



WEEKLY EPIDEMIOLOGICAL REPORT

A publication of the Epidemiology Unit
Ministry of Health

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Road Traffic Accidents in Sri Lanka

This is the 2nd article of three in a series on “RTA in Sri Lanka”

Transport related Injuries in Sri Lanka

A wealth of data can be acquired in regard to transport injuries via the Acute NCD report published by the Non-Communicable Disease unit of the Ministry of Health in 2018.

In 2018, information on 37500 Transport Injuries (TI) victims admitted for inward care of government hospitals was reported through the National Injury Surveillance System. According to the report published in 2018, one of the leading mechanisms of injury among inpatients, was transport injuries (17.7%). Of all the places where injuries occurred, 28.6% were commonly seen in streets/road/highways, with most injuries occurring while travelling (25%). Of all transport accidents, 99.1% occurred on street/road/highways while 0.9% occurred in transport areas such as water and air.

Transport related injuries were commonly seen among adolescents, youth and young adults, with 76% of victims being males (male: female ratio was 3:1). However, transport injury related deaths were common among children <5 years, youth aged between 21-25 years and adults between 66-70 years of age.

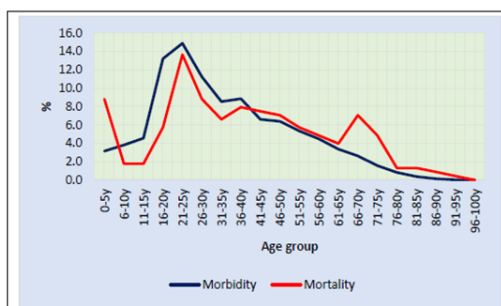


Figure 2: Morbidity & mortality pattern due to TI acc. to age group by % (Acute NCD report 2018)

Of transport related injuries, almost 98% were unintentional. Most affected body region from transport injuries, were the lower limbs (32.2%), followed by upper limbs (25.6%), head (17.6%) and face (9.0%).

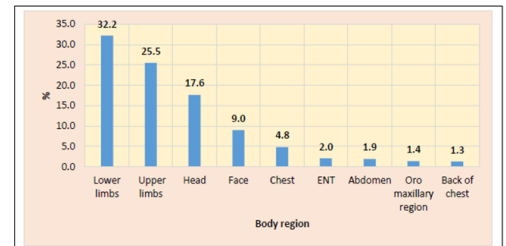


Figure 3: Common body region affected due to TI (Acute NCD report, 2018)

Nature of injuries arising from transport related injuries included mostly superficial injuries (55.5%), followed by open wounds (19.1%) and fractures (15.4%).

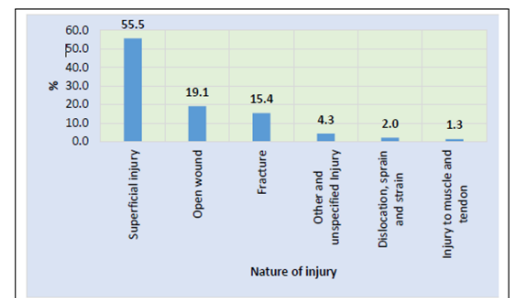


Figure 4: Common nature of TI by % (Acute NCD report, 2018)

It was also seen that around 6.5% & 1.7% of transport injuries were associated with alcohol use & substance use respectively. 80% of alcohol related TI occur from 12 noon to 12 midnight. Of this, most occur (43%) from 6pm – 12 midnight.

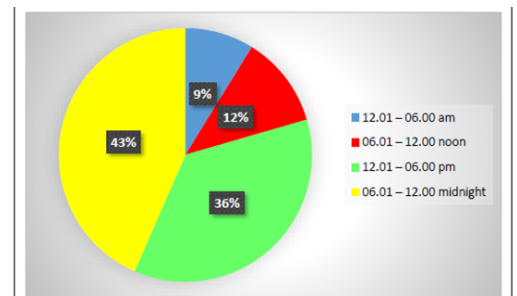


Figure 5: Association of alcohol with TI according to time of occurrence of TI (Acute NCD report, 2018)

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Over 87% of transport injuries were associated with some form of disability. Most transport injuries tended to occur on Sundays while majority (68%) occurred during the day time from 6am to 6pm.

