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One million road deaths and counting

Today the RoadPeace global road death counter will exceed one million, representing one million lives cut short by a road crash.

A decade ago, this annual toll was under one million. Now it is 1.275 million, and it is one of the few causes of death projected to rise rapidly in the future worldwide.

It is not just how many have been killed but also who we have lost, and how. Last week many quoted Steve Jobs saying how 'Death is very likely the single best invention of life. It is life's change agent. It clears out the old to make way for the new'. Well, he wasn't talking about road deaths as the majority of these are grossly premature, with many having only lived a fraction of their expected lifetime, as well as being violent, sudden, and preventable'

Amy Aeron-Thomas, Executive Director

And we mustn't forget that the true toll from motor vehicles is even higher, if the associated deaths from air pollution and sedentary life style diseases are considered. If we counted traffic related deaths, as opposed to road traffic deaths, the mortality count would be much greater.

References

RoadPeace Global Road Death counter:

http://www.roadpeace.org/why/global_road_deaths/global_road_death_counter/

Roadpeace Global Road Death briefing: http://www.roadpeace.org/resources/Global_road_deaths.pdf

WHO Global Status Report on Road Safety: <http://www.un.org/ar/roadsafety/pdf/roadsafetyreport.pdf>

Danny Dorling : ['Roads, Casualties and Public Health: the Open Sewers of the 21st Century](#)

For further information contact:

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RoadPeace

RoadPeace is an independent national charity, providing practical information, emotional support and advocacy to those affected by road crashes; as well as campaigning for justice for road crash victims and

for road danger reduction, with a focus on reducing the volume, speed and dominance of motorised traffic and promoting cycling and walking.

RoadPeace was a winner of the Guardian Charity Award in 2008:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/video/2008/dec/04/guardian-charity-awards-roadpeace>

Professor Danny Dorling

Danny Dorling is a writer and academic. His latest books include *Injustice: Why Social Inequality Persists* and *So you think you know about Britain?* . Danny is a Professor of Human Geography at the University of Sheffield. There, with a group of colleagues, he helped create the website www.worldmapper.org which shows who has most and least in the world.

He has been a member of World Health Organization's Scientific Resource Group on Health Equity Analysis and Research and a member of the advisory group of the Equality Trust. He is honorary president of the Society of Cartographers and a patron of Roadpeace, the national charity for road crash victims.

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