

transport in Nigeria. Its popularity and widespread acceptance has rapidly risen in recent years. Unfortunately, the rise has been accompanied by increased levels of high-risk behaviour and accidents; as a result they have come under heavy scrutiny culminating in legislations restricting and in some instances prohibiting their operations in some cities.

**Objectives** To identify possible causes of motorcycle accidents among motorcyclists, and suggest some preventive measures.

**Materials and methods** Karu was chosen for convenience of study. Karu is a nearby town to the federal capital Abuja, Nigeria. A structured questionnaire and interview were administered to 50 Okada riders. Okada riders were selected randomly at differently locations in Karu. Responses were analysed.

**Result** Reckless driving accounted for 78% of the accidents while alcohol and drug intoxication 66% and 46%, respectively. Structural factors were faults in the motorcycles which were responsible for 44%. The poor state of the roads and absence of road traffic signs in 12% and 22% cases, respectively. Other attributing factor was unfavourable emotional state of the rider (22%).

**Discussion and conclusion** Reckless driving was identified as a major cause of road traffic accidents among Okada riders in Karu, Nigeria. Adequate education and improved road safety measures will likely help in reducing the number of road traffic accident.

#### 0319 POSSIBLE CAUSES OF MOTORCYCLE (OKADA) ACCIDENTS IN KARU, NIGERIA

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**Introduction** Commercial motorcyclists popularly known as Okada in Nigeria are motorcyclists who carry passengers for hire. It is one of the major and most common means of informal