

# An Overview of Road Death Data Collection in the EU

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PIN Conference

19 June 2018, Brussels

Henk Stipdonk

PIN Co-chair



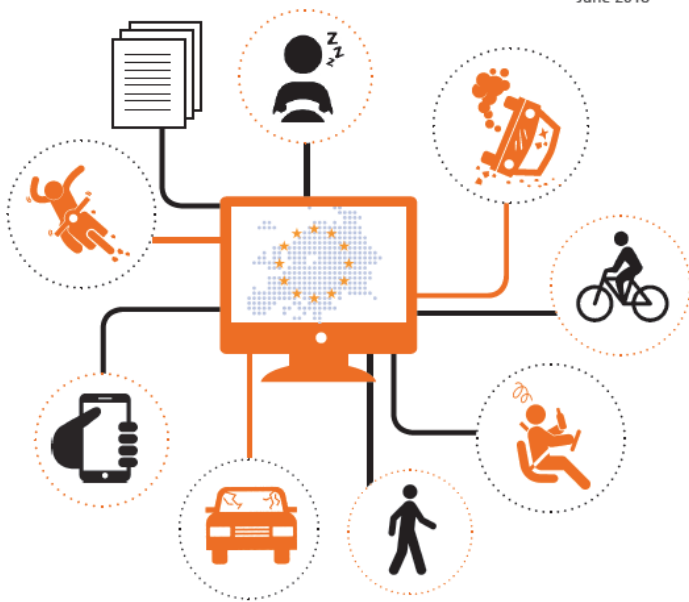
European Transport Safety Council



# AN OVERVIEW OF ROAD DEATH DATA COLLECTION IN THE EU

PIN Flash Report 35

June 2018



**ETSC**  
European Transport Safety Council

25 YEARS 1993-2018



## Questions:

- I. What are road death data collection practices in different PIN countries?
- II. Do countries cross-check data recorded by the police with other sources?
- III. How many deaths are missing?

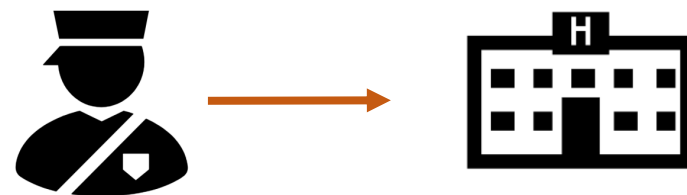
# Police reports – essential source for road death data collection

- Police reports are primary source of data
- Police are usually required to attend fatal and serious collisions

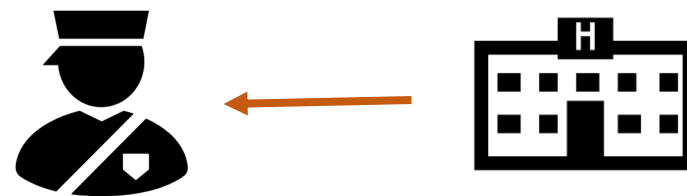


# Procedures to comply with the common EU road death definition

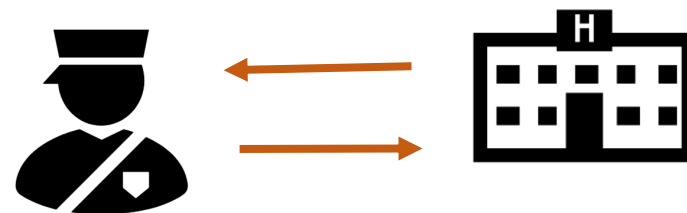
1. Police verify with the hospital



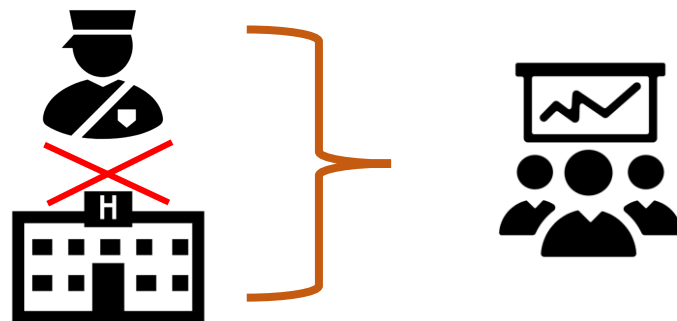
2. Hospital or other health authority informs the police



3. A combination of both



4. Responsible authority determines the number of road deaths



# Possible serious road collision scenarios

Road death on the spot

All emergency services arrive

No road death on the spot:

