



International Center for Alcohol Policies  
Analysis. Balance. Partnership.

**Regional  
perspectives  
on preventing  
alcohol - related  
road crashes involving  
vulnerable road users**

***2013 United Nations Global  
Road Safety Week***

***6 May 2013***

***Salle VIII***

***Palais de Nations, Geneva***

# Africa

## Wilson Odero

Professor and Dean  
School of Medicine  
Maseno University, Kenya

# Africa



Global Road Safety Week - UNECE – ICAP  
symposium Regional Perspectives on  
Drinking and Driving

# Africa

## Regional road fatality rates

WHO Region	Rate/100,000 population
<b>Africa</b>	<b>32.2</b>
Americas	15.8
South East Asia	16.6
Eastern Mediterranean	32.2
Europe	13.4
Western Pacific	15.6
Global average	18.8

Nigeria and South Africa have the highest fatality rates/100,000 population

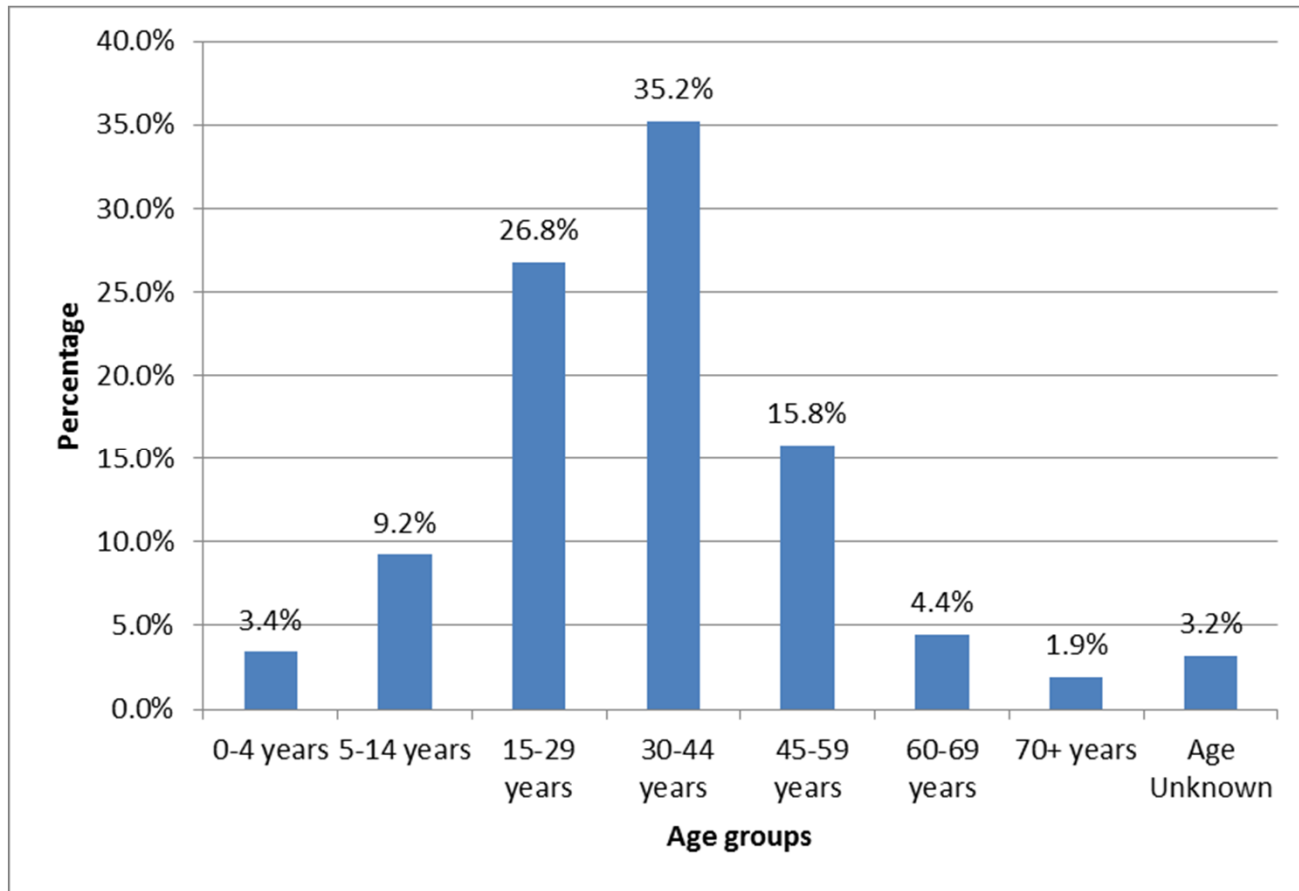
Nigeria: 33.7/100,00

South Africa: 31.9/100 000

