Traffic Safety Basic Facts 2010

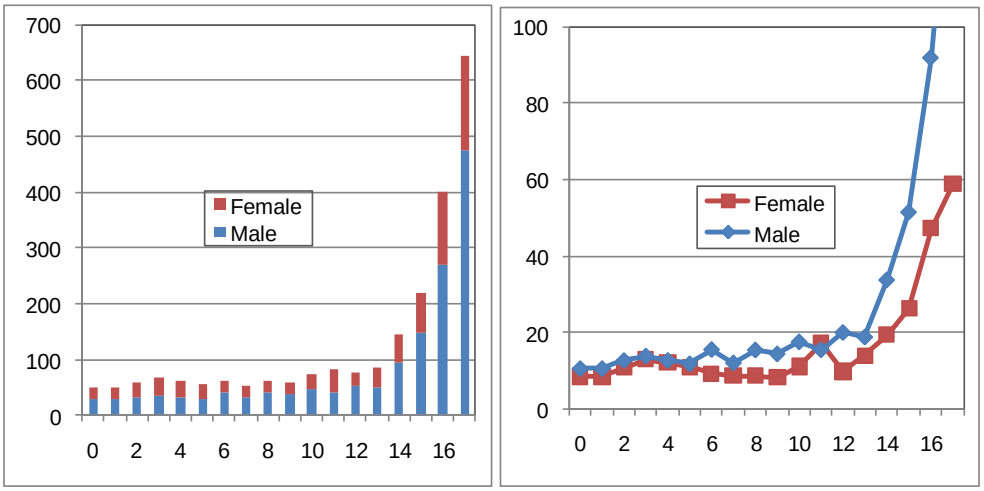
Children (Aged <15)

In this Basic Fact Sheet, 'children' are defined as those who are aged below 15 years. (The age at which people are allowed to drive a motor vehicle varies across the EU, but 14 year olds appear, on the whole, to fit into this group rather than with 'young people'.) Children tend to be thought of as innocent victims of road accidents more often than is the case for adults.

Figure 1 shows the number of fatalities in 2008 by single year of age, calculated across the 23 EU member states with CARE data (listed in Table 1). It also shows the number of fatalities per million population. The figure shows that 14 is the age at which the risk of death in a road accident begins to rise steeply.

About 1.040 children died in road traffic accidents in 2008 in 23 EU countries (listed in Table 1).

Figure 1: Number of fatalities in EU-23, and number per million population, 2008



Source: CARE Database / EC
Date of query: October 2010
Source of population data: EUROSTAT

Table 1 presents the number of children killed in each country from 1999, with the totals for the 19 countries with CARE data available for most of the decade.

The annual number of children killed in road traffic accidents fell by over a half between 1999 and 2008 in the EU-19 countries.

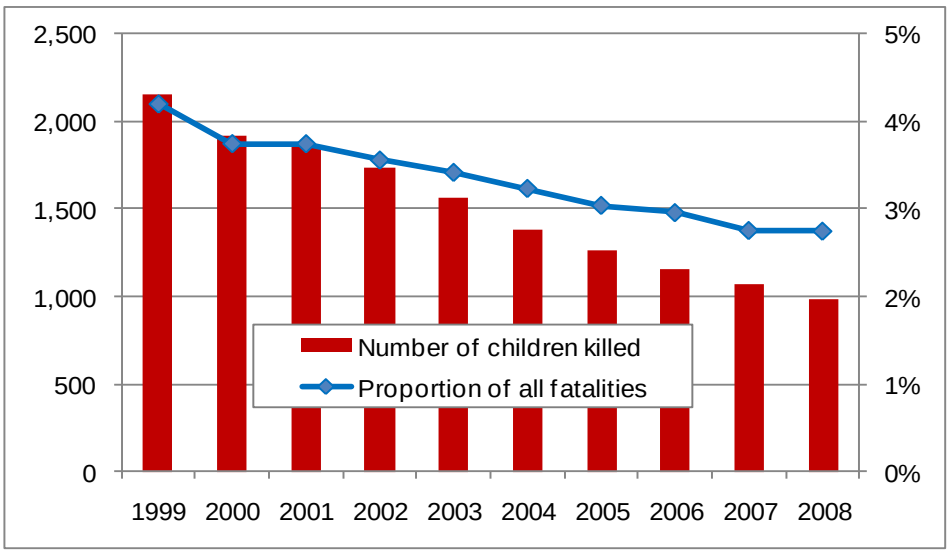
Table 1: Number of fatalities aged <15 per country, 1999-2008 [1][2]

