SNAPSHOTS - 2008

ACCIDENTAL DEATHS

- Total 3,42,309 accidental deaths in the country during the year 2008.
- A total of 6,32,102 cases of ‘Un-Natural Accidents’ caused 3,18,316 deaths and rendered 4,98,124 people injured during 2008.
- Male Female Victim Ratio — 77:23.
- 0.4% increase in Accidental Deaths was reported over the previous year.
  - 4.6% decrease in deaths by causes attributable to nature.
  - 0.8% increase in deaths by un-natural causes.
- Maharashtra accounting for 9.3% of country’s population has reported almost one sixth (18.3%) of accidental deaths due to unnatural causes. Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh accounting for 7.2% and 6.0% respectively of the country’s population have reported 9.1% and 9.7% respectively of such deaths.
- Males out-numbered females in all kinds of accidental casualties due to unnatural causes at the National level except ‘Fire Accidents’ (where 67.2% of those killed were females as compared to 32.8% males).
- The major un-natural causes of Accidental Deaths were (i) Road Accidents (37.1%), (ii) Drowning (8.5%), (iii) Railway Accidents and Rail-Road Accidents (8.3%), (iv) Poisoning (7.6%) and (v) Sudden Deaths (7.1%).
- A total of 4,45,468 ‘Traffic Accidents’ were reported during the year comprising 4,15,855 ‘Road Accidents’, 2,134 ‘Rail-Road Accidents’ and 27,479 ‘Other Railway Accidents’. It is observed that the rate of deaths per thousand vehicles has decreased from 1.4 in 2004 to 1.3 in 2008.
- ‘Road Accidents’ in the country have increased by 3.2% during 2008 compared to 2007.
- 21.2% victims of Road Accidents were occupants of ‘Truck/Lorry’.
- Rate of Accidental Deaths per thousand vehicles was highest in Arunachal Pradesh at 5.7 followed by Sikkim at 3.6.
- The month-wise distribution of ‘Road Accidents’ has shown maximum number of accidents during April (38,059) and May (37,912) and least in the month of September (32,217).
- Maximum ‘Road Accidents’ (66,811) were reported during 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
- Maximum ‘Rail-Road Accidents’ occurred during the months of September (192) and March (191).
- The maximum number of ‘Other Railway Accidents’ were reported during the months of August (2,444) and October (2,426).
- Tamil Nadu has reported maximum number (60,409) Road accidents accounting for 14.5% of such accidents in the country. Uttar Pradesh has reported 806 cases (37.8%) of Rail-Road accidents and Maharashtra has reported 8,420 cases (30.6%) of other Railway accidents.
- The share of accidental deaths due to causes attributable to Nature has decreased from 7.4% in 2007 to 7.0% in 2008.
ACCIDENTAL DEATHS

- No deaths due to causes attributable to Nature have been reported from Goa, Lakshadweep and Puducherry.
- 10.6% victims of accidental deaths attributable to nature were due to Lightning.
- Only 0.3% victims of accidental deaths attributable to nature were due to Epidemic.
- Children’s population (up to 14 years age) as per census 2001 was 30.4% of the total population; accidental deaths of children accounted for 6.7% of total such deaths.
- Most of the victims of accidents were aged between 15 to 44 years. This group of people has accounted for nearly two-third (61.5%) of all persons killed in accidents in the country during the year.
- D & N Haveli and Puducherry have reported highest rate of accidental deaths, reporting 97.0 deaths per lakh population each as compared to National average of 29.7.
- 77.7% (241 out of 310) deaths attributable to nature in Chhattisgarh were due to Lightning and 72.5% (79 out of 109) deaths due to un-natural causes in Sikkim were due to Road Accidents alone.
- Mizoram has reported a major increase of 288.7% (71 deaths in 2007 to 276 deaths in 2008) followed by Nagaland (131 deaths in 2007 to 230 deaths in 2008 i.e. an increase of 75.6%) while Lakshadweep has shown a decline of 25.0% (4 in 2007 to 3 in 2008) during 2008.
- The lowest accidental death rate was reported from Lakshadweep (4.3).
- ‘Accidental Death’ rate was highest in Pune (100.2) among cities.
- Allahabad city has reported 135.0% increase in accidental deaths (from 411 in 2007 to 966 in 2008).
- Delhi city among 35 mega cities has reported the highest number of deaths by causes attributable to Nature (50.9%) followed by Hyderabad (15.9%).
- All natural accidental deaths in Lucknow were due to 'Cold and Exposure'.
- In Lucknow and Agra 89.1% and 75.6% respectively of total un-natural accidental deaths were due to 'Road Accidents' alone.
- Delhi city accounted for 29.0% deaths of pedestrians while Lucknow city reported 13.5% deaths of bicycle riders in 35 mega cities.
- Kolkata, the second largest city in terms of population (12.3% of the population of all mega cities) among 35 cities after Mumbai (15.2%), reported accidental death rate of 6.6 as compared to 53.0 reported by Mumbai.
SUICIDES

