

Traffic Safety Basic Facts 2004

Children

In 2002*, 1.039 children aged 0 to 14 years were killed in traffic accidents in 14 European countries (EU-15 without Germany), 27,8% fewer than reported in 1993.

Child fatalities are 3,3% of all fatalities.

Comparison of the figures across the decade from 1993 to 2002* shows a significant reduction of 41% across the 14 European countries.

Table 1: Child fatalities by country and by year, 1993-2002

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
BE	63	67	77	53	54	87	65	52	63	-
DK	32	24	28	37	24	20	38	25	21	14
EL	73	81	70	75	71	56	54	40	47	-
ES	280	246	233	193	184	208	210	182	159	151
FI	30	39	28	31	34	16	26	20	19	18
FR	435	429	414	384	402	386	352	336	273	245
IE	37	26	30	25	27	34	23	22	26	18
IT	208	224	187	187	170	144	-	-	-	-
LU	5	2	1	2	3	2	2	3	5	3
NL	86	93	87	66	66	47	77	56	48	37
AT	53	54	60	51	34	43	37	27	26	25
PT	151	145	141	122	121	127	78	73	56	62
SE	25	34	33	22	24	25	37	19	18	18
UK	285	286	248	224	240	194	211	171	192	160
EU-14	1763	1750	1637	1472	1454	1389	-	-	-	-

Source: CARE Database / EC
Date of query: November 2004

In 2002*, 1.039 children were killed in traffic accidents in 14 European countries – 41% fewer than 1993.

As these countries have different child populations, Table 2 shows the number of fatalities per million children for the last 10 years.

Comparing EU-14, there are two countries with a very high number of fatalities per million children: Belgium and Portugal. Due to a very low number of fatalities data from Luxembourg are not representative. While these countries are far above the EU-average, Scandinavian countries have the lowest child fatality rate.

* Or last available year

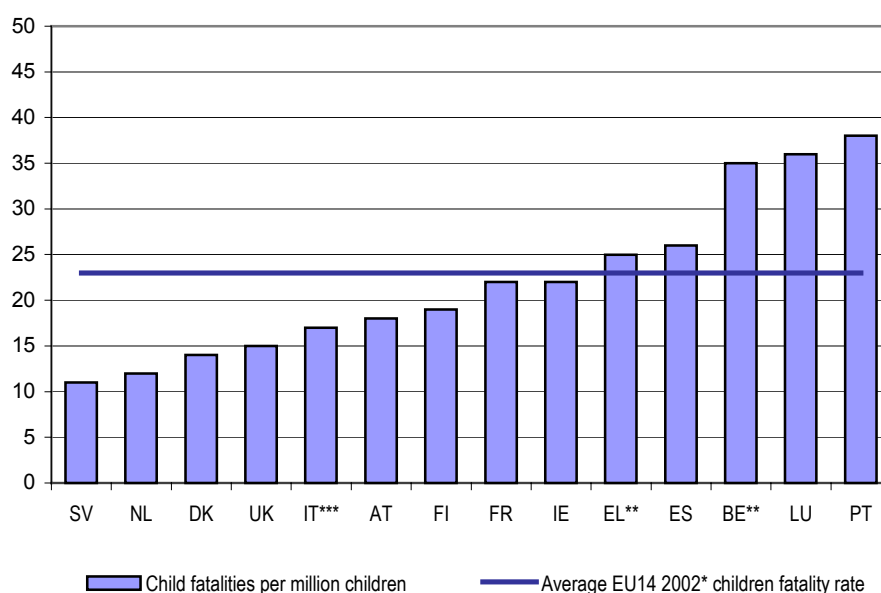
Fatality rate of children

Table 2: Child fatalities per million children population by country, 1993-2002

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
BE	34	37	42	29	30	48	36	29	35	-
DK	36	27	31	40	26	21	39	26	21	14
EL	39	45	40	44	42	34	33	25	-	-
ES	40	36	35	30	30	34	35	31	27	26
FI	31	40	29	32	35	17	27	21	20	19
FR	38	38	36	34	36	35	31	30	25	22
IE	40	29	34	29	32	41	28	27	32	22
IT	23	26	22	22	20	17	-	-	-	--
LU	71	28	13	26	39	26	25	37	59	36
NL	31	33	31	23	23	16	26	19	16	12
AT	38	38	42	36	24	31	27	20	19	18
PT	89	87	86	76	76	81	50	44	34	38
SE	16	21	20	13	14	15	22	12	11	11
UK	25	25	22	20	21	17	19	15	17	15
EU-14	551	510	483	454	448	433	-	-	-	-

Source: CARE Database / EC
Source of population data: IRTAD Database
Date of query: November 2004

