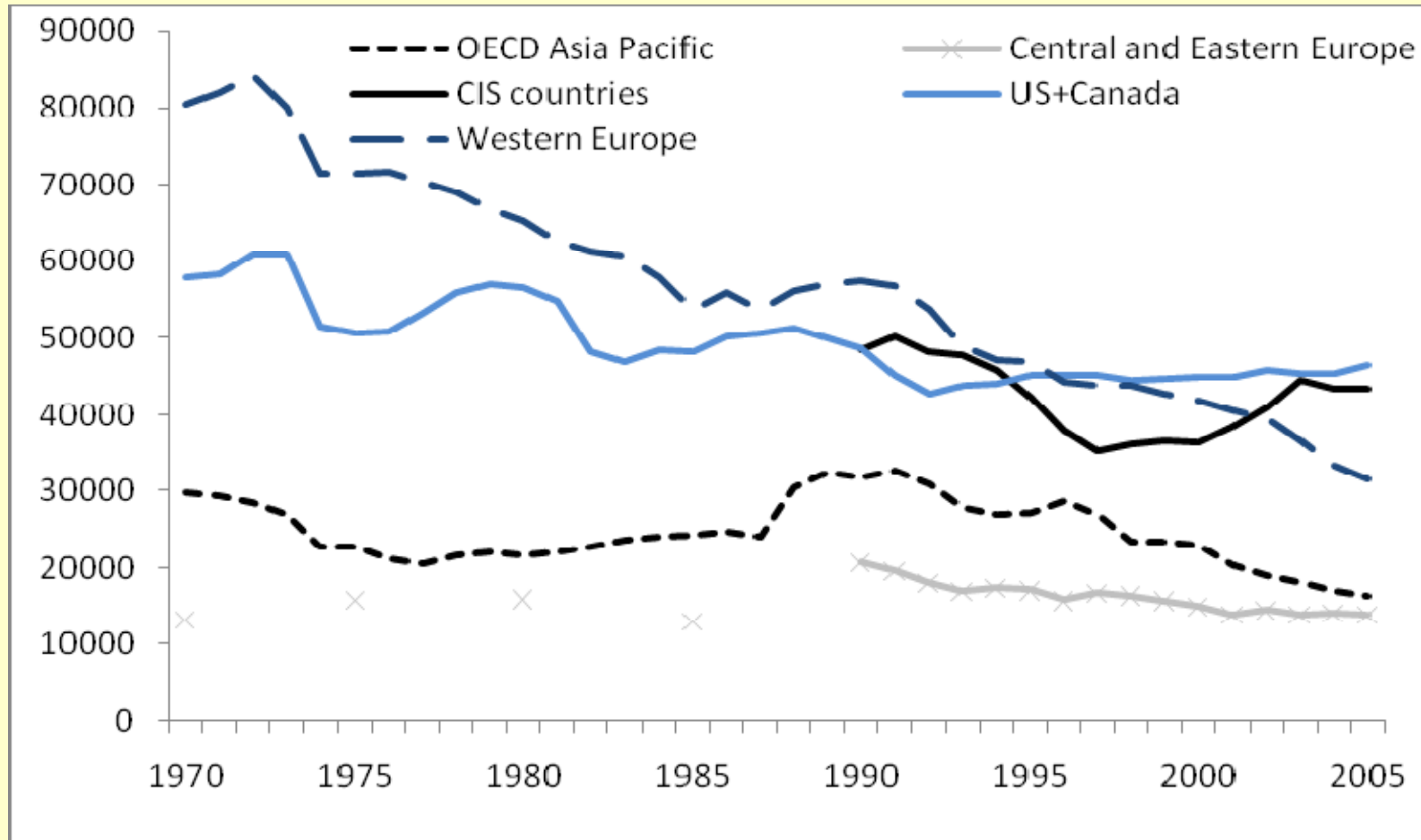




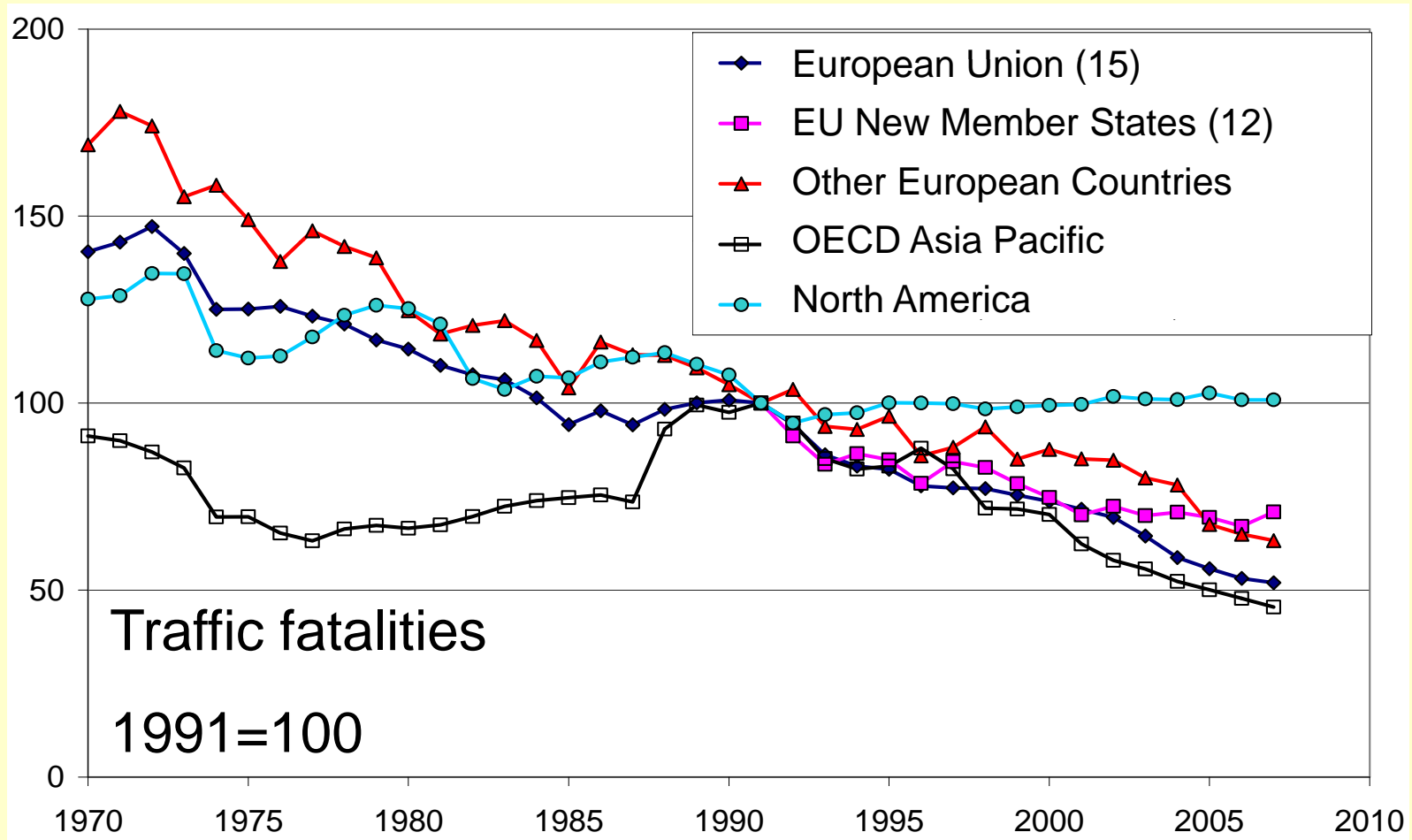
# **The Good, the Bad and ... the potential for improvement**