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
BE	65	52	63	36	32	26	37	32	30	35
CZ	48	54	38	46	38	27	41	32	25	19
DK	38	25	21	14	22	20	13	13	20	19
DE	*240*	240	231	216	208	153	159	136	111	102
EE	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	6	6	3
IE	23	22	26	18	16	7	9	15	15	18
EL	54	40	47	47	45	43	44	36	42	35
ES	209	182	160	151	156	127	120	109	99	83
FR	352	336	273	245	203	175	130	120	150	114
IT	140	136	187	196	148	124	131	110	95	86
LV	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	11	11
LU	2	3	5	3	1	0	4	0	2	0
HU	-	-	-	-	32	38	34	42	37	24
NL	77	56	48	37	64	35	31	37	36	23
AT	37	27	26	25	37	22	25	23	13	12
PL	*262*	*262*	262	248	231	228	167	151	157	146
PT	83	75	56	62	55	48	31	22	27	23
RO	242	184	187	188	117	163	152	145	117	137
SI	*8*	8	4	3	3	9	10	9	6	4
SK	-	-	-	-	-	-	19	13	28	23
FI	26	20	19	18	22	13	21	5	14	8
SE	37	19	18	18	21	14	10	16	10	6
UK	211	171	192	160	145	147	125	147	96	110
EU-19	2.155	1.912	1.862	1.730	1.564	1.381	1.260	1.158	1.065	980
Yearly reduction		11,3%	2,6%	7,1%	9,6%	11,7%	8,8%	8,1%	8,0%	8,0%

Source: CARE Database / EC
Date of query: October 2010

This total is presented in Figure 2. The number of children killed in road traffic accidents fell from 2.155 in 1999 to 980 in 2008, a fall of 55%.

Figure 2: Number of child fatalities and proportion of total fatalities, EU-19, 1999-2008



Source: CARE Database / EC
Date of query: October 2010

[1] The country abbreviations used and definition of EU-level are shown on Page 13
[2] Where a number is missing for a EU-19 country in a particular year, its contribution to the EU-19 total is estimated as the next known value.

The following tables and figures analyse the CARE data for 2008 in greater detail, but Luxembourg is omitted as there were no child fatalities in this country in 2008. Table 2 shows the national fatality rate for children and the fatality rate for each nation's population as a whole. Where the children's fatality rate is higher than the overall fatality rate, children are at greater risk than the overall population, and *vice versa*. This comparison is made more precisely by:

$$\text{relative rate} = \frac{\text{fatality rate aged below 15}}{\text{fatality rate all ages}}$$

$$\text{where fatality rate} = \frac{\text{fatalities}}{\text{population (millions)}}$$

Children are, on average, at less than a fifth of the risk of dying in a road traffic accident than the average person.

In most EU countries children are at less than a quarter of the risk of dying in a road traffic accident than the average person.

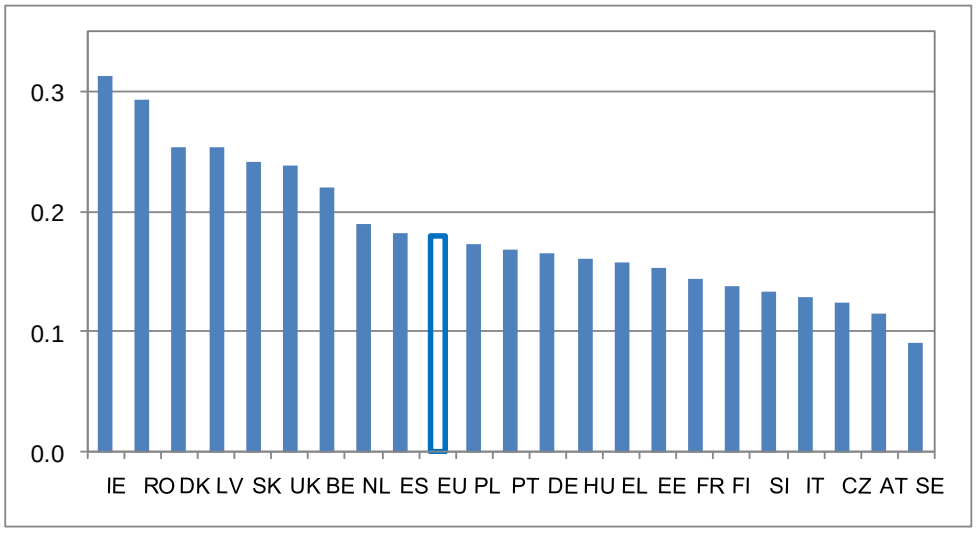
Table 2: Child fatality proportions per country, 2008

	Fatality rate: Children	All ages	Relative child fatality rate
BE	19	88	0,22
CZ	13	104	0,12
DK	19	74	0,25
DE	9	54	0,17
EE	15	98	0,15
IE	20	64	0,31
EL	22	138	0,16
ES	13	68	0,18
FR	10	67	0,14
IT	10	79	0,13
LV	35	139	0,25
HU	16	99	0,16
NL	8	41	0,19
AT	9	82	0,12
PL	25	143	0,17
PT	14	83	0,17
RO	42	142	0,29
SI	14	106	0,13
SK	27	112	0,24
FI	9	65	0,14
SE	4	43	0,09
UK	10	43	0,24
EU-22	14	75	0,18

Source: CARE Database / EC
Date of query: October 2010
Source of population data: EUROSTAT

Fewer than one in twenty-five fatalities in road traffic accidents is a child, although children make up about one-sixth of the population. They are at less than one fifth of the risk of the average member of the population across the EU-22 as a whole. This varies from about one tenth in Austria and Sweden to almost one third in Ireland, as shown in Figure 3.

Figure 3: Relative child fatality rates per country, 2008



Source: CARE Database / EC
Date of query: October 2010
Source of population data: EUROSTAT

The number of child fatalities has reduced gradually as a proportion of all fatalities (Figure 2). Table 3 shows the trend in the proportion in each country over this period.

