

An overview of road death data collection in the EU (PIN Programme)

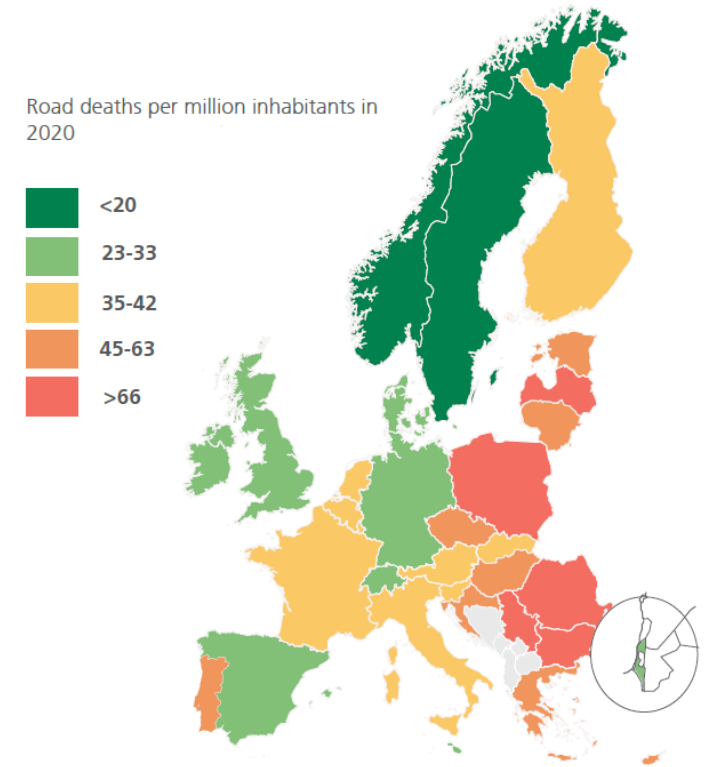
2nd meeting of Western Balkans Road Safety Observatory
6 December 2021



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ETSC PIN PROGRAMME

- Ranking road safety performance across participating countries since 2006
- Experts from the 32 participating countries, including all EU Member States
- 41 PIN Flash reports
- PIN Talks



AN OVERVIEW OF ROAD DEATH DATA COLLECTION IN THE EU

PIN Flash Report 35

June 2018



ETSC
European Transport Safety Council

25 YEARS 1993-2018



Questions:

- I. What are road death data collection practices in different PIN countries?
- II. Do countries cross-check data recorded by the police with other sources?
- III. How many deaths are missing?

Police reports – essential source for road death data collection

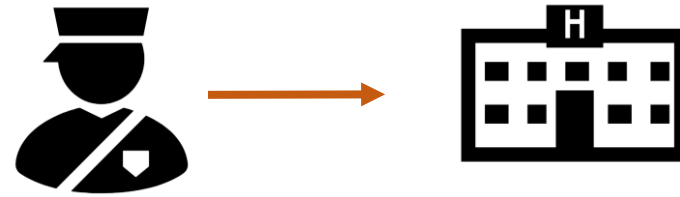
Police reports are primary source of data

Police are usually required to attend fatal and serious collisions

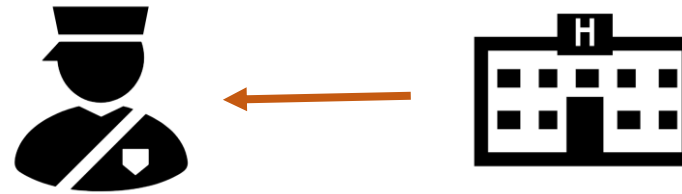


Procedures to comply with the common EU road death definition

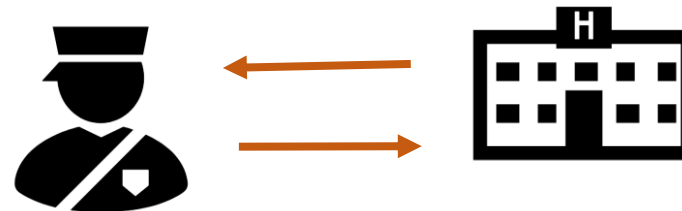
1. **Police** verify with the hospital



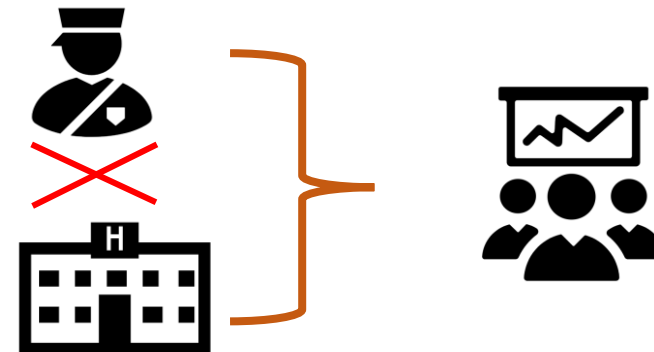
2. **Hospital** verifies with the police



3. **A combination** of both



4. **Responsible authority** determines the number of road deaths



How accurate are police data?

Opinions:

- ✓ 'Data recorded by the police are complete'
- ✓ 'Some road deaths might go unrecorded by the police, but only 1%-2%'
- ✓ 'Non-reported road deaths are likely to be vulnerable road users, elderly or victims of single vehicle collisions'

How accurate are police data?

Facts:

- ✓ Just a few countries have investigated the police report rate
- ✓ Those who did, found underreporting

Data recorded

- More than half of all killed road users die at the site of a collision
- Alcohol related road deaths
- Drug-driving related road deaths
- Use of mobile devices as a contributory factor in a road collision
- Natural deaths and suicides in road traffic

Netherlands

Linkage of data sources

Sources used by Statistics Netherlands to capture the complete number of road deaths:

1. Cause-of-death files
2. District court files on deaths from unnatural causes
3. Police



Netherlands

Linkage of data sources

- 15% of all road deaths were missing from police records between 2010-2015
- Deaths were captured by Statistics Netherlands
- Road deaths unrecorded by the police: elderly cyclists and mobility scooter riders.
- Coroners' data cannot be used to complete police database.



Poland - pilot study to evaluate road death data reporting rates by the police

- Police data in 2009 compared to death certificates
- At least 5% of all road deaths were not recorded by the police in 2009
- Some road user deaths recorded by the police not recorded as such in the death certificates database
- Some deaths registered in the death certificate database registered as injured road users by the police
- Almost half of road deaths not recorded by the police - pedestrians



Key messages

- Research in countries that do use more than one source reveals that each individual source is incomplete
- Countries that rely on one source only are likely to underreport road deaths
- Most likely collisions not reported by the police – single vehicle collisions, collisions with VRUs and elderly road users, who die several days after the collision
- If a road user group is systematically underreported, it does not receive attention from policy makers

Recommendations

- Initiate research to estimate road death reporting rates by the police
- If studies show road deaths are missing, establish procedures to get the full picture of road deaths
- Consider establishing one platform for data exchange
- Dedicate necessary resources to the police and require them to attend, register and follow-up all fatal and serious road traffic collisions

THANK YOU!

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