Fred Wegman  
SWOV Institute for Road Safety Research  
The Netherlands

## Fatalities in main OECD/ITF regions (OECD/ITF, to be published)



# Development in OECD/ITF regions





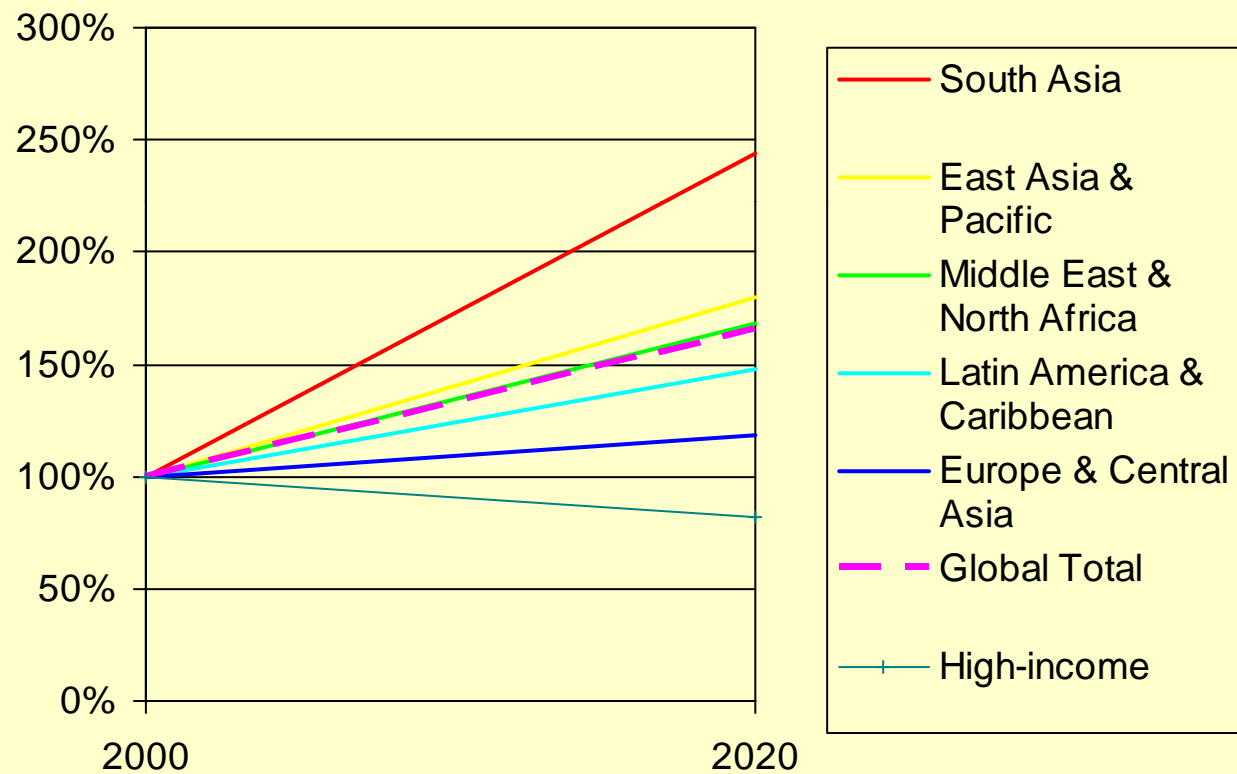
## **“PRESS RELEASE**

**15th September 2008**

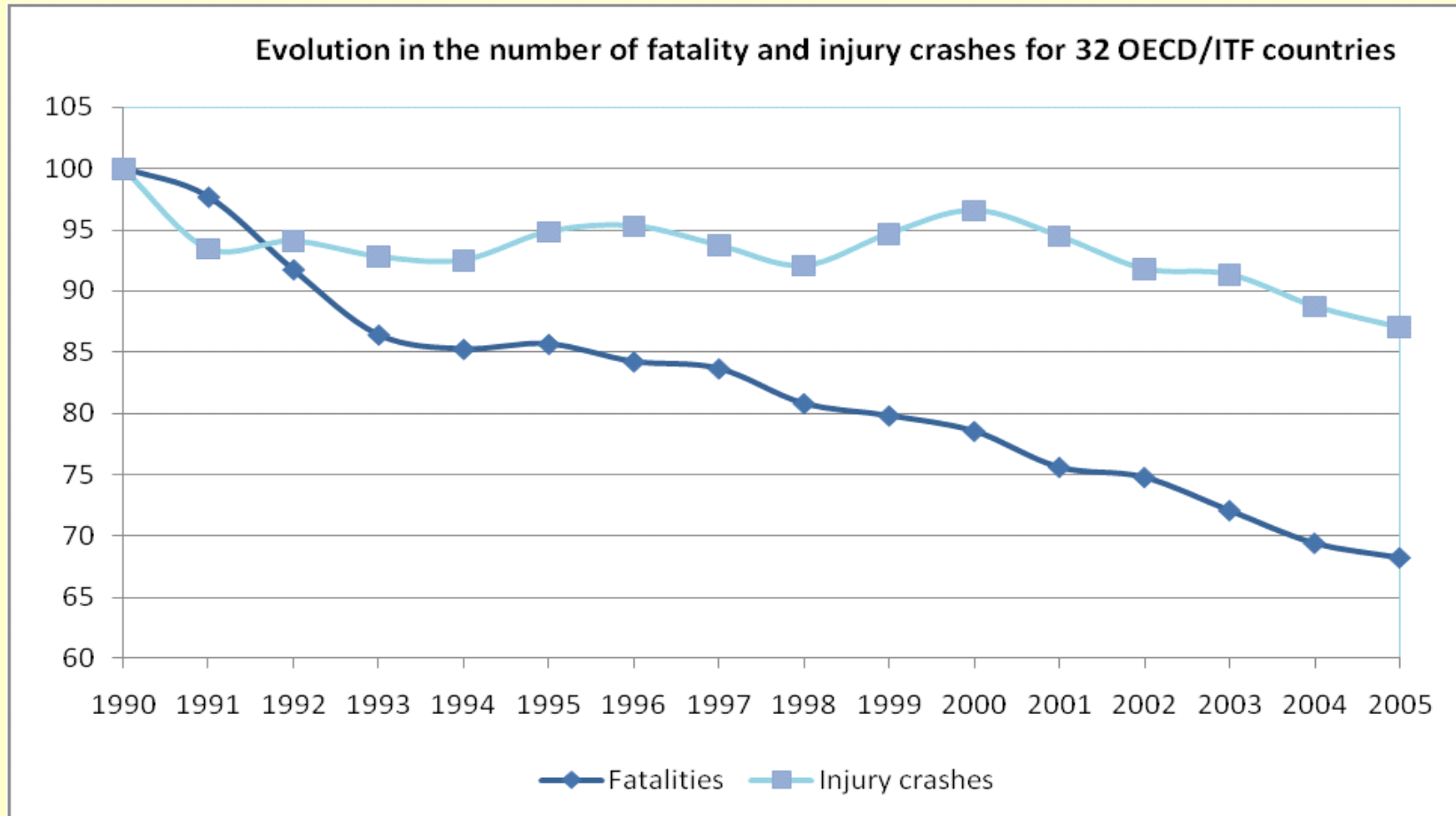
### **Progress in road safety slowing down**

Road fatalities for the countries for which data are available show a slowdown in the downward trend of recent years (see Table 1 below). It is important, however, to consider the data within a larger timeframe.....”

