An overview of road accident fatalities in the European Union

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In the EU, about 330,000 people were killed in road accidents over the decade 2006-2015.

In 2015, more than 26,100 people were killed in road accidents in the EU, recording a decrease of 40% compared to 2006.

In 2014 the intense decreasing trend of the previous years was stopped and in 2015 an annual increase of 1% was recorded.

The objective of this research is the analysis of basic road safety parameters in the EU countries, through the use of the EU CARE database with disaggregate data on road accidents.

Macroscopic time series data from 28 EU countries over the period 2006-2015 were used.

Available risk exposure data from other international data files (Eurostat, etc.).
Most road fatalities in 2015 concerned **people aged between 20 and 29 years old**.

- Fatalities in the **over 85 year old age group** increased by 25% in 2015 compared to 2006.
- 53% of **female fatalities** were car occupants and almost 32% were pedestrians.
- 45% of **male fatalities** were car occupants and only 18% pedestrians.
- The highest percentages of **motorcyclist fatalities** were recorded for males aged between 15 and 29 years old.
- The highest rates for **pedestrian fatalities** were recorded for the elderly women.
- Only 8% of road fatalities in 2015 occurred in accidents on motorways.
- 55% of road users were killed in accidents on non-motorway **rural roads**.
- More fatalities were recorded during the second half of year, however the monthly distribution of fatalities differs among the various types of transport mode.
Conclusions

Road accident fatalities differ considerably among the various groups of road users, as well as in relation to vehicle and road types.

- The safety problem varies systematically in the EU by region, reflecting different climates, cultures and behavioural characteristics, modal shares and levels of road infrastructure development.

- Elderly fatalities showed the lowest decrease (18%) during the decade 2006-2015.
- The number of killed people aged between 15-17 years showed an impressive decrease of 57%.
- Vulnerable road users’ fatalities recorded much lower decreases between 2006 and 2015 than the total number of fatalities.

- The results of the analysis contribute to the better understanding of the road safety problem in the European road network, providing thus useful support to decision makers working for the improvement of road safety level in the EU.
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