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.

This research provides a thorough and insightful analysis of the challenges and inefficiencies in the collection and accuracy of Road Traffic Crashes (RTCs) data in Zambia, a representation of the broader issues faced by low- and middle-income countries. The emphasis on the disproportionate burden these countries bear in terms of RTC fatalities and injuries highlights a significant public health crisis. The study's focus on Zambia's RTC mortality data collection processes, involving key stakeholders such as the Zambia Police Service, Health Care Facilities, and the Department of National Registration, Passports, and Citizenship, is commendable for its comprehensive approach to identifying systemic problems.

The identification of key challenges, including reliance on paper-based records, inadequate training of personnel, resource limitations, inconsistencies in case definitions, and low death registration rates, is critical. These challenges not only hamper the accuracy and completeness of RTC data but also impede the development and implementation of effective road safety measures. The recommendations put forth by the research, including the establishment of a multidisciplinary road crash data analysis team, leveraging technology for data collection and analysis, capacity building, public awareness campaigns, and enhancing inter-agency collaboration, are well thought out and address the identified challenges directly.

However, while the study offers valuable insights and practical recommendations, it could be enriched by incorporating a few additional elements:

1. Including a comparative analysis with countries that have successfully improved their RTC data collection systems could provide practical examples of strategies that could be adapted or adopted by Zambia.
2. While the study focuses on key stakeholders, the inclusion of perspectives from these stakeholders could add depth to the understanding of the challenges and the feasibility of the recommendations proposed. Interviews or surveys could be used to gather these insights.
3. An analysis of the potential costs and benefits of implementing the recommended measures could strengthen the case for investment in improved RTC data collection systems. This would be particularly persuasive for policymakers and funding bodies.

In conclusion, this research significantly contributes to the discourse on improving RTC data collection and road safety in Zambia and similar contexts. Its recommendations, if implemented, could lead to substantial improvements in the

accuracy and completeness of RTC data, which is essential for developing effective road safety policies and interventions. Further research incorporating the additional elements suggested could enhance the robustness and applicability of the findings. The authors could benefit from the following references (https://doi.org/10.28991/cej-2019-03091301) and (http://dx.doi.org/10.2478/cee-2023-0012) and (Statistical Analysis of Mortality and Morbidity Due to Traffic Accidents in Iraq)