

# Disability and Road Traffic Injuries:

Introduction to RTIRN Webinar  
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- Decade of Action for Road Safety: 2011-2020



- World Report on Disability & Rehabilitation



- Social Determinants of Health



# **“Burden” or impact of Road crashes are described in many ways**

- 1.3 million road deaths per year, more than 90% occur in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) which have only 48% of world's registered vehicles
- 20 to 50 million injured on roads, accounting for 30-86% of trauma admissions in LMICs
- ‘Vulnerable Road Users’ (pedestrians, bicyclists, motor-cyclists) more likely to be killed and suffer serious injury in crashes, compared with car occupants
- Road traffic injuries account for 1-2% of Gross National Product in many countries; major impact on constrained health care systems; significant financial burden on families due to out-of-pocket payments etc (contributes to “poverty trap”)

# Increasing recognition of the importance of RTI-related disability

- Head and spinal cord injuries, burns and limb injuries resulting in significant longer-term consequences
- Psychosocial effects and reduced quality of life
- Socio-economically disadvantaged groups and ethnic minorities face greater barriers accessing care and necessary support services following injuries
- Significant need for studies in low- and middle-income countries where environmental barriers can be particularly high, compounding the difficulties posed by physical aspects of injuries (Allotey, et al. 2003, World Report on Disability 2011)
- RTIRN April 2011 Newsletter profiles several studies in progress

# Approaches to measuring disability

- Disability is a complex multidimensional experience.
- The way “disability” is conceptualised is a critical influence on estimates of disability. This is important to consider in addition to other methodological challenges noted in previous research
- Aspects of disability measured in research:
  - Impairments, activity limitations, participation restrictions, related health conditions, environmental factors
- “Impairment data are not an adequate proxy for disability information” - World Report on Disability
- Introducing Dr Tom Shakespeare.....

# References

World Health Organization. World Report on Disability, June 2011

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## **Articles from presenter's work, referred to at question time:**

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Arlidge B, Abel S, Asiasiga L, Milne S, Crengle S, Ameratunga S. Experiences of whānau/families when injured children are admitted to hospital: a multi-ethnic qualitative study from Aotearoa/New Zealand. *Ethnicity & Health* 2009; 14:169-83