The practical value of sound Police crash data in delivery of road safety

THE FIRST WORKSHOP ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC ROAD SAFETY OBSERVATORY (APRSO)

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Overview of talk

Immense value in ASPRO: Thanks to partners and countries

1. We have a lot in common

2. Good data helps (but is not enough)

3. Police crash data are critical
We have more in common than separates us

Each country is unique
However, in road safety we share:
• Human error
• Human body’s vulnerability to injury
• The laws of physics
• Deaths and suffering
• Actions that work:
  • Safe Roads
  • Lower speeds
  • Safer vehicles
  • Faster, better post-crash care

The Politics, Psychology, Economics of delivery may differ
• Good data = huge help
• Sharing & learning from each other helps
Crash data roles

- Management
- Building the Case for funding
- Advocacy
- (Community promotion)
- Targeting interventions
- Knowing what to do
Crash data roles

- Must know: **Location** and **nature** of the crash
- Nature not = to ‘cause’ (example next)
The World Bank & the Global Road Safety Facility: e.g., in LIC: Nepal

Before

‘Causes’ of crashes not known
Safe Infrastructure: Great Safe System example

2700 lives will be saved

During

After

Global Road Safety Facility
Crash data roles

- Nature/type not = to ‘cause’
- Many data collections do not have enough types
- Example: pedestrian hit at an intersection
  - Typically recorded only as ‘pedestrian hit’
  - BUT: vehicle turning or straight, on side St or main St, person crossing or walking along the road, ......

Many ‘crash types’ required to know what to do (except lower speeds)
Use the evidence base

Data are not enough

- We often confuse data-based and Evidence-driven
- Both are essential
- Know the problem and know that this is not enough: using evidence for what works is vital
Take away messages

To make best use of limited road safety resources

- Good data .....location, type (but not necessarily ‘cause’- though it can help)
- Evidence based interventions matching the crash type
Thank you