

CHAPTER 38

ACCIDENT STATISTICS

Accident is an undesirable or unfortunate happening that occurs unintentionally and usually results in harm, injury, damage, or loss; casualty; mishap. In the past accidents were attributed to bad luck, or the visitations of some unpropitious deity, today they are regarded as a social problem and therefore accidents are cause of concern to every class of the society, be it researchers, law enforcement agencies, social scientists, policy makers or an ordinary citizen. These deaths due to accidents are a loss not only for the family members of deceased but also to the society. The detailed information on accidents is required to find out what happened and how to prevent future accidents.

Statistics on accidents vary wildly over the countries. The variation could be due to a number of factors, such as differing definitions of an accident, inaccurate and/or falsified records, biased reporting in various countries due to level of industrialisation, government press control, and even compensation culture. It is a challenge to come up with statistics on accident.

In India, the source for these data is the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Ministry of Home Affairs, which obtains information from Police Authorities in different States. The NCRB from the year 1995 has started collecting data. The tables in the subsequent pages are based on data collected by NCRB.

Highlights

- Considering accidents deaths due to natural causes, usually around 2000 people die every year because of lightning years, among the incidence of Accidental deaths due to natural causes, maximum number of accidental deaths occurred in India because of lightening, heat stroke, cold and exposure.
- In 2001, out of total deaths 36651, due to natural causes 13956 deaths occurred due to Earthquake and landslide.
- During the year 2008, Uttar Pradesh accounting for 11.7 % of total accidental death due to natural causes in the country, other states accounting for these accidental deaths are West Bengal (10.4%) and Karnataka (9.5%).
- During 2008, no death due to natural causes attributable to Nature have been reported from Goa, Lakshadweep and Punducherry
- 10.6% victim of accidental deaths attributable to nature was due to lightening in 2008.
- In 2008, only 0.3 % victim of accidental deaths attributable to nature was due to epidemic.
- Over the years, the incidence of deaths due to unnatural cause is showing an increasing trend, the major un-natural causes of Accidental deaths are (i) Road Accident (ii) Drowning (iii) Poisoning (iv) Sudden death
- Deaths due to traffic accidents are showing an increasing trend over the years. Traffic accidents in the country have increased by 2.8 % during 2008 compared to 2007.
- Maharastra has reported maximum number (18019) traffic accidents accounting for 12.5% of such accidents in the country followed by Andhra Pradesh (11.1%) and Uttar Pradesh (10.9%) and Tamil Nadu (10.0 %).
- Among 35 mega cities, the Delhi city has reported the highest number of deaths by causes attributable to nature (50.9%) followed by Hyderabad (15.9%).
- In Lucknow and Agra 89.1% and 75.6% respectively of total un-natural accidental deaths were due to "Road Accidents" alone, compare to Delhi (50%)

- More than one lakh persons (1,25,017) in the country lost their lives by committing suicide during the year 2008.
- The overall male: female ratio of suicide victim for the years 2008 was 64:36 however, the proportion Boys: Girls suicide victim (up to 14 years of age) was 49:51
- During 2008, maximum number of suicide victims are in West Bengal 14852 11.8%, followed by Tamilnadu (11.5%), Maharastra (11.5%), Andhra Pradesh (11.5%) and Karnatka (9.8%). These five states contributed 56.2 % of total suicide victims. These five states accounted for 64.6% of suicide victims in the age group 60 years and above.
- Southern States viz Andhra Pradesh, Karnatka, Kerala and TamilNadu have accounted for 39.7 % of total suicide reported in the country.
- About 21.7 % of children suicide is from West Bengal followed by Andhra Pradesh (8.9%), Rajasthan (7.8%) and Orissa (7.1%)
- Bengaluru has reported maximum suicides (2396) in 2008, followed by Chennai (1309), Mumbai (1111) and Delhi (1107) –the four cities together have reported 45.3% of the total suicides reported from 35 mega cities.

This chapter contains the following tables:

Table 38.1 -Incidence of Accidental Deaths.

Table 38.2 -Incidence of Suicides.