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# JUST THE NUMBERS

## Danger on the Road: Traffic Death Rates

PER 100,000 PEOPLE (2010)

By Wilda Escarfuller



### COUNTRIES WITH HIGHEST RATES IN AFRICA

NIGERIA	33.7	
SOUTH AFRICA	31.9	
GUINEA-BISSAU	31.2	



### COUNTRIES WITH HIGHEST RATES IN CENTRAL ASIA/EUROPE

KAZAKHSTAN	21.9	
KYRGYZSTAN	19.2	
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	18.6	



### COUNTRIES WITH LOWEST RATES IN THE WORLD

SWEDEN	3.0	
ICELAND	2.8	

The statistics are shocking. Latin America and the Caribbean have the countries with the number one (Dominican Republic) and number three (Venezuela) highest number of traffic deaths per capita in the world. Only Thailand comes close, with 38.1 traffic deaths in 2010 for every 100,000 citizens, placing it second in these grim rankings.

It's difficult to know the causes of these high rates of automobile deaths in the region, though presumably poor traffic enforcement, insufficient infrastructure and the tendency of informal buses and public transportation to pack in riders could be part of the cause.

Clearly, the safest countries to get behind the wheel are Sweden and Iceland. In the former, we have to assume their road safety is linked to more than just driving solid Volvos and Saabs.

### COUNTRIES WITH HIGHEST RATES IN THE AMERICAS

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	41.7	
VENEZUELA	37.2	
ECUADOR	27.0	
BRAZIL	22.5	
EL SALVADOR	21.9	
URUGUAY	21.5	
PARAGUAY	21.4	
BOLIVIA	19.2	
HONDURAS	18.8	
NICARAGUA	18.8	
PERU	15.9	
COLOMBIA	15.6	
MEXICO	14.7	
PANAMA	14.1	
COSTA RICA	12.7	
ARGENTINA	12.6	
CHILE	12.3	
UNITED STATES	11.4	
CUBA	7.8	
CANADA	6.8	
GUATEMALA	6.7	

Source: World Health Organization <http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main.A9977?lang=en>. Data accessed June 3, 2014.