Figure 1: Child fatalities per million children population by country, 2002*



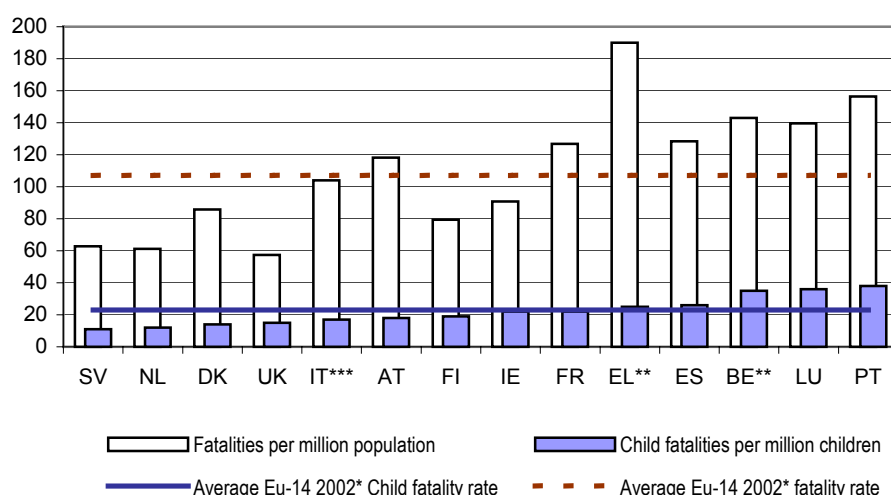
Source: CARE Database / EC
Source of population data: IRTAD Database
Date of query: November 2004

** Data 2001
*** Data 1998

As can be seen from Figure 1, in 2002* the EU14 average of child fatalities per million children was about 23, while the fatalities per million population was about 107. Figure 2 shows child fatality rates and fatality rates of all persons compared with the EU-14 average.

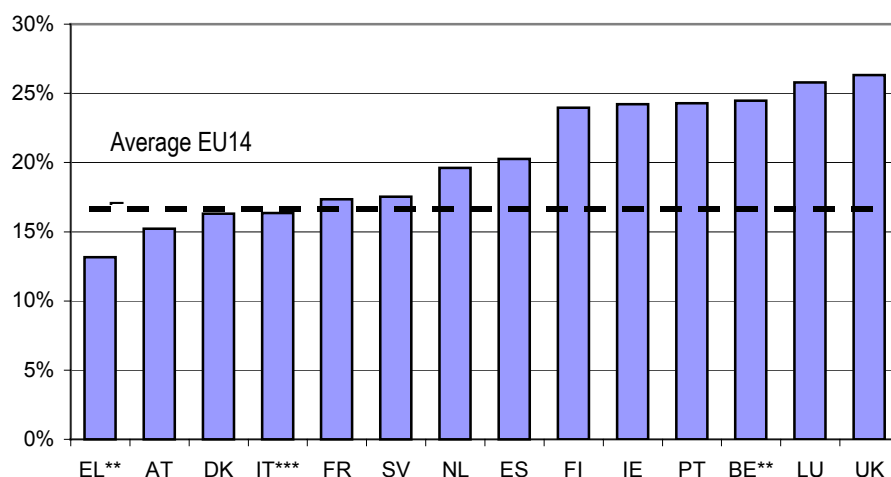
* Or last available year

Figure 2: Child fatalities compared with total numbers of fatalities, 2002*



Greece has the highest fatality rate in traffic accidents, but it does have a low fatality rate amongst children.

Figure 3: Child fatality rate as a share of the fatality rate, 2002*



Source: CARE Database / EC, IRTAD
Date of query: November 2004

** Data 2001
*** Data 1998

In order to compare child fatality rates with fatality rates for all persons, Figure 3 shows child fatality rates as a share of fatality rates for all persons. This graph shows that in Greece the child fatality rate is 13% of the fatality rate for all persons whereas this is 26% in UK. This graph shows the risk of children dying in traffic accidents compared with the whole population in the specific country.

In comparison Greece, Austria and Denmark have a share which is below the EU14 average. In the case of Greece the fatality rate for all persons (190 see Figure 2), is the highest in EU14 but the child fatality rate (25) is at the EU14 level.

* Or last available year

Child fatalities by age

Splitting fatalities into age groups for children, a disproportionate number of fatalities occur amongst 10-14 year old children. 45,2% of all child fatalities within the EU-14 are in this age group. Taking into account the population aged between 10 and 14 years this age group is the one with the highest fatality rate (27,1). In summary, the number of fatalities per head rises as children get older.

Children are most at risk of being killed in a road accident when 10 -14 years old.

