XXIV<sup>th</sup> WORLD ROAD CONGRESS Mexico City 2011

# Youth and Road Safety

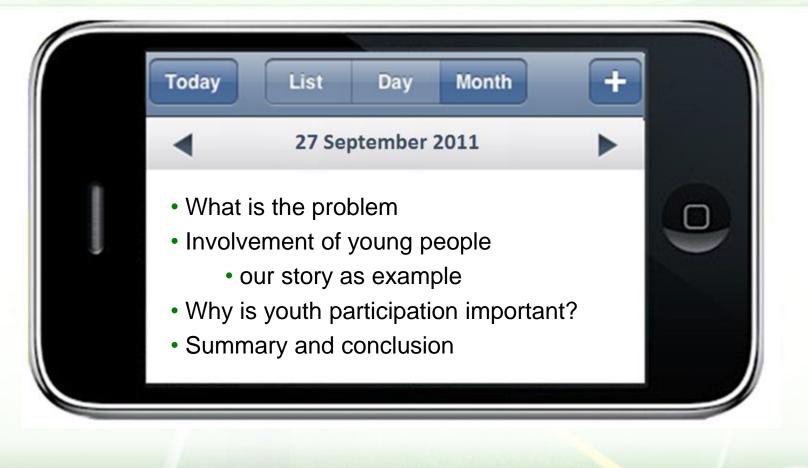
## **Floor Lieshout**

- YOURS Youth for Road Safety
- Director

Floor@youthforroadsafety.org



#### AGENDA Special Session 09: Decade of Action for Road Safety







## FACTS:

- Every day more than 1000 young people die on the world's roads
- Every day thousands more are injured
- Worldwide, road crashes are the **leading** cause of death among 10-24 year olds



## TIME FOR ACTION

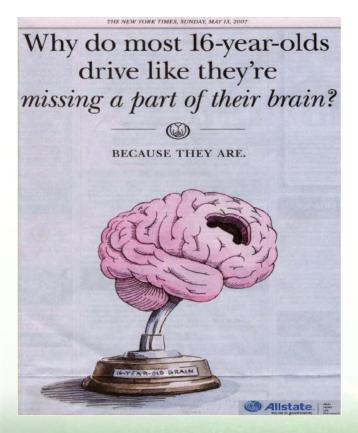
- WHO predicts: unless more comprehensive global action is taken, the number of deaths and injuries is likely to rise significantly
- Youth are the future of tomorrow
- Tony Blair: "It is right that we recognize the particular vulnerability of the young on our roads, because we all have a duty of care to keep our children and **young people safe**".



#### YOUNG ROAD USERS PROBLEM

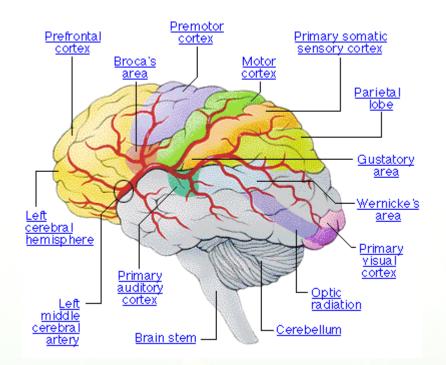
- There are no problem young road users, there is a young road users problem
- It is the system that makes young people the main victims, for example:
  - No proper driver training
  - Bad infrastructure
  - No or limited traffic laws and enforcement
  - No or limited access to safe vehicles or helmets
  - Limited awareness and education programs





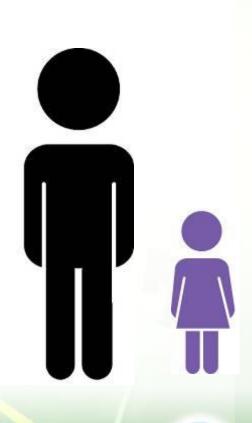


- Brain development: between 20-25 yrs
- Prefrontal cortex:
  - Impulse control
  - Judgment
  - Decision-making
  - Reasoning





