



## AdRisk: Community action on adolescents and injury risk

### Injuries are the leading cause of death and hospitalisation of youth 15-24 years.

Adolescent's high mortality and morbidity in injuries can be partly explained by their risk-taking behaviour and lifestyles which may include experimentation with and consumption of alcohol and drugs, and their vulnerability to violent acts and emotional crises.

Five main causes for the death of adolescents have been identified: road accidents, sport and leisure accidents such as drowning, interpersonal violence, work related accidents and self-harm.

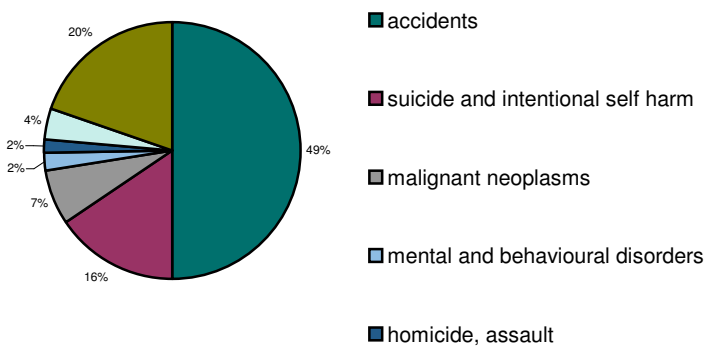


Figure: Mortality (%) among 15–24-year-olds in the EU25 in 2003 (Eurostat, population and social conditions).

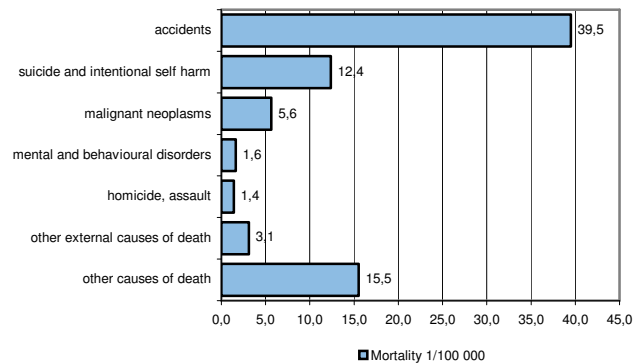


Figure: Mortality rate (1/100 000) among 15–24-year-olds in the EU25 in 2003 (Eurostat, population and social conditions).

**In order to understand the nature of risk-taking behaviour a thorough understanding of the problems and situations that adolescents have to face is required. Whereas significant progress has been made in preventing injury deaths and disability in most other age groups, adolescents and young people remain at excess risk from injury.**

The **AdRisk project** responds to the European Commission's Public Health Programme Work Plan 2005 that calls for an integrated project that 'analyses national policies and strategies to reduce risk taking behaviour among young people (15-24 years) and to identify existing models of good practice'. This project is co-ordinated by the KfV (Kuratorium für Verkehrssicherheit, national austrian institution in charge of injury prevention and safety promotion) in collaboration with other four national lead organisations, and supported by the EuroSafe platform.

The **overall vision** of the project is that young people ought to be included and integrated in the intervention of injuries. Ideally young people are provided with arguments and tools to allow them to assess and cope with risk taking, in order to reduce the toll of injuries.

The project will encourage and facilitate national non-governmental and governmental organizations, as well as youth related agencies to develop national programmes for action on injury prevention among adolescents and integrate youth into existing programmes. Ultimately, the project will support the implementation of country programmes and activities that should contribute to reducing the high toll of injuries among adolescents in EU Member States, EEA- countries and candidate countries.

**Together we can make the difference!**



**What could you get from us?** You can be part of a **unique project** and a unique European wide platform:

- ❖ **Your voice heard in Europe:** the project is presented under the umbrella of EuroSafe, an unbiased third party made up solely of injury prevention and safety promotion practitioners, not motivated by politics or profits; the ethical professionalism of our members ensures their dedication to secure information resources.
- ❖ **Networking:** you can take advantage of the EuroSafe platform and annual conferences and seminars to exchange information, to develop contacts for benchmarking research, intervention practices and as a resource to validate your policy decision-making, implementation and monitoring processes.
- ❖ **Access to information:** You will get a one-stop site for information professionals to quickly find useful information on injury risks and safety practices through its EuroSafe network's website (<http://www.eurosafe.eu.com>). You will get informed about recent research, good practices, prevention strategies, tools and guidelines collected all over Europe, and benefit from lessons learned in other Member States.

**How could you help us?** Share the experience:

- ❖ **Leadership opportunities:** The experience you may have acquired in the field of adolescents injury prevention and the activities you may have undertaken with a view to influence risk taking behaviour and changing attitudes may be exchanged, shared and spread through our network. This expertise and know-how spread all over Europe are of vital importance for injury prevention and safety promotion, a second step.
- ❖ **Give your input:** You could help us identifying relevant operators and practitioners, actions, programmes, projects, campaigns or any kind of initiative, as the knowledge transfer is crucial in setting up effective and efficient actions throughout Europe.

**For further information and exchange, please contact us:**

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Your proposals, comments and suggestions are more than welcome.

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