

# 10

# Traffic accidents

Prepare by Pibul Suriyawongpisan , Ramathibodi Hospital

## Traffic accidents claim the lives of at least 40 Thais a day



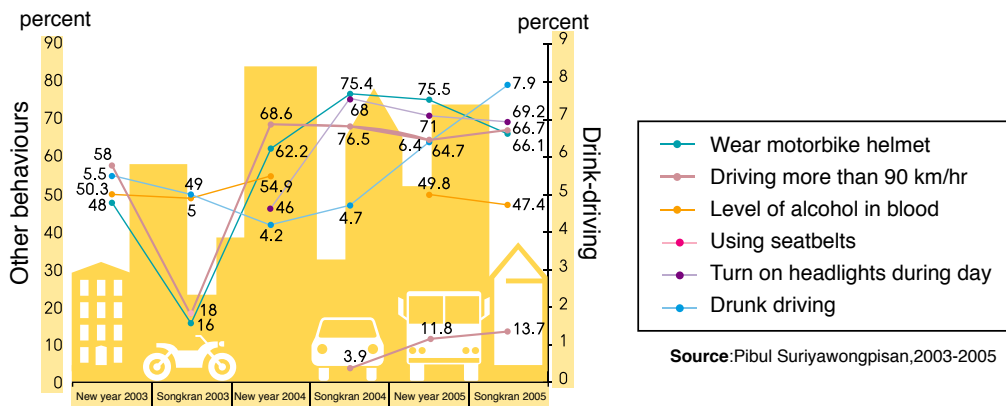
Most Thais spend so much time on the road that they are interested only in convenience, and neglect safety. This reduces the effectiveness of attempts to reduce the number of tragedies on the roads.



Traffic accidents cost the Thai economy 100 billion baht per year. The more the government spends on roads, the greater the number of accidents. The biggest group of victims is young men and women. Despite the risks from motor vehicles, Thais are used to speeding everywhere in their metal armor. Pedestrians are the most suffer as a result. Walking at night is especially dangerous. Solutions to the problem of road accidents must consider individuals and structures. Encouragingly, there have been increased campaigns to reduce accidents at major holidays. It is also now common for motorbike riders to turn their headlights on during the day, even it is not legally required.



**Behaviors leading to traffic accidents**



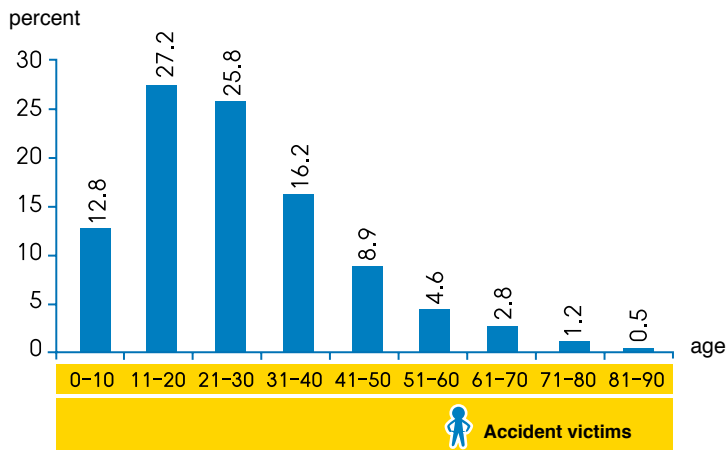
**Percentage distribution of traffic accident victims (Total accident victims 118,501 persons)**



	Pedestrians	Drivers	Passenger	Total
All accident victims	6.0	64.0	30.0	1000.0
All deaths	2.5	1.3	1.1	1.3
All people treated at hospital	36.0	39.0	34.0	37.3

Source: Pibul Suriyawongpisan, 1995-1998

### Age distribution of traffic accident victims.



Source: Pibul suriyawongpisan, 1995-1998

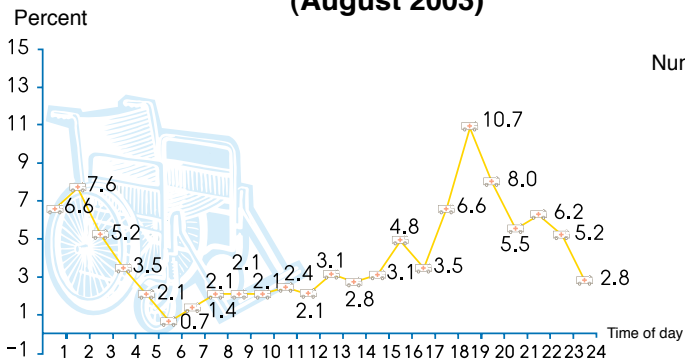
### Losses to Thai society attributable to traffic accidents



