

# Faces

## behind the figures

Voices of road traffic crash victims and their families



World Health  
Organization



Road traffic crashes are the second leading cause of death globally among young people aged 5 to 29 years and the third leading cause of death among people aged 30 to 44 years. Road traffic crashes kill 1.2 million people every year and injure or disable as many as 50 million more.

Behind each statistic there is a story of a father or mother, son or daughter, brother or sister, grandchild, colleague, classmate or friend whose life was transformed in an instant by a road crash.

Faces behind the figures  
Voices of road traffic crash  
victims and their families

---

WHO Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

Faces behind the figures: voices of road traffic crash victims and their families.

Produced jointly by the World Health Organization and the Association for Safe International Road Travel.

1.Accidents, Traffic. 2.Safety. 3.Personal narratives. I.World Health Organization. II.Association for Safe International Road Travel.

ISBN 92 4 159464 0(NLM classification: WA 275)

ISBN 978 92 4 159464 6

© World Health Organization 2007

All rights reserved. Publications of the World Health Organization can be obtained from WHO Press, World Health Organization, 20 Avenue Appia, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland (tel.: +41 22 791 3264; fax: +41 22 791 4857; e-mail: [bookorders@who.int](mailto:bookorders@who.int)). Requests for permission to reproduce or translate WHO publications – whether for sale or for noncommercial distribution – should be addressed to WHO Press, at the above address (fax: +41 22 791 4806; e-mail: [permissions@who.int](mailto:permissions@who.int)).

The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

The mention of specific companies or of certain manufacturers' products does not imply that they are endorsed or recommended by the World Health Organization in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned. Errors and omissions excepted, the names of proprietary products are distinguished by initial capital letters.

All reasonable precautions have been taken by the World Health Organization to verify the information contained in this publication. However, the published material is being distributed without warranty of any kind, either expressed or implied. The responsibility for the interpretation and use of the material lies with the reader. In no event shall the World Health Organization be liable for damages arising from its use. The named interviewees alone are responsible for the views expressed in this publication.

Printed in France.

# Contents

<b>Foreword</b>	<b>iv</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
Why this book?	1
Who are the intended users of this book?	1
How was this book developed?	1
<b>Faces and voices</b>	<b>3</b>
Jane Njawe	4
Thiago de Moraes Gonzaga	6
Xavier Coyula	8
Deana Blanchard	10
Elise and Mathilde Jurgensen	12
Balazs Geszti	14
Harman Singh Sidhu	16
Prasad Ganesh	18
Grace Mbuli Kithiki	20
Lillian Mworio	22
Seembar Kwange	24
Abdul Rehman Tipu	26
Dumitru Dieaconu	28
Marcus and Belinda Phillips, Oliver and Carol Phillips	30
Lucy, Craig and Richard Willis, and Peter Winslow	32
Satien Luangpiak	34
N'Meto Kinassoh	36
Selin Uras and Erdem Celasun	38
Mansoor Chaudhry	40
Lisa Bard	42
Aron Sobel	44
<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>References</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	<b>49</b>

# Foreword

The publication *Faces behind the figures: voices of road traffic crash victims and their families* is a collaborative project of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Association for Safe International Road Travel (ASIRT), designed to put a human face on the statistics presented in the many road safety reports published around the world.

Statistical data are very important as they help understand the magnitude of the problem, assist in identifying areas for intervention and contribute to demonstrating if progress is made over time. It is with that in mind that WHO, together with the World Bank, published the *World report on road traffic injury prevention* in 2004. This comprehensive report on global road traffic crashes states that injuries and deaths from preventable collisions constitute a worldwide public health crisis. The report demonstrates the global reach of the problem and identifies proven preventive actions, which can significantly reduce the toll.

Yet, reports don't tell the full story. Behind each statistic there is a story of a father or mother, son or daughter, brother or sister, grandchild, colleague, classmate or friend whose life was transformed in an instant by a road crash. *Faces behind the figures* is a collection of such stories, told by people who lost loved ones or who were themselves injured in road crashes. Experiences of individuals from diverse social and economic backgrounds, from low-, middle- and high-income countries, from rural and urban areas, residents and tourists, adults and children are included.