Table 3: Child fatalities as a percentage of all fatalities, by country, 1999-2008

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
BE	4,7%	3,5%	4,2%	2,8%	2,6%	2,2%	3,4%	3,0%	2,8%	3,7%
CZ	3,3%	3,6%	2,9%	3,2%	2,6%	2,0%	3,2%	3,0%	2,0%	1,8%
DK	7,4%	5,0%	4,9%	3,0%	5,1%	5,4%	3,9%	4,2%	4,9%	4,7%
DE		3,2%	3,3%	3,2%	3,1%	2,6%	3,0%	2,7%	2,2%	2,3%
EE							7,1%	2,9%	3,1%	2,3%
IE	5,6%	5,3%	6,3%	4,8%	4,7%	1,9%	2,3%	4,1%	4,4%	6,4%
EL	2,6%	2,0%	2,5%	2,9%	2,8%	2,6%	2,7%	2,2%	2,6%	2,3%
ES	3,6%	3,1%	2,9%	2,8%	2,9%	2,7%	2,7%	2,7%	2,6%	2,7%
FR	4,1%	4,2%	3,3%	3,2%	3,4%	3,2%	2,4%	2,5%	3,2%	2,7%
IT	2,1%	1,9%	2,6%	2,8%	2,3%	2,0%	2,3%	1,9%	1,9%	1,8%
LV								3,4%	2,6%	3,5%
LU	3,4%	3,9%	7,1%	4,8%	1,9%					
HU					2,4%	2,9%	2,7%	3,2%	3,0%	2,4%
MT										
NL	7,1%	5,2%	4,8%	3,7%	6,2%	4,4%	4,1%	5,1%	5,1%	3,4%
AT	3,4%	2,8%	2,7%	2,6%	4,0%	2,5%	3,3%	3,2%	1,9%	1,8%
PL			4,7%	4,3%	4,1%	4,0%	3,1%	2,9%	2,8%	2,7%
PT	4,2%	4,1%	3,3%	3,7%	3,5%	3,7%	2,5%	2,2%	2,8%	2,6%
RO	9,8%	7,5%	7,6%	7,8%	5,2%	6,7%	5,8%	5,6%	4,2%	4,5%
SI		2,5%	1,4%	1,1%	1,2%	3,3%	3,9%	3,4%	2,0%	1,9%
SK							3,1%	2,1%	4,2%	3,8%
FI	6,0%	5,1%	4,4%	4,3%	5,8%	3,5%	5,5%	1,5%	3,7%	2,3%
SE	6,4%	3,2%	3,1%	3,2%	4,0%	2,9%	2,3%	3,6%	2,1%	1,5%
UK	5,9%	4,8%	5,3%	4,5%	4,0%	4,4%	3,7%	4,5%	3,1%	4,2%
EU-19	4,2%	3,7%	3,7%	3,5%	3,4%	3,2%	3,1%	3,0%	2,8%	2,8%
Yearly reduction		11%	0%	5%	4%	5%	5%	3%	7%	0%

Percentages only for cells with at least 50 fatalities of all ages

Source: CARE Database / EC
Date of query: October 2010

The proportion of fatalities that were children fell from more than 4% in 1999 to less than 3% in 2008.

Age and Gender

Table 4 provides details of the age and gender of child fatalities, whilst Figure 4 presents the proportions of child fatalities in each country by gender. Whilst girls account for approximately two-fifths of fatalities less than fourteen years old, females make up less than a quarter of adult fatalities. For girls as well as boys, more children aged 10-14 are killed than in either the under five or the 5-9 age groups.

Both for boys and girls, more are killed in the 10-14 age group than in either the under five or the 5-9 age groups.

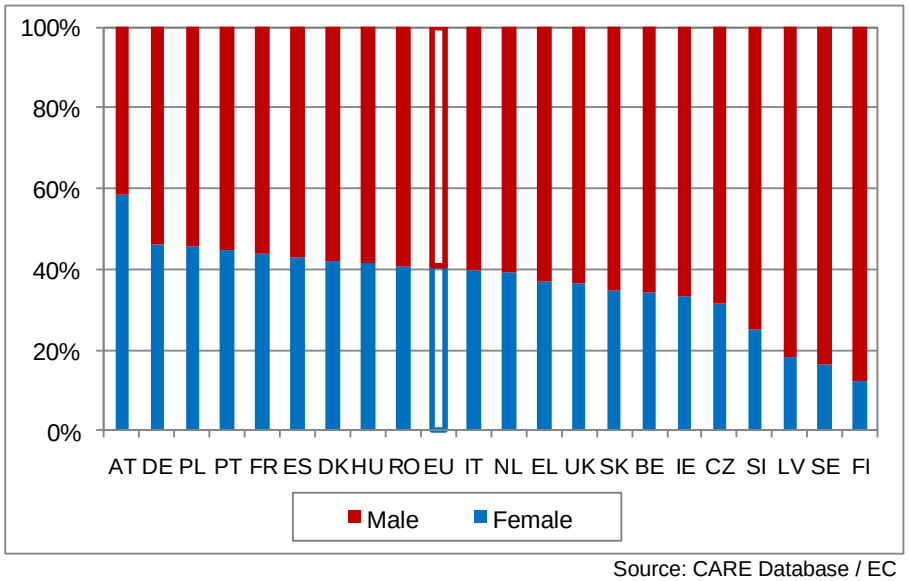
Boys account for approximately three-fifths of road traffic accident fatalities amongst children.

