

Preventing Road Traffic Injuries: International efforts in road safety



**World Health
Organization**

Etienne Krug

Director

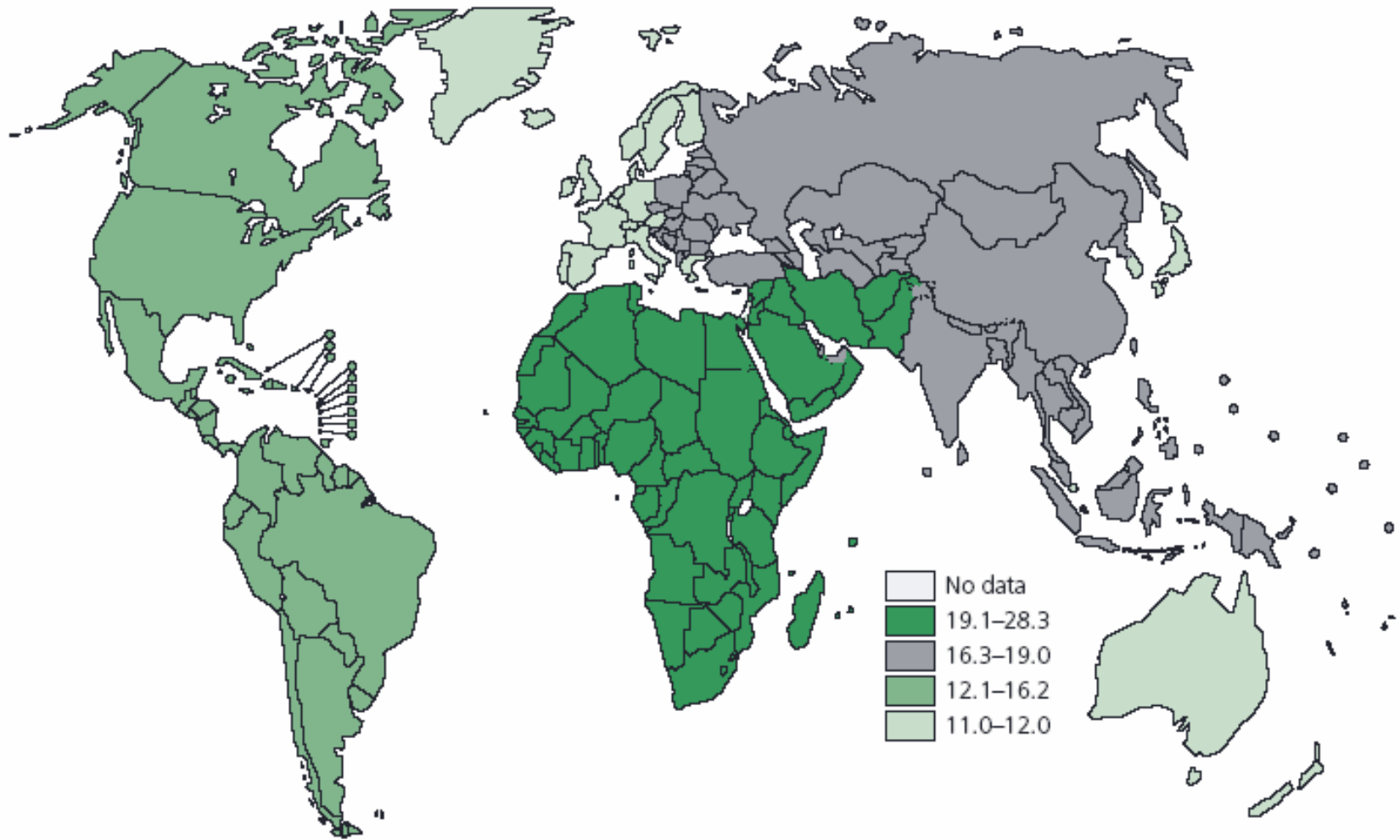
Department of Injuries and Violence Prevention

February 2007



1.2 million deaths

Road traffic injury mortality rates (per 100 000 population) in WHO regions, 2002

