COSTA RICA

Population: 4 658 887
Income group: Middle
Gross national income per capita: US$ 6 860

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

Lead agency Council on Road Safety
Funded in national budget No
National road safety strategy Yes
Funding to implement strategy Partially funded
Fatality reduction targets set Yes (2007–2011)
Fatality reduction target 19%

SAFER ROADS AND MOBILITY

Formal audits required for new road construction Yes
Regular inspections of existing road infrastructure Parts of networks
Policies to promote walking or cycling No
Policies to encourage investment in public transport No
Policies to separate road users to protect VRUs Yes

SAFER VEHICLES

Total registered vehicles (2009) 923 591
Cars and 4-wheeled light vehicles 605 943
Motorized 2- and 3-wheelers 141 470
Heavy trucks 162 179
Buses 13 999
Other 0

Vehicle standards applied
UN World forum on harmonization of vehicles standards No
New car assessment programme No

Vehicle regulations
Front and rear seat-belts required in all new cars —
Front and rear seat-belts required all imported cars Yes

SAFER ROAD USERS

Penalty/demerit point system in place Yes
National speed limits Yes
Local authorities can set lower limits No
Maximum limit urban roads 40 km/h
Enforcement 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

National drink–driving law
BAC limit — general population 0.05 g/dl
BAC limit — young or novice drivers 0.05 g/dl
BAC limit — professional/commercial drivers 0.05 g/dl
Random breath testing and/or police checkpoints Yes
Enforcement 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

National motorcycle helmet law
Applies to drivers and passengers Yes
Helmet standard mandated No
Enforcement 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Helmet wearing rate 99.5% Driversc
99% Passengersc

National seat-belt law
Applies to front and rear seat occupants Yes
Seat-belt wearing rate 79% Front seatsd
48% Rear seatsd

National child restraint law
Enforcement 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

National law on mobile phones while driving
Law prohibits hand-held mobile phone use Yes
Law also applies to handheld mobile phones No

DATA

Reported road traffic fatalities (2009) 721b, 87%M, 13%F
Estimated GDP lost due to road traffic crashes —

DEATHS BY ROAD USER CATEGORY

Drivers/passengers (45%)
Drivers/passengers buses (1%)
Drivers/passengers heavy trucks (1%)
Pedestrians (37%)
Cyclists (10%)

TRENDS IN ROAD TRAFFIC DEATHS


Further data on each country can be found in the statistical annex.