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Anthropometric Comparison of Three-Year-Old Nigerian Child and Crash Dummies

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ABSTRACT

In this work, anthropometric data measured from three-year-old Nigerian child were compared with anthropometric database collected by Snyder, 1977 which formed the basis of US anthropometric database. Further comparison was also carried out with the dimensions of crash dummies: Hybrid III three-year-old (3YO) and Q3s dummies in order to determine the validity of using such crash dummies for safety cars and child restraint systems (CRS) used for Nigerian children. Anthropometric survey was pe

Nigerian children aged 2.5 to 3.5 years old. Twenty three standard measurements were taken including the weight, height and circumferences etc. Various percentiles mean and standard deviation obtained and compared with international database. As observed, the dimensions of three-year-old appeared to be about 25% lower than US data reported by Snyder. Significant difference was also observed in the dimensions of three-year-old Nigerian child and crash dummies. This study provides the external dimensions of 3-year-old Nigerian child that could be used for crash dummy and CRS design.

KEYWORDS

[Anthropometry](#), [Crash Dummies](#), [Child Restraint System](#), [Measurement](#), [Vehicle Safety](#)

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1. Introduction

Anthropometry is the measurement of human size: shape, dimensions, weight and physical capabilities. Shape, mass and strength are critical in the design of product with which people interact. It is applied in product design, vehicle interior layout and development of crash dummies. Accurate body shape is needed for designing correct child restraint system (CRS) for children. It is not possible to create a single human model to represent all population. This is because human being is unique creature; any person has different anthropometry and mechanical characteristics.

Development of crash dummy models requires knowledge of geometry and the external dimensions of human being it represents in sitting and standing posture for rear passenger and pedestrian respectively. In developing countries, safety systems used in developing countries were evaluated using crash dummies of other countries based on anthropometry. Most commonly used Child dummy models are three- and six-year olds in crash tests. Very few data exist on child segment anthropometry and the ones available were based on United States children, and mostly out dated, but none represents African child talk less of Nigerian alone. The first comprehensive anthropometric data of children were carried out in 70's by university of Michigan Transportation Research Institute (UMTRI) by research team led by Snyder. This forms the basis of most US contemporary child body dimensions [1].

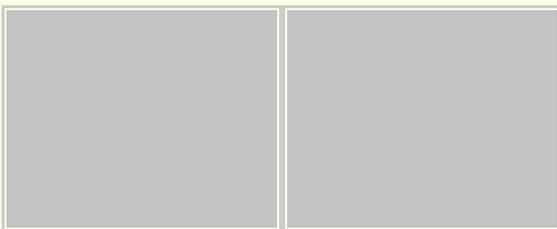
There are some efforts of comparing anthropometry of some population to crash dummies developed. [2] compares the anthropometry of three-year-old and six-year-old French children with crash dummies. Anthropometric measurement was performed on 70 and 80, three-year-old (3YO) and six-year-old (6YO) children respectively. Anthropometric dimensions of French children were found to be 12% higher than other anthropometries. Other authors compared 50th hybrid III dummy with adult Chinese occupant [3] and United States adult [4] with the aim of identifying differences in anthropometries. Nigeria is the number one car buyer, highest economy and fastest growing country in Africa with an average of 70,000 cars sold annually and with an average of 1 vehicle to every 10 people [5]. It is imperative to consider this population in evaluation of vehicle crashworthiness especially for child occupants. To the best of author's knowledge, there is no research that considers the validity of crash dummies on African population. To study this scenario anthropometric data are needed and a comprehensive anthropometric data described the dimensions of African population for

development.

Child vehicle safety has been given much concern recently by vehicle developers, researchers and occupant safety systems available, child protection in vehicle crashes is still not optimum. It was that children 14 years and younger account for 3% of total traffic fatalities in the United States [6]. It is expected to be higher in developing countries with their failing infrastructure and poor or no safety. For example African region possesses only 2% of the world's vehicles but it contributes 16% to the Children aged 0 to 4 years were shown to account for 3.4% of the traffic death in 12 African countries. Finite element (FE) modelling remains the most efficient tool to assess occupant injury risk and evaluate safety systems. Current FE models are limited to certain population anthropometry. Research on child development was recently focused on vulnerable population such as children especially obese children and pregnant women. Child occupants from developing countries like Nigeria need to be included in FE models. In this work, brief survey has been performed to provide body segment dimensions of 3YO Nigerian children. The aim was to compare these dimensions with crash dummies in order to determine whether they can be used as child dummies used in crashworthiness assessment of vehicles and CRS used by this population.