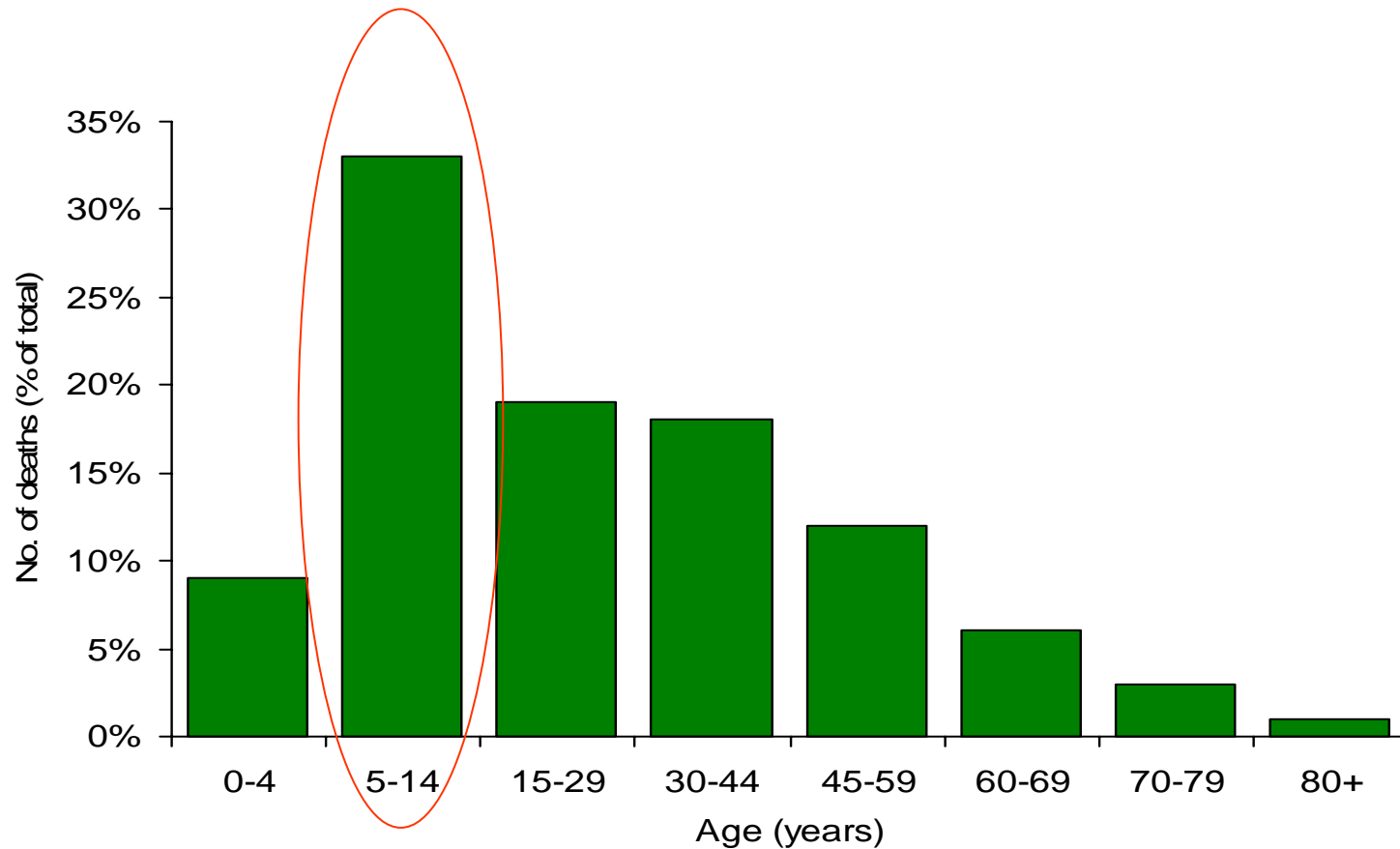


Africa	Americas		South East Asia	Europe		Eastern Mediterranean		Western Pacific	
	HIC	LMIC	LMIC	HIC	LMIC	HIC	LMIC	HIC	LMIC
27.4	14.8	16.6	18.6	11.1	17.2	31.1	26.4	11.9	18.5