# Predicted road traffic fatalities (World Bank, Kopits/Cropper, 2003)



# Evolution in fatality and injury crashes (OECD/ITF, to be published)

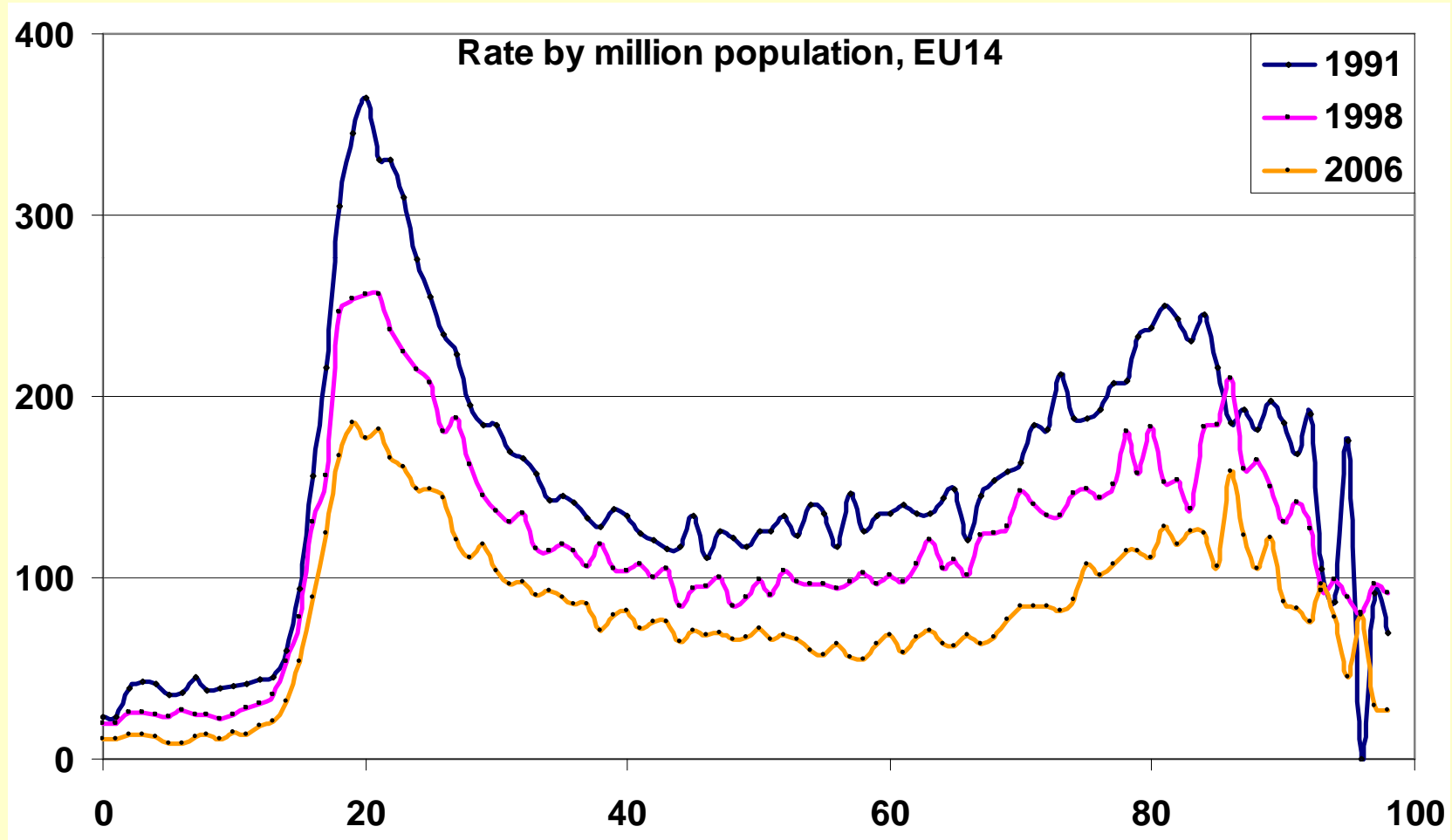


## We have more than fatalities ....

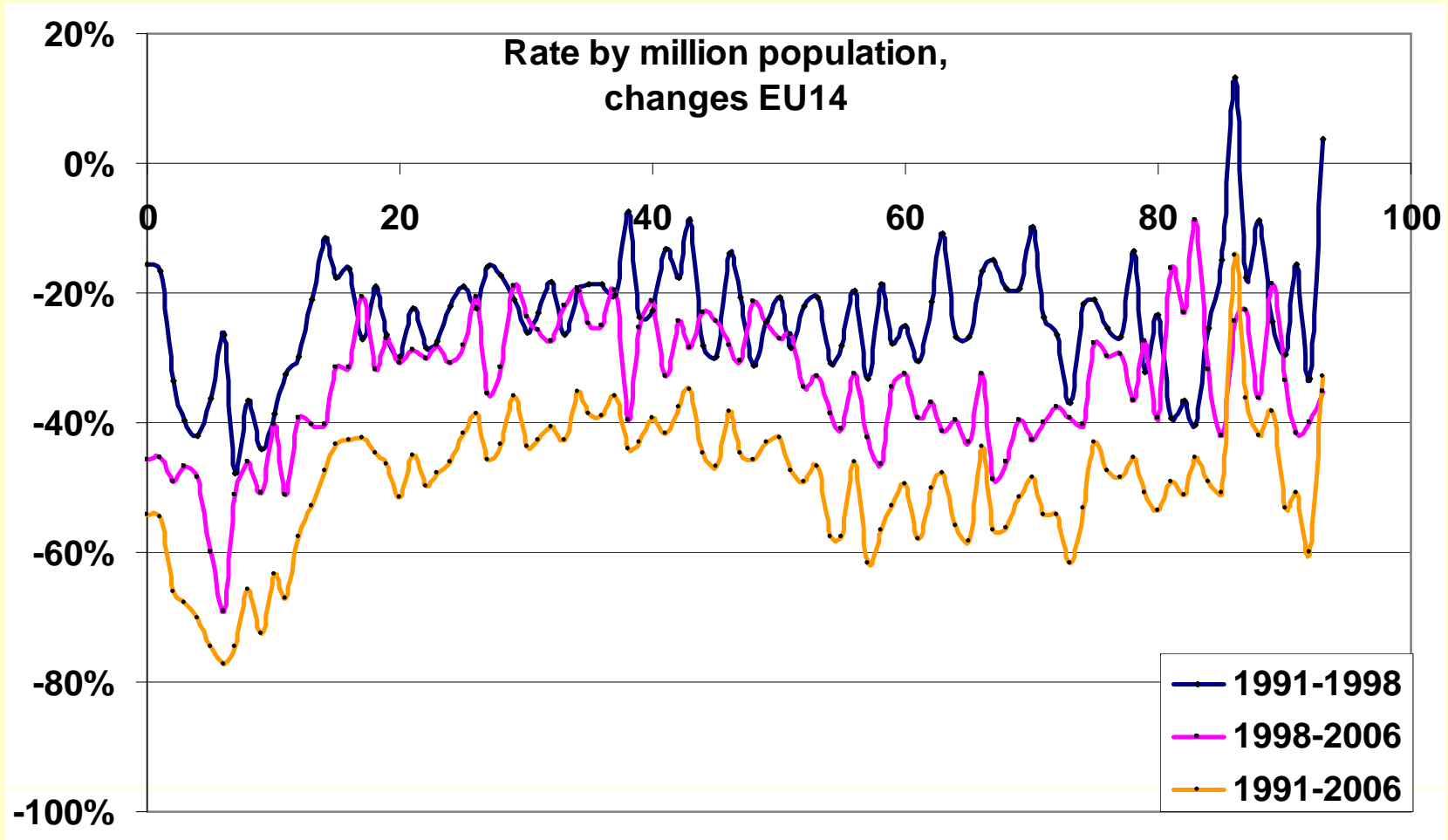
- A less positive conclusion can be drawn about progress made in OECD/ITF countries when using injury figures than figures on fatalities
- It is recommended to add injury data to international databases (such as IRTAD) based on an international agreement on definitions and on how to respond in a harmonized way to underreporting



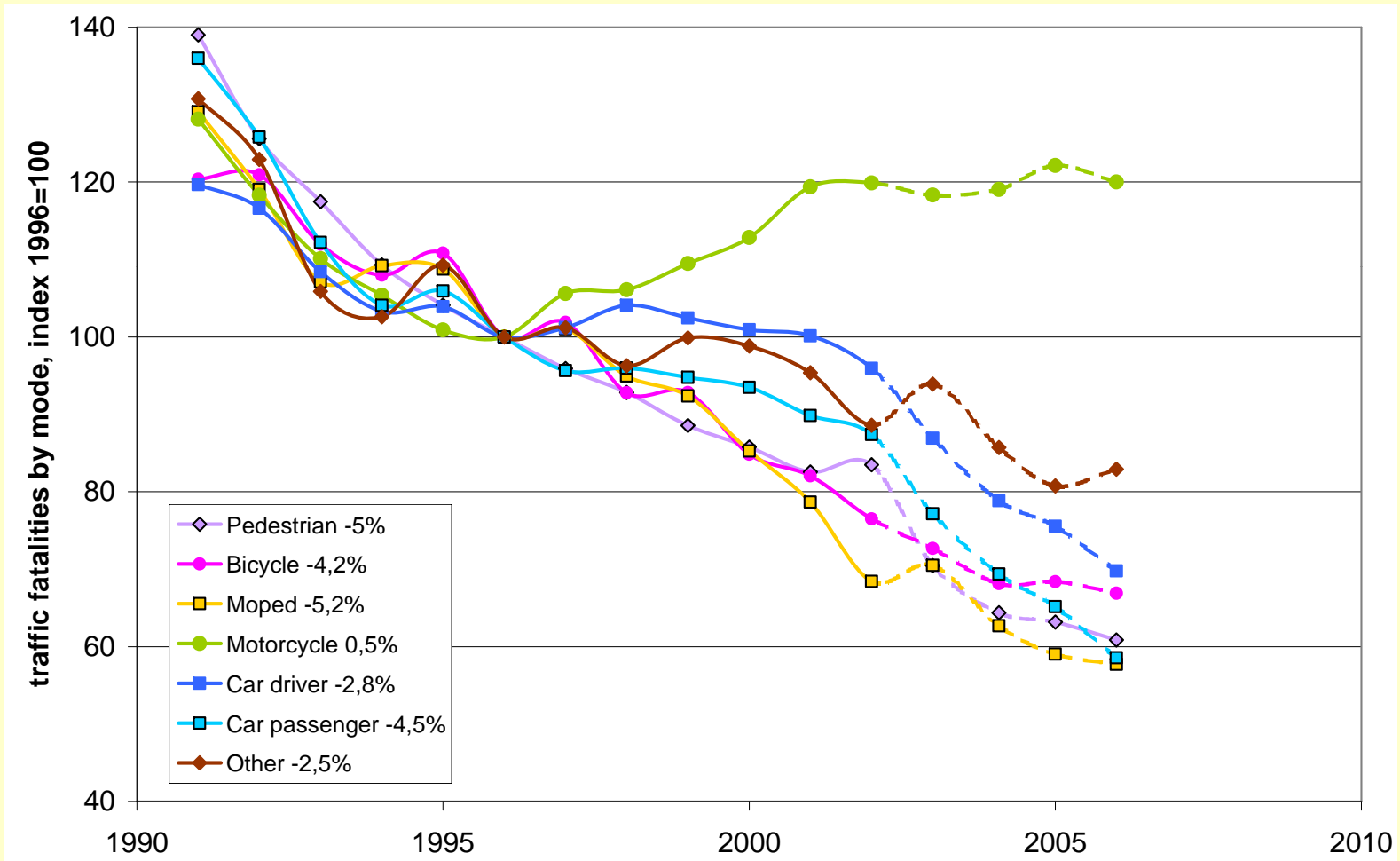
## Progress of mortality rates by age (I)



