

Road safety in Mexico and information needs

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Abstract

Statistics on road accidents in Mexico are managed by different governmental agencies, at Federal, State and Municipal levels. In 2007, the official number of deaths on Mexican federal roads was 5014; and 6000 on urban roads. For that year, the total number of deaths on Mexican roads, including those in the municipalities, is estimated in 20000.

General performance measures are established in Mexico for road safety on the basis of the number of registered vehicles and of the number of vehicle-kilometers. This approach suggests an international ranking position for Mexico regarding road safety, comparable with industrialized countries such as England or Germany (24.3 accidents; 4.2 deaths and 27.7 injured per 100 million of vehicle-km). As a function of registered vehicles, Mexico also ranks comparable with industrialized countries, with 6.31 deaths per 10000 registered vehicles. Such a remarkable position could be influenced by the marginal contribution of weather-related accidents in Mexico. However, unreliability of the data concerning road accidents in Mexico is acknowledged at the international scene, with no official data reported in recent international studies (2007). A common deficiency of these data is that they only consider the deaths occurring at the accident site, not those occurring afterwards as a result of the injuries suffered by those involved in the accident.

In this poster it is also described the importance of developing and enforcing regulations for load securement.

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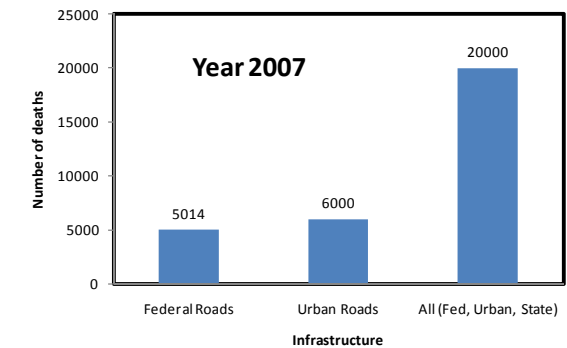
I Background:

- First major cause of death among young people;
- Second major cause of orphanhood;
- Second major cause of economically active people;
- Statistics on road accidents in Mexico are managed by different governmental agencies, at Federal, State and Municipal levels.

Ranking position for Mexico, comparable with industrialized countries such as England or Germany (24.3 accidents; 4.2 deaths and 27.7 injured per 100 million of vehicle-km). As a function of registered vehicles, Mexico also ranks comparable with industrialized countries, with 6.31 deaths per 10000 registered vehicles. (Mexican Transport Institute, 2006)

However, unreliability of the data concerning road accidents in Mexico is acknowledged at the international scene, with no official data reported in recent international studies (2007). A common deficiency of these data is that they only consider the deaths occurring at the accident site, not those occurring afterwards as a result of the injuries suffered by those involved in the accident.

To avoid any underreporting of accident data, for matching Police, Insurance companies and Hospital databases.



II And regulation needs:

2005 – Regulation moratorium in Mexico, no “unneeded” standards

Mexican regulation on load restraint was postponed indefinitely, including a NAFTA-based Mexican Official Standard.

October 24, 2008; 05:45 AM.

Federal highway 57, km 159. (main Mexican Highway).

Several 50-kg cement bags fell from a straight truck.

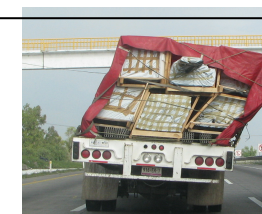
Vehicles involved: Van, 2 Combination vehicles (single and double), straight truck, and a car.

5 people die, highway closed for 7 hours.



III And more issues:

November, 2008. Federal highway



British approach: Accidents banished from Highway Code