Table 4: Number of fatalities by gender, age and country, 2008

	Female				Male				Total
	0-4	5-9	10-14	All ages	0-4	5-9	10-14	All ages	
BE	6	1	5	221	5	6	12	717	938
CZ	2	1	3	259	3	4	6	817	1.076
DK	2	4	2	107	6	0	5	299	406
DE	15	8	24	1.229	12	19	24	3.247	4.476
EE	0	0	0	34	0	2	1	97	131
IE	0	2	4	75	3	3	6	199	274
EL	8	4	1	304	8	4	10	1.244	1.548
ES	14	10	11	676	12	15	20	2.413	3.088
FR	15	14	21	1.013	16	19	29	3.262	4.275
IT	11	11	12	965	14	7	31	3.766	4.731
LV	2	0	0	77	2	4	3	239	316
HU	3	2	5	237	3	5	6	757	994
NL	2	2	5	179	2	2	10	498	677
AT	2	1	4	170	1	1	3	509	679
PL	19	16	32	1.321	18	24	37	4.099	5.420
PT	6	1	3	209	5	3	5	674	882
RO	10	24	22	763	22	32	27	2.298	3.061
SI	0	1	0	36	2	0	1	178	214
SK	1	2	5	111	3	5	7	495	606
FI	0	1	0	79	2	2	3	265	344
SE	1	0	0	111	1	1	3	286	397
UK	11	7	22	682	16	19	35	1.962	2.644
EU-22	130	112	182	8.857	156	178	283	28.321	37.178
% by gender	46%	39%	39%	24%	54%	61%	61%	76%	

Source: CARE Database / EC
Date of query: October 2010

Figure 4: Distribution of child fatalities by gender, 2008



Source: CARE Database / EC
Date of query: October 2010

Mode of Transport

Table 5 shows the distribution of child fatalities by mode of transport. More than two fifths of child fatalities are car or taxi occupants, and pedestrians account for more than a third of fatalities.

More than two fifths of children who died were travelling by car or taxi, whilst one third were pedestrians.

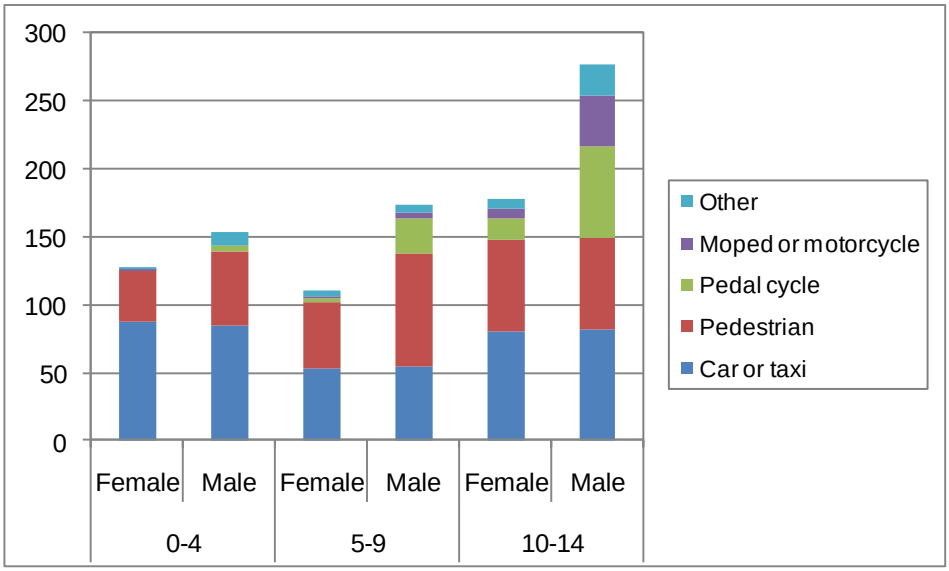
Table 5: Number of fatalities by mode of transport, 2008

	Car or taxi	Pedestrian	Pedal cycle	Moped	Motor cycle	Bus or coach	Other/ not known	Total
BE	13	7	8	1	1	0	5	35
CZ	8	8	2	0	1	0	0	19
DK	8	6	2	0	0	0	3	19
DE	51	23	23	1	2	0	2	102
EE	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	3
IE	7	8	1	0	0	0	2	18
EL	19	12	2	0	2	0	0	35
ES	40	26	6	5	0	2	3	83
FR	49	33	13	7	3	8	1	114
IT	38	19	10	9	3	1	6	86
LV	2	6	2	1	0	0	0	11
HU	12	10	0	0	1	0	1	24
NL	6	3	13	0	0	0	1	23
AT	7	4	0	0	0	1	0	12
PL	70	47	17	4	0	0	8	146
PT	13	8	0	1	0	0	1	23
RO	48	76	8	2	0	0	3	137
SI	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	4
SK	8	11	3	0	0	0	1	23
FI	4	3	0	0	1	0	0	8
SE	2	1	0	2	0	0	1	6
UK	41	54	11	0	3	0	1	110
EU-22	447	369	121	33	17	12	41	1.041
Share	43%	35%	12%	3%	2%	1%	4%	100%

Source: CARE Database / EC
Date of query: October 2010

Figure 5 examines the variation of mode of transport with age and gender. The range of modes varies with age and gender, presumably reflecting the travel choices of boys and girls as they grow older.