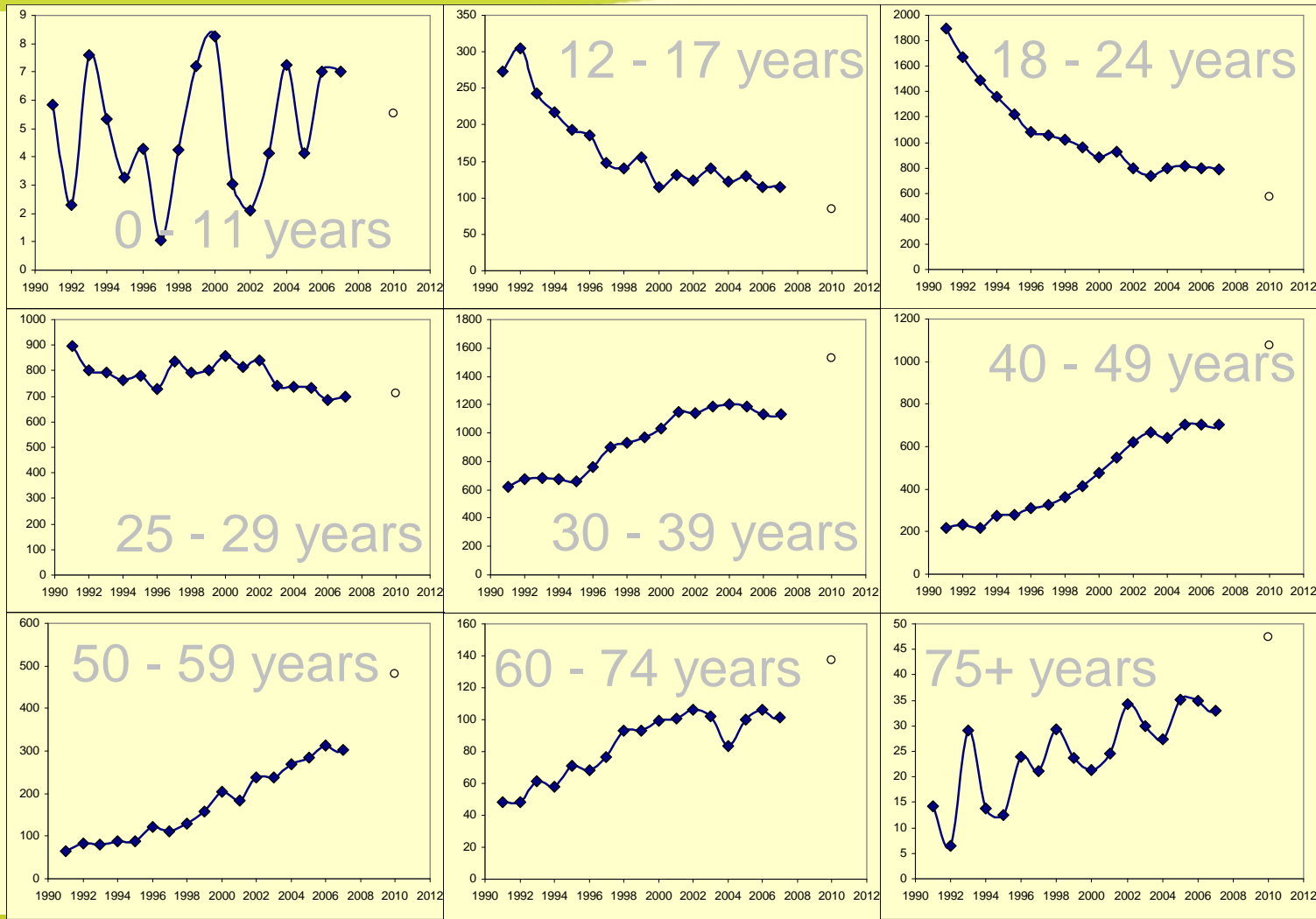
## Progress of mortality rates by age (II)



