Help us make roads safe for children.

WHAT WE KNOW

Road traffic crashes pose the biggest threat to the lives of children worldwide. For children, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, the price for attaining education, the right to play, and cycling is too high, often paid with their life. And for many thousands, the out turns are not only chronic but also ripple wide into adulthood with long-term physical, mental and economic consequences.

Every 14 minutes a child dies on the road and hundreds more injured making road traffic crashes the number one cause of death among children.

Child traffic fatalities increased by 3% from 2019 to 2020 and about 38% of child passenger deaths in 2020 in high income countries like US were not buckled up.

Boys account for nearly twice as many road traffic deaths as girls worldwide.

The physical, cognitive, and social development of children puts them at greater risk of suffering an injury in traffic accidents than other age groups.

Child pedestrian deaths make up the biggest portion of all road traffic deaths.

Children from low-resourced setting are most likely to die in a road traffic crash.

Road traffic accidents are the prevailing cause of severe traumatic brain injury (TBI) among children.

Over 2 million children miss out on education each year due to death or injury in road traffic crashes.

Previous studies across eight countries report a $21.8 billion annual socioeconomic cost of road traffic accidents with child victims.
The COVID-19 pandemic instigated lockdown significantly reduced children’s exposure to road crashes, however, it is impossible halt our children’s hopes and dreams. We know what works. **Child restraint systems (CRS)** are the most effective way of avoiding the potential consequences of a traffic accident and the use of child restraints can lead to a **60%** reduction in deaths.

For children aged 0 to 23 months, rear-facing reduce the risk of death or injury by over **90%** and forward-facing child restraints by almost **80%**.

Wearing a seatbelt reduces the risk of death among drivers and front seat occupants by **45%**.

Wearing a helmet can reduce the risk of death by **40%** and the risk of serious injury by **70%**.

A **5%** reduction on average speed can reduce the number of fatal crashes by up to **30%**.

The introduction of 30 km per hour speed limits in populated areas can reduces pedestrian deaths by **70%**.

Tailored education programs increase restraint use.

Active mobility such as walking, cycling and other physical activity are essential in cubbing overweight and obesity in children.

Applying best practice to improve road infrastructure, educational campaigns aimed at children and the community, regulation and the application of sanctions could save an estimated **1,342** children’s lives a year.

For more information on how to join the UN Road Safety Fund Campaign, visit:  
[www.roadsafetyfund.un.org](http://www.roadsafetyfund.un.org) or contact [unrsf_secretariat@un.org](mailto:unrsf_secretariat@un.org)