Table 3: Child fatalities by age and by country 2002*

	0 - 4	5-9	10 - 14	0 - 14
BE**	18	23	22	63
DK	6	2	6	14
EL**	10	18	19	47
ES	40	43	67	150
FR	83	58	104	245
IE	7	4	7	18
IT***	40	34	71	145
LU	2	0	1	3
NL	7	5	25	37
AT	8	7	10	25
PT	11	22	28	61
FI	5	5	8	18
SE	4	5	9	18
UK	38	40	82	160
EU-14	290	279	469	1038
% by age-group	28%	27%	45%	100%
fatality rate ²	14,7	20,5	27,1	20,5

Source: CARE Database / EC
Date of query: November 2004

** Data 2001

*** Data 1998

² children fatalities per million children population

* Or last available year

Child fatalities by vehicle group

In 2002* the majority of children killed in all countries were not killed as pedestrians but as passengers in cars or taxis.

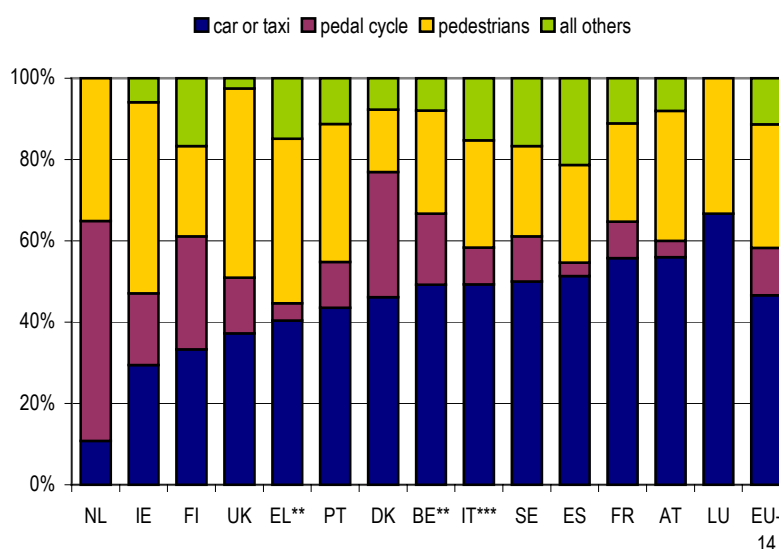
Table 4 and Figure 4 present a distribution of child fatalities by type of vehicle for each country for the last available year.

Table 4: Child fatalities by vehicle group and by country, 2002*

	agricultural tractor	bus or coach	car or taxi	heavy goods vehicle	lorry, under 3.5 tonnes	moped	motor cycle	other	pedal cycle	pedestrians	Total
BE**	0	1	31	1	2	1	0	0	11	16	63
DK	0	0	6	0	0	1	0	0	4	2	14
EL**	0	0	19	0	1	2	4	0	2	19	47
ES	0	0	77	3	15	11	1	2	5	36	150
FR	0	1	136	1	5	17	2	1	22	59	245
IE	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	1	3	8	18
IT***	1	1	71	0	0	20	0	0	13	38	145
LU	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
NL	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	20	13	37
AT	0	0	14	0	0	1	0	1	1	8	25
PT	0	2	27	0	5	0	0	0	7	21	61
FI	1	0	6	0	0	1	0	1	5	4	18
SE	0	2	9	1	0	0	0	0	2	4	18
UK	0	2	60	0	0	0	1	0	22	75	160
EU-14	2	9	467	6	28	54	8	6	117	304	1038
% by vehicle type	0%	1%	47%	1%	3%	5%	1%	1%	12%	30%	100%

Source: CARE Database / EC
Date of query: November 2004

Figure 4: Child fatalities by traffic participation, 2002*



** Data 2001
*** Data 1998

Source: CARE Database / EC
Date of query: November 2004

* Or last available year

In traffic accidents more children die in cars than as pedestrians or pedal cyclists.

30% of all child fatalities within EU-14 countries are pedestrians.

The most common vehicle group, associated with child fatalities, is “car or taxi”, except in the Netherlands (this is the only country in Europe where more children die as pedal cyclists than as passengers of cars or taxis) and Ireland, United Kingdom (in these two countries children more often die as pedestrians than as passengers of cars or taxis).

Child pedestrian fatalities

In 2002* 31,8% of child fatalities in the EU-14 countries were pedestrians. The proportion of child fatalities that were pedestrians was as high as 47% in the United Kingdom and 47% in Ireland, followed by Greece (EL) with 40%.

