

Knowledge and Practice of Car Safety

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Background: Each year, more than 20 million people are injured, and 1.17 million are killed due to road traffic accidents.

Objective: To evaluate the factors associated with increased use of car safety measures and the obstacles for using safety measures.

Design: An Observational Cross-Sectional Study.

Setting: Bahrain Major Shopping Malls.

Method: The study was conducted from July 2013 to August 2013. Data were analyzed using SPSS 16; Qi-Square and T-test were calculated.

Result: Four hundred twenty-seven participated in this study. Two hundred fifty-three (59.3%) participants were involved in one or more than one road traffic accident. One hundred forty (32.8%) participants were not aware of the exact age that requires a baby car seat. Two hundred seventy (63.2%) believed that driving attitude is the most common cause of car accidents.

Conclusion: The participants had sufficient knowledge of car safety. The age group of 18-29 years tends to use cell phones more often while driving, which means poor knowledge of safety. We recommend raising the awareness, increasing the fines for traffic violations and increasing the age at which a license is given.

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