Figure 5: Number of fatalities by age, gender and mode of transport, EU-22, 2008



Source: CARE Database / EC
Date of query: October 2010

Table 6 and Figure 6 show that almost half of child fatalities are passengers, whilst a third are pedestrians. Almost one in six child fatalities is a 'driver', which includes those who are riding a pedal cycle.

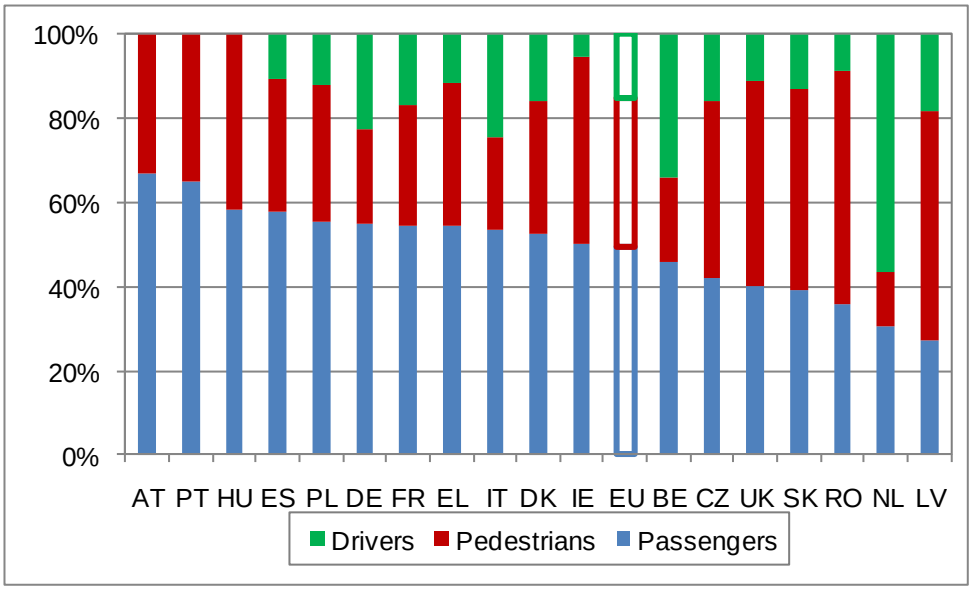
Almost a sixth of child fatalities are 'drivers'.

Table 6: Distribution of driver, passenger and pedestrian child fatalities, 2008

	Proportion of fatalities who are:			Number of fatalities
	Drivers	Passengers	Pedestrians	
BE	34%	46%	20%	35
CZ	16%	42%	42%	19
DK	16%	53%	32%	19
DE	23%	55%	23%	102
EE	0%	67%	33%	3
IE	6%	50%	44%	18
EL	11%	54%	34%	35
ES	11%	58%	31%	83
FR	17%	54%	29%	114
IT	24%	53%	22%	86
LV	18%	27%	55%	11
HU	0%	58%	42%	24
NL	57%	30%	13%	23
AT	0%	67%	33%	12
PL	12%	55%	32%	146
PT	0%	65%	35%	23
RO	9%	36%	55%	137
SI	25%	0%	75%	4
SK	13%	39%	48%	23
FI	0%	63%	38%	8
SE	50%	33%	17%	6
UK	11%	40%	49%	110
EU-22	15%	49%	35%	1,041

Source: CARE Database / EC
Date of query: October 2010

Figure 6: Distribution of driver, passenger and pedestrian child fatalities, 2008



Only countries with at least 10 child fatalities are included

Source: CARE Database / EC
Date of query: October 2010

Area and Type of Road

The CARE data show whether each accident occurs on a motorway or not, and, if not, whether each occurs in an urban or a rural area. Table 7 shows the distribution of child fatalities in each country, with the data displayed in Figure 7. Fewer than one in ten child fatalities is killed on a motorway, with almost one half not on a motorway and in a rural area.

Fewer than one in ten child fatalities occur on motorways, almost half occur on urban non motorways.

