

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 provides 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 to 80% in 2012 from 85% in 2011.

The total number of reported offences in the Rotorua Police District was 10,406 during 2011/12, compared with 10,726 in 2010/11.

Recorded youth apprehensions slightly increased to 1,069 in 2011/12 from 1,064 in 2010/11. The majority of young people apprehended by Police are males.

There were 1,169 notifications of Care and Protection cases by the Rotorua office of the Child, Youth and Family service in 2011/12.

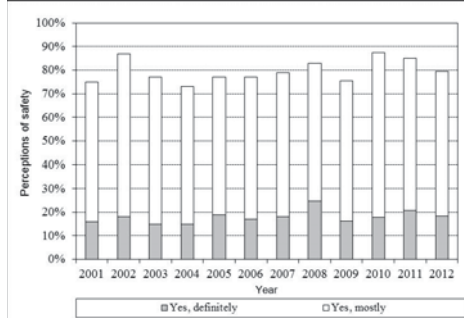
There was an increase in number of fatal crashes in 2010. The NZ Transport Agency estimates that the social cost of traffic crashes in the Rotorua District was \$104.6 million in 2010.

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, 2001-2012

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 to 80% in 2012 from 85% in 2011, and was below the 2008 figure of 83%.

As at June 2012, 20% of Rotorua residents thought the district was either 'not really', or 'definitely not', a safe place to live, up from 15% in 2011.

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

- High crime rate/too much crime – 40.5%
- Not safe in some areas/undesirables – 38.0%
- Problems with young people/street kids/not enough to do – 34.2%
- Other – 38.0%

The 'other' category included:

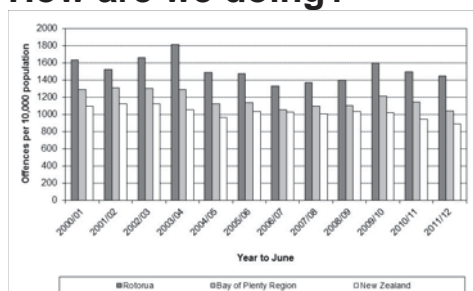
- Always a threat – have to be cautious all the time.
- Because of the murder at the park.
- Crime, nasty comments and fights on our streets. Violence is simmering all the time.
- Frequent crimes committed.
- Gang problems between red/blues.
- High unemployment.
- Hoons in cars yelling abuse as they go by.

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?

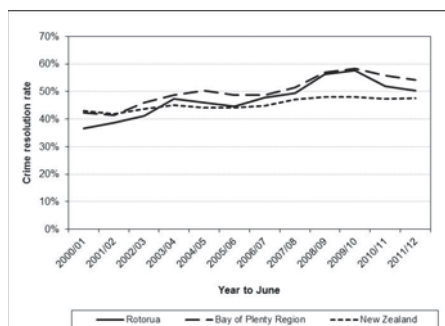


Reported offences per 10,000 population, Rotorua, Bay of Plenty, New Zealand, 2000/01 - 2011/12

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 alter the total number of offences reported, just how they are grouped.

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. In 2011/12 the level of reported crime remained above the 2006/07 figure.



Crime resolution rate – All crime categories, Rotorua, Bay of Plenty, New Zealand, 2000/01 - 2011/12

Source: New Zealand Police, Crime Statistics

The total number of reported crimes in the Rotorua Police District was 10,405 during 2011/12 compared with 10,726 in 2010/11, a drop of -3.0%.

Overall crime resolution rates for the Rotorua Police District and wider Bay of Plenty are above the national average.

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 2011/12 there were 3,254 recorded offences compared to 3,084 in 2010/11.

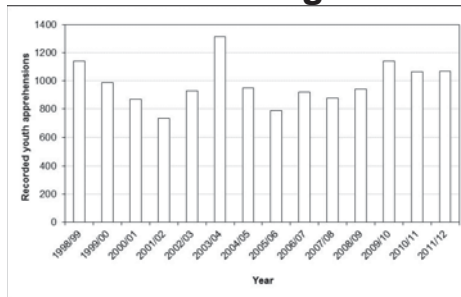
When interpreting these figures it should be recognised that changes in reported offending may partly reflect trends in public awareness and reporting of offending, rather than trends in actual offending.

