



Spring 2023 AFSA Membership Overseas Road Safety Survey Results
Panel Briefing to House Global Road Safety Caucus
June 4th, 2024

After meeting with the Association for Safe International Road Travel, or ASIRT, to discuss road safety overseas as it relates to Foreign Service members, AFSA created a survey of our membership to ask them to share their experiences with road crashes overseas, including the conditions that might have caused them, where they occurred and how road safety can be enhanced in the future.

A total of 795 AFSA members responded to this survey including Foreign Service members from the Department of State, USAID, the Foreign Commercial Service, the Foreign Agricultural Service and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).

Here are the highlights from the survey:

Risk to Foreign Service Members:

- Road crashes are one of the primary threats faced by Americans traveling and working overseas, including Foreign Service members.
- When our members were asked about the outcome of road crashes overseas that they or a close family member or friend had experienced, they told us that 33% resulted in a fatality and 55% resulted in a serious injury.
 - Pedestrian traffic crash outcomes: 21% fatality and 66% serious injury
 - Bicycle traffic crash outcomes: 9% fatality and 75% serious injury

Main Factors Leading to Crashes:

- Survey respondents identified speeding and reckless driving by others as the primary factors contributing to vehicle traffic crashes.
- Poor road design and unreliable infrastructure were also major contributors to road incidents.

Enforcement and Accountability:

- Lack of accountability for reckless driving by local law enforcement was highlighted as a significant issue leading to dangerous road conditions overseas.

Pedestrian and Cyclist Safety:

- For incidents involving pedestrians and cyclists, speeding, motorist non-compliance at intersections, and inadequate separation between roads and pedestrian/cyclist lanes were key factors contributing to crashes.

Top Countries for Incidents:

- Survey feedback pointed to several countries where road crashes involving Foreign Service members were frequent, including Nigeria, Uganda, Poland, Liberia, Pakistan, and Peru.



Enhancing Road Safety:

- Respondent recommendations for increased road safety and preventing crashes include:
 - Addressing speeding and reckless driving through stricter enforcement and accountability measures;
 - Improving road design and infrastructure to prioritize motorist, pedestrian and cyclist safety;
 - Ameliorating dangerous road conditions; lowering speed limits; creating incentives for motorists to yield to pedestrians and building protected bikes lanes.

- In addition, promoting awareness and education among both locals and foreigners about safe road practices would be an important addition to the above measures.
 - Only about 40 percent of respondents said they believe they received an adequate briefing on road and pedestrian safety information upon arrival at post.
 - Less than 30 percent of respondents said they believe they received an adequate briefing on road and pedestrian safety information before going to post.