

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.

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- ◆ 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.**

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- ◆ 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).