- Young people are more sensitive for social / group pressure / peer influence
- Some young people will take higher risks than adults in search for a 'kick'
- Young males are higher at risk than young females



- Inexperience among adolescents and young adults makes them less safe when driving a car or a motorcycle than older drivers
- Overestimation of their own skills
- Environment often not adjusted for their needs
  - Setting speed limits
  - Safe playgrounds
  - Safe school areas

#### YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR CHALLENGES

Youth culture and life style:

- Cars/motorbikes are important
- Going out at night and weekends





#### **ROAD CRASHES ARE PREVENTABLE**

What is needed:

- Designing safer **roads**
- Improving the safety features of **vehicles**
- Setting and enforcing **laws**: seat-belts, helmets, child restraints, BAC limits for drivers, speed limits
- Raising public awareness, education activities and training
- Influencing social values and norms



- It all started in 2007...
- @United Nations





- 400 Young people
- From more than
  100 countries





#### • Discussing road safety and what could be our involvement?





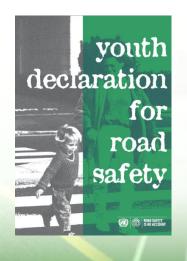






Important outcomes were:

- All youth delegates were inspired and full of energy to become youth Ambassadors for Road Safety
- Adoption of the UN Youth Declaration for Road Safety
- Decision to mobilize and organize ourselves and to start a global youth movement for road safety



#### One of our wishes: a global youth-led NGO for road safety



2008: support of World Health Organization2009: generous grant of Michelin to start first activities2009: creation of a youth Taskforce to set strategy, goals, branding, website...





#### November 2010: Launch of YOURS – Youth for Road Safety





What do we do...

Advocate at a regional/global level

Inspire, Connect and Unite young people

## Develop capacities of youth advocates



#### INVOLVEMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE Advocacy and Awareness

Youth voice at United Nation Road Safety Collaboration

Free advocacy materials to use:







#### **INVOLVEMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE** Inspiring, Connecting and Uniting

the first eve

Organizing regional youth assemblies for road safety:





#### **INVOLVEMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE** Inspiring, Connecting and Uniting

#### Strong online presence and online mapping of youth initiatives



#### **INVOLVEMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE Developing capacities of young people**

Organizing workshops and development of Youth and Road Safety Toolkit



#### INVOLVEMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE Other showcases

#### Brazil, Vida Urgente







#### INVOLVEMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE Other showcases

#### The Netherlands, TeamAlert



#### INVOLVEMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE Other showcases

#### Niger, ONG FONDEÏ MA BORI





## WHY IS YOUTH PARTICIPATION IMPORTANT?

Encourage you to reach out to young people and increase youth participation:

- Youth have a right to participate in decisions that affects them;
- ✓ Youth are the main victims and can be a big asset in the solution as well;
- ✓ Next generation of stakeholders;
- ✓ Development of skills of young people.

#### WHY IS YOUTH PARTICIPATION IMPORTANT? Tips to engage with young people

TIP 1: Approach youth as part of the solution, not just as focus of the problem

TIP 2: Trust youth to do good, support/guide them, but do not tell them what to do, youth are a bit rebellious by nature

TIP 3: Use their unique set of skills, Youth... are experts of their own youth culture; have boundless energy and motivation; have the will to make a change; have the abilities for peer education; are great advocates; have the skills in new media.



#### ROLE OF YOUNG PEOPLE DURING THE DECADE What can you expect from us?



YOURS will continue to...

- mobilize the youth world wide
- support the youth with their road safety efforts
- further develop the skills of young people
- advocate for the needs of young people



#### SUMMARY AND CONLUSIONS What do you need to remember?

- Road crashes are the leading killer of young people
- Young people face many challenges
- About YOURS

Advocating for youth and road safety; Inspiring-Connecting-Uniting; Developing Capacities.

- Importance of youth participation
- Involve young people in road safety!

**SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS** What do you need to remember?

# Thank you

