

## COMMUNITY SAFETY

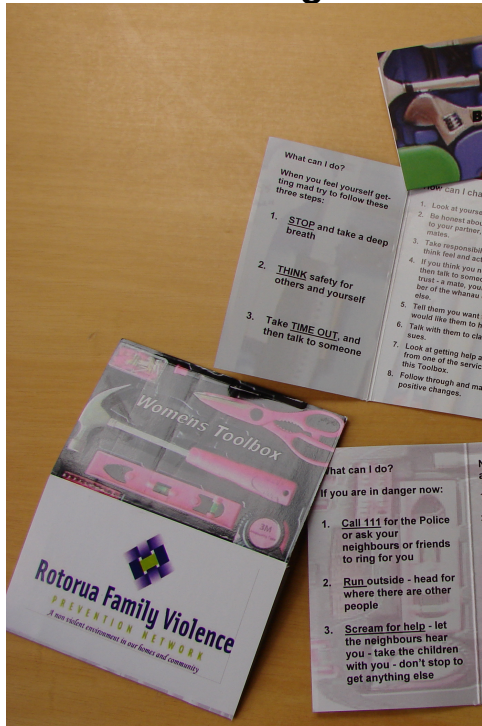
### Why is this important?

Safety and security contribute to a community's overall sense of wellbeing. A safe community takes active steps to prevent crime, and provide an environment where residents feel they can participate fully.

### Community safety indicators

- Perceptions of safety
- Reported offences.
- Reported offending by juveniles.
- Notifications to Child, Youth and Family.
- Road traffic casualties.

### How are we doing?



The proportion of citizens who feel the Rotorua district is definitely or mostly a safe place to live fell slightly to 85% in 2011 from 87% in 2010, but remained above the 79% figure of 2007.

The total number of reported offences in the Rotorua Police District was 11,367 during 2009/10, compared with 9,950 in 2008/09.

Recorded youth apprehensions decreased to 1064 in 2010/11 from 1141 in 2009/10. The majority of young people apprehended by Police are males.

There were 1,352 notifications of Care and Protection cases by the Rotorua office of the Child, Youth and Family service in 2010/11.

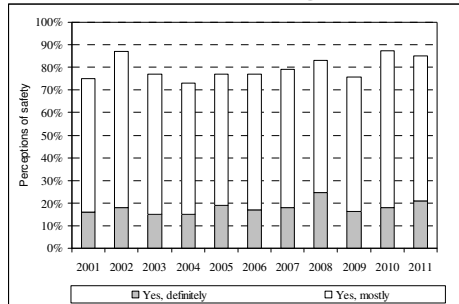
There was an increase in number of fatal crashes in 2010. The NZ Transport Agency estimates that the social cost of traffic crashes in the Rotorua district was \$104.6 million in 2010.

## Perceptions of Safety

### Why is this important?

Residents' sense of community safety is a key indicator of social cohesion and community wellbeing.

### How are we doing?



### Rating of whether residents feel Rotorua is generally a safe place to live, 2001-2011

Source: NRB Communitrak Survey and Rotorua District Safety Perception Survey

The proportion of respondents who feel the Rotorua district is definitely or mostly a safe place to live fell slightly to 85% in 2011 from 87% in 2010, but remained above the 79% figure of 2007.

As at June 2011 15% of Rotorua residents thought the district was either not really, or definitely not, a safe place to live, up from 12% in 2010.

The main reasons people felt the district was not safe were:

- Problems with young people/street kids/not enough to do - 36.2%
- High crime rate/too much crime - 34.5%
- Not safe in some areas/undesirables - 34.5%

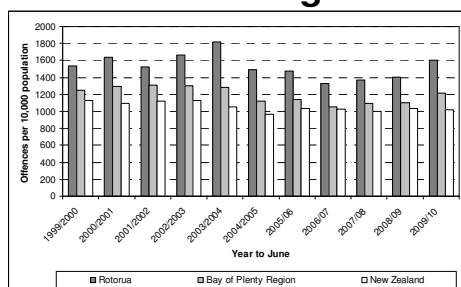
Other reasons included: crimes against tourists; culture of alcohol abuse and drunkenness; drug culture; gangs; and behaviour of local youths being allowed to hang around in the city and intimidate people.

# Reported Offences

## Why is this important?

Criminal activity is a major community safety concern. Crimes against property and person undermine people's sense of security, and require private and public funding to be diverted into security measures, policing and prosecution of offenders. A low crime rate contributes to the community's overall sense of well-being.

