homes. It would be less disruptive for the children – they could stay in the same schools, near their friends etc." Family Violence Prevention Adviser, Auckland Regional Public Health Service.

**Sexual offences**

Although sexual crimes make up less than 1% of all recorded crimes, they can have a particularly distressing impact on victims.

The number of sexual offences reported to police in Waitakere City decreased by 30.5% between 2002 and 2003. Two-thirds (64.5%) were resolved.

**The Number of Crimes Relating to Sexual Offences in Waitakere City and the Percentage Resolved 2000 - 2003**

Year	Number	Percentage Resolved
2000	116	61.2
2001	174	70.1
2002	121	64.5

<sup>18</sup> Year ending December 2003.

Sexual offences are likely to be significantly under-reported. Also, due to changes in education and awareness the likelihood of reporting may be changing. Caution is therefore recommended when making inferences about trends in the volume of sexual offending.

### Drugs and Anti Social Offences

Although the rate of drug related and anti social offences have been falling, there has been an increase in the manufacture of methamphetamine over the past three years both nationally and in Waitakere City.

The effects of methamphetamine 'P' continue to receive extensive media coverage and are of concern to the community and the police as 'P' tends to be associated with more violent types of crime.

Drug addiction agencies have reported a steadily increasing number of people with methamphetamine addiction.<sup>19</sup>

## Unintentional Injuries

### Unintentional Child Injuries

Unintentional child injuries are a serious problem in New Zealand. Every year, more than 100 children die from unintentional injuries. A further 10,000 children are so severely injured that they require hospitalisation.<sup>20</sup>

In Waitakere City, 2709 children were hospitalised from their injuries between 1998 and 2003.

Of these:

- 856 were aged 0-4 years
- 1053 were 5-9 years old
- 800 were in the 10-14 year age group.

Although there was a slight rise in the rate of unintentional injuries in Waitakere City in 2002, overall the injury rate is falling both in Waitakere and New Zealand.

### Rate of Unintentional Injury per 100,000 children 1998-2002

Year	Waitakere Rate	NZ Rate
1998	1401.2	1242.9
1999	1377.2	1141.3
2000	1281.0	1112.4
2001	1177.7	1101.1
2002	1273.8	1060.6

Source: Injury Prevention Research Unit, 2004

<sup>19</sup> See Lifestyle chapter.

<sup>20</sup> Source: Making Children a Priority A guide to working with District Health Boards, Safekids, 2004

Some of the leading causes of hospitalisations from unintentional injuries in children between 1998 and 2002 were:

- Falls (1396).
- Traffic (186) along with cars hitting cyclists (19) or pedestrians(30)
- Cuts (210)
- Cycling (143)
- Pedestrian (30)
- Poisonings (64)
- Hot substances (54)
- Fire (11)
- Drowning (17)<sup>21</sup>

### Deaths from Unintentional Injuries

Twenty five children in Waitakere City died between 1996 and 2000 from injuries which were not intentionally inflicted.<sup>22</sup>

Of these, suffocation was the leading cause. Most of the suffocations involved children under the age of 1 year who became entangled in bedding or clothing<sup>23</sup>.

Six children drowned. A further 5 died in motor vehicle incidents.

### Unintentional Injury Deaths in Children Aged 0-14 Years 1996-2000

Cause of Death				
Major Cause	Minor Cause	Total	Rate per 100,000	NZ Rate per 100,000
Drowning		6	15.7	9.3
Fall		1	2.6	0.9
Motor Vehicle Traffic	Occupant Pedal Cyclist Pedestrian	3 1 1	7.8 2.6 2.6	14.0 3.4 5.9
Pedestrian, other		3	7.8	1.7

### Unintentional Injury Deaths in Children Aged 0-14 Years 1996-2000 continued

Cause of Death				
Major Cause	Minor Cause	Total	Rate per 100,000	NZ Rate per 100,000
Poisoning		1	2.6	0.9
Suffocation		9	23.5	9.8
Total		25	65.3	55.9

Source: Injury Prevention Research Unit, 2004

<sup>21</sup> Source: Injury Prevention Research Unit, 2004.

<sup>22</sup> Note: There is a considerable timelag in the public release of mortality data. This was the most recent data at the time of publication. As the numbers are very small the rates should be used as a general guideline only and treated with caution.

<sup>23</sup> Review of coroners' reports, 2003.

“If New Zealand had experienced the same injury rate as Sweden 324 children would not have died between 1991 and 1995.” Safekids.<sup>24</sup>

### Falls in Older Adults

Older adults in Waitakere City have a high rate of falls. The number and rate of hospitalisation from falls rose sharply in Waitakere City in 2003.<sup>25</sup> However, the rate remains lower than national rates.

“The increase in falls in older adults is of concern. Falls can reduce their confidence and, in turn, their independence. Following a fall, they may become less mobile and less confident about their physical capabilities. When this happens they may end up going out less often, getting less exercise and they can become more isolated. Preventing falls can improve wellbeing in our older adults.” Safe Waitakere.

### Hospitalisations due to injuries resulting from falls in those aged 65 years and over, 1998 - 2002

Year	Waitakere	Rate (per 100,000)	NZ	Rate (per 100,000)
1998	151	1097.7	6176	1387.8
1999	157	1111.2	6481	1436.1
2000	163	1123.9	6719	1468.5
2001	176	1183.0	7041	1518.1
2002	222	1455.7	7161	1523.5

Source: Injury Prevention Research Unit 2004

## Road Casualties

Road vehicle deaths are a major cause of premature death, especially among young adult males. Those who survive road accidents may be severely injured or have life-long disabilities.

