

Review of: "A Review of the Processes and Procedures of Road Traffic Accident Mortality Data Collection in Zambia"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The authors explore the research problem of data collection on road traffic injuries in Zambia and aim to identify areas for improvement and make recommendations to make the system robust.

The literature review focuses mainly on the importance of complete and comprehensive data collection for road traffic injuries for informing reporting, policy, and practice. This is somewhat repetitive with the Introduction section of the manuscript. The focus on data collection methods and processes is inadequate in the literature review, and the literature review can be more informative for the research problem by expanding the discussion on methods and operational management processes in data collection and reporting.

The authors have presented the steps followed in conducting the study. Yet, the study design is unclear, and a specific research method is not explicitly stated and justified. If several methods are used, they can be stated and their complementarities highlighted. This is important for the validation and quality of the research contributions/study outputs.

The presentation of the process map shows the flow of information of a road traffic injury case and adds value to the findings. The presentation of the type of information collected at each stage of the process, its completeness, and quality has not been presented. This makes the findings not quite aligned with the research problem stated. The presentation of institutions and their challenges alone is inadequate to understand the process.

The discussion states, "The comparison of the three data sources revealed differences in the number of records contained in each source." However, this is not presented in the findings. A discussion of the findings in the data collection and operational management processes of the three data systems/institutions is lacking. The focus of the discussion is mainly on the general challenges.

The conclusion states that "This study analysed the level of underreporting of RTC data by comparing data from the police, hospitals, and the CRVS." This is inconsistent with the stated research problem and objectives stated on page 3 that focus on the review of the data collection process. The recommendations proposed address elements of the data system and can benefit from specific recommendations linked to the process presented in the findings.