Global Trauma Care and the Role for the United States in Saving Lives and Decreasing Disability from Injury

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INJURY: 5.8 million deaths

1.24 million deaths from Road Traffic Injuries
20-50 million non-fatal injuries

US Global Research and Development Funding

Katie Wells MD
91% of injury-related deaths world-wide occur in low- and middle- income countries (LMICs).
Conclusion

Critical for LMICs to create or strengthen existing trauma systems in order to improve outcomes

Trauma Systems

- Prevention
- Pre-hospital care
  - Standards/protocols
- Definitive Hospital Care
  - Network of facilities
  - Verification trauma centers
  - Transfer guidelines
- Rehabilitation
- Process Improvement
  - Trauma registries/research
Change in Traffic Fatality Risk (deaths/10,000 persons) 1975-1998

Trauma systems decrease mortality by 15-20% in high-income countries.
Benefit of Trauma System Development in LMICs

- > 2 million deaths/yr could be averted
- Economic benefit of mortality reduction = $245-261 billion

Disease Control Priorities 3rd ed.
Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS)

67 countries

App: 167 countries
WHO: Essential Trauma Care Services

Services that could be provided to almost all injured persons in any given setting.
Encourages Member States to continue to improve and strengthen pre-hospital, trauma and rehabilitation care.
3. **Attain healthy life for all**

- By 2030 **halve deaths from road traffic accidents**

- **Strengthen health systems** to ensure that they have the resources, capacities, and technologies needed to provide quality, affordable, acceptable and accessible services along the continuum of care including prevention, promotion, early detection, medical and surgical treatment, rehabilitation and palliative care, and monitor health system performance.
Summary

As the world’s healthcare leader, the United States must lead out to correct the worldwide trauma pandemic by:

1. Supporting the decade of Road Traffic Safety
2. Encouraging the adoption of Essential Trauma Care initiatives into health plans worldwide
3. Advocating for Sustainable Development Goals that encourage Ministries of Health to include trauma system improvements into their countrywide public health plans