The National Council for Road Safety by the Ministry of Transport & Highways also lists out updated statistics pertaining to road accidents. Over the course of four years (2019-2022), there was a slight but steady decline in deaths, fatal, minor & critical accidents, and damages (only) associated with road accidents.

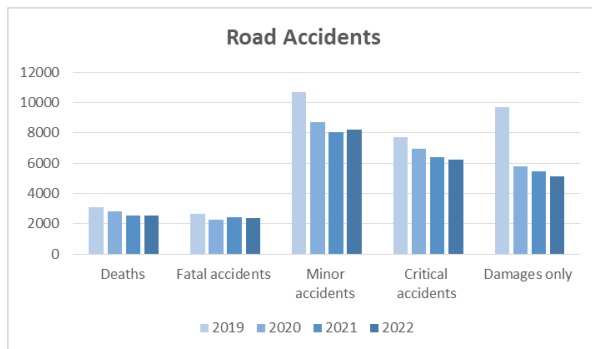


Figure 6: Data taken from National Council for Road Safety, Ministry of Transport & Highways

However, when considering the number of persons killed in road accidents in 2022, majority included motor cyclists (n=820) & pedestrians (n=792), followed by passengers (n=314).

Number of Persons killed in Road Accidents	
Pedestrians	792
Motor Cyclist	820
Drivers	189
Passengers	314
Bicyclists	226
Rear Riders	189
Others	06

Figure 7: Data taken from National Council for Road Safety, Ministry of Transport & Highways

The highest number of a vehicular type involved in road accidents includes motorcycles with them also contributing to the highest number of fatal injuries in comparison to other vehicles (e.g. lorries, buses, dual purpose vehicles, three wheelers, motor cars etc).

According to the Police Department of Sri Lanka, several causes of RTAs were elucidated. According to the study by Kodithuwakku et al (2022), these causes were classified into seven variables: overtaking, speed driving, diversion, alcohol consumption of driver, mechanical faults of vehicle, negli-

gence of pedestrians and others. Of these, overtaking (16.5%), diversion (14.5%), speed driving (13.3%) & alcohol consumption of the driver (4.5%) were prominently noted, while ‘others’ were totaling 48%; considering data from 2002-2019. Thus, Road Traffic Accidents (RTAs) are subject to the influence of several factors.

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Table 1: Selected notifiable diseases reported by Medical Officers of Health 03rd-09th Feb 2024 (06th Week)

RDHS	Dengue Fever		Dysentery		Encephali		Enteric		Food Poison-		Leptospirosis		Typhus		V. Hep.		H. Rabi.		Chickenpox		Meningitis		Leishmania-		WRCD	
	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	T*	C**
Colombo	382	2555	2	4	0	1	0	1	0	3	9	45	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	41	1	5	0	0	95	100
Gampaha	165	992	0	4	0	4	0	2	0	0	9	59	0	0	0	1	0	0	9	29	5	20	0	3	100	100
Kalutara	113	612	1	6	0	0	0	3	0	0	11	75	0	0	1	3	0	0	12	74	1	11	0	0	87	100
Kandy	126	1070	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	3	5	33	0	2	1	1	0	0	34	95	1	2	0	2	100	100
Matale	27	203	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	3	4	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	1	5	27	100	100
Nuwara Eliya	18	118	1	13	0	2	0	0	0	2	12	50	0	6	0	1	0	0	8	25	1	2	0	0	100	100
Galle	103	656	1	10	1	5	0	1	1	11	25	149	2	20	0	2	0	0	10	66	1	13	0	3	88	100
Hambantota	29	242	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	149	1	6	1	1	0	0	4	32	0	7	6	51	93	100
Matara	26	195	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	11	59	1	2	0	0	0	0	9	37	0	28	0	9	94	100
Jaffna	410	3709	0	14	1	1	0	0	0	3	1	8	29	184	0	0	0	0	7	44	0	3	0	0	93	93
Kilinochchi	26	190	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	100	100
Mannar	21	151	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	10	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	1	100	100
Vavuniya	7	92	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	31	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	100	100
Mullaitivu	22	138	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	2	4	33	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	83	100
Batticaloa	82	624	3	22	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	13	0	1	1	3	0	0	1	11	1	8	0	1	100	100
Ampara	14	66	2	6	0	1	0	0	0	1	9	69	0	1	0	3	0	0	15	29	2	9	0	3	100	100
Trincomalee	31	235	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	7	54	1	2	0	0	0	0	3	5	0	2	2	4	90	100
Kurunegala	108	766	2	4	0	4	0	0	0	335	27	139	1	5	0	1	0	1	9	52	6	42	15	71	97	100
Puttalam	34	445	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	17	92	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	23	0	6	0	2	90	99
Anuradhapura	69	213	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	23	108	2	8	0	2	0	0	8	23	3	12	14	110	95	100
Polonnaruwa	19	92	1	5	0	0	0	0	2	2	13	66	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	27	1	5	27	60	100	100
Badulla	44	397	1	6	0	1	0	0	2	4	26	116	3	5	0	5	0	0	9	48	2	5	2	2	100	100
Monaragala	21	219	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	45	269	4	6	2	4	0	0	5	13	5	26	7	22	80	100
Ratnapura	82	451	2	14	0	0	0	0	0	2	37	245	2	5	0	3	1	1	11	40	6	17	1	11	79	100
Kegalle	89	562	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	15	82	2	3	0	3	0	0	24	88	0	10	1	9	91	100
Kalmunai	66	339	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	25	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	16	0	2	0	0	92	100
SRILANKA	2134	15332	19	134	2	24	0	10	7	375	342	2008	54	272	6	34	1	2	191	831	36	243	80	392	94	99

