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Frequency of road accidents in prishtina in the period 2007-2010

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ABSTRACT

Objective: To assess the predictors of fatal road traffic accidents following the war during the year 1999. **Methods:** The period January 2007-December 2010 has been considered for this research. The used criterion for this research was the distribution of vehicle accidents on a yearly basis, injuries based on systems, vehicle drivers based on their sex, age, causes, accident location, road type, accident type and presence of driving permit. **Results:** The injured in traffic accidents who have sought emergency medical assistance in the Emergency Center from January 2008 until December 2010. In the period January to December 2007 was 44 111, from which 2 235 or 5.06% were the injured in the road traffic accidents. In the period January to December 2008 the total number of sick, injured and poisoned persons who have sought emergency medical assistance in the Emergency Center was 43 610, with a total number of 2 148 or 5.00% injured in the road traffic accidents. In the period January to December 2009 the total number of sick, injured and poisoned persons who have sought emergency medical assistance in the Emergency Center was 44 228, and the total number of injured in the road traffic accidents was 2 774, or 6.27%. In the period January to December 2010 the total number of sick, injured and poisoned who have sought emergency medical assistance in the Emergency Center was 41 614, and injured from road traffic accidents were 2 384, or 5.72%. **Conclusions:** Young age, high speed, and alcohol are predictors of fatal road traffic accidents in Pristine district.

1. Introduction

Based on figures in the literature, approximately 15 000-17 000 thousand people die worldwide in traffic accidents as a consequence of all types of injuries. Body injuries comprise 12% of the specific weight of diseases. The traffic accidents are ranked in the third group as a main cause of death for the age 1-40 years[1,3,5]. Following the war during the year 1999, many radical social-economic changes have happened in Kosovo, accompanied by a very rapid dynamic development in the field of road transportation. Within the shortest time period, there was an enormous increase in number of vehicles in our country. This increase was also accompanied with an increase in the number of accidents on the streets of Kosovo. According to WHO, deaths from road accidents compose 23%-25% of all deaths caused from the injuries[1,4,6]. Approximately 85% of deaths worldwide in the road traffic accidents happen in the streets, 90% to 96% of injured children are threatened by death as a result of road accidents occurring in countries with a low or medium economic level.

Figure 1. Traffic accidents.

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Figure 2. Traffic accidents.

2. Material and methods

This study has a descriptive nature. It is based on data obtained from archives-the treatment database of the emergency center. The period January 2007-December 2010 has been considered for this research. The used criterion for this research was the distribution of vehicle accidents on a yearly basis, injuries based on systems, vehicle drivers based on their sex, age, causes, accident location, road type, accident type and presence of driving permit.

3. Results

The injured in traffic accidents who have sought emergency medical assistance in the Emergency Center from January 2008 until December 2010. The total number of sick, injured and poisoned persons who have sought emergency medical assistance in the Emergency Center within the period January to December 2007 was 44 111, from which 2 235 or 5.06% were the injured in the road traffic accidents.

Figure 3. Traffic accidents.

Figure 4. Traffic accidents.

In the period January to December 2008 the total number of sick, injured and poisoned persons who have sought emergency medical assistance in the Emergency Center was 43 610, with a total number of 2 148 or 5.00% injured in the road traffic accidents.

In the period January to December 2009 the total number of sick, injured and poisoned persons who have sought emergency medical assistance in the Emergency Center was 44 228, and the total number of injured in the road traffic accidents was 2 774, or 6.27%. In the period January to December 2010 the total number of sick, injured and poisoned who have sought emergency medical assistance in the Emergency Center was 41 614, and injured from road traffic accidents were.

Table 1
Distribution of the injured according the years.

Years	Number of injured	Number of deaths
2007	2 200	35
2008	879	36
2009	2 616	58
2010	2 314	70

Table 2
Distribution of vehicle drivers according to the sex.

Sex of the drivers	Number
Male	8 074
Female	234

Table 3
Distribution of the drivers according to the age groups.

Age group (years)	Number
15-19	129
20-25	2 550
26-35	2 650
36-45	2 800
46-60	45
>60	34

Table 4
Distribution of the accidents according to the cause.

Cause of accident	Number of accidents
High speed	25%
Different	18%
Negligence of the pedestrian	20%
Negligence of the bicyclist	3%
Left the scene of the accident	9%
Loss of control	19%
Technical defect	2.5%
Consumption of alcohol	2.5%

Table 5
Distribution of the accidents according to the type of the road.

Type of the roads	Number
Descending	970
Straight	7 103
Ascending	235

Table 6
Distribution of the accidents according to the time of accidents.

Time of the accidents	Number of accidents
Night	4 920
Before the noon	2 980
Afternoon	408

Table 7
Distrubution of the accidents according to the type of vehicle.

Type of vehicle	Number of accidents
Cars	6 780
Moto cycles	1 718
Bicycles	910

Table 8
Distribution of accidents according to the possessions of driving licenses.

Possessing of the driving license	Percentage
Yes	87%
No	13%

4. Discussion

We were not able to calculate the incidence rate and/or mortality rate in road traffic accidents for each year of survey, because there was no complete information on the population of Pristina district in that period. The results of the research conducted in the Emergency Center during the period 2007-2010 are showing an enormous increase in the number of road traffic accidents. In this increase, except reasons mentioned above and among others, the following factors have contributed: enormous increase of number of persons equipped with driving license[5,6], driving speeds above limits are considered a primary cause of the road traffic accidents. An important factor that has influenced the cause of accidents was the consumption of alcohol before or during driving, non-wearing of seat belts and protective helmets for motor and bicycles. The worldwide data show that the role of the safety belts enables a reduction of health consequences[1-3]. Notwithstanding these limitations, we believe that our study provides useful evidence on the magnitude and determinants of fatal road traffic accidents in Pristina. In order to decrease and prevent the burden of road traffic injuries, education programs targeting especially young road users, including drivers, riders, and pedestrians, should be implemented. Furthermore, establishment of a long-term national strategy on road safety, including an effective surveillance system, can significantly help to control and prevent road traffic injuries[1]. In conclusion, health care professionals and policymakers should be aware of health and economic impact of traffic injuries in Albania and of the importance of the introduction of preventive measures.

Young age, high speed, and alcohol are predictors of fatal road traffic accidents in Pristine district. These findings can serve as a basis for health care professionals and policymakers to create preventive measures for traffic accidents. There is no precise data from the Kosovo police service in regard to the existing correlation between wearing the safety belt and the degree of damage to the injured, as these data are not taken by the traffic police when an accident happens. The negligence of pedestrians continues to remain a matter of concern and the pedestrians are considered as a vulnerable group[7,8].

Conflict of interest statement

We declare that we have no conflict of interest.

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