Hybrid III 3YO and Q3s Dummies

Hybrid III 3YO dummy shown in Figure 1(a) was based on US child anthropometry collected in the 1970s. Q3s dummies are based on US, Europe and Japanese combined anthropometry (CANDAT DATABASE). Q3s dummies differ in biofidelity, while US dummies concerned with head, neck and chest biofidelity. In side impact, the Q-dummies have the requirements of abdomen, shoulder and pelvis for frontal and side impact. The Q3s dummy shown in Figure 1(b) is used in side impact assessment. Both dummies, though representing the same age group, have different body structural design, size and weight as they are produced in different countries by different companies. Q dummies were developed by the International Child Dummy Working Group and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The 3YO child Hybrid III dummy was developed by humanetics in 1990's and is used in frontal impact assessment.



(a) (b)

Figure 1. Hybrid III 3YO child dummy FE model (a) and Q3s child dummy FE model (b).

more Software Technology Corporation (LSTC) in conjunction with National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and SAE Biomechanics Committees.

2. Anthropometric Data Collection

Due to the public health problem of malnutrition and other environmental, social and economic confronting African developing nations, the anthropometries of children differ significantly from those of developed nations. Subjects used in the present cross sectional study were mainly from Northern Nigerian Hausaland.

constitute the largest ethnic group in West Africa with 22.5 million people in Nigeria alone [9]. Nigerian children were measured in order to obtain the external dimensions of each body s children aged 2.5 - 3.5 years were measured to determine the anthropometric dimensions. The sampled from the population of healthy children brought to nursery school and immunization being of the subject was obtained from mother or care givers. Consent of parents was obtained should be used as subject in the measurement. Measuring time was kept as small as possible usu and data anonymity has been respected. Date of birth was recorded for the calculation of the subje The methods applied were similar to standard of measurement used by UMTRI [10]. Measurem taken in both standing and sitting postures. In standing the subject stands erect on horizontal sur wall with hands hanging down. For sitting, he sat erect on horizontal surface. Measurement wa shoes and with light clothes. The sample sex ratio was 15 boys 15 girls. Mechanical instrument anthropometer, sliding calliper and tape measure of 1mm accuracy. There are 23 standard dimensi document child size used in crash dummy design. These dimensions in standing and sitting postu in Figure 2.

3. Three-Year-Old Nigerian Child Anthropometric Data

Table 1 shows dimensions of children aged around 3 years. Descriptive statistical analysis has b using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software. The dimensions are in cm and th Student independent t-test was conducted to determine the influence of gender. P-value shows th in the means is not significant as such the data was merged without any distinction between m subjects.

3.1. Comparison of 3YO Nigerian Child Dimensions with Other Anthropometric S

To the best of author's knowledge no study gives detail anthropometric dimensions of 3YO Nigeri are sufficient for crash dummy design. The only data available indicates stature and weight of child:



Figure 2. Measured child body dimensions (as defined in Table 1).



Table 1. Anthropometric dimensions of three year old Nigerian child.

compares some dimensions of three year old child anthropometry with the data reported in the p It is clear that, the stature obtained in the present study was closer to what was reported in oth circumference and chest circumference values for the present study were found to be closer to the by other works. The low weight of Nigerian child was confirmed by Aina et al. [11] who found the 30 months Nigerian children as 10.3 kg. He concluded that the weight of the child was not up to the to World Health Organization (WHO) standard. Although climatic, nutritional, and econo significantly different in different populations and countries, one of the important factors anthropometric differences is race or ethnicity.

3.2. Anthropometric Comparison of 3YO Nigerian Child and US Data from Snyder

Table 3 shows that, 3YO child dimensions reported by Snyder were higher than 3YO Nigerian breadth, length, and height, neck breadth and foot breadth. The overall results show that Sn dimensions deviate from that of 50th percentile 3YO Nigerian child in all dimensions. Remarkable c



Table 2. Anthropometric data of three-year-old Nigerian child in comparison studies.