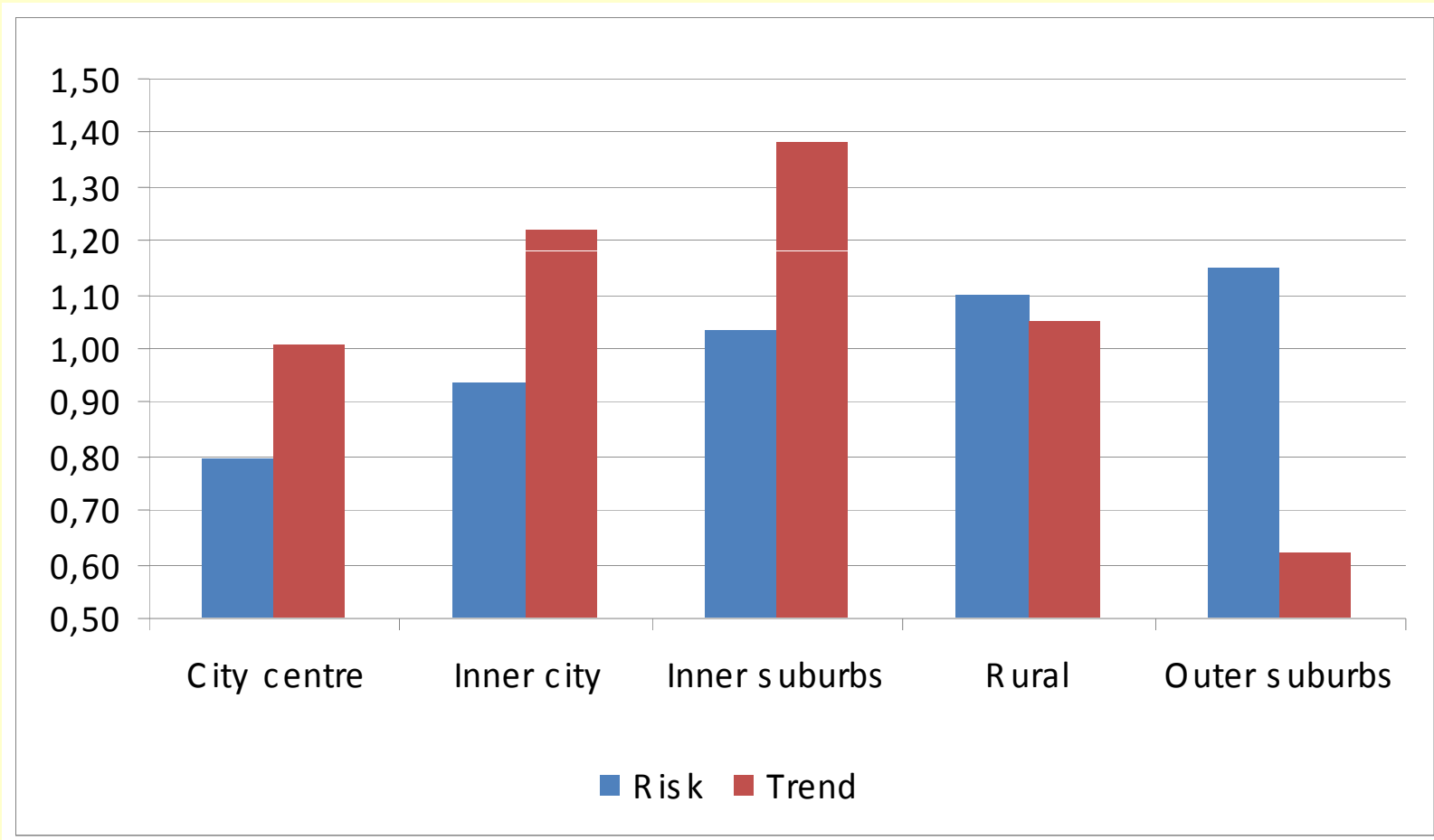
# Progress by mode of transport



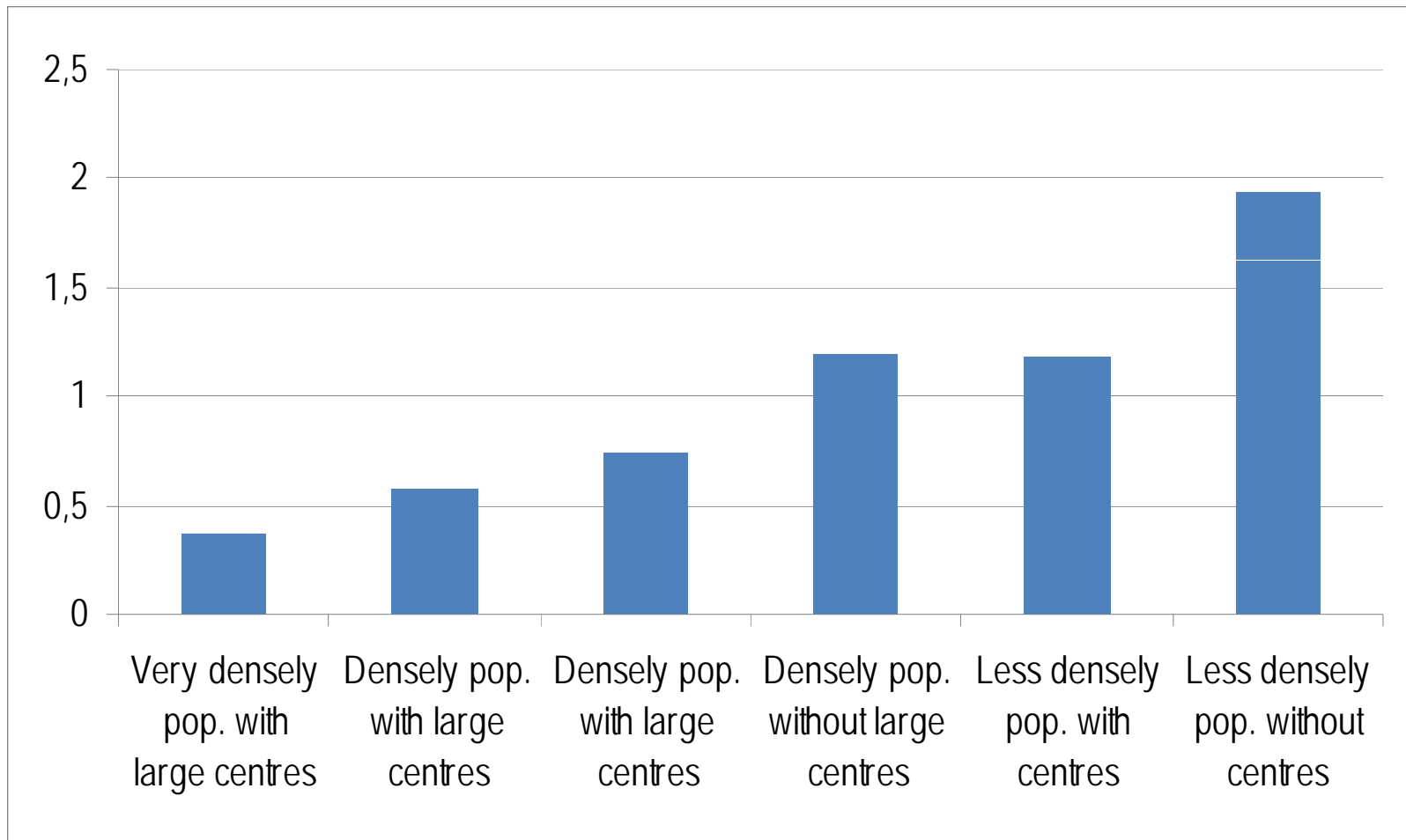
## Motorcyclists EU-15 per age group



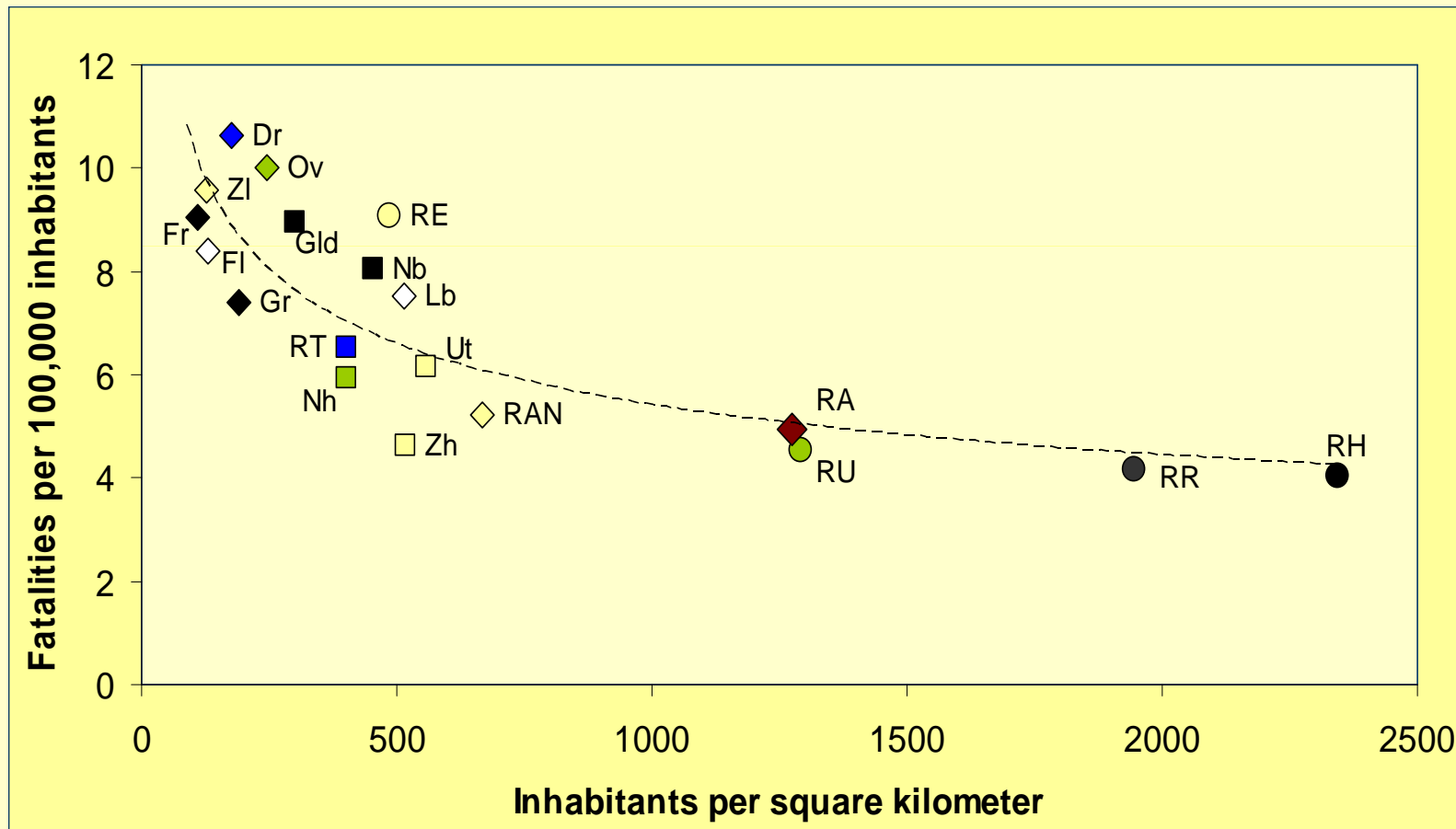
# Relative fatality rate and its relative annual reduction for different settlement types of Belgian communes



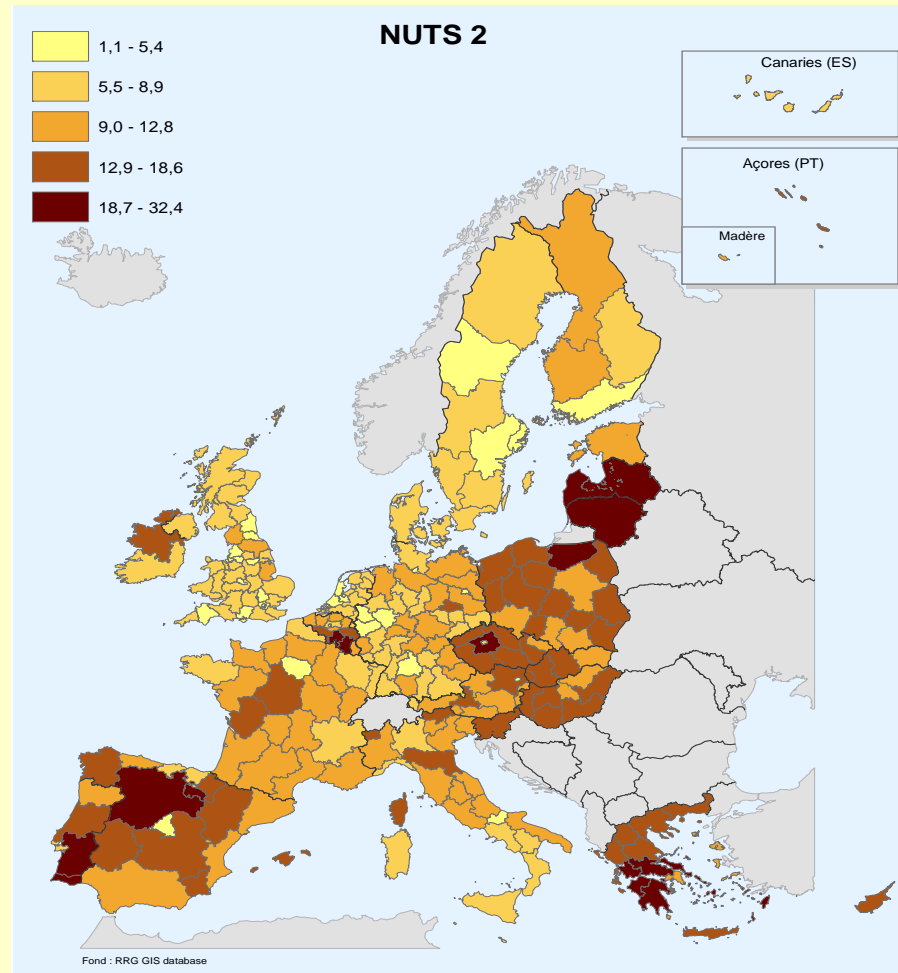
## Mortality for different settlement types; EU-25 countries in 2004 (Eksler)



