



BOOK REVIEW

Road Accident Statistics

by Dr. T. P. Hutchinson of the University of Adelaide is an authoritative account of the collection and processing of data on this subject, and includes many statistical tables. A feature is the international coverage—Australia, the U.S.A., Great Britain, many countries of continental Europe, and the developing world are dealt with. It is both a sourcebook of data and a text on the methods.

The chapters include the following:

1. **Introduction.** Outline of the scope of the book. Five tables of data from 30 countries giving road accident death rates, how they are distributed over the age groups and categories of road user, and how they have been changing in recent years. Variations between countries.
2. **How many road deaths?** Table of the numbers of road accident deaths in 150 countries (the two most recent years, from both police and death certification sources, if available).
3. **Collection and processing of data from the police.** Fourteen sections on how this is done in various jurisdictions.
4. **Major deficiencies of police data.** Identification of the major gaps and recurring problem areas.
5. **Special features of developing countries.** Summary of some work by the U.K. Transport and Road Research Laboratory.
6. **Comparison of six road accident statistical yearbooks.**
7. **A miscellany of data tables.** Concentrates on variables which are unusual to find in mass statistics. Includes effectiveness of seat belts, blood alcohol concentration (ten jurisdictions), speeds of crashes and other issues.
8. **Injury classification.**
9. **Data from death certificates.** Nature of injury causing death in road accidents, as shown in official statistics of eighteen jurisdictions. Trends over time—decrease of skull fracture, rise of internal injuries. Comparison of vehicle occupants, motorcyclists, pedal cyclists, and pedestrians. Disease conditions mentioned along with accident on the death certificate.
10. **Nature of injury, hospital patients.** Nature of serious injury in road accidents, in eleven countries or regions.
11. **Comparison of police and medical data.** Review of why police certification data might differ.
12. **Features of injury coding in individual countries.**
13. **Prospects for matching police and hospital data.**
14. **Insurance data.**

References. 255 in number. The location of their citation in the book is given.

Index. 2000 entries.

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—N. C.