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 - 2011/12

Source: Statistics New Zealand/Table builder

The number of apprehensions by Police of under-17 year olds rose marginally in 2011/12 to 1,069 compared to 1,064 in 2010/11. There has been a 0.5% (5) rise in the number of young people apprehended in Rotorua during 2011/2012.

Over 70% 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.

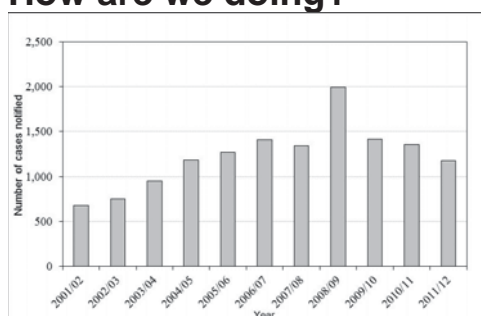
Overall the Rotorua Police area experienced a 5.6% drop in recorded offences in the 12 months ending 30 June 2011. This is consistent with the national trend.

Notifications to Child, Youth and Family

Why is this important?

Community safety and cohesion starts at the family level. 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, 2001/02-2011/12

Source: Ministry of Social Development

Over the last three years there has been a decrease in the number of notifications in the Rotorua site office that have required further action. Figures from the latest year in Rotorua show a decrease from 1,413 in 2009/10 to 1,169 in 2011/12, 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 2011/12 the annual number of notifications requiring further action increased by 156.94% for all of New Zealand. Over the same period there was an increase of 72.67% 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, in which children have died.

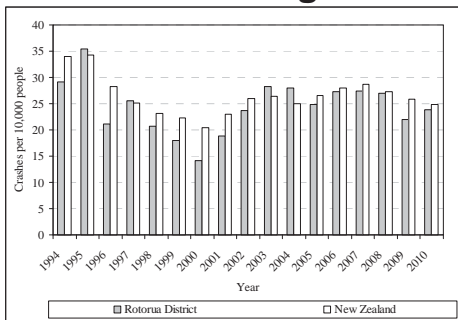
It is important to note that Child, Youth and Family may receive multiple notifications for a particular client from different sources. The number of notifications therefore does not represent individual clients.

Road Traffic Casualties

Why is this important?

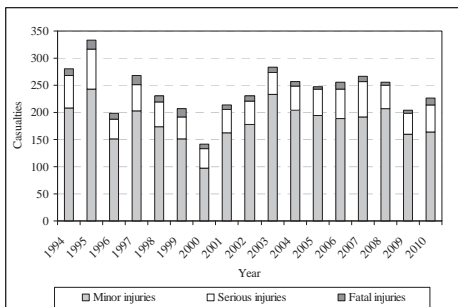
Road traffic accidents are a major cause of deaths, injuries and disabilities. A high rate of traffic accidents and resulting casualties reduces the wellbeing of individuals, families and communities, and places a greater burden on emergency services and health providers.

How are we doing?



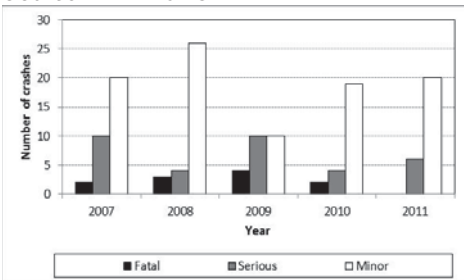
Rate of road crashes per 10,000 population, Rotorua District and New Zealand, 1994-2010

Source: NZTA CAS



Road traffic casualties, Rotorua District, 1994-2010

Source: NZTA CAS



Alcohol and drugs related crashes, Rotorua District, 2007-2011

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 people) 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.

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. 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 people) 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.

Alcohol and drug related crashes are a high strategic priority identified in NZTA's Safer Journey's document. Locally this issue is a concern, due to the number of deaths and/or serious casualties, which reflects a high level of collective risk. In 2011 there were no fatal alcohol and drug related crashes. However, the number of serious injuries was slightly higher in 2011 (6) compared to 2010 (4). The NZ Transport Agency estimates that the social cost of crashes in the Rotorua District was \$104.6 million in 2010. This total figure breaks down to \$42.3 million on local roads, and \$62.3 million on State Highways.