



**04.05.2016 - Around 186 300 children under 18 years die from road traffic crashes annually, and rates of road traffic death are three times higher in developing countries than in developed countries.**

Road safety is an issue which deserves to be taken seriously; worldwide it is the biggest cause of death among children between the ages of 15 to 17. Every four minutes a child is prematurely lost on the roads of this world, many more are often severely injured. A shift in mind set is desperately needed to ensure that roads everywhere serve the needs of and are safe for all who use them, not only children, but also other vulnerable groups such as pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists.

### Rank cause of death among children under 18 years of age, worldwide, 2012

Rank #	<5 years	5–9 years	10–14 years	<15–17 years
1	Preterm birth complications	Diarrhoeal diseases	HIV/AIDS	Road traffic injury
2	Lower respiratory infections	Lower respiratory infections	Diarrhoeal diseases	Self-harm
3	Birth asphyxia / trauma	Meningitis	Road traffic injury	Interpersonal violence
4	Diarrhoeal diseases	Road traffic injury	Lower respiratory infections	HIV/AIDS

Source: World Health Organization, Global Health Estimates, 2014.

[Photo: Shutterstock / Medical](#) [Child Death](#)