Leading causes of deaths by age group, world, 2002

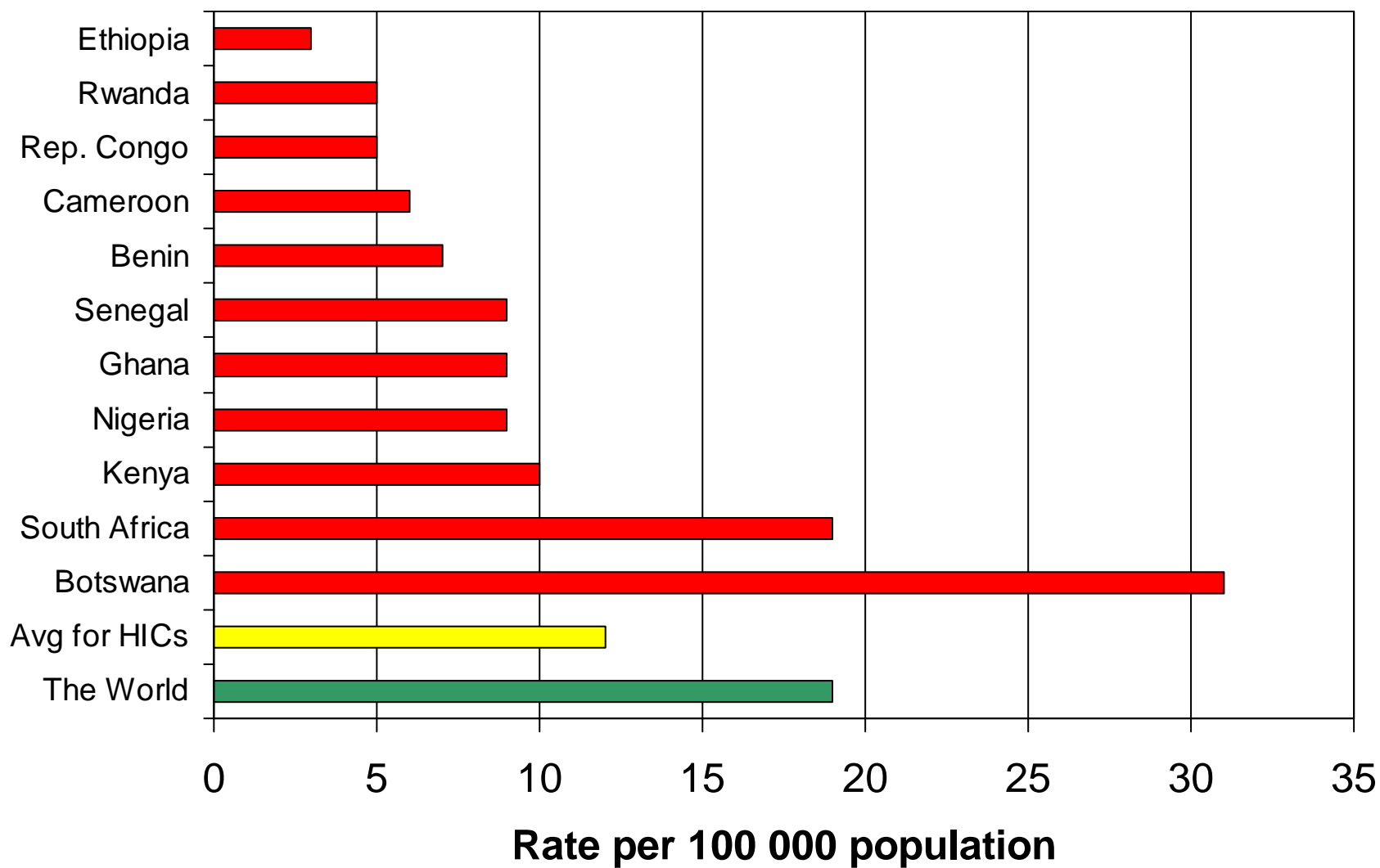
Rank	0–4 years	5–14 years	15–29 years	30–44 years	45–59 years	≥60 years	All ages
1	Lower respiratory infections 1 890 008	Childhood cluster diseases 219 434	HIV/AIDS 707 277	HIV/AIDS 1 178 856	Ischaemic heart disease 1 043 978	Ischaemic heart disease 5 812 863	Ischaemic heart disease 7 153 056
2	Diarrhoeal disease 1 577 891	Road traffic injuries 130 835	Road traffic injuries 302 208	Tuberculosis 390 004	Cerebrovascular disease 623 099	Cerebrovascular disease 4 685 722	Cerebrovascular disease 5 489 591
3	Low birth weight 1 149 168	Lower respiratory infections 127 782	Self-inflicted injuries 251 806	Road traffic injuries 285 457	Tuberculosis 400 704	Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases 2 396 739	Lower respiratory infections 3 764 415
4	Malaria 1 098 446	HIV/AIDS 108 090	Tuberculosis 245 818	Ischaemic heart disease 231 340	HIV/AIDS 390 267	Lower respiratory infections 1 395 611	HIV/AIDS 2 818 762
5	Childhood cluster diseases 1 046 177	Drowning 86 327	Interpersonal violence 216 169	Self-inflicted injuries 230 490	Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases 309 726	Trachea, bronchus, lung cancers 927 889	Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases 2 743 509
6	Birth asphyxia and birth trauma 729 066	Malaria 76 257	Lower respiratory infections 92 522	Interpersonal violence 165 796	Trachea, bronchus, lung cancers 261 860	Diabetes mellitus 749 977	Diarrhoeal diseases 1 766 447
7	HIV/AIDS 370 706	Tropical cluster diseases 35 454	Fires 90 845	Cerebrovascular disease 124 417	Cirrhosis of the liver 250 208	Hypertensive heart disease 732 262	Childhood-cluster diseases 1 359 548
8	Congenital heart anomalies 223 569	Fires 33 046	Drowning 87 499	Cirrhosis of the liver 100 101	Road traffic injuries 221 776	Stomach cancer 605 395	Tuberculosis 1 606 063
9	Protein-energy malnutrition 138 197	Tuberculosis 32 762	War 71 680	Lower respiratory infections 98 232	Self-inflicted injuries 189 215	Tuberculosis 495 199	Trachea, bronchus, lung cancers 1 238 417
10	STDs excluding HIV 67 871	Protein-energy malnutrition 30 763	Hypertensive disorders 61 711	Poisonings 81 930	Stomach cancer 185 188	Colon and rectum cancers 476 902	Malaria 1 221 432
11	Meningitis 64 255	Meningitis 30 694	Maternal haemorrhage 56 233	Fires 67 511	Liver cancer 180 117	Nephritis and nephrosis 440 708	Road traffic injuries 1 183 492
12	Drowning 57 287	Leukaemia 21 097	Ischaemic heart disease 53 870	Maternal haemorrhage 63 191	Diabetes mellitus 175 423	Alzheimer and other dementias 382 339	Low birth weight 1 149 172
13	Road traffic injuries 49 736	Falls 20 084	Poisoning 52 956	War 61 018	Lower respiratory infections 160 259	Liver cancer 367 503	Diabetes mellitus 982 175
14	Endocrine disorders 42 619	Violence 18 551	Childhood cluster diseases 48 101	Drowning 56 744	Breast cancer 147 489	Cirrhosis of the liver 366 417	Hypertensive heart disease 903 612
15	Tuberculosis 40 574	Poisonings 18 529	Abortion 43 782	Liver cancer 55 486	Hypertensive heart disease 129 634	Oesophagus cancer 318 112	Self-inflicted injuries 874 955

Age distribution Road traffic injury mortality in Africa, 2002



60% of deaths from road traffic injuries occur among those younger than 30 years old

