

BENCHMARKING ROAD TRAFFIC SAFETY ACROSS OECD COUNTRIES: A DISTANCE FUNCTION APPROACH.

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What was the study about?

To examine improvements in road safety performance of the 13 Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries for the 1975 – 2004 period. Traffic safety of OECD countries increased by approximately 2% per year over the past 30 years. Technological progress is the main contributor to improvements in road safety and are a source of substantial public health benefit with interested parties including general public, government agencies, industry and researchers.

What did the study find?

It was found that OECD countries can, generally, improve their traffic safety efficiency by 9% by learning from the most effective countries Economic activity, including employment rate and carbon dioxide emissions as well as population density are positively associated with improvements in road safety. The well-being and survival of road users is also determined by quality of health systems and health care services.

Why is this interesting or important?

Road traffic crashes (RTC) rank as the tenth highest causes of death and disability in the world and is the greatest killer of people aged 10-24 years. The world's burden of disease due to RTC's is also set to increase over the next two decades even though some high-income countries have been reducing fatalities considerably - by 44% in the period 1990 to 2010.

How was the study done?

Used a variety of techniques including factor analysis, analytic hierarchy analysis, budget allocation analysis, DEA, equal weighting (of indicators) where alcohol, speed, protective system, visibility, vehicle, infrastructure and trauma has equal weight of the 1/7 when calculating the index of road safety.

What does this mean for practice?

Found that reducing alcohol use and speed made the greatest contributions to improvements in road safety in the countries studied.

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