All emergency services arrive

Death within 30d can occur

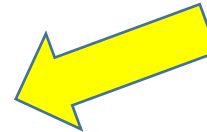
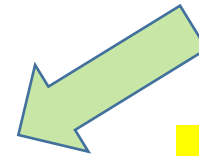
Police only

Possibly no road death police report

Ambulance only

No road death police report

No services called



# How accurate are police data?

## Opinions:

- ✓ 'Data recorded by the police are complete'
- ✓ 'Some road deaths might go unrecorded by the police, but only 1%-2%'
- ✓ 'Non-reported road deaths are likely to be vulnerable road users, elderly or victims of single vehicle collisions'

# How accurate are police data?

## Facts:

- ✓ Almost no countries have been investigating the police report rate
- ✓ Countries that did investigate the report rate, found substantial underreporting
- ✓ Claimed report rates are based on legislation

	Police data	Hospital data	Death certificates	Unnatural death records by prosecutor	Media	In-depth accident investigations	Are there procedures to complement or link data recorded by the police with other sources?	Road death data management by
AT								National statistical office
BE								National statistical office
BG								Police
CH								Federal Roads Office
CY								Police
CZ								Police
DE								National statistical office
DK								National statistical office
EE*								Road Administration
EL								National statistical office
ES								Directorate General for Traffic
FI								National statistical office
FR								French Road Safety Observatory
HR								Police
HU								National statistical office
IE								Road Safety Authority
IL								National statistical office
IT								National statistical office
LT								Police
LU								National statistical office
LV								Road Traffic Safety Directorate
MT								National statistical office
NL								National statistical office for actual number and Rijkswaterstaat for registered number
NO								Road Administration
PL								National statistical office
PT								National Road Safety Authority
RO								Road Traffic Directorate
RS								Road Traffic Safety Agency
SE								Swedish Transport Agency
SI								Police
SK								Police
UK								Department for Transport



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FI								National statistical office
FR								French Road Safety Observatory
HR								Police
HU								National statistical office
IE								Road Safety Authority
IL								National statistical office
IT								National statistical office
LT								Police
LU								National statistical office
LV								Road Traffic Safety Directorate
MT								National statistical office
NL								National statistical office for actual number and Rijkswaterstaat for registered number
NO								Road Administration
PL								National statistical office
PT								National Road Safety Authority
RO								Road Traffic Directorate
RS								Road Traffic Safety Agency
SE								Swedish Transport Agency
SI								Police
SK								Police
UK								Department for Transport

# Sweden - STRADA

- The data in STRADA come from two separate sources: traffic collision reports provided by the police and medical reports provided by hospitals
- The police are the main source for recording road deaths in Sweden, hospitals complement police data
- Police have a legal obligation to register road collision data to STRADA, hospital register data voluntarily



# Netherlands – linkage of data sources

Sources used by Statistics Netherlands to capture the complete number of road deaths:

1. Cause-of-death files
2. District court files on deaths from unnatural causes
3. Police



# Netherlands – linkage of data sources

- 15% of all road deaths were missing from police records between 2010-2015
- Deaths were captured by Statistics Netherlands
- Road deaths unrecorded by the police: elderly cyclists and mobility scooter riders.
- Coroners' data cannot be used to complete police database.



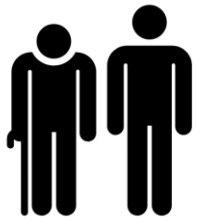
# Poland – pilot study to evaluate road death data reporting rates by the police

- Police data in 2009 compared to death certificates
- At least 5% of all road deaths were **not** recorded by the police in 2009
- Some road user deaths recorded by the police not recorded as such in the death certificates database
- Some deaths registered in the death certificate database registered as injured road users by the police
- Almost half of road deaths not recorded by the police - pedestrians



# Key messages

- Research in countries that do use more than one source reveals that each individual source is incomplete.
- Countries that rely on one source only are likely to underreport road deaths
- Most likely crashes not reported by the police – single vehicle collisions, crashes with elderly road users, who die several days after the crash.
- Underreported road users go unnoticed and don't receive attention from policy makers



# Recommendations

- ✓ Initiate research to estimate road death reporting rates by the police
- ✓ If studies show road deaths are missing, establish procedures to get the full picture of road deaths
- ✓ Consider establishing one platform for data exchange
- ✓ Dedicate necessary resources to the police and require them to attend, register and follow-up all fatal and serious road traffic collisions

# SAFER AND SMARTER THE ROAD TO 2030

The ETSC Road Safety Performance  
Index Conference 2018

**19 JUNE 2018**

*Norway House, Brussels*



**25** YEARS 1993-2018

