



Pedestrian safety: a road safety manual for decision-makers and practitioners

INTRODUCTION

Pedestrians, cyclists and motorized two-wheelers are disproportionately involved in road traffic injuries. The first *Global status report on road safety* revealed that nearly half of those killed in road traffic crashes are pedestrians, cyclists or users of motorized 2- or 3-wheelers (1). More recently, the *Global status report on road safety 2013* found that, in 2010, pedestrians alone accounted for about 273 421 road traffic deaths – almost a quarter of all road traffic fatalities around the world (2).

The capacity to respond to pedestrian safety is an important component of efforts to prevent road traffic injuries. Pedestrian collisions, like other road traffic crashes, should not be accepted as inevitable because they have specific risk factors and thus are predictable and consequently preventable. The key risk factors for pedestrian road traffic injury are well known and they include: speeding vehicles, drinking and driving or drinking and walking, the lack of infrastructural facilities for pedestrians, solid vehicle fronts and inadequate visibility of pedestrians.

Walking needs to be encouraged as an alternative mode of transport as it benefits the health of individuals as well as the environment. However, it also needs to be made as safe as possible for everyone.

ABOUT THIS MANUAL

The World Health Organization, the World Bank, the FIA Foundation and the Global Road Safety Partnership (GRSP) have been collaborating on a series of “how to” manuals over the last seven years which cover key issues identified in the *World report on road traffic injury prevention* (3).

This four-organization partnership has produced the following manuals:

- Helmets (2006);
- drinking and driving (2007);
- speed management (2008);
- seat-belts and child restraints (2009); and
- data systems (2009).

These manuals are available on the website of the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration website (see <http://www.who.int/roadsafety/projects/manuals/en/index.html>).

This Pedestrian manual was developed in response to a request from practitioners working in countries to provide guidance on how to address several risk factors which face specific road users, e.g. pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists, etc. This manual is the first of sub-series which will look at issues facing vulnerable road users.



**World Health
Organization**

This Pedestrian Manual will equip the user with information on:

- the magnitude of pedestrian injuries;
- the key risk factors;
- how to assess pedestrian safety in a country or area and prepare an action plan;
- how to select and implement effective interventions; and
- how to evaluate the interventions which have been put in place.

The manual stresses the importance of a comprehensive, holistic approach that includes engineering, enforcement and behavioural measures. Interventions that have been found effective include reducing vehicle speeds, separating pedestrians from motorized traffic, increasing the visibility of pedestrians, changing pedestrian and motorist behaviour through public education and law enforcement, improving vehicle

design, and improving care for the injured from the prehospital phase through to rehabilitation and reintegration back into society.

Case studies are used in the manual to illustrate several key elements needed to successfully implement pedestrian safety measures including:

- the importance of political leadership at multiple administrative levels;
- the involvement and contribution of multiple stakeholders;
- the need to plan strategically;
- the need to set targets;
- sustaining efforts over a long period of time;
- the importance of implementing effective interventions; and
- the need for evaluation.

This manual is due for release during the Second United Nations Global Road Safety Week in May 2013. It will be available in hardcopy and PDF format to be downloaded for free from the UNRSC website (see <http://www.who.int/roadsafety>) as well as from each partner's website. For more information about this project contact: Meleckidzedek Khayesi at khayesim@who.int

References

1. *Global status report on road safety: time for action*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2009.
2. *Global status report on road safety 2013: supporting a decade of action*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2013.
3. *World report on road traffic injury prevention*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2004.

