

Epidemiological characteristics of fatal traffic accidents in Fars province, Iran: a community-based survey.

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Abstract

OBJECTIVES:

To determine the epidemiological characteristics of fatal traffic accidents in Fars province, Iran.

STUDY DESIGN:

This cross-sectional study included 3642 traffic accident deaths in Fars province, Iran between November 2009 and November 2011. The data source was the Fars Forensic Medicine Registry, which covers the entire province. According to Iranian law, all deaths resulting from injuries or accidents must be investigated to determine the exact cause of death by autopsy. All such deaths are referred to forensic medicine centres in each city, and all data are sent to the main centre in Shiraz, the capital city of Fars province.

RESULTS:

Males accounted for 78.3% of the decedents (sex ratio of almost 3.6:1), and the mean \pm standard deviation age of all decedents was 32.2 ± 20.3 years. Autopsy reports indicated that head trauma was the most common cause of death. Most collisions were vehicle-vehicle crashes (52.3%), with cars and motorcycles being the most prevalent modes of transport (39.6% and 24.6%, respectively). Fatal accidents were most common during the summer. Most fatal injuries (61.4%) occurred on outer-city roads and 27.4% occurred on inner-city roads. Significant associations were found between decedent's status (car driver, motorcycle driver or passenger, pedestrian or passenger) and interval between injury and death, light conditions at the scene of the accident, place of death, site of injury and cause of death.

CONCLUSION:

Although the clinical management of trauma patients has improved in Iran, coordination between trauma system organizations is required to decrease the burden of injuries.

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KEYWORDS:

Accident; Fars; Fatalities; Iran; Traffic accidents