There is a growing need for figures in the fields of traffic and transport. While markets are being liberalized, the volume of transport and traffic is still growing at both national and international levels. Congestion, accidents and pollution are negative factors directly related to traffic volume. However, there is a considerable demand to maintain economic growth by sustainable and safe mobility and transport with fewer negative effects.

Policymakers among other key players benefit from the collection of road traffic accidents statistics in order to meet many challenges. Information about road traffic can relate to many aspects. The information depends very much on the goal for which it is collected. Users can be found, for example, in the following areas:

- Policymaking at national and international level
- Infrastructure management and planning
- Traffic and transport management
- Spatial planning
- Accidents
- Environmental issues (including safety and scrap)

Collecting road traffic accidents statistics and disseminating data at the international level, as well as exchanging information between countries in order to improve quality is paramount to the UNECE. This brings us closer to learning from road traffic accidents and moving towards learning how to mitigate them. More and more countries are becoming aware of the value of exchange of information and different methods of data collection, leading to internationally comparable information.

**Working Party on Transport Statistics (WP. 6)**

While not all road traffic crashes can be prevented, they should all be studied. Through its intergovernmental body, the UNECE’s Working Party on Transport Statistics (WP. 6) develops:

- Appropriate and common methodologies and terminology for the harmonization of statistics
- Methodologies for the collection and compilation of statistics on road traffic accidents; and disseminates transport statistics
- On-line UNECE Transport Statistics Database which allows countries to compare and evaluate their road safety

The information may assist interested stakeholders in identifying problems, sharing measures and best practices, and raise awareness in order to prevent recurrences of road traffic accidents or to minimize the consequences.

UNECE works with Governments on creating national road safety databanks and improving existing ones. The Working Party brings together eminent experts from UNECE Governments, European Union, International Transport Forum (ITF), Statistical Office of the European Union (EUROSTAT), other non-governmental organizations, as well as concerned academia, and UNECE’s Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1), an intergovernmental body, focusing on improving road safety.

**Statistics of Road Traffic Accidents in Europe and North America**

The UNECE's Working Party on Transport Statistics (WP. 6) periodically issues the publication “Statistics of Road Traffic Accidents in Europe and North America” which provides comparable data on types and results of accidents in Europe, Canada and the United States. Data is organized by nature of accidents and surroundings; accidents while under the influence of alcohol; accidents by type of road users; road accidents by light conditions and time, as well as by age group. The statistics on road traffic accidents involve personal injury only, excluding accidents with material damage.

This publication is of particular relevance for the ECE region. In the 1999-2008 decade, there were on average 150,000 persons killed and about 5.5 million persons injured annually in more than 3.8 million road accidents. For this reason, a wider international audience, including the private sector, journalists, researchers, students and the general public, also use this publication.

As background data, figures on the number of road vehicles in use and vehicle-kilometers run by road vehicles are also provided. The publication is available in English, French and Russian.

Additional information

The sessions of the UNECE Working Party on Transport Statistics (WP.6) and its various expert groups are open to the 56 UNECE member States, competent intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations as well as invited experts.

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