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# Road safety at work data in The Netherlands

Recent findings from the Netherlands Working Conditions Survey (NWCS) 2007 reveal that about two percent of all occupational accidents in The Netherlands are traffic related. Additionally, the Dutch Injury Surveillance System (LIS) makes clear that approximately 7% of all traffic accidents are work related. It is unknown whether they fully overlap or not.

## Netherlands Survey on Working Conditions

The NWCS is a yearly survey on (net) about 25.000 employees covering topics of quality of work, health and accidents during work. In 2007, 22,759 employees participated, which is a response rate of 33%. From 2007 on a special question was included to assess whether or not the occupational accident was also a traffic accident. Employees in The Netherlands reported 726 occupational accidents resulting in absence from work, of which 30 were traffic related (0,04%). This mounts up to a estimated national figure of 9,000 traffic related occupational accidents with absence from work in 2007.

## Demographics

As shown in Figure 1, occupational accidents occur more than twice as often among male workers as compared to female workers, whereas traffic related occupational accidents occur almost eight times as often among male workers as compared to female workers. Occupational accidents occur most often among middle aged workers between 25-54 years and among low and middle educated workers. Occupational traffic accidents occur relatively less often among high educated workers (3%) and relatively more often among low educated workers (58%), as compared to other

occupational accidents (12% among high educated workers and 42% among low educated workers).

Figure 1: Traffic related occupational accidents by individual characteristics (NWCS 2007)

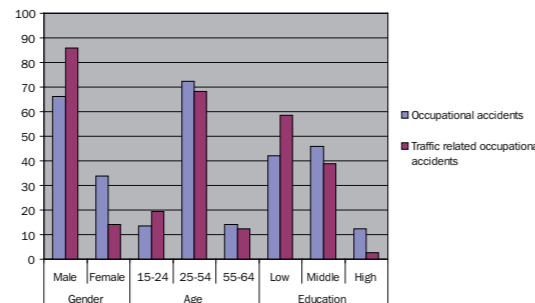
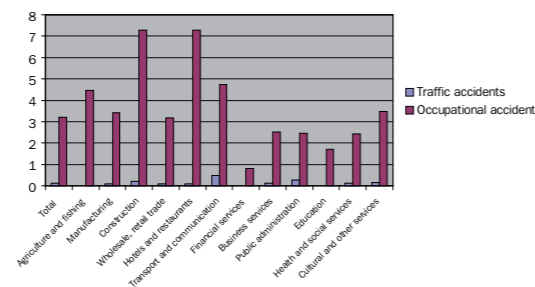


Figure 2: Traffic related occupational accidents by sector (NWCS 2007)



## Sector and occupation

Not surprisingly most traffic related occupational accidents occur in the transport sector (24% of all occupational traffic accidents – see

Figure 2). But also in public administration, business services and health and social services occupational traffic accidents occur. The occupations most involved in traffic related occupational accidents are truck drivers (27% of all occupational traffic accidents), followed by police men, fire workers and guards (14%), plumbers, welders and metal workers (9%) and geriatric helpers and childcare workers (8%).

## Dutch Injury Surveillance System (LIS)

LIS contains information from a representative sample of Dutch hospitals on accidental injuries that have been treated at the Emergency Department. In 2006 an in-depth survey study among 1,259 victims has further investigated the work relatedness of traffic accidents (Schutten et al., 2006). This resulted in a national estimate of 6,000 work related traffic accidents with treatment at an Emergency Department.

## Activity

Additional information is available on the kind of activities victims were participating in when the work related traffic accident happened. Most, over one third, of all work related traffic accidents occur while on the way to or returning from a meeting, discussion or client (see Table 1).

Table 1: Activity during work related traffic accident (Schutten et al., 2006)

| Activity during work related traffic accident                   | Percentage (weighted) |
|---|-----------------------|
| On the way to or returning from a meeting, discussion or client | 35%                   |
| Freight transport   | 30%                   |
| Else  | 15%                   |
| Emergency transport   | 12%                   |
| Passenger transport   | 8%                    |
| Total   | 100%                  |

## Traffic participation

Information is also available on the kind of vehicle involved. Results imply that over one half of all work related traffic accidents concerns accidents with cars (see Table 2). Bicycles take the second position (14%).

Table 2: Traffic participation during work related traffic accident (Schutten et al., 2006)

| Kind of traffic participation | Percentage (weighted) |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Car                           | 53%                   |
| Bicycle                       | 14%                   |
| Other                         | 9%                    |
| Truck                         | 6%                    |
| Motorbike                     | 6%                    |
| Unknown                       | 4%                    |
| Motorcycle, scooter           | 3%                    |
| Pedestrian                    | 3%                    |
| Pick-up truck                 | 2%                    |
| Total                         | 100%                  |

## Conclusions

Traffic related occupational accidents are mostly prevalent among male workers and most accidents occur in the transport and communication sector and in transport professions.

However, more than half of the vehicles involved in work related traffic accidents are normal cars. This implies that the worker might not be a professional driver.

Results imply that more attention should be given to non professional drivers driving during work time.

## References

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