In New Zealand in 2002, 404 people died from motor vehicle crashes, a rate of 10.3 deaths per 100,000 in population.<sup>26</sup>

- A further 13,742 people were injured, a rate of 349 injuries per 100,000 population.
- Youth aged 15 – 24 years had a rate of injury from motor vehicle crashes more than double that of the population as a whole.
- Maori were much more likely than other ethnic groups to die in motor vehicle accidents.<sup>27</sup>

In Waitakere City in 2002 there were:

- 11 fatal crashes
- 82 serious injury crashes,
- 310 minor crashes and
- 1398 non-injury crashes.

<sup>24</sup> Source: Making Children a Priority A guide to working with District Health Boards, Safekids, 2004.

<sup>25</sup> Injury Prevention Research Unit, 2004.

<sup>26</sup> Source: The Social Report 2003.

<sup>27</sup> In 1999, the age-standardised death rate for Maori from motor vehicle crashes was 19 per 100,000 population compared with 12 for European and other ethnic groups. Source: The Social Report 2003.

These resulted in:

- 11 deaths,
- 100 serious injuries, and
- 440 minor casualties.

The overall number of crashes on Waitakere City local roads increased between 2000 and 2002 in all severity categories and resulted in an increase in casualty numbers. However the fatality rate is close to the national average.<sup>28</sup>

In 2002 the major causes of road accidents in Waitakere City involved:

- Crashes on bends or with roadside hazards
- Alcohol
- Speed
- Poor observation e.g. not checking when changing lanes.<sup>29</sup>

“The demand for community-based drivers’ licensing programmes seems to be increasing. All programmes run in 2003-2004 provided through New Out West were fully attended with a high achievement rate.

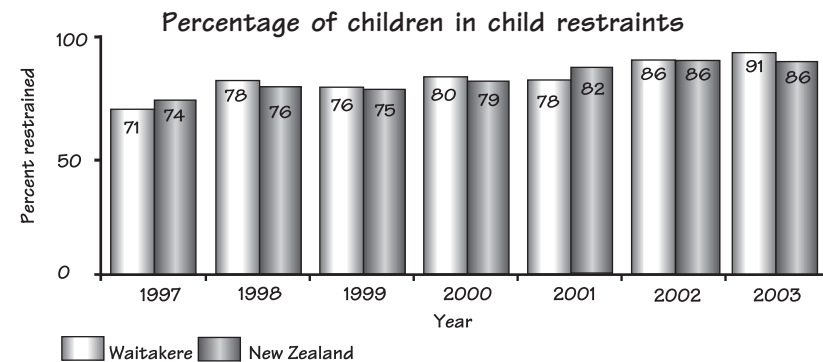
“The provision of community-based bilingual drivers’ license training is proving highly successful in providing at least one legally licensed driver in a household.” Sally Clarkson, Wadccoss.

## Safety Belts

Wearing a safety belt reduces your chance of death or serious injury in a road crash by 40%. Whether you sit in the front or the back seat, the risk of serious or fatal injury is virtually the same.

New Zealand’s safety belt wearing rate is currently 92% for adults in the front seat. The rate for Waitakere City fell from 95% in 1998 to 92% in 2002.

However, the percentage of children in Waitakere City in child restraints rose from 78% to 86% over the same period.<sup>30</sup>



Source: Land Transport & Safety Authority, 2004.

<sup>28</sup> Source: New Zealand Police, 2004.

<sup>29</sup> Source: Land Transport Safety Authority, 2004.

<sup>30</sup> LTSA 2004.

## Intentional Injuries

In 2002:

- 133 New Zealand children were hospitalised from injuries sustained in an assault. Ten of these children lived in Waitakere City.
- Of the 67 young people aged 14 and under who were hospitalised after they had harmed themselves, five were from Waitakere City.<sup>31</sup>

### Intentional injuries to Waitakere City 0-14 year olds resulting in hospitalisation, 1998-2002

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Assault	3	8	5	7	10
Self Harm	6	0	4	3	5

Source: Injury Prevention Research Unit, 2004 <sup>32</sup>

## Fatalities

Between 1989 and 1998, 106 New Zealand children aged 14 years or under died from injuries inflicted intentionally.<sup>33</sup> Two of these children were from Waitakere City.

Of the six New Zealand children in this age group who died from self-inflicted injuries over the same time period, one was from Waitakere City.<sup>34</sup>

## Community Questions

How can we engage the people most at risk of unintentional injury?

How can we further reduce Waitakere City's rate of violent crime and domestic violence?

What can we do to reduce the number of traffic crashes and the incidence and severity of injuries on our roads?

Methamphetamine is a serious problem. What can we do to reduce the incidence and severity of methamphetamine related crimes?

What is the appropriate number of police for Waitakere City?

Given the high incidence of violent crime of Waitakere City within our police district, are the Waitakere City police being adequately resourced?

Are victim support organisations and other support agencies being adequately resourced?

How can we build and maintain safer town centres, parks and public transport stations/stops?

<sup>31</sup> The numbers are small but the rates in Waitakere City are similar to the national rates.

<sup>32</sup> Data excludes private hospitals, readmissions for the same injury event, day patients, and patients discharged dead.

<sup>33</sup> Note, that this is the most recent mortality data available. There is a considerable time lag in mortality data in New Zealand as Coroners' cases can take years to be heard and the data is not available until the findings have been released.

<sup>34</sup> Source: Injury Prevention Research Unit, 2004.

How can communities be encouraged to take greater care and responsibility for crime and safety outcomes in their local environments and neighbourhoods?

Why do notifications to CYF in Waitakere City continue to be higher than elsewhere in New Zealand? Are our children in greater danger or do we just report more?

How do we make our streets and neighbourhoods safer for our children?

Why do schools have such low notification rates to CYF?