Mortalities and morbidities due to traffic accidents: the unknown criminal

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Abstract

**Purpose:** Studying the relationship between crime and traffic accidents in different geographical regions is very critical since varying relationships have been reported to exist diverse areas. The aim of this study was to determine the relationship between crime with injuries and deaths due to road traffic accidents in Iran.

**Design/methodology/approach:** In this study, macro level panel data between 2007 and 2013 were used. The number of folders due to crimes in each province was used as explanatory variable to show the amount of crime in each province. Number of fatal and injury death used as outcome variables.

The models were estimated using fixed effect panel regression estimator.

**Findings:** The results of this study showed that the number of records in courts (Cr) had a significant positive relationship with fatal accidents (coefficient=0.006). In Injury Accidents Model, Cr coefficient was 0.008 and significant. In addition, GINI had positive relationship with fatal accidents (coefficient: 1.396) while it had no significant relationship with injury accidents.

**Originality/value:** A positive association was found between crime and mortalities and morbidities due to traffic accidents. Traffic accidents and crimes derived from a similar nature. So traffic accidents could be categorized as crime and it is important to increase more prohibitions to decrease traffic accidents. Prevention programs should focus on population groups with high social distinction and criminals, especially traffic offenses.

**Keywords:** Crime, injury, death, accidents, inequality, Iran