

SAFER JOURNEYS FACT SHEET



YOUNG DRIVERS

- Young drivers (aged 15–24) in New Zealand comprise 16 percent of all licensed drivers but in 2008 they were involved in around 37 percent of all fatal crashes and 38 percent of all serious injury crashes. This led to 122 deaths and 800 serious injuries at a social cost of \$1.1 billion.
- Road crashes are the single greatest killer of 15–24 year olds, and the leading cause of their permanent injury.
- Our 15–17 year olds have the highest road death rate in the OECD and our 18–20 year olds have the fourth highest. In addition, for each young at-fault driver killed, 1.3 other road users also die.
- Young Australians have a road fatality rate of 13 per 100,000 population, while young New Zealanders have a fatality rate of 21 per 100,000 population. If New Zealand had the same road fatality rate for 15 to 24 year olds as Australia, then in 2009 25 lives would have been saved.
- Although there has been a significant reduction in the level of death and injury for young and novice drivers since 1985, from 2000 we have made no further progress in increasing the safety of young drivers.
- From 2000–2008 the number of people killed or seriously injured in crashes where a young driver was at fault increased by about 17 percent. This compares with a 6 percent increase across all road users over the same time period.
- The aim of the Safer Journeys young driver package is to reduce the road fatality rate of our young people from 21 per 100,000 population

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