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A Safe Systems Approach for Safer Roads in Jamaica

Funded by the United Nations Road Safety Fund

In collaboration with

- Pan American Health Organization
- National Road Safety Council
- Ministry of National Security
- Island Traffic Authority
- World Health Organization
- Ministry of Health and Wellness
- Ministry of Science, Energy, Telecommunications and Transport (MSETT)



CAUSES OF ROAD TRAFFIC INCIDENTS

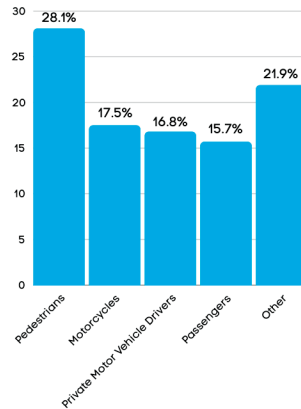
Road traffic incidents (RTI) are the 11th leading cause of death in Jamaica. Not only a high number of people die on the road every year, but over 10,000 people are injured, with many suffering from long-term disabilities due to RTIs.

According to local data from the Island Traffic Authority, between 2001 to 2020, fatal RTI mainly affected pedestrians.

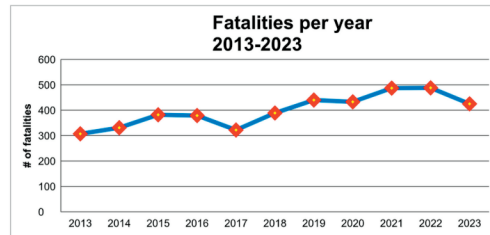
Males account for 70% of all related RTI fatalities.

The current trend reveals that the number of fatalities has been increasing since 2013.

Fatal Road Traffic Incidents Affecting Road Users



Graph showing number of fatalities per year, 2013-2023



Local evidence shows that driving under the influence of alcohol is commonly present in both traffic collisions and resulting fatal and non-fatal injuries. The 2016 National Drug Use Prevalence Survey estimated 18% of males and 5% of females self-reported driving under the influence of alcohol in the last 12 months.

A previous report elaborated by UNICEF in 2018 shows that speeding is the second most common cause of traffic tickets in the country. Speeding resulted in 60% of crashes on rural roadways and was present in 23% of fatal road crashes.

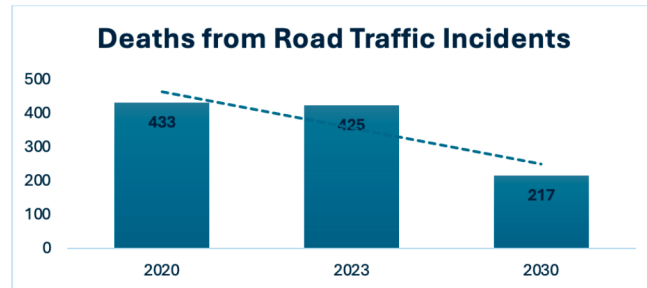


All this is consistent with global evidence that shows speeding and drunk driving commonly coexist and interact.

STRATEGIES

In support of the ongoing response by the Government of Jamaica, the National Road Safety Council and other key stakeholders have prioritized activities to accelerate the response “and achieve the national target in keeping with the global target for the Second Decade of Road Safety, to reduce road traffic deaths and injuries by 50%.

This project is geared towards positioning Jamaica to achieve the established 2030 goal of the Decade of Action to reduce road traffic deaths and injuries by 50%. This will be achieved with a reduction in the fatality rate to 217.



The interventions will emphasize the two risk factors - **speeding and drink driving** and send a message to the population that this is no longer tolerable.

Specifically, the project aims to **strengthen road safety management, improve road user behaviour, and improve the post-crash response.**

STRATEGY #1

Improved Road Safety Management

The Project will support the strengthening of a multi-sectoral mechanism that will work collaboratively to implement targeted evidence-based interventions and the collection and analysis of road safety data.

Activities include:

- Develop a national action plan
- Strengthen the multisectoral coordinating mechanism
- Operationalize the Jamaica Injury Surveillance System
- Strengthen onsite crash data collection

STRATEGY #2

Improved Behaviour of Road Users

The project will support interventions that contribute to developing and implementing a rigorous enforcement strategy that addresses speeding and drunk driving while equipping the police with the necessary technical skills and equipment to strengthen enforcement strategies.

Activities include:

Upgrade of the current breathalyzer programme

Improve speed enforcement

Enhance the public education programme of the Police Force

STRATEGY #3

Improved Post Crash Care

The project will support interventions to strengthen capacities to provide timely, quality and professional first emergency care rehabilitation services.

Activities include:

Conduct an emergency and critical care system assessment

Develop a roadmap based on identified priorities