



Understanding Road Trauma and Injury in Lira District, Northern Uganda

Nicole Tang*, Kyra Guy, Alyssa Ponrartana, Anna Woo, Edward Chau
Kenneth Odur, Cecilia Alonyo, Heather Wipfli

*Presenting Author



INTRODUCTION

- Road traffic accidents are responsible for 1.19 million deaths annually, with more than 90% of these deaths occurring in middle to low income countries including Uganda.
- The number of fatal road crashes in Uganda has increased by 16.9% from 2021 to 2022, with a Kampala Road Safety Report 2023 indicating that motorcyclists accounted for 50% of road related deaths and pedestrians accounted for 43%.
- Despite the burden, there has been limited data collection on road infrastructure, policy, and safety behaviors in Uganda, especially outside of more urban cities like Kampala.
- To address this, this study assessed current road safety beliefs, behaviors, and infrastructure in Lira District, northern Uganda.

OBJECTIVES

- To assess risk factors for road trauma and injury in Lira District, Uganda.
- To assess community attitudes, knowledge, beliefs, and behaviors that influence road trauma and injury outcomes.

METHODS

Study Design: In partnership with local non-profit organizations, this study consisted of a mixed-methods community-based participatory research (CBPR) study conducted in Lira District, Uganda in July 2024.

Data Collection: Observation tools, survey tools, and key informant interviews assessed community knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs on road safety and infrastructure. Data was collected by trained Youth Public Health Ambassadors (YPHA).

Sample: Observations and survey tools were collected by convenience sampling methods. Key Informants were selected based on exposure to road traffic and included boda and bus drivers.



RESULTS

DRIVING BEHAVIORS



100% THINK IT'S IMPORTANT OR VERY IMPORTANT TO FOLLOW ROAD LAWS



64.71% ALWAYS FOLLOW ROAD SIGNS

IN THE LAST 30 DAYS:



17.65% REPORTED ALWAYS DRIVING OVER THE SPEED LIMIT

41.18% REPORTED SOMETIMES DRIVING OVER THE SPEED LIMIT

24.9% SOMETIMES TALK ON A HAND-HELD MOBILE PHONE WHILE DRIVING



11.8% SOMETIMES DRIVE WHEN YOU MIGHT HAVE HAD TOO MUCH ALCOHOL

DRIVER SAFETY



100% THINK IT IS IMPORTANT OR VERY IMPORTANT TO USE PROTECTIVE MEASURES (I.E. HELMETS, SEATBELTS)