# Regional differences for mortality and population density in the Netherlands

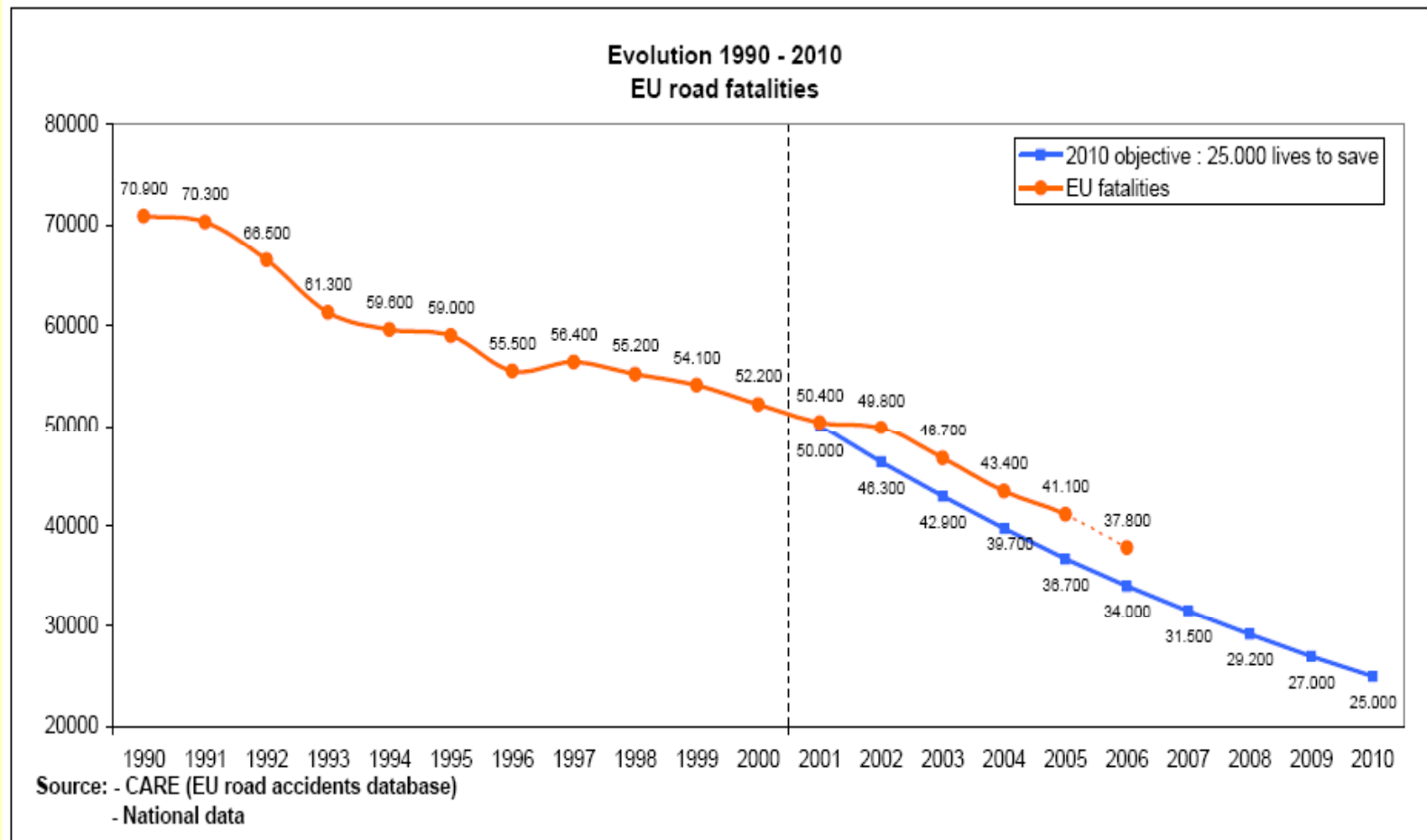


## Mortality rates for NUTS-2 regions in EU (2004)

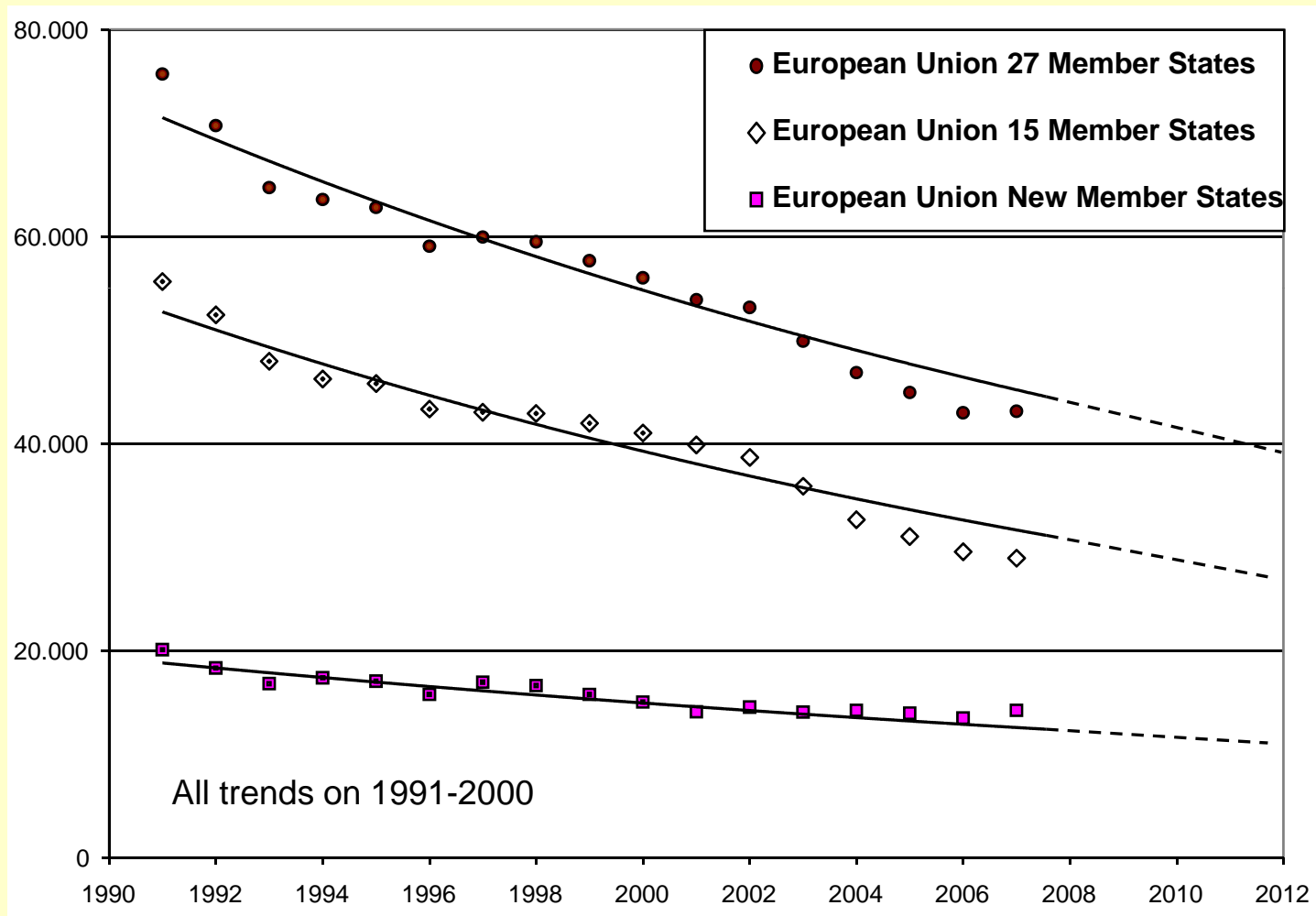




# Evolution road fatalities in the EU

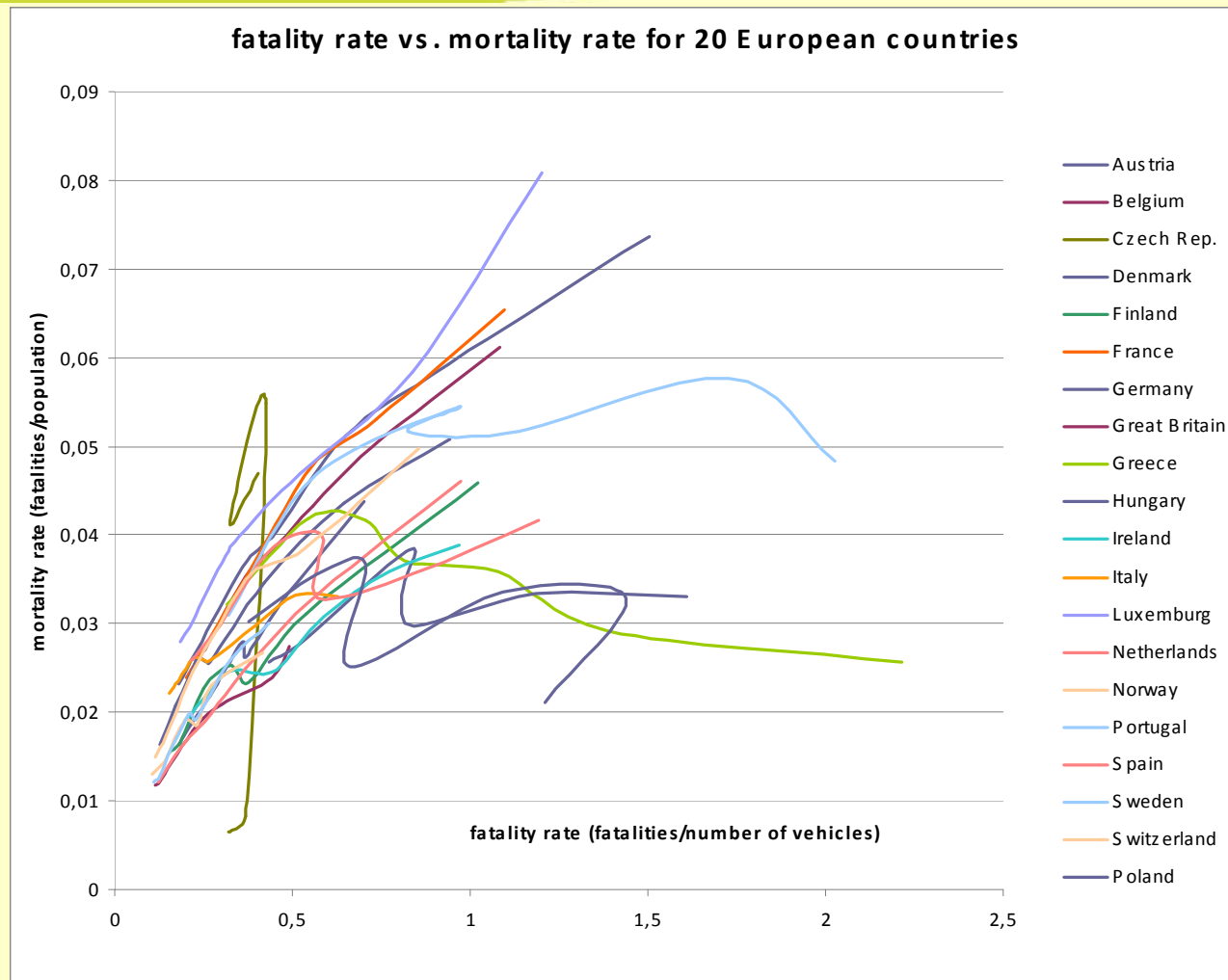