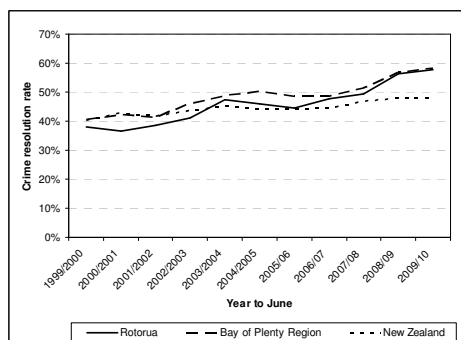
## How are we doing?



**Reported offences per 10,000 population, Rotorua, Bay of Plenty, New Zealand, 1999/2000-2009/2010**

Source: New Zealand Police, Crime Statistics

This section presents official statistics for reported offences per 10,000 of population and total crime resolution rate. The format has been revised significantly from that used in previous years because offences are grouped by Police in different categories than previously. This aligns with direction given by the Justice Sector Information Strategy for the whole Justice sector to categorise offences according to the Australian Standard Offence Classification (ASOC). This change does not change the total number of offences reported, just how they are grouped.



**Crime resolution rate – All crime categories, Rotorua, Bay of Plenty, New Zealand, 1999/2000-2009/2010**

Source: New Zealand Police Crime Statistics

Rotorua district has historically had a higher rate of reported crime than the wider Bay of Plenty Region, which in turn has a slightly higher crime rate than the national average. In the period 2009/10 the level of reported crime per 10,000 of population rose in the Rotorua Police District and wider Bay of Plenty region, after falling significantly in 2006/07.

The total number of reported crimes in the Rotorua Police District was 11,367 during 2009/10 compared with 9,950 in 2008/09. Overall crime resolution rates for the Rotorua Police District and wider Bay of Plenty are slightly above the national average, and have improved greatly in recent years.

Offences are now grouped into 15 different categories. The category 'theft and related offences' has historically constituted the highest number of recorded offences and in 2010 there were 3,116 recorded offences compared to 3,653 in 2006.

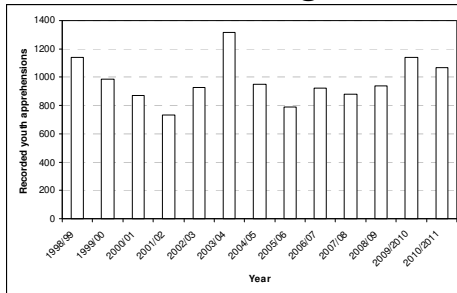
*When interpreting these figures it should be recognised that changes in reported offending may partly reflect trends in public awareness and reporting of offending, rather than trends in actual offending.*

## Youth Apprehensions

### Why is this important?

Youth offending is often reported in the media in such a way that makes other young people feel stereotyped. Accurate monitoring of youth offending is important for a clearer understanding of the scale and trend in juvenile crime.

### How are we doing?



#### Number of apprehensions of under-17 year olds, Rotorua Police District, 1998/99-2010/11

Source: Statistics New Zealand/Table builder

The number of apprehensions by Police of under-17 year olds fell in 2010/11 to 1064 compared to 1141 in 2009/10 and 921 in 2006/07. There has been a 6.7% (77) drop in the number of young people apprehended in Rotorua during 2010/2011.

74% of those apprehended by Police were males.

Under-17 year olds are most often apprehended in relation to theft and related offences, public order offences, and unlawful entry with intent/burglary, break and enter.

Overall the Rotorua Police area experienced a 5.6% drop in recorded offences in the 12 months ending 30 June 2011. This is consistent with the national trend.

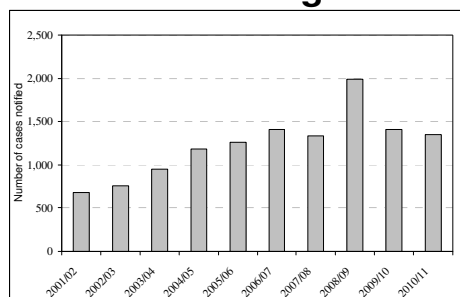
Therefore, most of the drop in youth apprehensions would have been due to the reduction in crime. When there are fewer offences, fewer apprehensions are expected. This is not a youth-specific issue, but more to do with declining crime rates. Furthermore, it is not a Rotorua specific issue, but part of a national pattern.

## Notifications to Child, Youth and Family

### Why is this important?

Community safety and cohesion starts at the family level. The Child, Youth and Family Service (CYFS) records all notifications of Care and Protection cases where further action and investigation by a social worker is warranted. Care and protection cases are those that involve issues of abuse and neglect of children and young persons up to the age of 17 years. A high number of notifications is indicative of low levels of family wellbeing within the community.

