

Head -Neck Trauma and related Epidemiology of Road Traffic Accident deaths among Indian minors



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Introduction: India contributes to one-sixth of the world's population, 55% of which are minors(^18yrs). Urbanisation , industrialization, sprawling roads and increased vehicle purchasing power are now part of a revolutionized, yet overpopulated India. This has its own consequences; the gravest being 1 RTA(road traffic accident) fatality / 4 minutes (Mondal report, India,2011). This study was conducted at MLN Health institute, a major tertiary care facility of North India, to provide baseline data on commonly observed 'trends' in RTA fatalities among minors, so as to identify 'preventable areas 'and facilitate intervention.

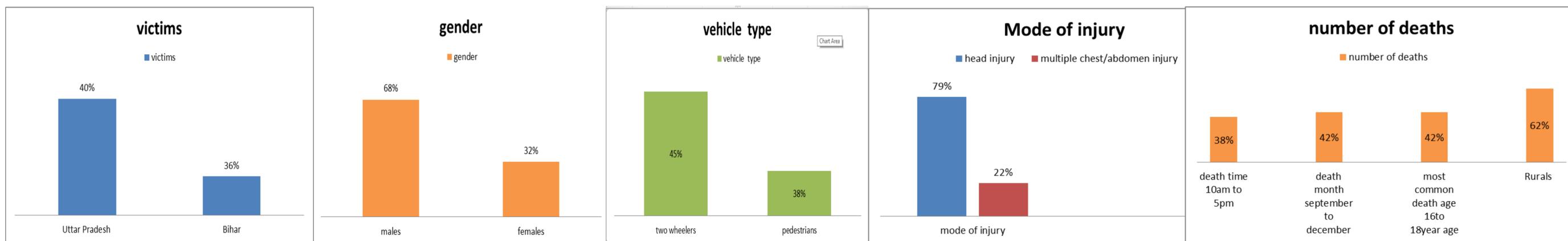


Figure 1. Victims demographics of Road Traffic Accidents in two Indian states-year 200-2015

Methods: Hospital/Forensic records (5600 deaths in 15 years: 2000-2015) were used to collect epidemiological data on socio-demographic parameters- Age, Sex, Place, Time,) Cause of death, Vehicular occupancy etc. Data was analyzed through SPSS-16(Chi-square $p < 0.05$ significant).

Results: Maximum victims belonged to Uttar Pradesh (40%) and Bihar (36%) states. Rural population observed greater deaths (62%). Males were significantly more affected than Females(68% M vs 32% F). Two-wheelers (45%) predominated, followed by Pedestrians (38%). A whopping 42% deaths occurred in the 16–18 year age group. Head injury was a major cause(79%), followed by multiple chest/abdomen injuries(22%). Most fatalities occurred between 10am–5pm (38%) and during September- December

Discussion: Exploding population, superfluous vehicles, poor road conditions and usual disregard for traffic regulations increases fatalities among young adults. Traditional culture, particularly among rurals promotes males 'going out' more frequently than females, leading to their RTA preponderance. While increased crime rates deter people from venturing out late nights, most work being done during the day accounts for higher RTA's. Public-Holidays involve more outdoors, increasing vulnerability

Conclusion: Minors represent promising human resource for any nation. Such overwhelming magnitude of RTA casualties needs traffic rules to be 'actually' implemented and road safety policies improved. This requires an attitude change among key stake holders. There is an urgent need for practicable measures like Vehicular-Laning, additional Red-lights and Zebra-crossings, Road side Cameras and Pot hole fillers; existing not merely on municipal files but physically on roads.

References

Traffic collisions in India-wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Traffic_collisions_in_India