- 14 Suicides took place every hour.
- More than one lakh persons (1,25,017) in the country lost their lives by committing suicide during the year 2008.
- It is observed that social and economic causes have led most of the males to commit suicides whereas emotional and personal causes have mainly driven females to end their lives.
- Suicides because of ‘Family Problems’ (23.8%) and ‘Illness’ (21.9%) combined accounted for 45.7% of total Suicides.
- The number of suicides due to ‘Illegitimate Pregnancy’ and ‘Ideological Causes/Hero Worshipping’ showed a significant increase of 50.6% and 50.2% respectively.
- 1 each in every 3 suicide victims was a youth (15-29 years) and middle aged (30-44 years)
- The overall male:female ratio of suicide victims for the year 2008 was 64:36, however, the proportion of Boys : Girls suicide victims (upto 14 years of age) was 49:51.
- Nearly 46.1% of the suicide victims were married males while 24.2% were married females.
- Five States – Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh– accounted for 64.6% of suicide victims in the age group 60 years and above.
- 70.3% of the suicide victims were married while 22.1% were un-married.
- 25.3% of the suicide victims were primary educated and 23.7% were middle educated.
- 1 suicide for every 5 suicide is committed by a Housewife.
- 39.8% of suicide victims were self employed while only 7.2% were un-employed and 12.5% were salaried.
- Government servants were merely 1.7% of the total suicide victims.
- West Bengal (11.9%), Tamil Nadu (11.5%), Andhra Pradesh (11.5%), Maharashtra (11.5%) and Karnataka (9.8%) contributed 56.2% of total suicide victims.
- West Bengal has reported the highest number (accounting for 13.3%) of suicidal deaths during the year 2006, but its share went down to 12.1% in 2007 and went up to 11.9% of total suicides in 2008.
- Southern States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu have accounted for 39.7% of total suicides reported in the country.
- Sikkim has reported 48.2 suicidal deaths per one lakh of population as against the National average of 10.8.
SUICIDES

About half (52.0%) children suicide victims belonged to five states – West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh out of 2,381 suicide victims.

Sikkim reported the highest rate of suicide (48.2) followed by Puducherry (46.9), A & N Islands (34.5), Kerala (25.0) and D & N Haveli (22.6).

Sikkim has reported significant increase in Suicides in 2008 over 2007 (an increase of 135.2%) followed by Nagaland (75.0%).

The highest number of Mass/Family Suicides cases were reported from Bihar (102) followed by Rajasthan (86) and Andhra Pradesh (40) out of 290 cases.

34.8% of the suicide victims consumed poison; 32.2% of the victims died by hanging, 8.8% by Fire/Self-Immolation and 6.7% by Drowning. The trend of Suicide by Hanging has been mixed during last 3 years (32.8% in 2006, 31.7% in 2007 & 32.2% in 2008) while Suicide by Poisoning has shown static trend in 2007 and 2008 (35.5% in 2006, 34.8% in 2007 and 34.8% in 2008).

Bengaluru (2,396), Chennai (1,309), Mumbai (1,111) and Delhi (1,107) – the four cities together have reported 45.3% of the total suicides reported from 35 mega cities.

Bengaluru city has reported the highest rate of 42.1 and Kolkata reported the lowest rate at 1.4 only among 35 cities.

The pattern of suicides reported from 35 cities showed that ‘Hanging’ (45.7%), ‘Poisoning’ (21.3%) and ‘Fire/Self Immolation’ (13.2%) were the prominent means adopted by the suicide victims in the cities.

There is significant increase in number of suicides (69.2%) in Amritsar (from 26 in 2007 to 44 in 2008) while Chennai showed sharp decline of 43.4% (from 2,313 suicides in 2007 to 1,309 suicides in 2008).

The suicide rate in cities (12.1) was higher as compared to All-India suicide rate (10.8).