Source: Weekly Returns of Communicable Diseases (esurveillance.ephid.gov.lk). T=Timeliness refers to returns received on or before 09th Feb, 2024. Total number of reporting units 358. Number of reporting units data provided for the current week: 357. C**=Completeness. A = Cases reported during the current week. B = Cumulative cases for the year.

Table 2: Vaccine-Preventable Diseases & AFP

03rd–09th Feb 2024 (06th Week)

Disease	No. of Cases by Province									Number of cases during current week in 2024	Number of cases during same week in 2023	Total number of cases to date in 2024	Total number of cases to date in 2023	Difference between the number of cases to date in 2024 & 2023
	W	C	S	N	E	NW	NC	U	Sab					
AFP*	00	01	01	00	00	00	00	00	00	02	01	10	10	0 %
Diphtheria	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	0 %
Mumps	01	02	02	00	00	00	01	02	00	08	04	30	18	66.6 %
Measles	04	00	02	00	00	00	01	00	00	07	00	109	00	0 %
Rubella	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	01	00	0 %
CRS**	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	0 %
Tetanus	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	01	-100 %
Neonatal Tetanus	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	0 %
Japanese Encephalitis	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	0 %
Whooping Cough	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	01	01	00	01	01	0 %
Tuberculosis	89	36	13	12	04	12	09	07	17	199	105	1049	897	16.9%

Key to Table 1 & 2

Provinces: W: Western, C: Central, S: Southern, N: North, E: East, NC: North Central, NW: North Western, U: Uva, Sab: Sabaragamuwa.
RDHS Divisions: CB: Colombo, GM: Gampaha, KL: Kalutara, KD: Kandy, ML: Matale, NE: Nuwara Eliya, GL: Galle, HB: Hambantota, MT: Matara, JF: Jaffna, KN: Killinochchi, MN: Mannar, VA: Vavuniya, MU: Mullaitivu, BT: Batticaloa, AM: Ampara, TR: Trincomalee, KM: Kalmunai, KR: Kurunegala, PU: Puttalam, AP: Anuradhapura, PO: Polonnaruwa, BD: Badulla, MO: Moneragala, RP: Ratnapura, KG: Kegalle.

Data Sources:

Weekly Return of Communicable Diseases: Diphtheria, Measles, Tetanus, Neonatal Tetanus, Whooping Cough, Chickenpox, Meningitis, Mumps., Rubella, CRS,

Special Surveillance: AFP* (Acute Flaccid Paralysis), Japanese Encephalitis

CRS** =Congenital Rubella Syndrome

NA = Not Available

Take prophylaxis medications for leptospirosis during the paddy cultivation and harvesting seasons.

It is provided free by the MOH office / Public Health Inspectors.

Comments and contributions for publication in the WER Sri Lanka are welcome. However, the editor reserves the right to accept or reject items for publication. All correspondence should be mailed to The Editor, WER Sri Lanka, Epidemiological Unit, P.O. Box 1567, Colombo or sent by E-mail to chepid@slt.net.lk. **Prior approval should be obtained from the Epidemiology Unit before publishing data in this publication**

ON STATE SERVICE

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