ROAD SAFETY
in the Americas

Road traffic crashes are a major cause of injury, suffering and death in the Region of the Americas.

Road traffic injuries caused **150,000** deaths in the Americas in 2010.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, **more that 50% of road traffic deaths** occurred in vulnerable road users.

- **27%** are pedestrians
- **20%** are motorcyclists
- **3.7%** are cyclists

**23.8%** are car occupants

In North America, car occupants account for **70%** of road traffic deaths.

**44%** of road traffic deaths in Latin Caribbean are motorcyclists.

**31%** of road traffic deaths in Mesoamerica are pedestrians.

Pan American Health Organization

World Health Organization

www.paho.org
Enact and enforce traffic laws improves road safety

**Speed**
The speed limit in urban areas should not exceed 50 km/h. Authorities should be able to reduce speed limits where appropriate.

**Alcohol**
Blood Alcohol limit should be less than 0.05 g/dl for all drivers.

**Helmet use**
Standardized helmet use for drivers and passengers of motorcycles on all roads and all engine types should be mandatory.

**Seatbelt use**
The use of seatbelts should be mandatory for all vehicle occupants (Front and rear seats).

**Child restraint**
Use of special seats for children should be required in cars.

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**PAHO RECOMMENDS**

01. Set up national committees responsible for road safety, with authority and resources to promote road safety measures.

02. Promote policies to improve mass transit and infrastructure to allow safe transit for pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists on streets and roads.

03. Develop laws on risk factors such as speed, alcohol, helmet use, seatbelt use, and child seats.

04. Develop surveillance systems of data on groups or areas at greater risk for road traffic injuries.

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