

PUBLIC HEALTH PERSPECTIVE ON CHILD ROAD SAFETY IN GHANA

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OUTLINE

- The Scale of the Problem
- Public Health Lens
- Risk Factors Specific to Children
- Public Health Interventions
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1. THE SCALE OF THE PROBLEM

- 952 Ghanaian children died in road crashes (2019–2021); 434 aged 10–17, 188 aged 0–3.
- Volta Region: 387 transport injuries/100,000 population ,2019–2023 (Zeng et. al, 2024)
- National cost: \$230 million/year (~1.7% of GDP).
- Q1 2025: 116 child deaths from road crashes (NRSA,2025)

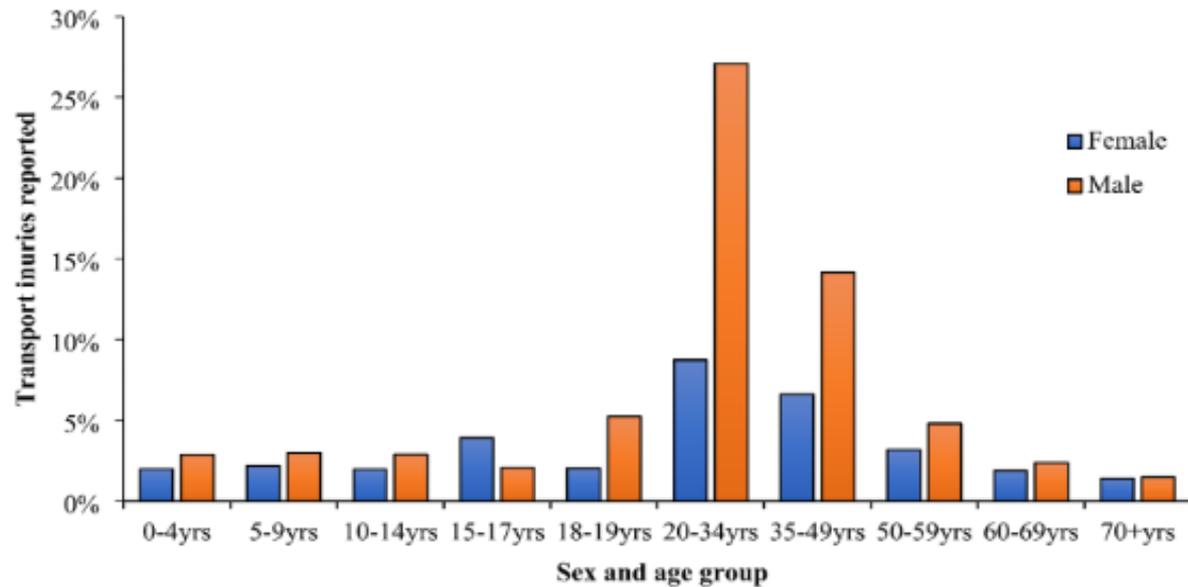


Fig. 3 Sex and age distribution of transport injuries in Volta Region from 2019 to 2023

- Zeng, V., Abanga, W. A., Bosoka, S. A., Afetor, M., Tamal, C. S., Issahaku, G. R., ... & Kubio, C. (2024). *Incidence, trend and distribution of transport-related injuries reported to health facilities in the Volta Region of Ghana, 2019 to 2023*. **BMC Public Health**, *24*(1), 3309. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-024-18491-4>

2. A PUBLIC HEALTH LENS

- Leading cause of preventable child deaths and disabilities (WHO, 2023).
- Results in lifelong physical and mental trauma (Buunaaim et al., 2023).
- Heavy burden on families and healthcare facilities (WHO, 2023; UNICEF, 2022).
- Loss of future human capital (WHO, 2023).

3. RISK FACTORS SPECIFIC TO CHILDREN

- Unsafe pedestrian routes: few crossings, no footbridges.
- Unsafe transport: motorcycles/tricycles without restraints.
- Poor infrastructure: speed-related crashes -60% (Adanu et. al, 2023).
- Law enforcement inconsistent at zebra crossings.

4. PUBLIC HEALTH INTERVENTIONS

- Integrate child RTI indicators in DHMIS and strengthen surveillance.
- Create safe school zones: speed bumps, signage, wardens.
- Educate public: school programs, community talks, radio shows.
- Enforce laws: child restraints, helmet mandates, Road Traffic Act.
- Train transport operators on child safety protocols.

5. COLLABORATIVE ROLES

- Health: Lead data, care, advocacy, education.
- Transport: Enforce vehicle safety and regulations.
- Traditional Authorities: Mobilize community for school safety.
- Academia: Track trends, evaluate, publish child injury data.
- Families: Practice and demand safe transport.

6. CONCLUSION & CALL TO ACTION

- Every child road death is preventable and unacceptable.
- Combine surveillance, education, infrastructure, policy, and enforcement.
- Protect children's right to safe journeys.
- Let's act now—no more preventable child fatalities.

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- **Zeng, V., Abanga, W. A., Bosoka, S. A., Afetor, M., Tamal, C. S., Issahaku, G. R., ... & Kubio, C.** (2024). Incidence, trend and distribution of transport-related injuries reported to health facilities in the Volta Region of Ghana, 2019 to 2023. *BMC Public Health*, *24*(1), 3309. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-024-18491-4>