Road traffic death rates (per 100 000 population) in selected African countries



Source: Jacobs et al. 2000

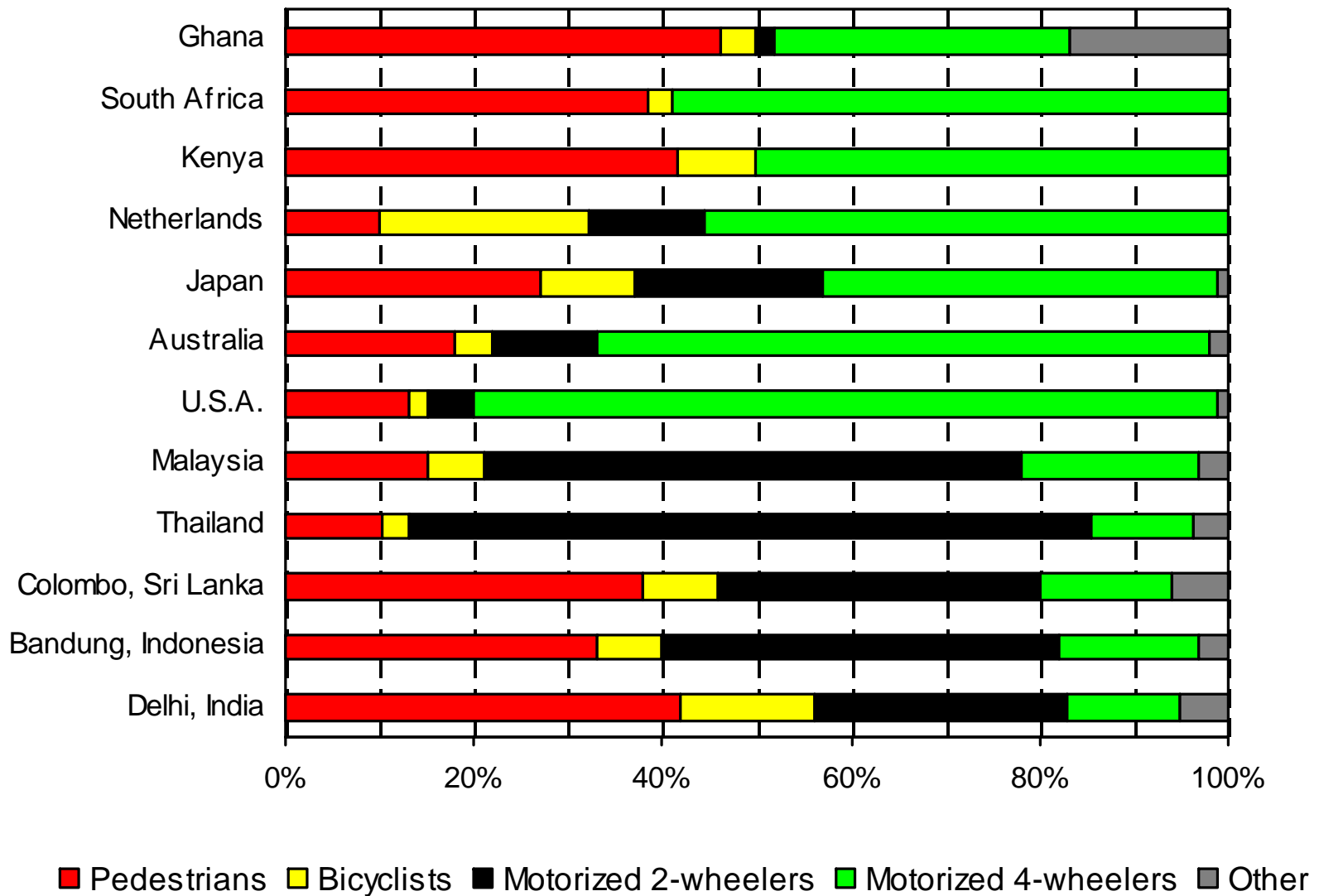


*20-50 million
injuries*

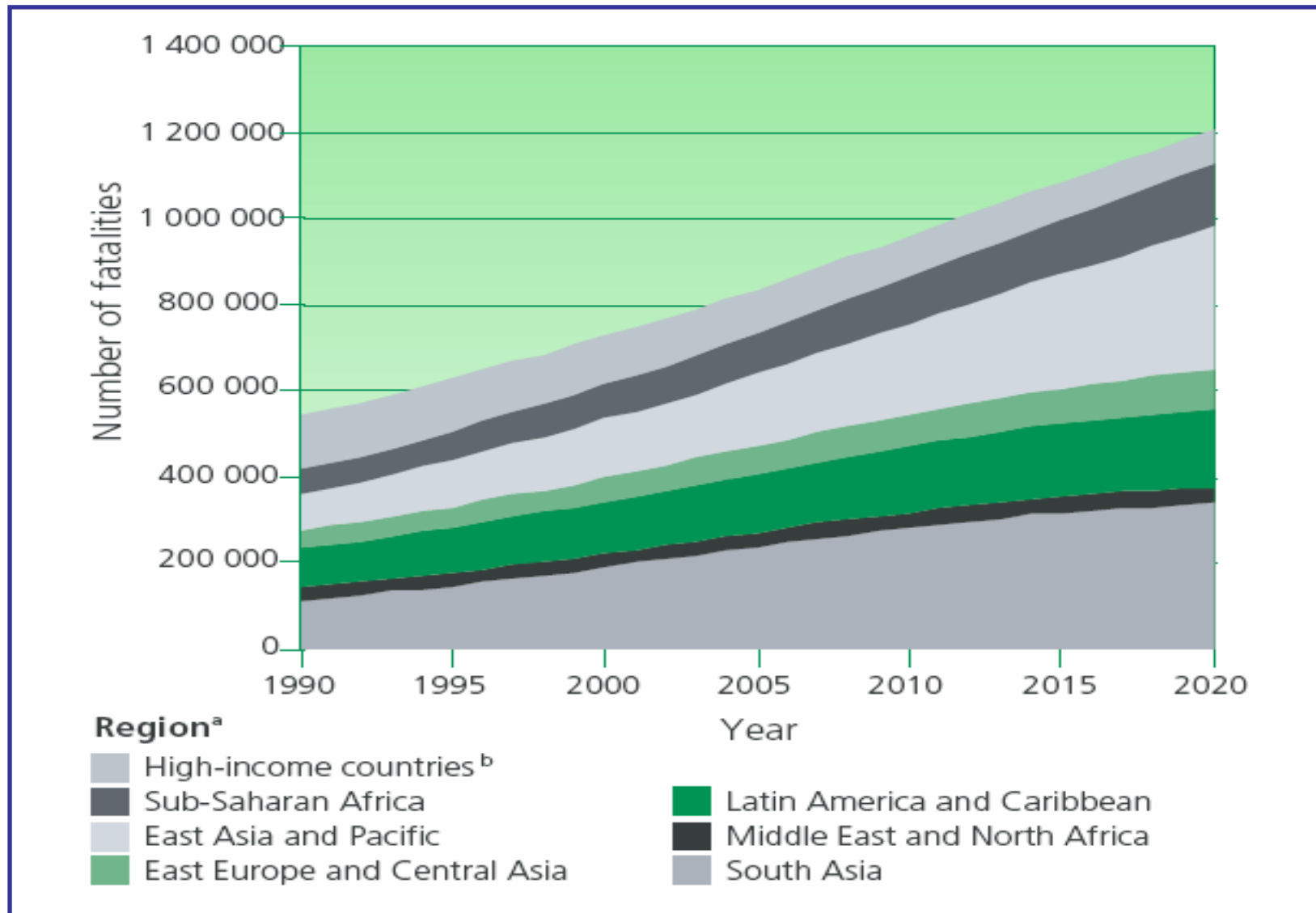


*Most are vulnerable
road users*

Road User fatalities



Road traffic crashes are predicted to rise





RTIs are more complex in LMICs



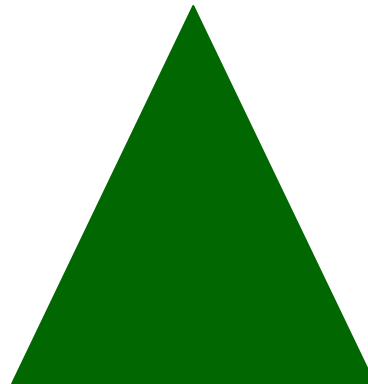
*Road safety should be addressed using a
“systems approach”*



