



Ethiopia STEPS Survey 2015

Road Traffic Accident Fact Sheet



The WHO STEPwise approach to surveillance (STEPS) is a simple, standardized method for collecting, analyzing and disseminating data on non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and risk factors. Data from STEPS surveys can be used by countries to help monitor progress in meeting the global voluntary targets related to specific risk factors such as alcohol, tobacco, diet and physical inactivity. The violence and injury indicators from STEPS can be used to evaluate and monitor existing health intervention programs in the country.

The STEPS survey on NCD risk factors in Ethiopia was carried out from April to June, 2015. The study was a population-based survey of adults aged 15-69 years using violence and injury questions from WHO STEPS survey standard questionnaire. A multi stage cluster sampling design was used to produce representative data for the population of Ethiopia. Survey information was collected electronically using handheld devices. The survey was implemented by the Ethiopian Public Health Institute. A total of 9,801 adults participated in the Ethiopia STEPS survey. The overall response rate was 95.7%. A repeat survey is planned for 2020 that depends on availability of funds.

The magnitude of Road Traffic Accident in Ethiopia

Road traffic accidents (RTAs), here defined as "an accident that occurred on a way or street open to public traffic; resulted in one or more persons being killed or injured, and at least one moving vehicle was involved. Every year the lives of approximately 1.25 million people are cut short because of a road traffic crash¹. Although road traffic accidents are a major global public health problem, most of it occurs in low- and middle-income countries including Ethiopia. Data presented in this fact sheet relate only to selected road traffic injury indicators. Additional information on injury or other NCD risk factors from the survey is available from sources listed below.

Key Facts

- Nine in ten of the world's fatalities on the roads occur in low- and middle-income countries, even though these countries have approximately half of the world's vehicles¹.
- About 3% of the Ethiopian population met a traffic accident which is equivalent to about 3 million people who met traffic accident in 2015.
- There is small gap in involvement of road traffic accident among urban (2.8%) and rural (2.6 %) dwellers.
- About 2 in ten (18 %) of respondents were seriously injured as a result of road traffic accident.
- Rural residents (86%) were more seriously injured than urban residents (64 %).

Table 1: Percentage of respondents who had been involved in road traffic crash during the past 12 months prior the survey, by age, sex, and place of residence, Ethiopia NCD STEPS, 2015

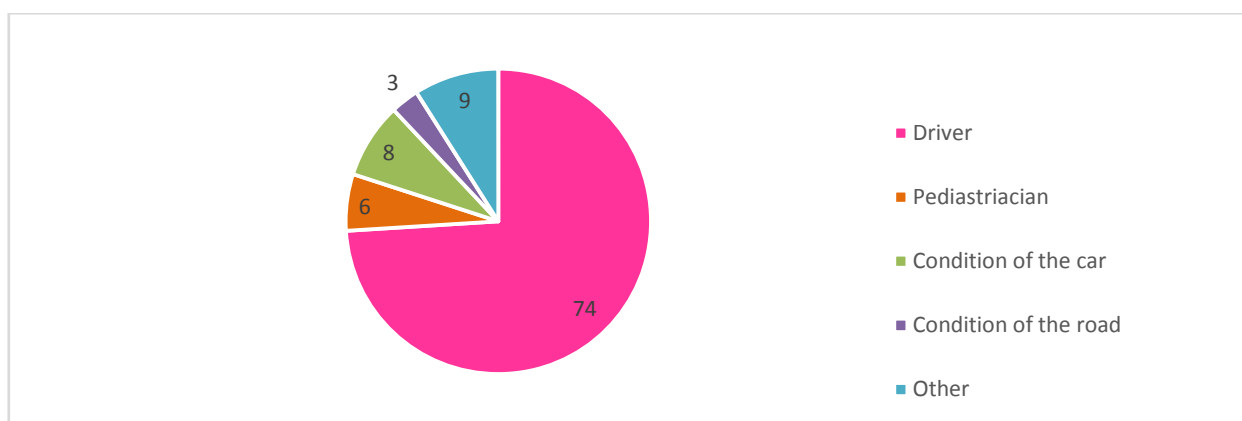
Age Group (years)	Percent Involved in road traffic crashes		
	Men	Women	Both Sexes
	% Involved in road traffic crashes	% Involved in road traffic crashes	% Involved in road traffic crashes
15-29	3.2	2.0	2.7
30-44	3.3	1.6	2.5
45-59	3.8	2.0	3.1
60-69	2.8	1.2	2.2
Rural	3.1	1.9	2.6
Urban	4.4	1.5	2.8
15-69	3.3	1.9	2.7

Table 2: Percentage of respondents who had been seriously injured among those involved in road traffic accident during the past 12 months prior the survey, by age, sex, and place of residence, Ethiopia NCD STEPS, 2015

Age Group (years)	Percent seriously injured		
	Men	Women	Both Sexes
	% Seriously injured	% Seriously injured	% Seriously injured
15-29	16.5	9.1	14.0
30-44	27.0	15.1	23.6
45-59	34.5	0.6	25.4
60-69	4.0	55.1	14.6
Rural	84.3	90.9	86.3
Urban	55.4	85.1	64.4
Total	21.7	10.3	18.1

According to Addis Ababa Traffic Police Report (AATPR) , the following were depicted as major causes of road traffic accident in 2011. Nearly 75% of the accident was attributable to the driver .

Figure 1: Major causes of traffic accident in Ethiopia²



What can be done to address the problem?

As evidences from other studies confirm, majority of the RTAs in the developing world affect all communities, but the extent to which they affect populations in Ethiopia is overwhelming. As road traffic accidents pose a huge development and health problem, government need to take action to address road safety in a holistic manner, that requires involvement from multiple sectors (transport, police, health, education) and that addresses the safety of roads, vehicles, and road users. To curb the growing problem, high level political commitment and immediate actions and decisions are required in the current situation Thus, all dwellers should be trained to be good road users at all stages of their lives. The training and education system should also start at home among family members. A strong commitment is needed towards road safety education in schools. According to traffic police reports, almost all errors were attributed to drivers. To this effect, there should be viable means in due course of improving the standards of driving. Moreover, maintenance of the road, traffic light, signs and symbols and strengthening and implementation of vehicle-testing procedure are urgently needed.

For additional information, please contact:
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 *Road traffic accident questions were drawn from the Violence & Injury module of WHO.

¹ WHO ²AATPR 2011