

# Social and behavioral risk factors influencing driver's involvement in road traffic accidents in qatar

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## Abstract

On average, traffic accidents kill around 137 people around the world every hour. In 2004, road injuries were the first leading cause of death and predicted to be the fifth leading cause of death by 2030. Although the world's high-income countries occupy around 52% of the world's registered vehicles, only 10% of the world's traffic fatalities occur on the roads of these countries. In Qatar, traffic accidents kill between 3 to 4 people, on average, every week. In 2010, traffic injuries were around 4500 people. In the same year, speeding, which is one of human-related factors, causes 72.3% of the total number of accidents and crossing the red light causes 7.6% of the accidents. Human risk factors, in general, play the main role in traffic accidents.

This study focuses on exploring and analyzing social and behavioral factors contributing to traffic accident involvement in Qatar society. It also attempts to define and evaluate the psychological motivations behind adaptation of reckless driving behaviors by youth and match them to early socialization processes within the family. Several statistical data collection methods were used, such as, surveys, case studies and interviews. The study investigates different groups such as school students, parents, and young drivers in local society. The questionnaire was designed to gather as much as information as possible regarding possible social factors of road accidents, details of accident they may have had in the last three years, and their recommendations for reducing traffic accidents in Qatar. Media awareness for preventing road accidents should be enhanced in both print and broadcast media. Awareness should be focused on young drivers and workshops were regularly conducted by the project team in schools and universities. The results of this study have given a clear picture of social aspects of traffic accident involvement phenomena and may help in reducing the injuries and deaths caused by road accidents in the country.