Table 5: Child pedestrian fatalities by age group and by country, 2002*

	0 - 4	5-9	10 - 14	0 - 14
BE**	5	6	5	16
DK	0	0	2	2
EL**	6	10	3	19
ES	12	10	14	36
FR	21	17	18	59
IE	2	3	3	8
IT***	11	14	11	38
LU	1	0	0	1
NL	4	3	6	13
AT	3	3	2	8
PT	2	9	9	21
FI	1	3	0	4
SE	1	2	1	4
UK	19	21	35	75
EU-14	88	101	109	304
% by age-group	30%	33%	36%	100%

Source: CARE Database / EC
Date of query: November 2004

** Data 2001

*** Data 1998

Comparing Table 5 with Table 3, where all children fatalities are split into the same age groups, a different distribution occurs: while 45% of all child fatalities within the EU-14 are aged between 10 and 14, the number of child pedestrian fatalities are nearly the same in each age group (30% - 35%).

Child pedestrian fatalities occur mostly inside urban areas (75%). Table 6 shows that a quarter of all child pedestrian fatalities are outside urban areas in EU-14. Four of these countries have more child pedestrian fatalities outside urban areas than the average: Ireland, Greece, Spain and the United Kingdom.

* Or last available year

45% of all child fatalities within EU-14 countries are aged between 10 and 14.

Table 6: Child pedestrian fatalities by area type and by country, 2002*

	inside urban area	outside urban area	inside urban area %	outside urban area %
BE**	13	3	81%	19%
DK	2	0	100%	0%
EL**	12	7	63%	37%
ES	24	13	65%	35%
FR	45	14	76%	24%
IE	5	3	63%	38%
IT***	28	10	74%	26%
LU	1	0	100%	0%
NL	11	2	85%	15%
AT	6	2	75%	25%
PT	18	2	90%	10%
FI	3	1	75%	25%
SE	3	1	75%	25%
UK	56	19	75%	25%
EU-14	227	77	75%	25%

Source: CARE Database / EC
Date of query: November 2004

** Data 2001

*** Data 1998

Child pedestrian fatalities outside urban areas are above the EU-average in Ireland, Greece, and Spain.

There is further information available regarding where child pedestrians are most at risk. Beside the distributions of inside and outside urban areas CARE data show whether accidents occur at a junction or not. Table 7 shows that in all EU-14 countries almost a third of child pedestrian fatalities occur at a junction. In 2002 the UK is the only country where this proportion is more than half.

Table 7: Child pedestrian fatalities (not) at a junction by country, 2002*

	no junction	unknown	a junction
BE**	11	0	5
DK	1	0	1
EL**	15	0	4
ES	30	0	7
FR	54	0	5
IE	0	6	2
IT***	32	0	5
LU	1	0	0
NL	9	0	4
AT	3	3	2
PT	15	1	5
FI	0	3	1
SE	3	0	1
UK	44	0	31
EU-14	218	13	73
% by junction type	72%	4%	24%

Source: CARE Database / EC
Date of query: November 2004

** Data 2001

*** Data 1998

Child fatalities by day of week

Table 8 shows a distribution of child fatalities by day of the week in 2002*. Taking all EU-14 countries as a whole more children are killed in traffic accidents on Fridays and Sundays, fewer on Mondays. A third of all fatalities occur on these two days.

Table 8: Child fatalities by day of week and by country, 2002*

	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday	sunday
BE**	10	8	7	7	13	10	8
DK	0	3	5	3	2	0	1
EL**	7	5	7	7	11	3	7
ES	18	21	19	20	20	21	33
FR	33	27	33	30	38	36	49
IE	2	1	5	3	2	0	5
IT***	15	24	27	19	18	20	20
LU	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
NL	3	6	11	5	6	1	5
AT	2	3	2	8	1	6	3
PT	9	5	5	8	17	13	6
FI	2	3	5	5	2	0	1
SE	1	4	2	1	9	0	1
UK	7	13	30	21	36	28	30
EU-14	128	135	159	137	175	138	169
% by day	11%	12%	16%	13%	17%	14%	17%

Source: CARE Database / EC
Date of query: November 2004

** Data 2001

*** Data 1998

A third of all children
killed in road
accidents are killed
on Fridays and
Sundays.

* Or last available year

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For more information:

Further statistical information on children traffic fatalities is available from the CARE database at the Directorate General for Energy and Transport of the European Commission, 28 Rue de Mot, B -1040 Brussels.

Traffic Safety Basic Fact Sheets available from the European Commission concern: Cars-Occupants, Pedestrians, Motorcycle and Mopeds, Children and Motorways.

Detailed data on traffic accidents are published annually by the European Commission in the Annual Statistical Report. This includes a glossary of definitions on all variables used.

For more information about the project "SafetyNet" which is co-financed by the European Commission, Directorate-General Energy and Transport please contact <http://safetynet.swov.nl/>.