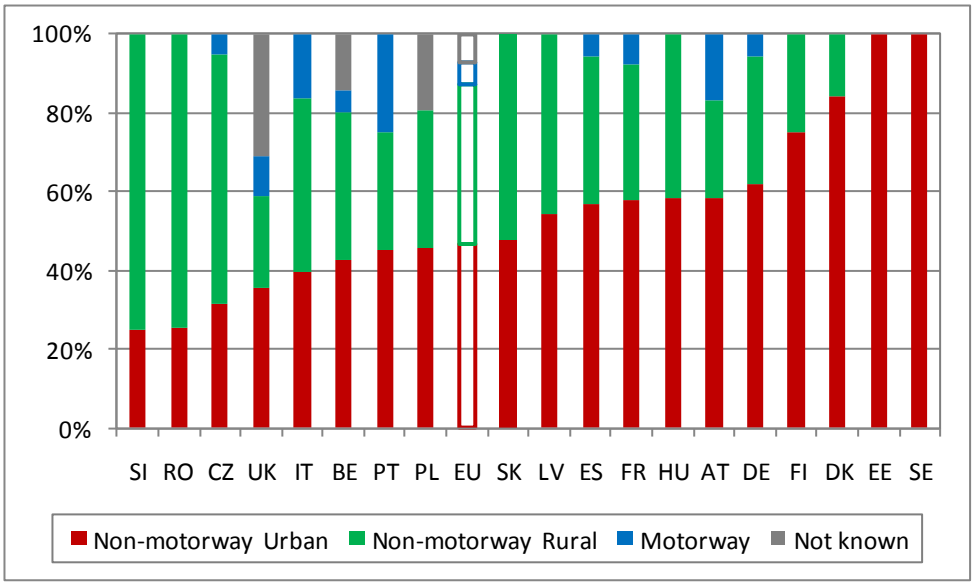
Table 7: Distribution of child fatalities by road type, 2008

	Motorway	Non-motorway		Not known	Total
		Rural	Urban		
BE	6%	37%	43%	14%	35
CZ	5%	63%	32%	0%	19
DK	0%	16%	84%	0%	19
DE	6%	32%	62%	0%	102
EE	0%	0%	100%	0%	3
ES	5%	37%	57%	0%	83
FR	8%	34%	58%	0%	114
IT	16%	44%	40%	0%	86
LV	0%	45%	55%	0%	11
HU	0%	42%	58%	0%	24
AT	17%	25%	58%	0%	12
PL	0%	35%	46%	19%	146
PT	25%	30%	45%	0%	23
RO	0%	74%	26%	0%	137
SI	0%	75%	25%	0%	4
SK	0%	52%	48%	0%	23
FI	0%	25%	75%	0%	8
SE	0%	0%	100%	0%	6
UK	10%	24%	35%	31%	110
EU-19	6%	40%	47%	7%	965

EL, IE and NL omitted as road type data are largely not known

Source: CARE Database / EC
Date of query: October 2010

Figure 7: Distribution of child fatalities by road type, 2008



EL, IE and NL omitted as road type data are largely not known

Source: CARE Database / EC
Date of query: October 2010

Time of Day

In order to examine the distribution of child fatalities by time of day, the day has been divided into six four-hour periods beginning at midnight. Table 8 shows that, across the EU, more than a third of fatalities occur between 4pm and 8pm, with over a quarter occurring between noon and 4pm and 13% occurring between 8pm and midnight.

One third of child fatalities are killed between 4 and 8pm.

The peak hour for child fatalities is between 6 and 7pm.

Table 8: Distribution of child fatalities by time of day, 2008

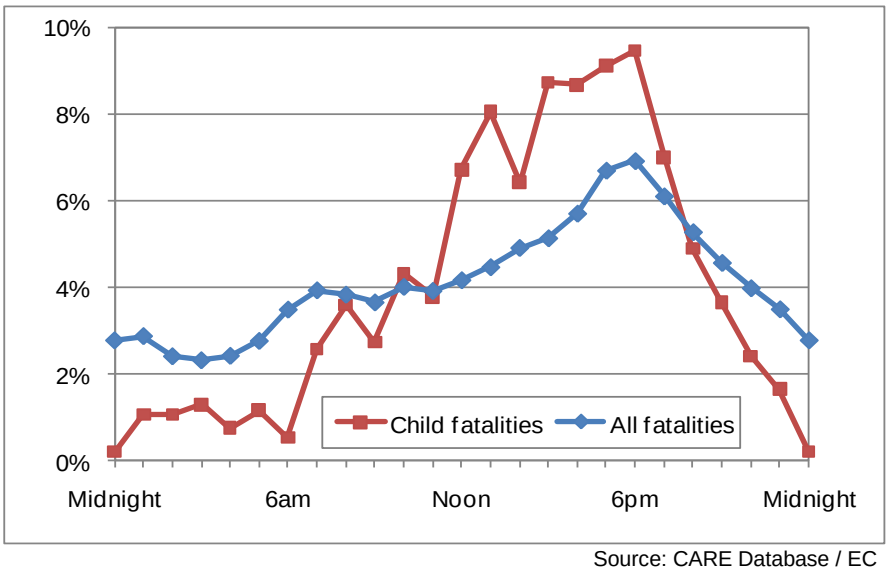
	0.00-3.59	4.00-7.59	8.00-11.59	12.00-15.59	16.00-19.59	20.00-23.59	Total
BE	0%	14%	20%	29%	26%	11%	35
CZ	0%	5%	5%	21%	42%	26%	19
DK	0%	11%	16%	63%	11%	0%	19
EE	0%	0%	33%	33%	33%	0%	3
IE	0%	0%	33%	39%	17%	11%	18
EL	14%	0%	9%	29%	29%	20%	35
ES	3%	4%	17%	22%	40%	14%	83
FR	3%	7%	12%	29%	40%	9%	114
IT	3%	1%	16%	27%	31%	20%	86
LV	0%	0%	0%	55%	45%	0%	11
HU	0%	4%	21%	33%	29%	13%	24
NL	0%	4%	26%	35%	9%	26%	23
AT	17%	17%	33%	17%	8%	8%	12
PL	3%	8%	12%	30%	36%	11%	146
PT	5%	0%	15%	20%	45%	15%	23
RO	5%	4%	11%	28%	40%	12%	137
SI	0%	0%	25%	50%	25%	0%	4
SK	9%	4%	17%	39%	26%	4%	23
FI	13%	0%	0%	63%	13%	13%	8
SE	0%	0%	33%	67%	0%	0%	6
UK	4%	5%	13%	28%	38%	13%	110
EU-21	4%	5%	14%	30%	34%	13%	939