These stories reflect the devastation – physical, psychological, emotional and economic – resulting from a single road crash. They deepen our understanding of the enormous suffering behind each of the 1.2 million deaths and 50 million injuries every year. The haunting *Faces behind the figures* are a painful reminder of dreams unrealized and hopes unfulfilled. They shatter our hearts and strengthen our resolve.

Many of the stories show that if prevention measures and emergency rescue services had been in place, an enormous amount of suffering could have been avoided. It is our hope that *Faces behind the figures* will convey to policy-makers, community advocates and all of us who travel the world's roads every day the urgent need for action, and inspire us to become leaders in the battle against road traffic injuries and fatalities.

Dr Etienne Krug  
Director  
Department of Injuries and Violence Prevention  
World Health Organization

Ms Rochelle Sobel  
President  
Association for Safe International Road Travel

# Introduction

## Why this book?

There is a growing body of research documenting the magnitude and causes of road traffic injuries and the data are compelling. The *World report on road traffic injury prevention* estimates that each year 1.2 million men, women and children around the world lose their lives as a result of road traffic crashes, and 20–50 million more are injured (1). Economically active adults, aged 15–44 years, account for more than half of all the road traffic deaths.

While such quantitative information and data analysis are vital to describe the scale of death and injury, they do not adequately capture or convey the emotional toll of road traffic crashes upon victims and their families. First hand accounts are an important supplement to statistical data. They deepen awareness of the impact and repercussions of road traffic crashes and provide a powerful and effective tool to inspire change. *Faces behind the figures: voices of road traffic crash victims and their families* is a collection of such first-hand accounts provided by road traffic crash victims, their families and friends. It includes the stories of men, women and children from: high-, middle-, and low-income countries; all social groups; rural and urban areas; and different road users.

The experiences presented in this book may increase the reader's sense of urgency in advocating for improved road safety policies. This book is intended to play an important role in raising awareness of the global road safety crisis by:

- attracting media attention to the issue of road traffic crashes;
- showing that road traffic crash victims are represented by all strata of society;
- raising public awareness of the tremendous personal and emotional toll of road traffic crashes on victims and their families;
- affirming the emotions of the victims and demonstrating their need for economic, legal and emotional support;
- influencing political leaders to take a proactive role in road safety and encouraging financial investment in road safety initiatives;
- motivating victims and their families to create a forum for global activism on road safety;
- recognizing publicly the personal courage of road traffic crash victims and their families.

## Who are the intended users of this book?

This book is written for people and institutions concerned about road traffic injuries and their consequences. The book can be used by road traffic crash victims, family members, nongovernmental organizations, governmental agencies and international organizations to raise awareness of the problem of road traffic crashes.

## How was this book developed?

This book was developed jointly by the World Health Organization and the Association for Safe International Road Travel. It is based primarily on the experiences of road traffic crash victims and their families. More than 40 structured interviews were conducted with victims or their families or friends in low-, middle- and high-income countries. Written consent was secured from each selected respondent before any interview was conducted. The collaboration of various road safety organizations was solicited to help identify victims and conduct interviews. Interviewees were selected to illustrate the variation in age and sex of victims, country where the crash occurred, nature of injury (fatal or non-fatal), economic status, time lapse since crash, and mode of transport at the time of the crash. Information was obtained in at least one of the following ways:

- asking questions and writing down answers in face-to-face interviews, with the aid of a translator when necessary;
- tape-recording face-to-face interviews, which were later transcribed;
- asking respondents to respond in writing to the interview questions, with a follow-up by telephone to clarify or add information.

Each interview was written out and either read to or sent to the interviewee for confirmation and approval. Existing photographs of the victims were sought or photographs were taken at the time of the interview.

This book presents a selection of the information collected. The pictures are of the victims of road traffic crashes. The voices are those of crash survivors, or their families or friends.





预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

[https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5\\_29644](https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_29644)