### How are we doing?



#### Notifications of Care and Protection cases, Rotorua site office, 2001/02-2010/11

Source: Ministry of Social Development

There were 1,352 notifications of Care and Protection cases by the Rotorua site office in 2010/11, down from 1,990 in 2008/09 but remaining higher than the figure of 677 recorded in 2001/02.

The decrease follows a significant increase in this indicator in 2008/09 at both the local and national levels. Between 2001/02 and 2010/11 the annual number of notifications requiring further action increased by 111.68% for all of New Zealand. Over the same period there was an increase of 79.55% at the Rotorua site office.

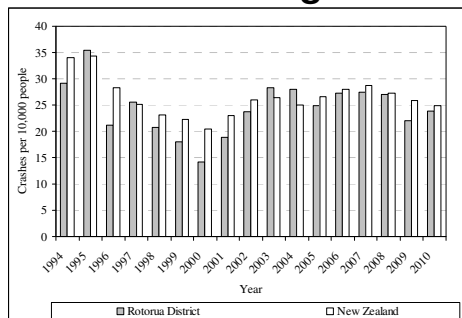
According to CYFS the national increase in notifications in recent years can be attributed in part to various public education and awareness programmes, such as Breaking the Cycle, Neglect, Alternatives to Smacking, and It's Not OK. The department has noted a direct correlation between the timing of these programmes and increases in the number of notifications received. This may indicate that members of the public are becoming more aware of the signs of abuse and neglect, and are more prepared to do their part in ensuring that abuse does not occur or continue. The most recent surge of notifications may have been triggered by high-profile cases of child abuse leading to death.

# Road Traffic Casualties

## Why is this important?

Road traffic accidents are a major cause of deaths, injuries and disabilities. A high rate of traffic accidents and resulting casualties reduces the wellbeing of individuals, families and communities, and places a greater burden on emergency services and health providers.

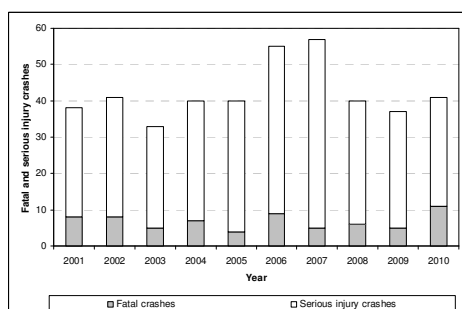
## How are we doing?



**Rate of road crashes per 10,000 population, Rotorua District and New Zealand, 1994-2010**

Source: NZTA CAS

Road traffic crashes increased both locally and nationally over the period 2003-2008. The annual number of accidents in the Rotorua district rose to 163 in the 2010 calendar year compared to 148 (22 injury crashes per 10,000) in 2009 but remained below the 194 (28.3 injury crashes per 10,000 people) reached in 2003. The rate of crashes in the district was 23.8 per 10,000 of population in 2010, compared to a national average of 24.9 per 10,000.

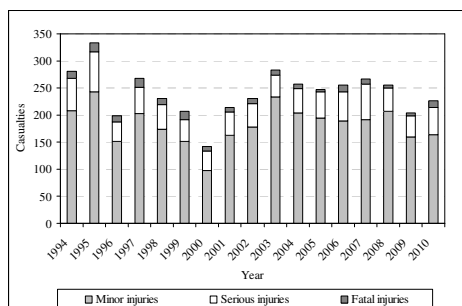


**Fatal and serious injury crashes, Rotorua District, 2000-2010**

Source: NZTA CAS

Note that the number of crashes per 10,000 of population can be affected by geography and transport movements (e.g. open road, trucks, tourism and commuter traffic). Lower speed crashes involve lower impacts, reducing the risk of injury. Therefore the adjacent graph illustrates only trends for serious crashes, which tend to also be reported more accurately.

Over the past several years, the Rotorua district has consistently had between 35-55 fatal and serious injury crashes. The figure for 2010 is 41 fatal (11) and serious (30) injury crashes.



**Road traffic casualties, Rotorua District, 1994-2010**

Source: NZTA CAS

The number of road traffic casualties in New Zealand has risen substantially since achieving record lows in the year 2000. The annual number of traffic casualties in the Rotorua district has also risen, from 142 injuries and deaths (21.2 per 10,000 people) in 2000 to 226 (33 per 10,000) in 2010. In total there were 12 deaths, 50 serious injuries and 164 minor injuries from road traffic crashes in the district during 2010. Key road issues for the district typically include: poor observation; speed; poor handling (for example losing control while braking); failure to give way or stop, and drink driving.

The NZ Transport Agency estimates that the social cost of crashes in the Rotorua District was \$104.6 million in 2010. That breaks down to \$42.3 million on local roads and \$62.3 million on State Highways.