DE omitted as hour is not known

Source: CARE Database / EC
Date of query: October 2010

Figure 8 compares the distributions of child fatalities and all fatalities by hour. By comparison with the overall distribution, there are relatively many child fatalities between noon and 7.59pm, and relatively few between 9pm and 7.59am.

Figure 8: Distribution of fatalities by hour, EU-23, 2008



Source: CARE Database / EC
Date of query: October 2010

Day of Week

Table 9 shows the distribution of child fatalities by day of the week. On average in the EU, Saturday has the most fatalities and Wednesday has the fewest.

Table 9: Distribution of child fatalities by day of week, 2008

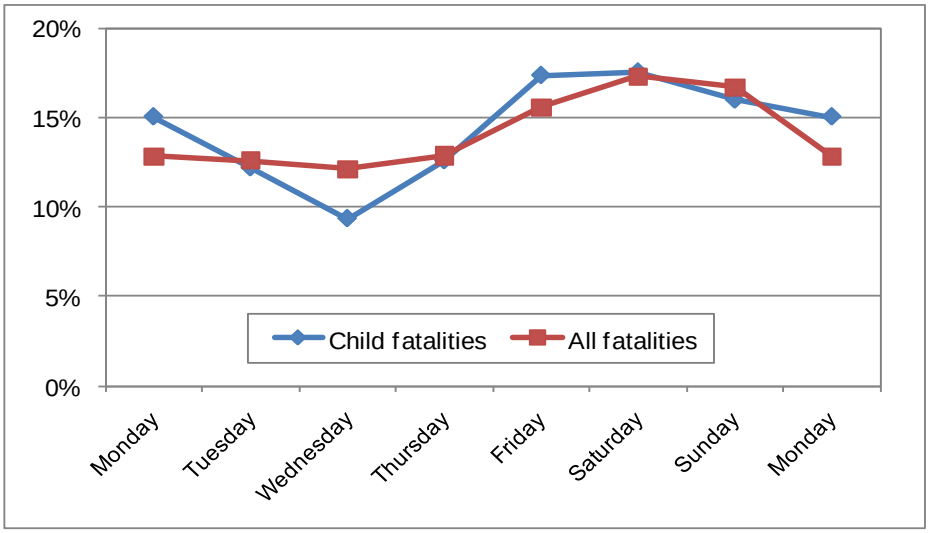
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Total
BE	17%	11%	14%	3%	11%	34%	9%	35
CZ	16%	16%	5%	11%	21%	16%	16%	19
DK	21%	5%	0%	16%	5%	16%	37%	19
DE	22%	18%	9%	9%	16%	17%	11%	102
EE	33%	33%	0%	0%	0%	33%	0%	3
IE	11%	17%	17%	6%	22%	22%	6%	18
EL	20%	26%	3%	6%	17%	20%	9%	35
ES	9%	14%	8%	5%	18%	23%	22%	83
FR	19%	12%	11%	14%	18%	11%	15%	114
IT	12%	12%	9%	12%	13%	19%	24%	86
LV	9%	9%	9%	9%	9%	27%	27%	11
HU	4%	25%	8%	8%	21%	25%	8%	24
NL	17%	9%	9%	13%	26%	17%	9%	23
AT	0%	8%	8%	25%	17%	25%	17%	12
PL	14%	10%	14%	16%	16%	14%	16%	146
PT	25%	0%	0%	20%	10%	10%	35%	23
RO	9%	7%	10%	16%	23%	13%	22%	137
SI	25%	0%	0%	50%	25%	0%	0%	4
SK	22%	4%	9%	13%	26%	13%	13%	23
FI	13%	0%	0%	38%	0%	25%	25%	8
SE	17%	33%	33%	17%	0%	0%	0%	6
UK	17%	14%	7%	14%	17%	25%	6%	110
EU-22	15%	12%	9%	13%	17%	18%	16%	1.041

Source: CARE Database / EC
Date of query: October 2010

Saturday is the day of the week with most child fatalities, 18% compared with 9% on Wednesday.

Figure 9 compares the distributions of child fatalities and all fatalities by day of week. By comparison with the overall distribution, there are relatively few child fatalities on Wednesdays and relatively many on Mondays and Fridays.

Figure 9: Distribution of child fatalities by day of week, EU-22, 2008



Source: CARE Database / EC
Date of query: October 2010

Seasonality

Table 10 shows the distribution of child fatalities through the year, using pairs of months. The peak period for the EU-22 as a whole is July/August, with fewest fatalities in January/February.

The number of fatalities amongst children is highest in August, with twice the January-March average.