# Africa

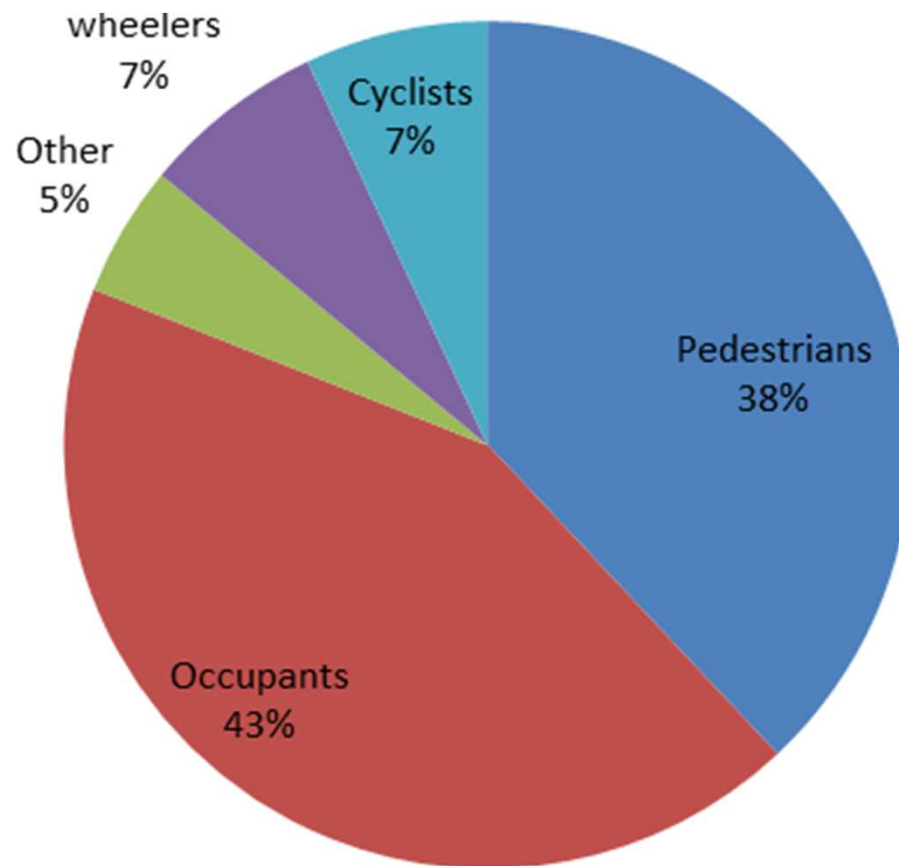
## Road crash injury rates by age including VRUs

---





# Africa



# Africa

## Risk of road crashes by VRUs

---

Vulnerable road users are at greater risk than vehicle occupants, and bear the greatest burden of injury, due to:

- The variety and intensity of traffic mix
- Transport planning and road design have overlooked needs of VRUs and their safety
- Low or lack driver compliance at crossings and intersections
- Inappropriate behaviour of pedestrians



## Africa Drink drive road crash trends

- Alcohol is a risk factor for crashes involving all road users
- Limited data currently available to assess extent of alcohol impairment in Africa, with the exception of South Africa



## Africa Drink drive road crash trends

NIMSS Reports (2002-2008): fatally injured pedestrians are consistently more likely than drivers to be blood alcohol positive, and have the highest mean BAC levels

