

# Health and Psychosocial Impacts of Road Traffic Accidents (RTA) on Victims' Families: An Archival study on the RTA Epidemic in Jamaica

## 1 Introduction



The World Health Organization (WHO) has indicated that 93% of RTA globally occur in Low- and Middle-Income countries such as Jamaica.



Jamaica suffers from high annual numbers of RTA injuries and fatalities which have become a significant public health burden on the island.



Majority of the research focused on RTA in Low- and Middle-Income countries is geared towards the victims. However, an important group, the victim's family, is overlooked.

## 2 Objectives

1.

To evaluate the occurrence post traumatic stress disorders (PTSD), specifically, anxiety and stress induced insomnia in family members of victims of road traffic accidents (RTA) in Jamaica.

2.

To investigate the economic implications RTA, have on the family members of victims of RTA in Jamaica.

## 3 Methodology

Archival search protocol development

Search of National Road Safety Council (NRSC) archives, Scopus, and Google scholar

Application of search inclusion criteria

Data analysis and reporting

## 4 Results and Discussion

4,269 more households were impacted by RTA economically and psychosocially in 2021 than in 2014. That relates to a greater reduction in quality of life of victims and their families.

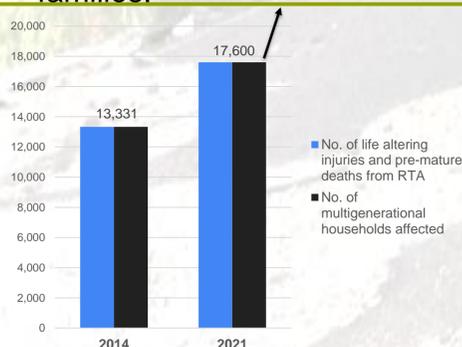


Figure 1: A comparison of life-altering injuries, pre-mature deaths and households affected by RTA in Jamaica in 2014 and 2021.

Common post traumatic stress disorders (PTSD) in family members of victims of RTA include anxiety (fear) and stress induced insomnia.



Image depicting insomnia



Image depicting anxiety at work.

### Challenges

1. Problematic road traffic culture.
2. Data collection
3. Comprehensive law and social enforcement strategies

### Opportunities

1. Contact tracing for RTA victims.
2. Cross-organizational collaboration to create a positive shift in road traffic culture.
3. Involve RTA survivors in road traffic education campaign to facilitate a positive road traffic culture shift.

Figure 2: Assessment of challenges and opportunities with RTA in Jamaica from the archival study.

## 5 Conclusion

- ❖ The research objectives were indirectly measured from the archival research due to insufficient data related to the family members of victims of RTA in Jamaica. This suggests there is room for better and more inclusive data collection coupled with increased research on the psychosocial implications of RTA on victims' families in Jamaica and other LMIC.
- ❖ More cross-organizational collaboration is needed in all media forms, promoting positive road traffic culture as a method to reduce RTA, premature mortality and the subsequent economic and psychosocial impacts on victims' families.