

## ROAD SAFETY

*As soon as there is life  
there is danger.*

Ralf Waldo Emerson  
(poet, philosopher, pastor,

Road traffic regulations are rules of conduct of the road traffic participants which clearly determine the responsibilities of each party.

One should learn to respect all traffic participants without exception, be it a pedestrian, passenger, bike rider, driver of a car or other transport vehicle.

**Every 30 seconds one person is killed in a traffic accident in the world.**

«Portrait»  
of a typical victim of road  
accidents:  
**a male 15 to 44 years old  
driving a motor cycle.**



The total number of road traffic accidents in Belarus has been decreasing every year.

### ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS (RTA) RESULTING IN FATALITIES OR INJURIES

Year	Road traffic accidents, cases		People killed		People injured	
	total	RTA with children involved	total	of which children	total	of which children
2006	8 283	779	1 726	63	8 832	766
2007	7 501	691	1 518	65	7 990	676
2008	7 238	635	1 564	65	7 577	616
2009	6 739	610	1 322	49	7 198	609
2010	6 363	543	1 190	35	6 832	533
2011	5 897	580	1 200	36	6 334	592
2012	5 187	456	1 039	28	5 569	463
2013	4 730	437	894	20	5 033	442

There were no child road fatalities in the city of Minsk in 2013. It is a good statistics for the capital city with two million inhabitants and a big number of cars.

However, in some regions of our country the statistics remain sad. The number of road accidents due to a fault of children grew by 2.2% in 2013. Four children were killed and 134 injured through their own carelessness, negligence and lack of knowledge of the road traffic rules.

The safety of a child is most often in the hands of an adult. It is adults who must be an example for a child of how to behave on the traffic way and nearby and how to take so simple and easy, yet so important to follow road traffic rules.

### CHILDREN INVOLVED IN ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS BY CATEGORY (persons)

Category	Number of children involved		Killed		Injured	
	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013
<b>Total</b>	<b>491</b>	<b>462</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>442</b>
Pedestrians	236	235	10	7	226	228
Passengers	206	164	15	11	191	153
Bike riders	39	57	2	1	37	56
Drivers	10	6	1	1	9	5

**If only all drivers and pedestrians were mutually polite and careful, how many tragedies we could prevent and avoid!**

There are a lot of road signs to help traffic participants. Without these signs it would be very difficult both for drivers and for pedestrians to behave properly on the road and to understand who should give way to whom or where one can park a car.



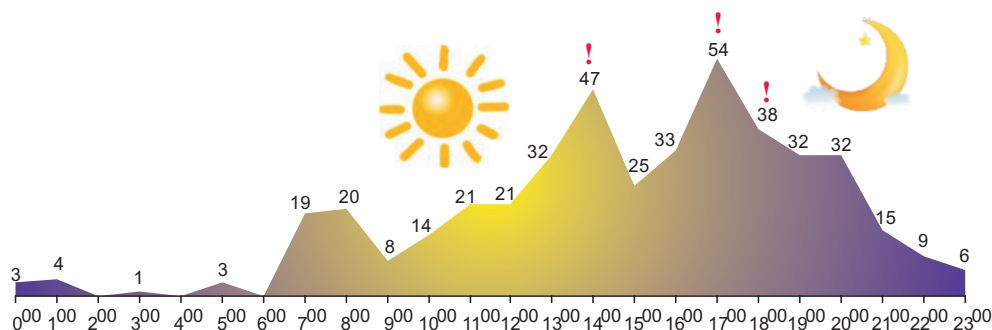
Caution! Children! – you can often see such warning sign on the roads which are crossed by a great number of children, near educational institutions.

The sad statistics of road traffic accidents has been decreasing every year, **BUT ONE MUST ALWAYS STAY ALERT ON THE ROAD!**

During school vacations, weekends, holidays, and after classes children are often left unattended by adults.

In 2013 most traffic accidents with children involved occurred in the summer months - 15.3% of the total RTAs in June, 12.6% in July, and 12.1% in August.

The most dangerous days of the week are traditionally Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Over 50% of accidents out of the total RTAs with children involved take place on these particular days.



It is more difficult for a driver to notice a pedestrian running across the road in the darkness than in the daytime.

According to the road traffic regulations of the Republic of Belarus, “when moving at the edge of the traffic way at night time, a pedestrian must mark oneself with a light-reflective element/elements”.

Flickers reflect driving beam into the driver's eyes and allow him or her to notice a pedestrian at the distance of 400 metres or more.

The more light-reflectors you have on your clothes and things, the more noticeable you are for drivers.

In order to prevent road traffic accidents, the Road Police carries out raising awareness campaigns among traffic participants and organises annual special actions and events.



Road accidents could be avoided if children are taught correct and safe conduct on the road. It is parents who must give a good example to the children, following the road traffic rules themselves.