Table 3. Comparison of 3YO Nigerian child dimensions with Snyder, 1977.

be seen in weight and height. Weight of 3YO Nigerian child was found to be less than the 14.1 Snyder. Greater difference was noticed in rump to knee, knee to sole length, shoulder to elbow an with more than 10% difference each. The dimensions of 3YO Nigerian child appeared to be within US data. It is evident from Table 1 that, only about 25% of 3YO NC was taller than the 3YO United St

3.3. Anthropometric Comparison of 3YO Nigerian Child and 3YO HIII and Q3s Du

The 50th percentiles being the size dimensions representing average child in a population were crash dummy design. Comparison of 3YO Nigerian child anthropometry and crash dummies wa 50th percentile as shown in Table 4. The percentage difference was evaluated as:

□ (1)

Apart from head depth, foot breadth and waist circumference, the 3YO HIII and Q3s dummies are 1 percentiles Nigerian child in all dimension measured. This difference can have an effect on the si

child seat. Chest depth and shoulder breadth dimensions of 3YO HIII and Q3s dummy were high for a Nigerian child with a difference of over 9% and this could have affected the restraint belt position on the body. In general the two crash dummies were bigger than 3YO Nigerian child by a maximum difference of 25%.

A significant difference can be seen between the two crash dummies and 3YO Nigerian child (Table 4). A difference is observed in the total body weight, in which average Nigerian child was found to be 16.1% lower than the two age matched crash dummies (3YO HIII and Q3s). The 3YO HIII ATD was 16.1% lower than the weight maximum value of Nigerian child as seen in Table 1, which suggests that none of 3YO Nigerian child was greater than 3YO HIII. The weight of Q3s dummies was greater than 75th-percentiles of 3YO NC. Since occupant kinematics during crash, Nigerian child is expected to have different kinematics from crash dummies under the same impact condition. Q3s were about 12% taller than 3YO NC and its height corresponds to 75th percentiles while 3YO HIII was higher than 3YO NC by 8.0%. These differences in stature between crash dummies may affect the child head position relative to the child seat and contact points on the vehicle interior during crash event.



Table 4. Comparison of 3YO Nigerian child with 3YO HIII and Q3s dummies

-dimension not available.

The European mass classification of child seat do not seems to be relevant for Nigerian child because it appears as badly designed for this population according to anthropometric data obtained in this study. Children are seated in the good CRS, regarding their weight and stature. Though it was reported that children are vulnerable to high injuries [17], the injury potential and safety performance of CRS for Nigerian children is generally lower than crash dummies need to be investigated using the size matched crash dummies. Crash dummies differ slightly in size because they were produced by different companies and using anthropometric data of different populations. Child seats are designed to cover range of children weight, but their performance is only evaluated for 50th percentile child weight with the expectation that it will cover other percentiles. To reduce the injuries sustained by younger ones in road traffic, a more detailed validation need to be carried out for various percentiles in order to alleviate the blind assumption associated with selecting single size for the whole population. Also apart from weight and stature other anatomical geometry such as chest depth and shoulder breadth are critical to restraint system design and judgement for children. Difference in stature leads to different belt routings for the same harness position which causes higher neck and head injury. Due to the differences in anthropometric dimensions, three year old Nigerian will occupy different position in 3YO HIII and Q3s dummies. The sample size used in the current study was noted to be rather small but sufficient to make general conclusions for anthropometric assessment representing Nigerian children. It is believed that the measured sizes were enough to justify efforts to improve vehicle safety for Nigerian children.

4. Conclusion

The anthropometric dimensions of three-year-old Nigerian child have been measured and analysed. The data were compared with United States three-year-old anthropometric data gathered by Sny. A 50th percentile Nigerian child was found to be smaller than 50th percentile US child in some of the dimensions compared. This is an indication of possible mismatch between three-year-old Nigeria child and present child restraint seat and crash dummies produced based on the US data. Three-year-old Nigerian child compared with the dimensions of crash dummies in which it was found to be smaller with a maximum difference of -25.8% and -25.2% for 3YO HIII and Q3s dummies respectively. The difference was significantly larger than the reference dimensions: weight and stature, which indicated that the current crash dummies were not suitable for three-year-old Nigerian children. This study will provide immense contribution in the product design and development of crash dummies for Nigerian children. The data presented here, can be used to develop numerical models using scaling technique. Also, the data could be used for improvement of vehicles and CRS design.

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NOTES

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