

ROAD ACCIDENTS STATISTICAL DATA

V. IUGA

PhD candidate, „Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu

Abstract: *Some of the causes of road accidents in the county of Sibiu, between 1999 and 2004 are: high speed, drivers' inattention, irregular overtaking, alcohol abuse, tiredness.*

Keywords: *developed countries, developing countries, deaths, serious injuries, causes of road accidents*

Rezumat: *Date statistice privind accidentele rutiere în perioada 1999-2004 în județul Sibiu: viteza excesivă, neatenția conducătorului vehiculelor, depășirile neregulamentare, neacordarea priorității, consumul de alcool, aboseala, sunt câteva din cauzele accidentelor de circulație.*

Cuvinte cheie: *țările dezvoltate, țările în curs de dezvoltare, decese, răniri grave, cauzele accidentelor rutiere*

The road accident is an incident that occurs in a difficult context and which stimulates (sets into action) a corporal hit as a result of speed, without the human will and whose cause is external to the individual (Walle).

According to W.H.O., the road traffic improvement supposes a classification of the risk factors, firstly:

- high, unadapted speed;
- alcohol and drug abuse;
- fatigue;
- driving during night;
- poor vehicle maintenance;
- lack of visibility due to the meteorological conditions;
- sight damages;
- Road accidents at international level:
- 3000 persons die daily due to road accidents;
- statistically, the mortality cause due to road accidents -- 2,1% of the general mortality.
- in 2004, the European Union counts one car per two citizens (between 1990 and 2004, the number of cars increased with almost 40%; there were 216 million cars in the EU);
- as against the USA, where there are 759 cars per 1000 inhabitants, in the EU, there are 472 cars/1000 inhabitants (2004);
- statistically comparing the period of time between 1994 and 2004, Romania/Latvia/Lithuania/Slovakia

registered the largest number of cars involved in road accidents (the states of the Western Europe registered at least 10 people dead, as against those of the East).

- In China, car accidents are the main cause of death in people aged between 15 and 45 years old (statistically, almost 80% of the cases occur due to the drivers' negligence).
 - In South Africa – 10.000 car accidents/yearly.
- In decreasing order, road accidents place on the first place – Ethiopia, while Uganda is on the third place.
- In Romania, the number of car parks doubled in a period of 15 years (more than 4,6 million cars) and the number of persons holding a driving licence reached 5,6 million. Around 2600 deaths were registered in 2006, due to road accidents (national average – 11,8 cases per 100.000 inhabitants/year).
 - In the year 2002 – there were 2600 deceases due to road accidents;
 - In the year 2004 – there were 2702 deceases due to road accidents;
 - In the year 2005 – there were 2909 deceases. (In every case, there is an increase of the number of road accidents).

Regarding road accidents and safety, W.H.O. suggested:

- The industrialized countries have taken measures for reducing the number of road accidents starting with the year 1870);
- The countries that find themselves in an intermediary stage of development:
 - Regarding these countries, a rapid increase of the number of vehicles could be observed.
 - Road safety programmes were introduced.
 - The rate of mortality is increasing in young people.
- Developing countries:
 - No suggestions were made concerning the road safety.
 - Countries with poor socio-economic conditions
 - Health problems:
 - Infectious diseases;
 - Nutrition disease;
 - Serious food deficiencies.

The problem of road accidents is on the second place.

- 300-750 thousand people loose their life;

- The social and economic dramas are enormous;
- Every 2-3 seconds, a death is recorded at international level;
- Road accidents are increasing yearly with 10%;
- In the USA, 48000 people lost their life in a period of one year;
- 300.880 people were hurt;
- 1 deadly accident and 25 hurt people every 3 seconds;
- Between 1900 and 1966, 1.250.000 persons died (in the same period of time, there were 605.000 war casualties);
- „motorization became the most perfect weapon”.

In England, during a year:

- 20.000 people died in road accidents
- A number of 60000-80000 remain infirm;
- There is “a modern social wound” as the Surgery Forensic College state.

In France:

- Between 1955 and 1959, there were 100.000 people hurt as a result of car accidents, out of which 40.000 people died;
- In 1964, the total number of deaths-injuries reached the number of 268.000;
- The annual increase rate is of 8%;
- Car accidents in different countries: proportions %₀₀₀ inhabitants (according to Gorgtse):

Table no. 1: Proportion of accidents per %₀₀₀ inhabitants in different countries

Country	Proportions per % ₀₀₀ inhabitants	Country	Proportions per % ₀₀₀ inhabitants
England	38,6	France	40,7
Australia	82,6	North Zealand	54,0
Austria	102,2	Netherlands	28,5
Belgium	47,4	Germany	77,9
Canada	56,0	Sweden	28,4
Denmark	36,3	USA	72,5

Deadly road accidents in relation to 1.000.000 of km. covered and to 1.000.000 vehicles (according to CHR – OMS no. 11/1976):

Table no. 2. Proportion of deaths to 1.000.000 km covered and 1.000.000 vehicles in different countries

No. of country	Country	DEATHS TO 1.000.000	
		Covered km.	Vehicles
1	Austria	U	1.100
2	Australia	2,6	900
3	England	3,1	850
4	Canada	2,2	750
5	Denmark	2,2	800
6	USA	2,3	750

It is normal that in the developed countries (for example, in France and Germany), to be one vehicle per 4/5 people as against Madagascar, where there is only one vehicle per 137 inhabitants.

Causes of the road accidents: High speed (in our country, in a period of 5 years (1970-1974), there

were 3995 car accidents, representing 14% of the total of the car accidents and are the result of:

- Negligence;
- Irregular overtaking;
- Not awarding the right of way;
- Alcohol abuse.

In Australia (Perth), (according to Pearson A.T., out of 200 road accidents – 86 (39,4%) are due to alcohol abuse (there are many studies in this regard);

- Not checking the technical condition of the vehicle;
- Fatigue.

It was also noticed that the average values of MRT (motor reaction time) are increasing along with the age; at the age of 60-70 years old, they increased with more than 20%, as against the values recorded at the age of 16-25 years old – considered equal with 100%.

Table no. 3. MRT according to the age group

Age group (years old)	16-25	30-40	40-50	50-60	60-70
Motor reaction time (TRM) (%)	100,0	104,0	109,0	112,0	120,0

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