Child Road Injuries: Gauteng Status Quo

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Background

• Why focus on children?  
  1) It is disturbing that children are not safe on our roads

1. Someone under the age of 18 years (Convention on the Rights of a Child, 1989)
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  2) Creating safer roads for children could result in safety of all road users

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1) High road fatality rate per 100 000 population

Source: Peden et al. (2013)
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  2) Double the world road fatality impacting children (Matzopoulos et al., 2004)
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Source: Vanderschuren and Zuidgeest (2017)
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  3) Cities with very high fatality rates per 100 000 population  
  4) Pedestrians still the victims because of lack of adequate infrastructure
Demographics and Travel Statistics

Population
- Child Population (approximately 3.4 million children)

Data Source: NHTS, 2013
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Time taken to access education
- Majority take longer than 15 minutes (67%)

Data Source: NHTS, 2013
Preliminary Findings

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Source: RTMC, 2015-2017
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- Child pedestrians most vulnerable – 73% – followed by child passengers – 26%.

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- Pedestrian, 73%
- Passengers, 26%
- Cyclist, 1%
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- Majority of child fatalities occur during the weekend.
- ‘After-school’ activities place children at a greater risk.
- Cars, Minibus taxis (VKTs?) and Light duty vehicles placing road users at risk.

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• Better data is required that includes reporting on road injuries and that provides geocoded locations of injuries
  - Serious injuries can disable children. Most child cyclist injuries are unreported
  - Geocoded data can provide us information as to locations that are dangerous for children. Are these locations closer to home or to school?
Implications

• Example of geocoded data analysis – WC Central Karoo

Data Source: iPAS, 2011-2015
Way Forward

• Road Safety Interventions
  1) Low Road Safety budget, therefore, we need to prioritise
  2) Prioritise child pedestrian and passenger children
  3) How? Determine cause of these injuries and recommend localised interventions based on the five pillars of road safety – ‘Lollipop measure’

• Data required yet
  1) Mortuary data that provides cause of road fatalities – gap in deaths caused by alcohol
  2) National geocoded data or geocoded data for Gauteng
  3) Data that divides child injuries by age group

Data Source: Red Cross War Memorial Hospital, 1991-2016
‘Lollipop’ Intervention

Source: Amend and FIA, 2016
Quick video