

STRENGTHENING ROAD SAFETY LEGISLATION IN REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA

Fimka TOZIJA

Institute of Public Health, Faculty of Medicine, University Ss Cyril and Methodius, Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia

INTRODUCTION Main objective is to analyze the road safety legislation on key behavioral risk factors in Republic of North Macedonia

METHODS Standard criteria were used for desk review and analysis of comprehensive legislation for key behavioral risk factors: speed, drink-driving, motorcycle helmets, seat belts, child restraints.

RESULTS There is a national law for road safety which defines:

- A national maximum urban speed limit of 50 km/h and 30 km/h in residential areas where vulnerable road users mix with cars; for motor ways 130 km/h, 110 km/h for roads for motor vehicles and 90km/h for other roads out of urban area; lower speed limits for busses and heavy vehicles and for novice drivers, for 30km/h lower from those for the roads out of urban area
- Drink-driving limit for blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of ≤ 0.05 g/dl for drivers and BAC of 0 g/dl for novice and professional drivers
- Compulsory helmet use for drivers and passengers on bicycles and motorcycles all engine types referring to a particular helmet standard
- Compulsory seat-belt use for all private car occupants on front and rear seats
- Compulsory use of child restraints for children younger of 5 years based on age, height or weight of a child for rear seat, while front seat use is forbidden for a child below 12 years
- Compulsory use of lights for day and night driving.

CONCLUSION Republic of Macedonia has a National strategy for road traffic safety 2015-2020 and a national law for road safety which is very comprehensive and addresses all five behavioral risk factors, but still their enforcement should be strengthened to enhance road safety.