



## Research Article

# Barriers and facilitators to learning and using first aid skills for road traffic crash victims in Nepal: a qualitative study

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Published September 2024

DOI: 10.3310/UTKW7640

## Plain language summary

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Global Health Research 2024

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Providing first aid to road traffic crash victims, together with safe transfer to a health facility, can save lives or reduce the harm sustained. There are increasing numbers of road traffic crashes and injuries in Nepal but limited evidence on the factors that influence people to learn first aid, or to use first aid skills. Therefore, we aimed to explore the barriers and facilitators to learning and using first aid skills to help road crash victims in Nepal. We interviewed three groups of people: (1) members of the public who had never been trained in first aid, (2) members of public who had received first aid training and (3) first aid trainers. The interviews were conducted in Nepali, translated into English, and analysed to identify common themes. Participants said that appreciation from the community and a desire to help those who are in need encouraged them to learn first aid, but they were not always confident to apply their first aid skills. Participants described a fear of social and legal consequences of providing care, and a lack of awareness in the public about why providing first aid was important. Time and financial constraints were further barriers to learning and using first aid skills. Providing legal protection from prosecution for first aiders and raising the awareness of the importance of providing first aid to stabilise injuries prior to transport to hospital appear to be important steps to improve outcomes for road traffic crash victims.