

Title of Intervention: New Brazilian Traffic Code

Intervention Strategies: Environments and Policies

Purpose of the Intervention: To reduce traffic deaths

Population: General population

Setting: San Paulo, Brazil; community-based

Partners: None mentioned

Intervention Description:

- Environments and Policies: The new National Traffic Code began to be enforced in Brazil in an attempt to reduce the number of deaths on the roads. This new code replaced a 33 year old code and sought to produce short term changes in driver behavior through stricter enforcement and higher penalties. The main changes were a large increase in fines, in some cases ten-fold, and a rigid penalty scoring system that led to driver license withdrawal. Speed limits were raised on many highways and adherence to the rules was more closely and effectively monitored.

Theory: Not mentioned

Resources Required:

- Staff/Volunteers: Not mentioned
- Training: Not mentioned
- Technology: Not mentioned
- Space: Not mentioned
- Budget: Not mentioned
- Intervention: New code, law enforcement to enforce new code, any information used to let people know about the updated code
- Evaluation: Emergency room and traffic accident and ticketing data

Evaluation:

- Design: Evaluation, pre- and post-test
- Methods and Measures: Before the code was introduced in 1998, recordings were taken between January and December of 1997 for pre-test figures. Corresponding data from the 1997 period were collected in January to December 1998 after the code was enforced.

Outcomes:

- Short Term Impact: Not measured
- Long Term Impact: There was an overall reduction in the number of accidents, tickets issued and motor vehicle accident-related emergency room admissions. There was an overall reduction in immediate deaths.

Maintenance: Not mentioned

Lessons Learned: The authors found that very costly tickets and threatening to take away driver's licenses proved very effective in decreasing immediate deaths from trauma. Further advances in educational programs associated with road and vehicle safety measures are likely to provide further reduction in the still high mortality on Brazilian roads and streets.

Citation(s):

Poli de Figueiredo, L. F., S. Rasslan, et al. (2001). "Increases in fines and driver license withdrawal have effectively reduced immediate deaths from trauma on Brazilian roads: first-year report on the new traffic code." *Injury* 32(2): 91-4.