Infrastructure

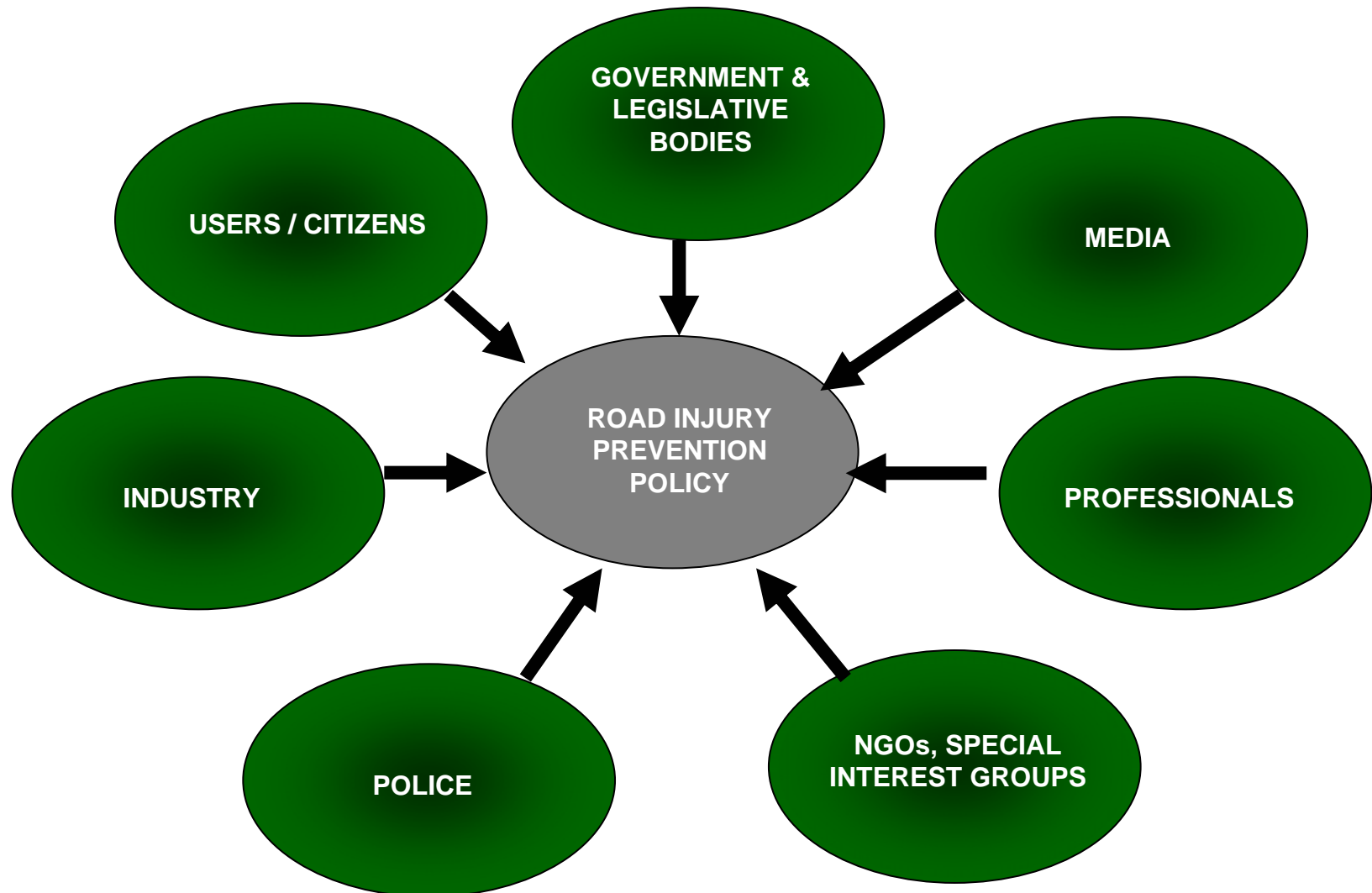


Vehicle

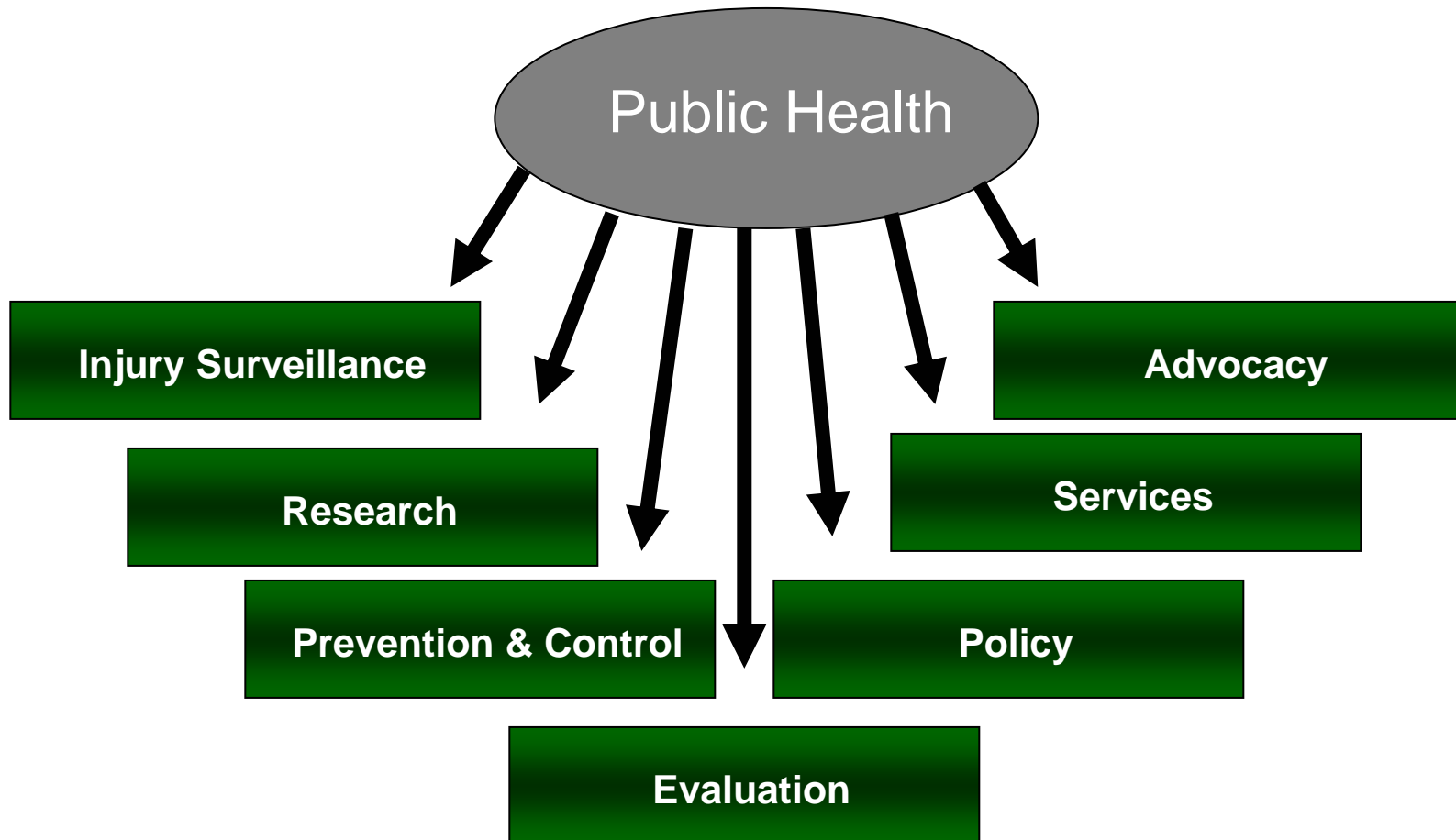


Road user

Road safety is a shared responsibility



Road traffic injuries are a public health problem



WHD and launch of World Traffic Report 7 April 2004



African launches of WRR TIP



South Africa



Kenya



Ethiopia



Angola

April 2004





April 2004





Aug 2005



April 2004

World report on road traffic prevention

World Health Organization



Aug 2005



MAKE ROADS SAFE
A NEW PRIORITY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