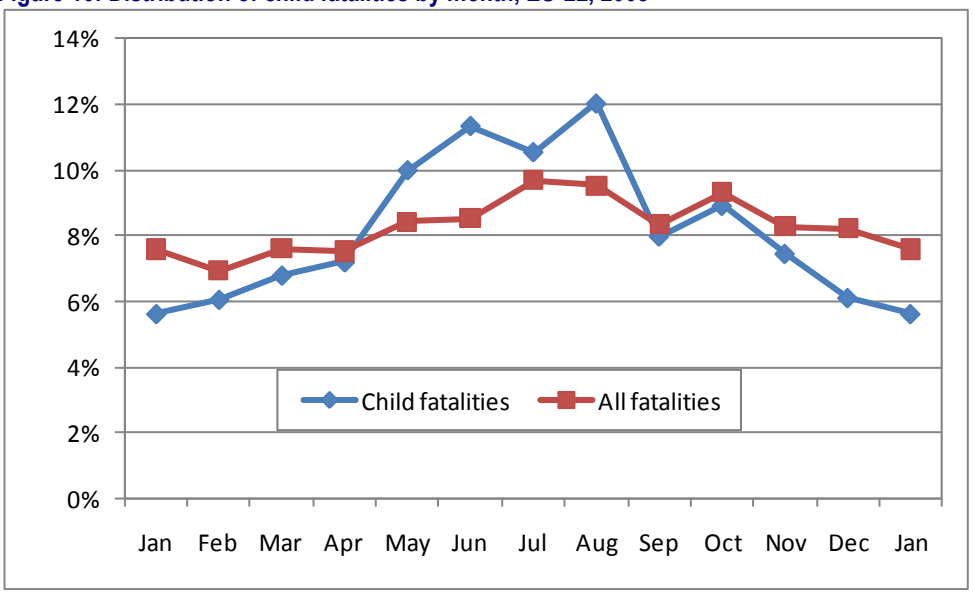
Table 10: Distribution of child fatalities by month, 2008

	January/ February	March/ April	May/ June	July/ August	September/ October	November/ December	Total
BE	9%	17%	20%	23%	20%	11%	35
CZ	32%	16%	11%	21%	5%	16%	19
DK	11%	16%	37%	26%	5%	5%	19
DE	15%	20%	24%	18%	20%	5%	102
EE	0%	0%	33%	0%	0%	67%	3
IE	28%	33%	6%	22%	6%	6%	18
EL	20%	9%	20%	26%	6%	20%	35
ES	13%	12%	17%	25%	17%	15%	83
FR	9%	14%	26%	16%	16%	19%	114
IT	8%	15%	20%	30%	14%	13%	86
LV	9%	45%	0%	18%	0%	27%	11
HU	13%	4%	25%	29%	21%	8%	24
NL	4%	9%	22%	17%	17%	30%	23
AT	8%	25%	25%	8%	8%	25%	12
PL	6%	14%	23%	26%	16%	14%	146
PT	15%	5%	25%	15%	35%	5%	23
RO	12%	8%	20%	29%	20%	11%	137
SI	25%	0%	25%	0%	50%	0%	4
SK	9%	13%	43%	13%	17%	4%	23
FI	25%	13%	38%	13%	0%	13%	8
SE	0%	33%	33%	0%	33%	0%	6
UK	15%	15%	14%	21%	20%	16%	110
EU-22	12%	14%	21%	23%	17%	14%	1.041

Source: CARE Database / EC
Date of query: October 2010

The monthly distribution of child fatalities is displayed in Figure 10. By comparison with the overall distribution, there are relatively many child fatalities between May and August, and relatively few between November and March.

Figure 10: Distribution of child fatalities by month, EU-22, 2008



Source: CARE Database / EC
Date of query: October 2010

Disclaimer

The information in this document is provided as it is and no guarantee or warranty is given that the information is fit for any particular purpose. Therefore, the reader uses the information at their own risk and liability.

For more information

Further statistical information about fatalities is available from the CARE database at the Directorate General for Mobility and Transport of the European Commission, 28 Rue de Mot, B -1040 Brussels.

Traffic Safety Basic Fact Sheets available from the European Commission concern:

- Main Figures
- Children (Aged <15)
- Youngsters (Aged 15-17)
- Young People (Aged 18-24)
- The Elderly (Aged >64)
- Pedestrians
- Cyclists
- Motorcycles and Mopeds
- Car occupants
- Heavy Goods Vehicles and Buses
- Motorways
- Junctions
- Urban areas
- Roads outside urban areas
- Seasonality
- Single vehicle accidents
- Gender

Country abbreviations used and definition of EU-level

EU - 19	
BE	Belgium
CZ	Czech Republic
DK	Denmark
DE	Germany
IE	Ireland
EL	Greece
ES	Spain
FR	France
IT	Italy
LU	Luxembourg
NL	Netherlands
AT	Austria
PL	Poland
PT	Portugal
RO	Romania
SI	Slovenia
FI	Finland
SE	Sweden
UK	United Kingdom (GB+NI)

EU-23= EU-19 +	
EE	Estonia
HU	Hungary
LV	Latvia
SK	Slovakia

Detailed data on traffic accidents are published annually by the European Commission in the Annual Statistical Report. This includes a glossary of definitions on all variables used.

More information on the DaCoTA Project, co-financed by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport is available at the DaCoTA Website: http://www.dacota-project.eu/index.html.

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