

WHO exposes poor road rule compliance

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The World Health Organisation (WHO) has released a damning report exposing the vulnerability of roads and road users in India.

The 'Global Status report on road safety 2015' released by the world body on Monday, also made a shocking revelation that casualty figures mentioned in the WHO report was 46 per cent more than the statistics released by NCRB (National Crime Records Bureau) in 2014.

According to the report, over two lakh of the total 1.25 million road accident deaths occurring worldwide, are in India. The WHO study, which puts the casualty rate at 17 per one lakh, has concluded that about 34% of the accident victims (casualties) in the country are two-wheeler or three-wheeler riders, while truck drivers and passengers accounted for 13 per cent, followed by passengers of cars and other light vehicles, which were put at 10 per cent.

A grim reminder of the plight of pedestrians in the country was evident from the fact that nine per cent of the casualties, as per the report, are pedestrians. The premier health watchdog of the world aptly summed up the appalling state of traffic rule enforcement in the country by giving a paltry four on a scale of 10 under safe road use, drunk driving, motorcycle helmet and seat belt law

NO. OF PERSONS KILLED IN ROAD ACCIDENTS TOP FIVE STATES

YEAR	MALE	FEMALE	TG	TOTAL
UTTAR PRADESH				
2014	13769	2500	(15)	16284
2013	13076	2554		15630
2012	12887	2222		15109
2011	12673	2323		14996
TAMIL NADU				
2014	12915	2275	(0)	15190
2013	13438	2125		15563
2012	13497	2678		16175
2011	13155	2267		15422
MAHARASHTRA				
2014	11773	1754	(2)	13529
2013	11513	1732		13245
2012	12120	1816		13936
2011	11825	1855		13680
KARNATAKA				
2014	8976	1468	(0)	10444
2013	7713	1331		9044
2012	8067	1381		9448
2011	7756	1202		8958
RAJASTHAN				
2014	8966	1321	(0)	10287
2013	8468	1256		9724
2012	8217	1311		9528
2011	7978	1254		9232



enforcement respectively. WHO estimates that road traffic crashes contribute to nearly three per cent loss to the national GDP.

Piyush Tewari, founder and CEO of SaveLIFE Foundation, a NGO working on road safety, responded to the report saying; "The report should be an eye-opener for our law makers, as it categorically states that the Indian road safety laws do not meet the best practice

requirements for four out of five risk factors: enforcing speed limits, prevention of drunk driving, safety of children and use of helmets. Even for seat belts, where the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, is in consonance with the WHO standards, the enforcement is poor. India has a pathetic score of four out of 10. With regard to vehicle safety, India meets only two out of the seven vehicle safety standards."