

## 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 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 15% of the world's estimated road traffic deaths, despite having only 10% of the world's vehicles. An additional 160 000 people are injured in road traffic accidents annually. This presents governments in the Region with a significant public health challenge. Road safety is also a development challenge. The Region has high road traffic injury disability and death rates. The Region's economies, billions of dollars and jobs are spent on healthcare, construction, health care and social services.

**Reducing road traffic injury and death will benefit both public health and development**  
Improving road safety will benefit public health and development. 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 Europe and South-East Asia regions. Besides deaths, a substantial number of people are seriously injured, often having costly, lifelong disabilities. In 2015, the Region had the equivalent of 5 million years of disability caused by road traffic injury in a major problem for all countries in the Region because of their economic level.

**Key messages**  
• The burden of road traffic injury and death is high in the Eastern Mediterranean Region.  
• Road traffic injury and death is a major public health and development challenge.  
• Road traffic injury and death is a major problem for all countries in the Region because of their economic level.  
• Road traffic injury and death is a major problem for all countries in the Region because of their economic level.

**References**  
1. WHO. Road traffic injuries. In: Global status report on road safety 2018. Geneva: WHO; 2018. Available from: <http://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/road-traffic-injuries>.  
2. WHO. Road traffic injuries. In: Global status report on road safety 2018. Geneva: WHO; 2018. Available from: <http://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/road-traffic-injuries>.  
3. WHO. Road traffic injuries. In: Global status report on road safety 2018. Geneva: WHO; 2018. Available from: <http://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/road-traffic-injuries>.

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