

Road safety in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

Facts from the
*Global status report on
road safety 2018*



Worldwide, road traffic injuries kill approximately 1.35 million people every year. An additional 20–50 million people are injured in non-fatal crashes annually, with many sustaining disabilities as a result of their injuries. Road traffic injuries represent the eighth leading cause of death for all age groups and the leading cause of premature death for those aged 5–29 years worldwide. Despite the significant global burden of road traffic injuries, the rates of death relative to the size of the world's population have remained stable in recent years.

The Region has the third highest road traffic death rate in the world

In 2016, an estimated 120 362 people died from road traffic injuries in the Eastern Mediterranean Region constituting almost 9% of the world's estimated road traffic deaths despite the Region accounting for only 5% of the world's vehicles. Between 2013 and 2016 the road traffic death rate in the Region remained relatively stable.

The overall road traffic death rate in the Region is 18 deaths per 100 000 population, which, although comparable to the global average of 18.2 per 100 000 population, represents the third highest road traffic death rate in the world after the African (26.6 per 100 000 population) and South-East Asia (20.7 per 100 000 population) regions.

Estimated road traffic death rates vary greatly among countries in the Region, ranging from a low of 5.3 to a high of 28.8 deaths per 100 000 population. Only seven countries have an estimated road traffic death rate lower than the regional average of 18 deaths per 100 000 population.

This factsheet for the Eastern Mediterranean Region draws on data from the "Global status report on road safety 2018". It describes the status of road safety in 19 of the 22 countries and territories of the Region, representing 95.5% of the population and comprising five high-income, 12 middle-income, and two low-income countries.

Related links

Road safety in the Eastern Mediterranean Region
 Facts from the *Global status report on road safety 2018*



[Road safety in the Region: facts from the global status report on road safety 2018](#)

Policy brief
 Reducing injury, disability, death and economic losses through road safety in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

Background
 Road traffic injuries kill approximately 120 000 people every year in the Eastern Mediterranean Region. The Region accounts for almost 1% of the world's population but traffic injury deaths having only 1% of the world's vehicles. An additional 500 000 people are injured in road traffic crashes, but only in developing countries. The huge toll from road traffic injury, disability and death causes the regional economic burden of disease and drives a wedge in families, communities, health care and social services.

Reducing road traffic injury and death will benefit both public health and development impact on public health
 According to latest estimates, road traffic injury is the eighth leading cause of death in the Eastern Mediterranean Region. The Region has the third highest road traffic death rate in the world, after the African and South-East Asia regions. Death, disability and economic burden of road traffic injury are substantial. Road traffic injury is a major problem for all countries in the Region regardless of their economic level.

Key statistics:
 - About 14 people die every day in the Eastern Mediterranean Region as a result of road traffic injuries.
 - 66% of road traffic injuries and deaths in the Eastern Mediterranean Region occur in low- and middle-income countries.
 - Road traffic injury and death are leading causes of disability-adjusted life expectancy (DALE) loss in the Region.
 - Economic burden of road traffic injury and death is substantial.
 - Road traffic injury and death are a major public health and development problem in the Region.
 - Road traffic injury and death are a leading cause of death in the Region.
 - Road traffic injury and death are a leading cause of disability in the Region.
 - Road traffic injury and death are a leading cause of economic loss in the Region.
 - Road traffic injury and death are a leading cause of social burden in the Region.

[Reducing injury, disability, death and economic losses through road safety in the Region](#)

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