- Economic losses of 107 – 116 billion baht <sup>1, 2</sup>
- 65,000 disabilities in 2002 (accumulate figure) <sup>3</sup>
- 14,000 deaths per year <sup>4</sup>
- 0.95 -1.0 million accidents per year <sup>5</sup>

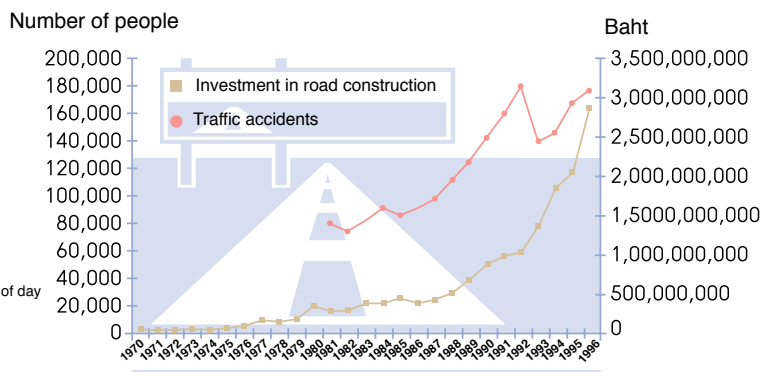
Sources: 1 Center for Policy Research, Faculty of Economics, Chulalongkorn University, 2005  
 2 ADB-ASEAN Regional Safety Program, 2004  
 3 National Statistical Office, 2002  
 4 National Police Office, 2003  
 5 Ministry of Public Health

### Distribution of accidents by time of occurrence (August 2003)



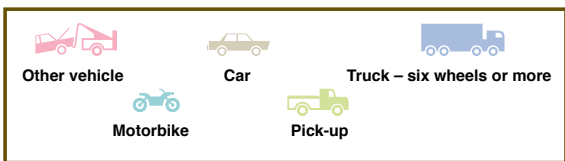
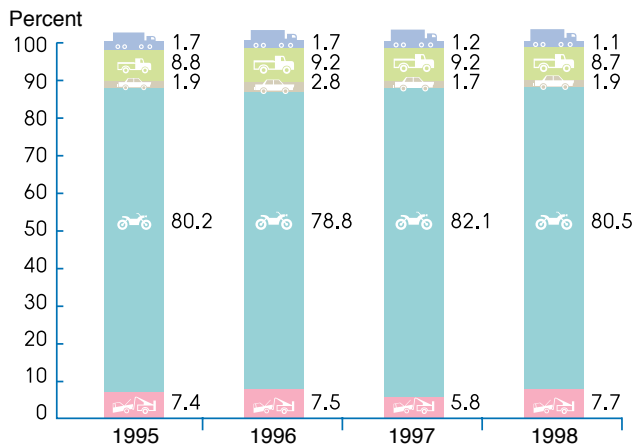
source: Penprapa Siviroj et al., 2003

### Investment in road construction and number of traffic accidents



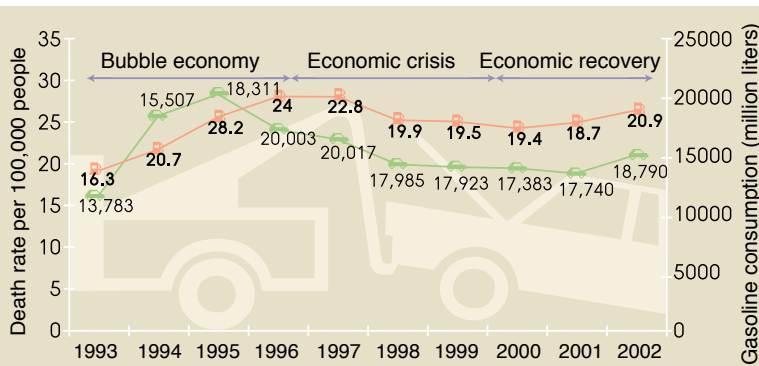
source: Tousutho R ECONOMIC LOSS AND ROAD ACCIDENT RELATED FACTORS, 1997

### Injuries and deaths, by type of vehicle



Source: Pibul Suriyawongpisan, 1995-1998

### Gasoline consumption and the death rate from traffic accidents



Source: National Police Office and the Department of Alternative Energy and Energy Conservation, 1993-2002