 **Commission for
Global Road Safety**

April 2004

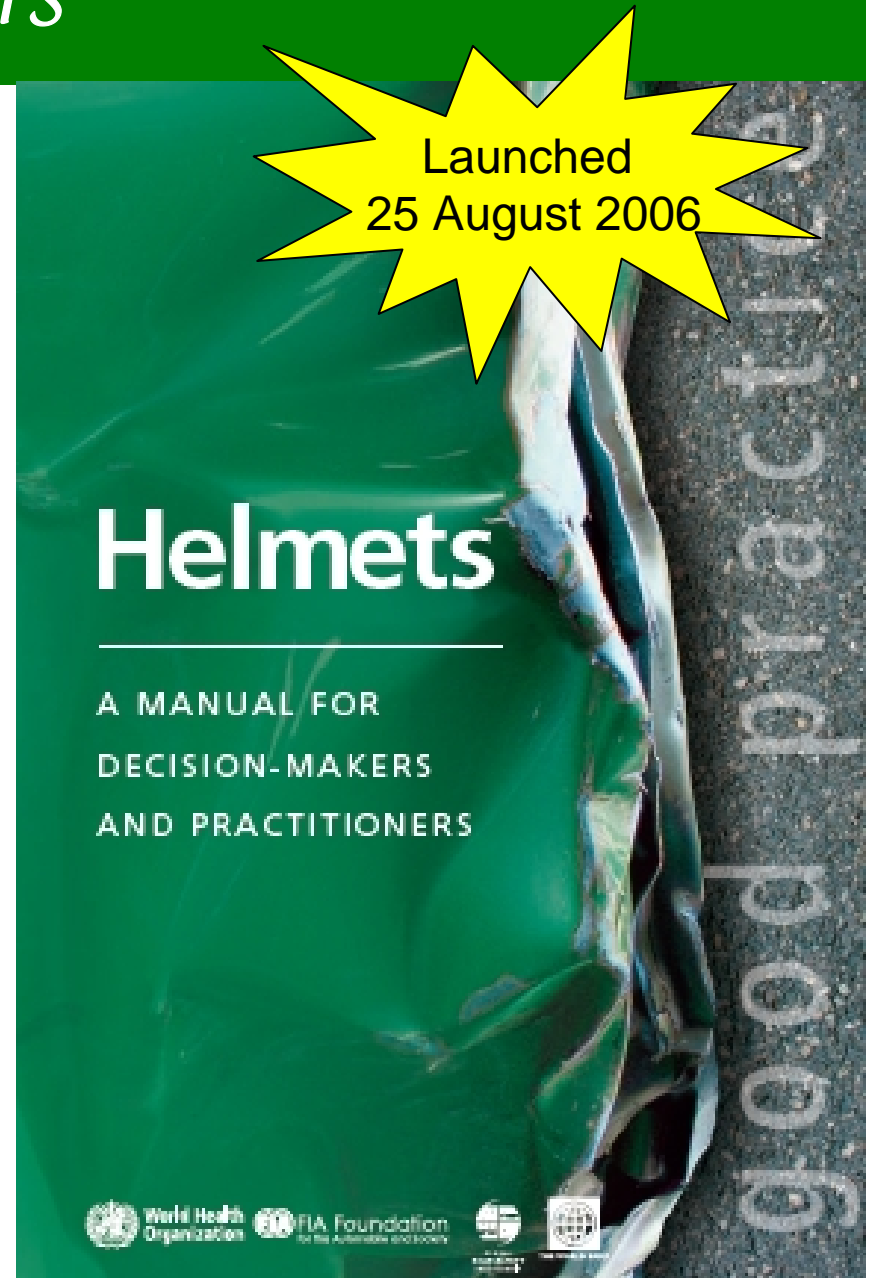


Focus on successful interventions HELMETS

Most motorcycle deaths are a result of head injuries. Wearing a motorcycle helmet correctly can cut the risk of death by almost 40%, and the risk of severe injury by 70%.

After passing helmet legislation in **Malaysia** there was a 30% reduction in motorcycle deaths

A hospital-based study in **Nigeria** revealed that none of head injured motorcyclists were wearing a helmet at the time of their collision



Focus on successful interventions **ALCOHOL AND DRUGS**

Consuming alcohol before driving increases the risk of a crash as well as the likelihood that death or serious injury will result. Passing a drink-driving law and enforcing it can reduce the number of road deaths by 20%.

With the exception of **South Africa**, drink-driving laws in Africa are vague or not enforced. No pedestrian laws.

No African countries have drug-driving laws despite the known increased crash risks.



Focus on successful interventions **SEAT-BELTS and CHILD RESTRAINTS**

Wearing a seat-belt reduces the likelihood of being ejected from a vehicle, thereby decreasing the risk of death or serious injury by 40%-65%.

After passage/enforcement of seat belt law in the **United Kingdom** there was a 35% reduction in hospital admissions

In **Australia** there was a 26% reduction in car occupant deaths

Most countries in Africa have seat-belt laws for drivers, but few have child-seat laws



Focus on successful interventions

SPEED

Speed kills all types of road users - drivers, pedestrians and cyclists. A 5% cut in average speed can reduce the number of fatal crashes by as much as 30%.

After passing and enforcing a 5 km/hr REDUCTION in the speed limit in **Switzerland** there was a 12% reduction in deaths.

After INCREASING the speed limit by between 2-4 miles/hr in the **USA** there was a 19-34% increase in deaths.



Focus on successful interventions

VISIBILITY



Pedestrians and cyclists can be difficult to see on the roads and are therefore at risk of road traffic injuries. Wearing lightly-coloured or reflective clothing makes them much more visible and can help avoid collisions.

Promising studies underway :

In **Uganda**, motocyclists are encouraged to wear reflective vests

In **South Africa**, children's school clothes and bags are reflectorized

Focus on successful interventions **LOW COST ENGINEERING MEASURES**



Simple low-cost engineering measures save thousands of lives every year.

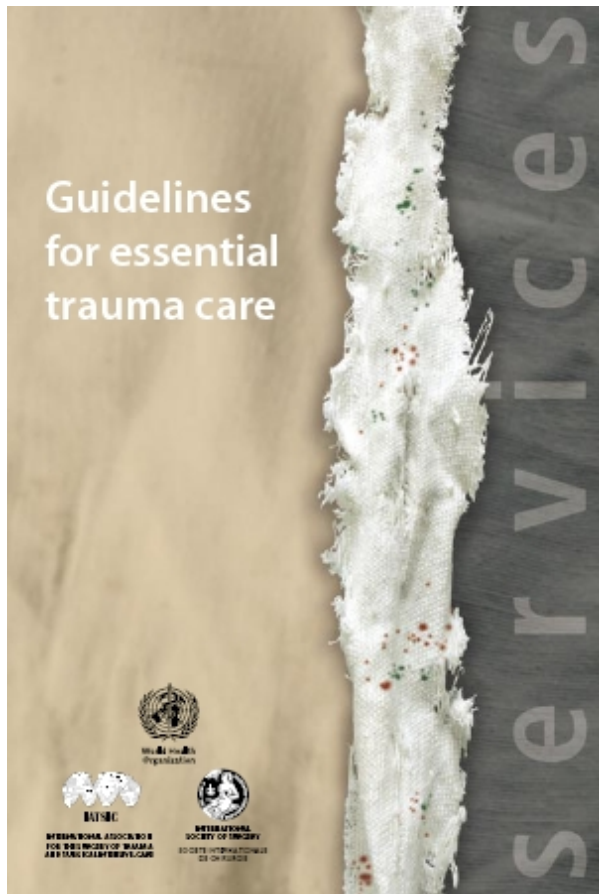
Speed bumps in **Ghana** reduced crashes by 35% at a high-risk crash site.



