

Road Traffic Injuries Research in Kenya



Prevention of Road Traffic Injuries through a Participatory Process in the Identification and Implementation of Interventions



GOAL

To identify potentially feasible and effective interventions for the prevention of road traffic injuries RTIs using participatory methods with stakeholders

OBJECTIVES

- > To identify different stakeholders' perceptions on the burden, causes, risk factors and interventions for RTIs
- > To review national and global data on the burden, causes, risk factors and effective interventions for RTIs
- > To compare information from stakeholders with the evidence in the literature to generate a priority list of consensus-based and context-specific interventions on RTIs

METHODS

A purposive sampling of stakeholder groups involved in the field of urban transport and public health was taken, representing the following groups:

- > Public sector (Ministries of Health, Ministry of Transport; law enforcement)
- > Private for profit (transport operators, insurance industry, private health providers)
- > Civil society (automobile associations, medical associations, legal society, engineers' associations, media)
- > Road users (passengers, pedestrians, drivers, private motorists)
- > Development partners

Qualitative methods including focus groups, key informant interviews and consensus workshops were used to identify stakeholder perceptions on the causes of RTIs and strategies for the prevention of these injuries. These results were then compared to the evidence collected through a systematic review of the current literature on RTIs.

RESULTS

The causes of road traffic crashes identified by the study participants can be grouped into five categories:

- > Individual behavior
- > Infrastructure-related
- > Mechanical condition of vehicles
- > Policy/law enforcement
- > Climatic and environmental conditions

The following interventions were proposed by the stakeholder groups:

- > Standardize training of drivers
- > Road safety awareness raising campaigns targeting the general public
- > Improve the public image of law enforcement officers
- > Intensify licensing procedures, frequent and proper inspection with certification of regular maintenance from accredited garages
- > Implement instant fines for road traffic offences
- > Standardize terms of employment of public service vehicle drivers, touts
- > Implement community policing programs

The views and perceptions of the stakeholders closely matched those found in the literature reviewed on the causes and interventions for RTIs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- > A multi-faceted approach involving all stakeholder groups involved in the prevention of RTIs must be adopted in Kenya.
- > Networking and collaboration among stakeholders needs to be improved to prevent duplication of services and to foster the creation of a unified voice in road safety.

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**Funding for this research made possible by the
Global Forum for Health Research (GFHR)*

March 2004

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