

ROAD TYPES

THE MAJORITY OF TRAFFIC FATALITIES OCCURRED ON RURAL ROADS

The majority of traffic fatalities occurred on rural roads. Inappropriate and relatively high speeds in combination with the lack of physical separation, poorly maintained roadsides, and mixed traffic involving vulnerable road users are characteristic for many rural roads and increase the occurrence of road crashes as well as their severity.

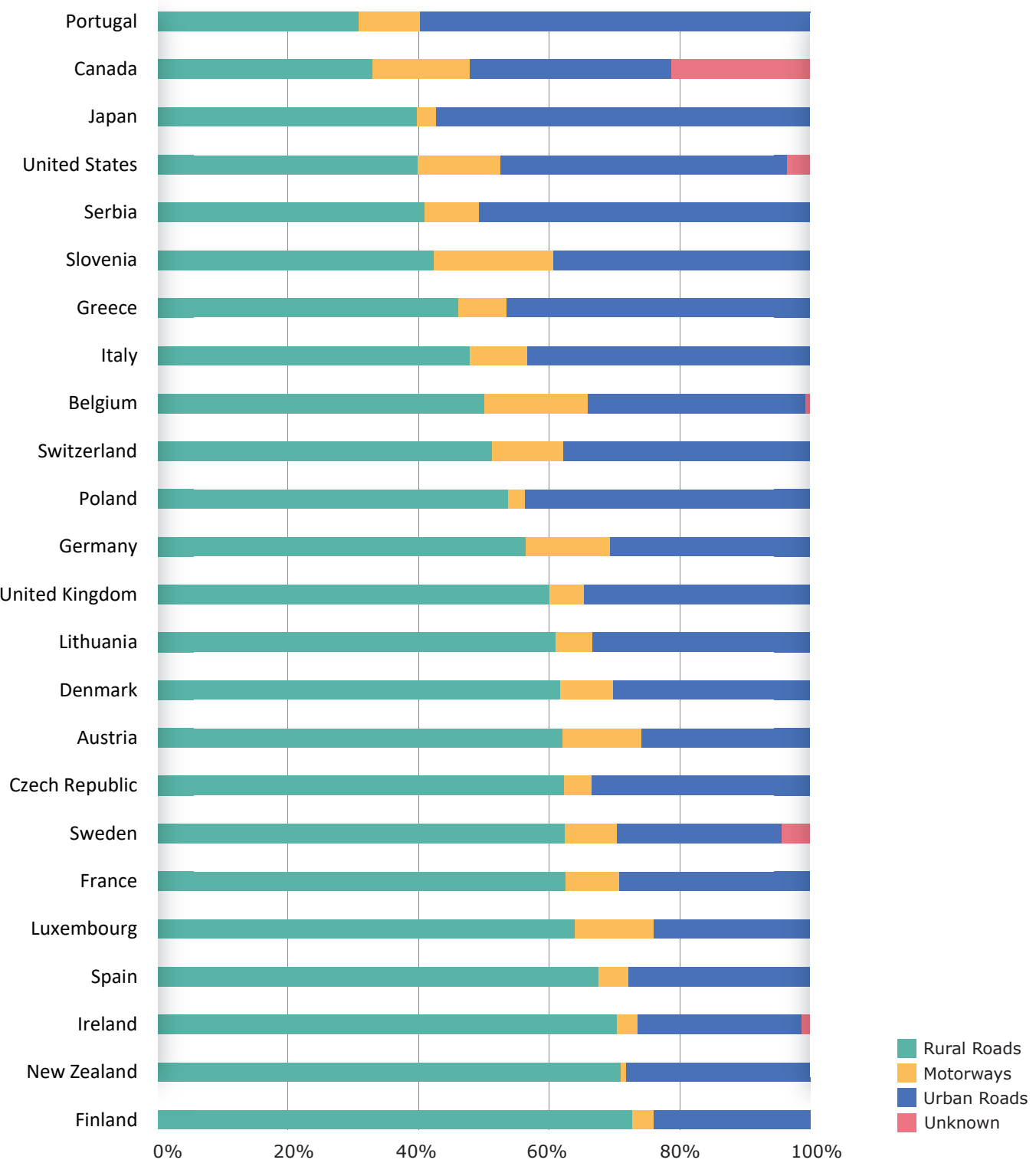
The gap between the share of road deaths on rural roads and urban roads is narrowing. In 2017, road fatalities on rural roads represented between 31% (in Portugal) and 73% (in Finland) of all road deaths. Between 2010 and 2017, all countries witnessed a decrease in the number of road deaths on their rural network, with the sole exception of Serbia.

The number of people killed on rural roads decreased by 15.7% on average, with the strongest decreases in Portugal (-51%), Lithuania (-44%) and Greece (-42%).

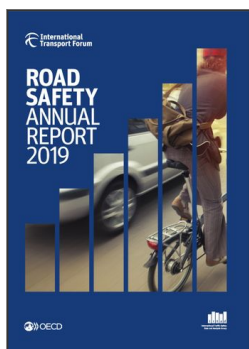
The number of road deaths in urban areas is increasing. Traffic deaths on urban roads have increased by 4.5% since 2010. However, this rise is strongly influenced by the figures for the United States, where the number of urban road deaths increased by 30%, while it decreased by 6.7% on rural roads. In the United Kingdom, the number of persons killed on urban roads also increased, by 6.6%. In all other IRTAD countries it decreased.

Motorways are the safest roads. In the twelve countries for which traffic data and fatality data are available by type of road, the risk of dying on motorways per kilometre driven is between 2 to 7 times smaller than for the entire road network. During the 2010-17 period, the decrease of road fatalities was lower on motorways compared to other road types. The number of persons killed on motorways increased in six countries. However, for some countries this is related to the expansion of the motorway network.

Figure 14. Repartition of road deaths by country and road type, 2017



Data from Argentina, Australia, Chile, Iceland, Israel, Korea, Netherlands and Norway are not available.



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