# Progress on fatalities in the EU

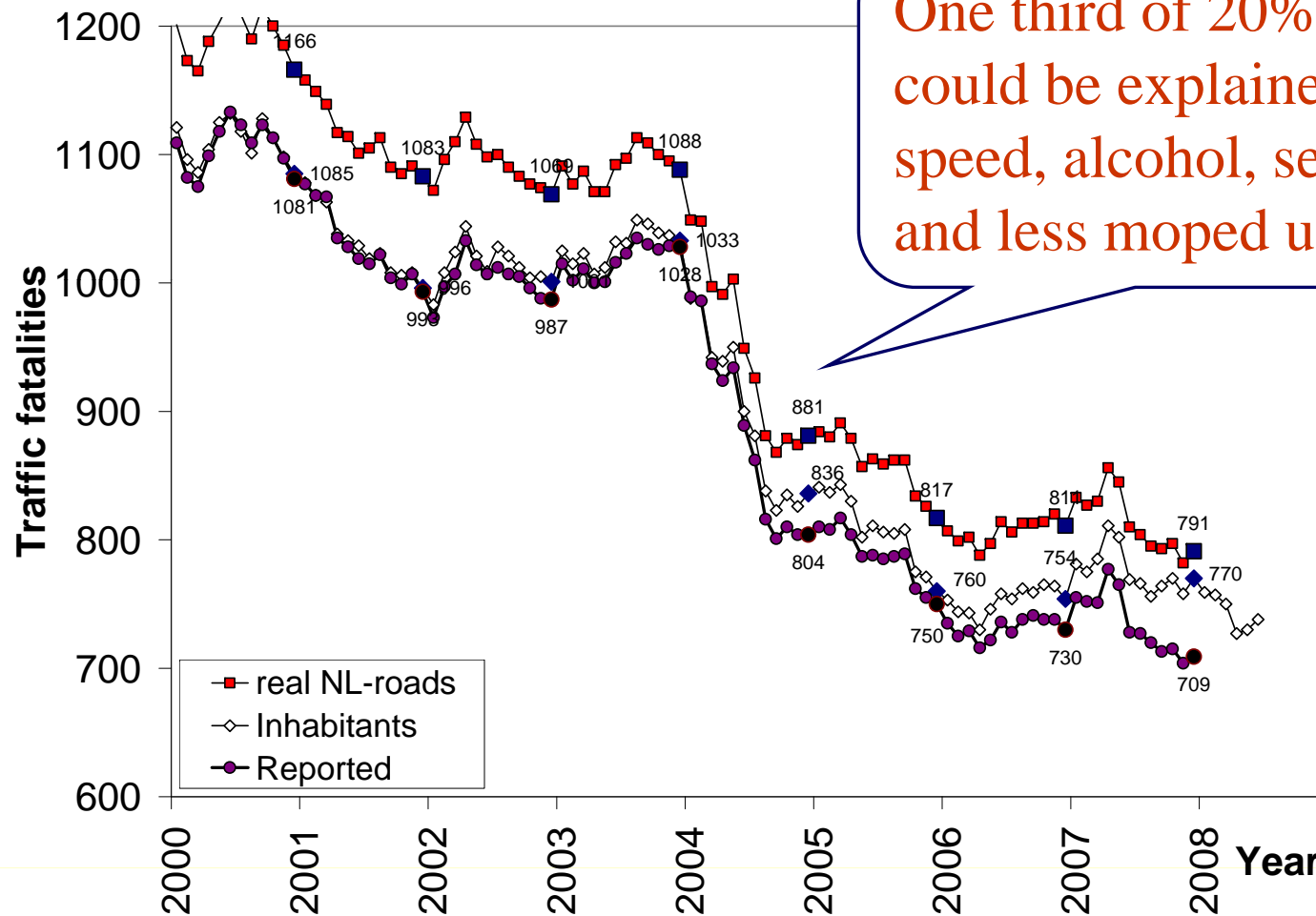


# All countries move to the same spot ?!

## Fatality rate vs. mortality rate



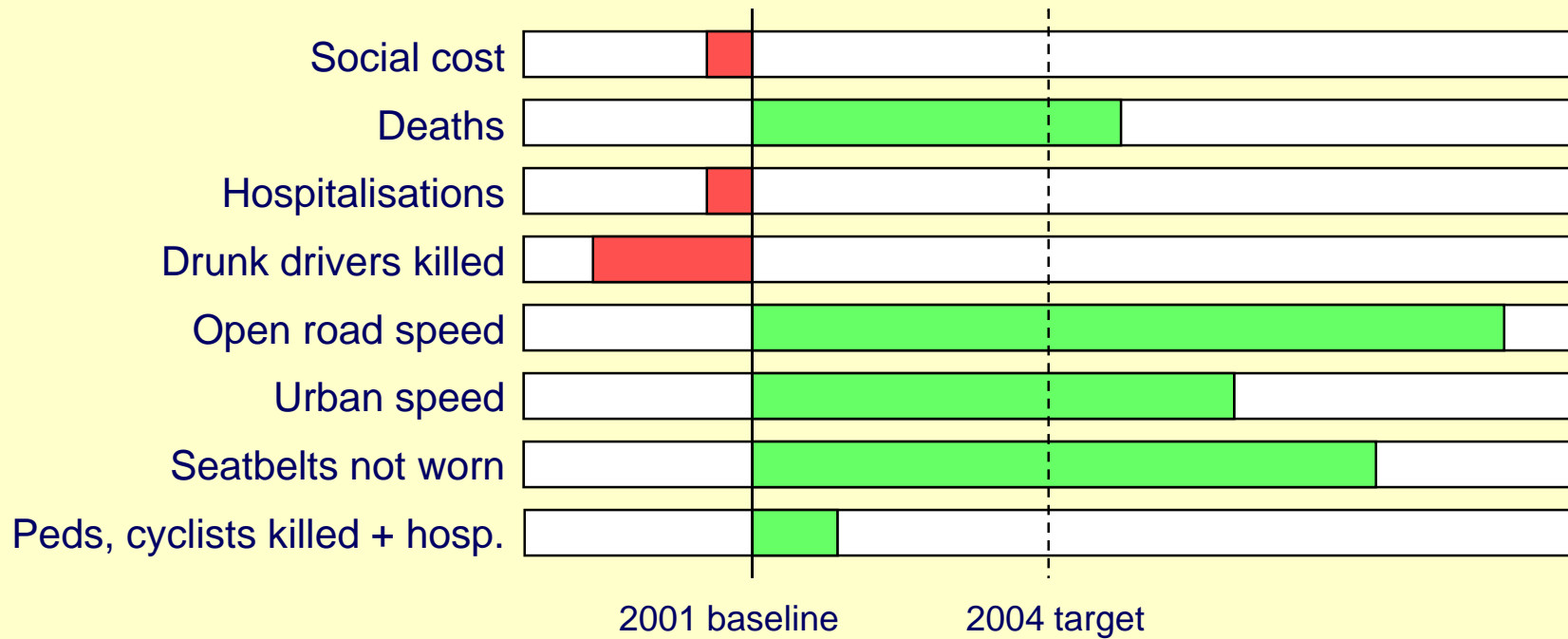
## An example: number of traffic fatalities in the Netherlands (running total)



