Relationship between societal characteristics and very serious road traffic accidents

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The main purpose of this article is to compare recent trends in road safety (expressed as the number of deaths in road traffic accidents per 100,000 inhabitants) in Slovenia and in the EU's 27 member states, and to analyse the relationship between the number of road traffic accident deaths and certain life quality indicators (e.g. GDP, PPP, HDI and the Gini coefficient). The systemic theoretical approach (the theory of social entropy) shows the underlying trends (2000–2010) and comparisons between the number of deaths in 2009 for the various indicators selected (e.g. GDP, PPP, HDI and the Gini coefficient, using data from 2007). The data are taken from Eurostat databases and from Human Developments Reports.

The number of traffic victims in Slovenia has halved in the last decade (6.7 per 100,000 inhabitants), but remains above the European mean (6.2). The data analysis shows that countries with higher GDP, PPP and HDI have lower rates of road traffic victims. Therefore, the hypothesis on the relationship between social inequality (measured in societies using the Gini coefficient) and the number of road traffic victims (per 100,000 inhabitants) cannot be confirmed. The systems theory approach and the use of secondary data provide for a clear overview and comparison between road traffic safety characteristics, as well as for an adequate exploration of selected macro societal factors related to road traffic safety.

Key words: road safety, traffic accidents, European Union, Slovenia, social entropy theory

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