

Road Safety: A Risk Management Perspective

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About 1.2 million people are killed in road traffic crashes each year around the world, with road traffic crashes accounting for around 25% of all deaths from injury accidents globally and being the main cause of death among people aged between one and forty. In economic terms, the cost of road crash injuries is approximately 1%, 1.5% and 2% of gross national product in low-income, middle-income and high-income countries, respectively. There has recently been an increasing interest in adopting the 'Vision Zero' approach, especially in high-income countries, in an effort to reduce the risk associated with road traffic. However, risk is ubiquitous and is associated with a very wide range of human activities, and this has resulted in the development of an internationally agreed set of principles and guidelines for risk management in general. This paper describes the methods and processes that have been developed for general risk management, along with some of the knowledge upon which those methods and processes are based. It is argued that road safety could be improved by employing those methods and processes.