56.3% SOMETIMES WEAR A SAFETY VEST AT NIGHT



52.94% SOMETIMES WEAR A HELMET



18.75% ALWAYS WEAR A SEATBELT **37.5%** SOMETIMES WEAR A SEATBELT



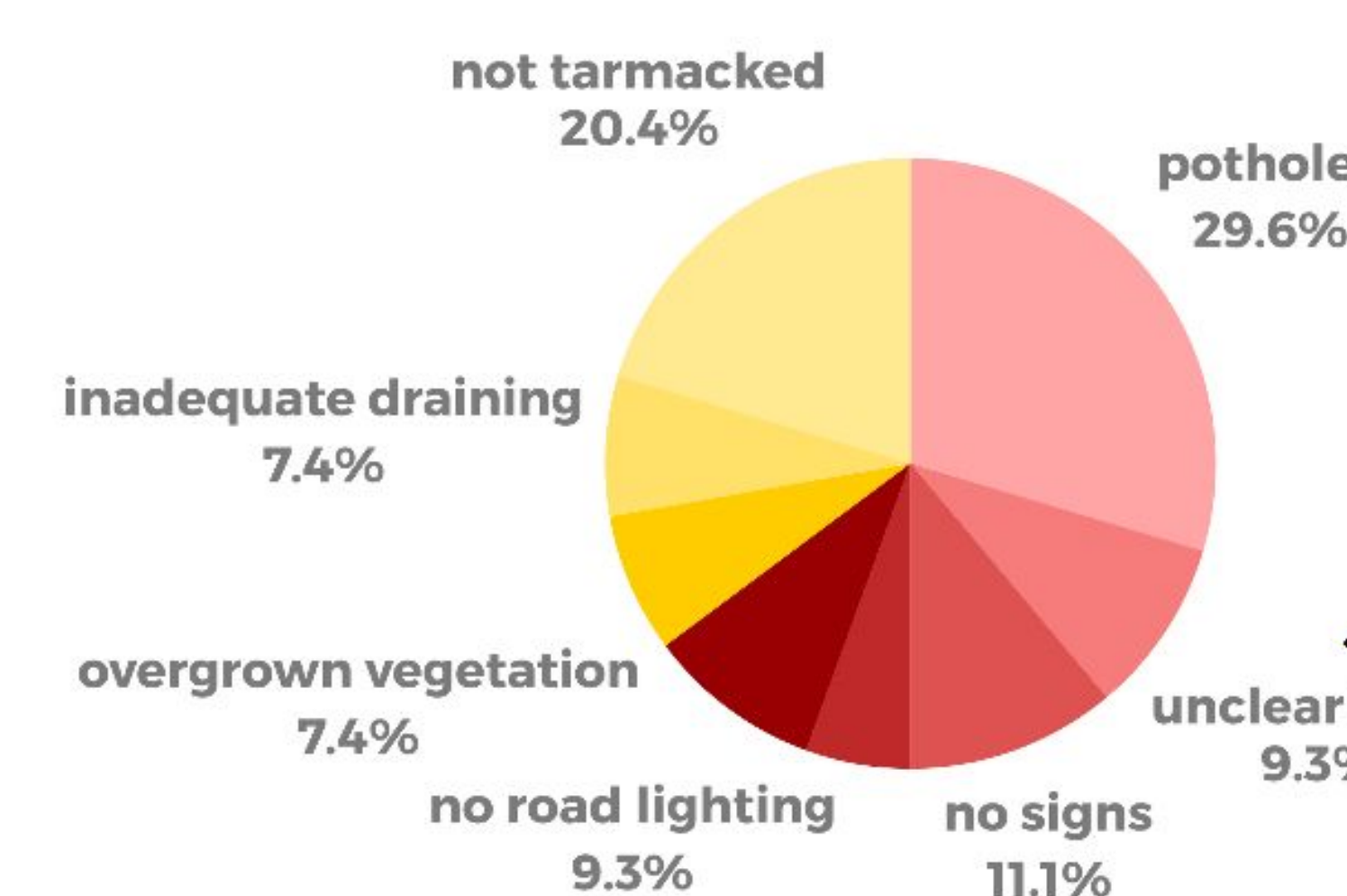
47.06% OF DRIVERS FEEL UNSAFE ON THE ROAD SOMETIMES

17.65% OF DRIVERS FEEL UNSAFE ON THE ROAD MOST OF THE TIME



70.59% HAVE A DRIVING PERMIT

ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE



41.18% BELIEVE LAW ENFORCEMENT ADDRESS ISSUES



82.35% HAVE MAINTENANCE THAT SHOULD BE DONE ON THEIR VEHICLE BUT HASN'T

75%

ARE NOT SATISFIED WITH THE UPKEEP OF ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE

CONCLUSION AND IMPLICATIONS

- Results reveal significant gaps in services, road infrastructure, and safety behaviors highlighting a need for strengthened road safety services and interventions in Lira District, Uganda.
- Recommendations based on our findings include: enforcement of traffic laws and regulations focused on boda bodas, increased surveillance of speed, driving under the influence, and seatbelt use, and investments in improved road infrastructure (sidewalks, lane lines, potholes).
- Findings also emphasize the need for continued data collection on road safety behaviors, traffic accidents, and road infrastructure in LMICs and beyond.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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