## How to speed up our learning curve?

- We have to learn more from ex-post evaluations
- Not only from high-impact, short-term and more or less isolated interventions; progress is coming from many, small steps forward in an ever changing world
- We have to improve our ex-ante evaluations to support decision making on road safety programmes
- Scientific Research on Road Safety Management
  - Workshop in the Netherlands 2009
  - Special Issue Safety Science 2010

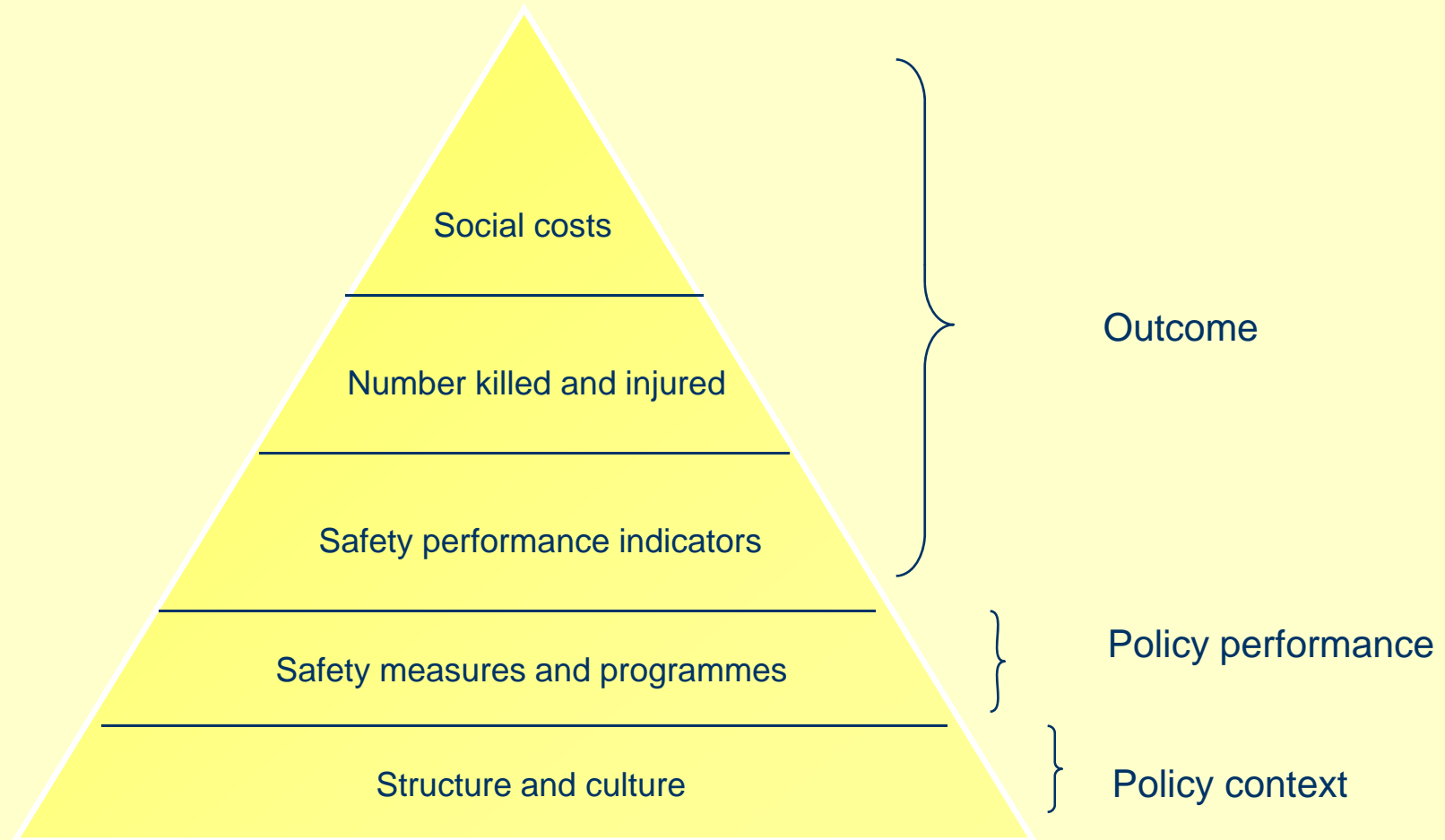
# How to measure progress? Example from New Zealand



## Road Safety Benchmarking

- Not only fatality rates and mortality rates
- The process of measuring various aspects of a road safety performance of a country (or other jurisdiction) and comparing this with the performance of others, i.e. the best-of-class by identifying, understanding and adapting their (outstanding) practices
  - Who performs well?
  - Who is the most compatible to benchmark with?
  - What can I learn?

# A framework for our knowledge: road safety target hierarchy (SUNflower)





## Composite indicator for benchmarking purposes

- Three entrances:
  - Outcome indicators (final and intermediate outcomes)
  - Quality of road safety 'measures and programmes'
  - Indicators on 'structure and culture'
- SUNflower in SafetyNet (initial results later this year)

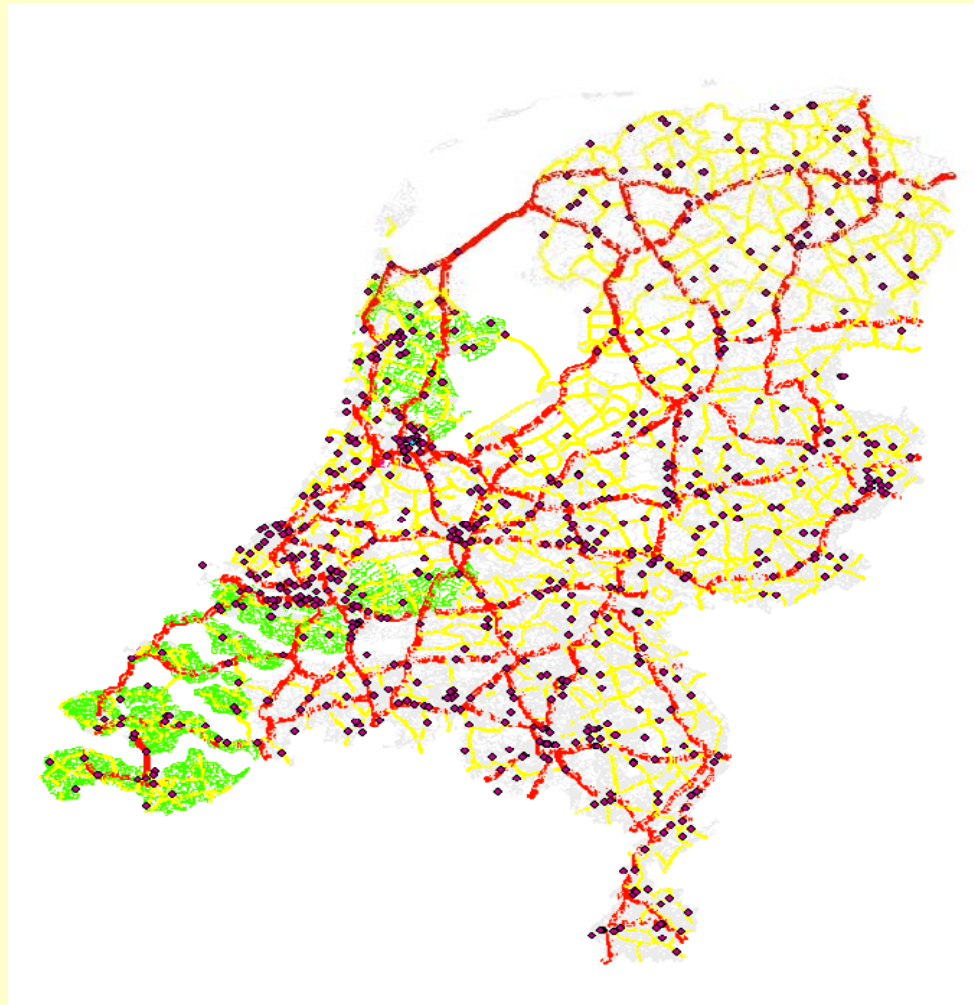
## Towards a composite indicator for ROAD SAFETY PERFORMANCE ?

- Advantages
  - Simplification
  - Quantification
  - Communication
  
- Accepted in many other fields, e.g.
  - Financial world: Dow Jones, CAC,
  - Human Development Index
  - Environmental Sustainability Index
  - Overall Health System Index

## Go fishing where fish is, but ....

- Look for high risks, high proportions, high increases
  - e.g. novice drivers, elderly road users, PTW, high-risk locations
- Road crashes *can* occur and *will* occur everywhere
- We were (relatively) successful in fishing where the fishes are
- However, fishes are more and more everywhere
- The answer is a systems approach

## Road fatalities are scattered



## Our fundamental road safety problem

- Today's road traffic is *inherently* unsafe
- The road system of today has not been designed with safety in mind, as is the case with air transport or rail transport
- Which means we are almost fully dependent on whether a road user makes a mistake or error in preventing a crash
- Another approach is needed: *Safe Safety Approach*

## To conclude

- We are all Good and Bad
- All countries/regions have potential for improvements
- Road Safety Management could be improved considerably
- Which approach? *Safe System Approach*