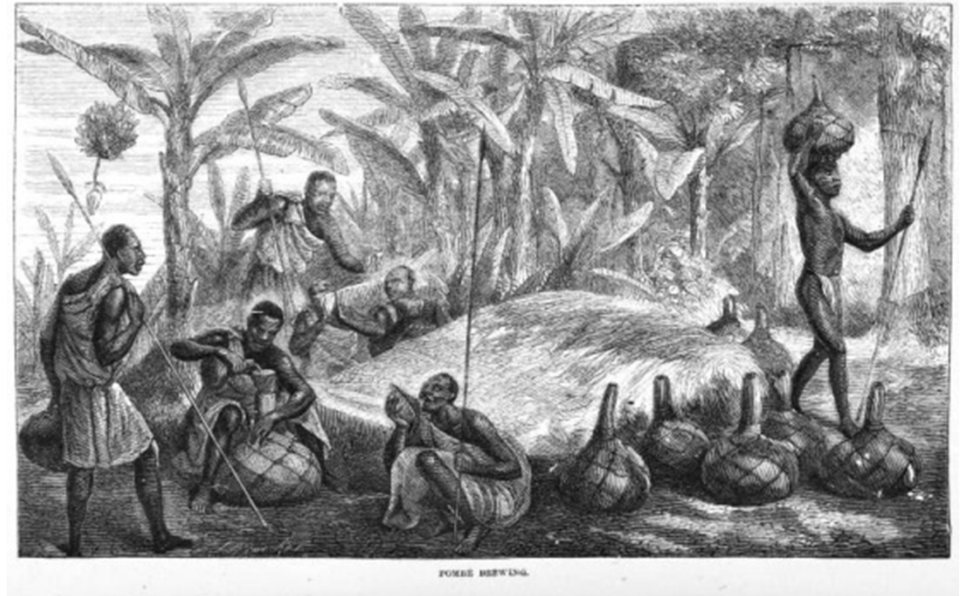
Year	Pedestrian	Drivers	Passengers	Cyclists
2002	59%	55%	41%	37%
2004	60%	51%	40%	39%
2007	59%	56%	56%	42%
2008 (Mean BAC)	63% (0.21)	58% (0.17)	45% (0.13)	43% (0.16)



# Africa

## Culture of alcohol consumption

- Home-made brews played an important role in social and cultural activities, and were an integral part of traditional African life-style
- Gradual change in use of alcohol from socialization and celebrations to commercial purposes, with introduction of European types of alcohol (beer, whisky, brandy), and extensive advertising



## Africa

### Culture of alcohol consumption

---

- Diversity in drinking patterns between counties: regularity (acceptance) and extent of intoxication (binge)
- Prevalence of alcohol use is highest in Seychelles (87%), Benin 48%, Cameroun (44%) and Uganda (44%); lowest in Comoros (1%) and Senegal(2%)
- Culture of drinking influenced by gender, religion and status: high abstinence among women (>80%) and Muslims(>98%)
- Africa has the highest rate of binge drinking at 25% (of drinkers) compared to the global rate of 11.5% (*Global Status Report on Alcohol, WHO 2004*)

## **Africa**      Main challenges in preventing road crashes involving alcohol and VRUs in the region

---

- Lack of or weak national alcohol policies: to regulate the production, sale, promotion, advertising
- Establishing sustainable and effective behaviour change programmes for the general population to reduce alcohol abuse, adopt responsible drinking habits
- Enforcement of drink driving laws, particularly those targeting pedestrians (?designated walker)

## Africa Examples of effective interventions

Measure	Countries
Safe public transport in Lagos	Nigeria
Alcohol law (“Mututho law”) introduced in 2010 to control alcohol consumption to reduce harmful effects including road crashes	Kenya
National drink-drive law BAC limit of $\leq 0.05$ g/dl	Eritrea, DRC, Liberia, Nigeria, South Africa, Swaziland
Strict enforcement of drink-drive laws of BAC 0.08g/dl leading to 1% decrease in crashes	Botswana and Rwanda

## Africa Observations from the region

---

- Alcohol use is embedded in African cultures, but is low in most countries, and is influenced by religion
- The rate of binge drinking is higher in the region compared to the global rate especially among male drinkers
- Data on alcohol use and road traffic crashes are limited and inadequate for planning, implementing and monitoring road safety interventions
- Most countries either do not have BAC limits or have limits that are above the recommended level of 0.05g/dl
- Poor enforcement of drink driving laws means countries in the region are unlikely to make progress in reducing alcohol-related crashes.



## Africa Recommendations for moving forward

---

- Prioritize needs of vulnerable road users by policy-makers, researchers and stakeholders in road safety.
- Increase efforts to address all aspects of drink-driving, including establishing legal limits of 0.05g/dl, ensuring effective enforcement, and providing resources to monitor progress.
- Introduce penalties for pedestrians who cross the road while intoxicated.
- Enhance behaviour change activities that include road safety awareness and anti-alcohol impairment campaigns targeting all road users is needed.

# Thank you

Prof. Wilson Odera  
Maseno University  
School of Medicine  
Private Bag, Maseno  
Kenya  
Email: [wodero@gmail.com](mailto:wodero@gmail.com)