Building a pass over a busy **Ugandan** road has reduced the number of deaths among school children

Emergency medical services

**WHO Executive Board Resolution
26 January 2007
Emergency care systems**



*1st GLOBAL UN ROAD SAFETY WEEK 2007
23-29 April 2007*

Road Safety is no Accident

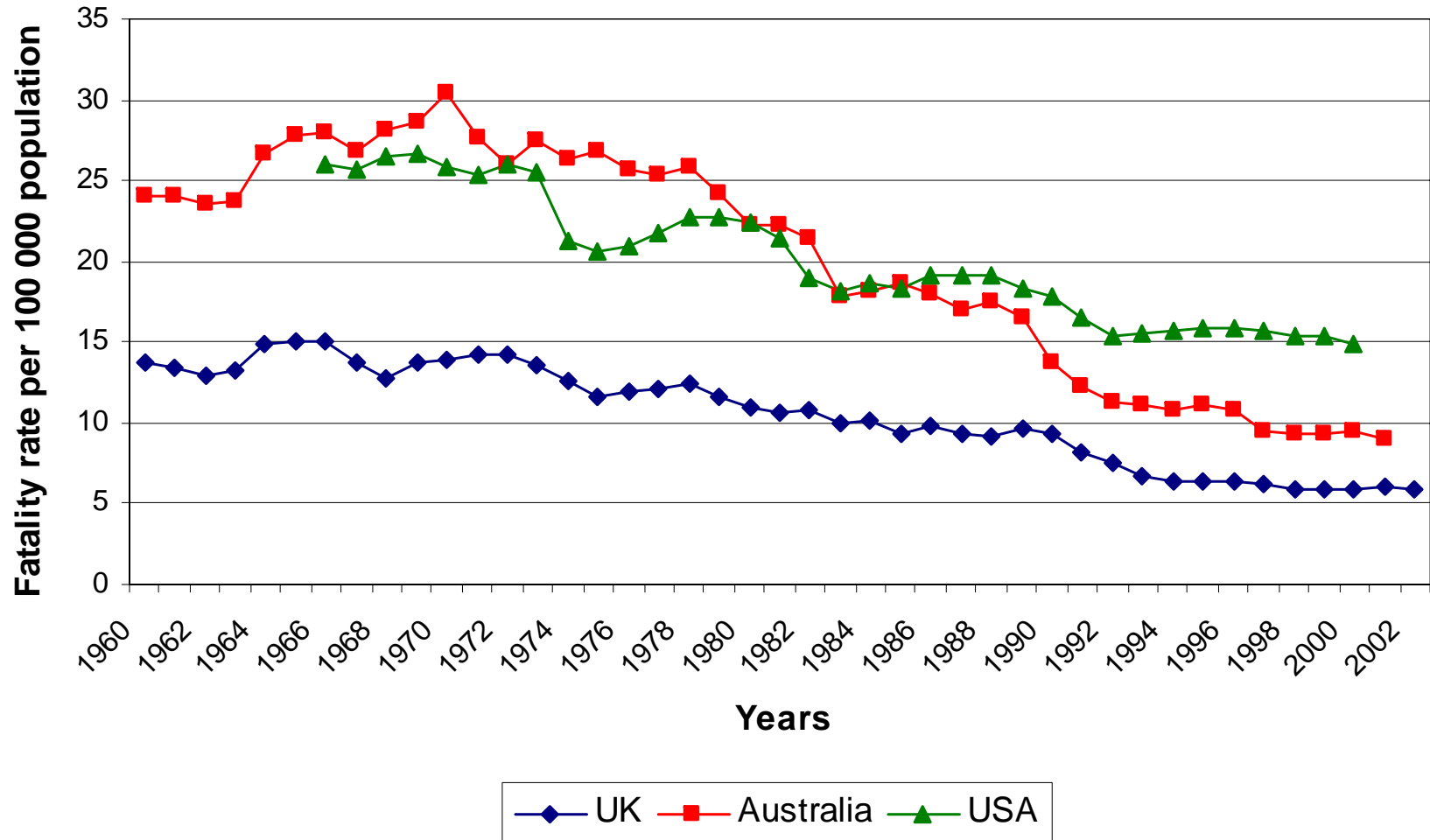
- **Country events**
- **World Youth Assembly (23-24 April, Geneva)**
 - **Youth declaration**
 - **Results video and drawing competitions**
- **2nd Stakeholders Forum**

www.who.int/roadsafety/

Predictions for Africa - 2030

Leading causes of DEATH in Low-income countries, 2030	Leading causes of DALYs in Low-income countries, 2030
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ischaemic heart disease2. HIV/AIDS3. Cerebrovascular disease4. COPD5. Lower respiratory infections6. Perinatal conditions7. Road traffic accidents8. Diarrhoeal diseases9. Diabetes mellitus10. Malaria	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. HIV/AIDS2. Perinatal conditions3. Unipolar depressive disorders4. Road traffic accidents5. Ischaemic heart disease6. Lower respiratory infections7. Diarrhoeal diseases8. Cerebrovascular disease9. Cataracts10. Malaria

Road traffic crashes can be prevented



Steps to consider for Africa

- Political commitment
- Lead agencies at national level
- Focus on effective prevention measures
- Strengthen trauma care
- Develop data collection systems
- Create a culture of safety

THANK YOU

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