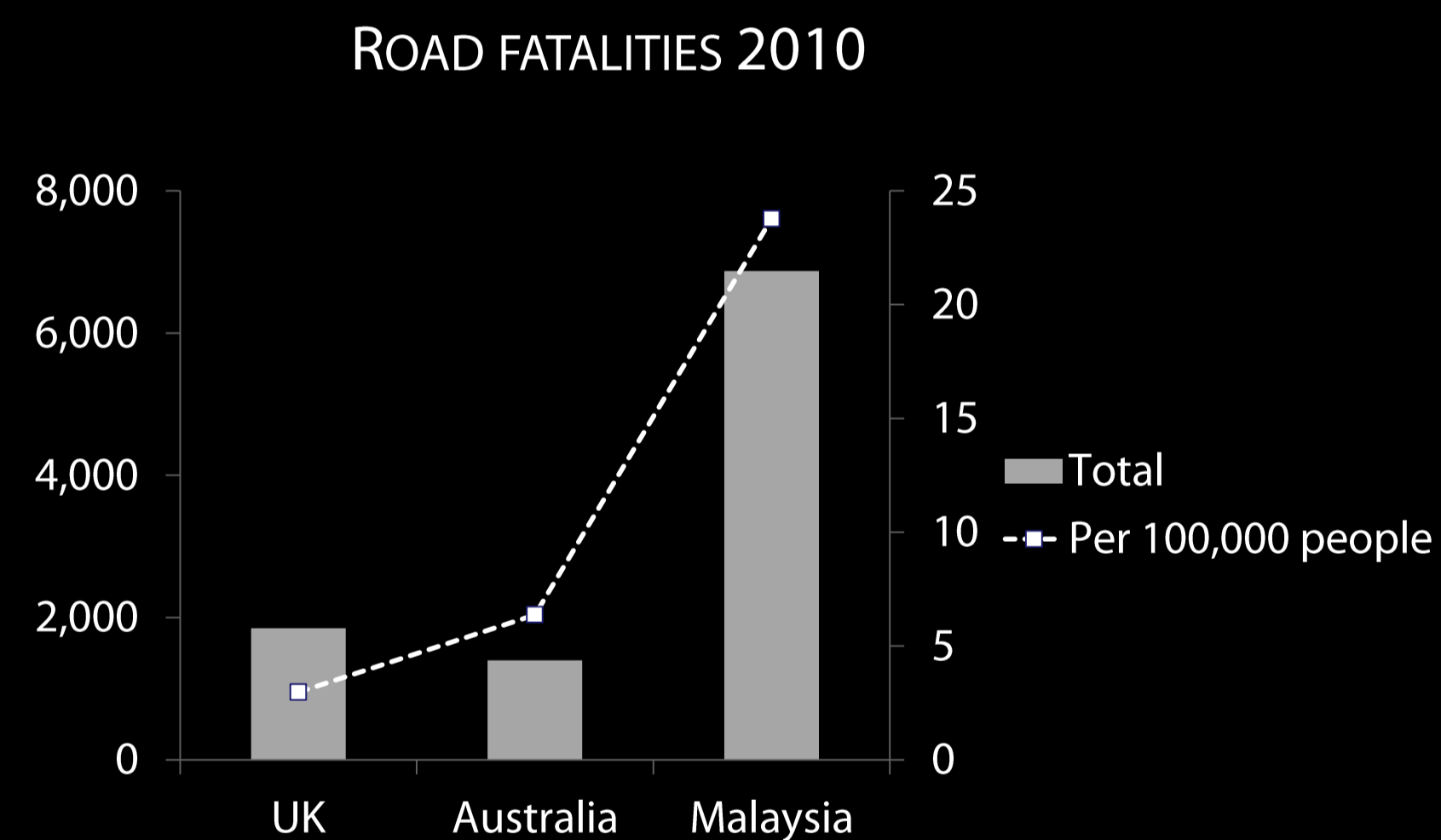


RETHINKING DRIVER LICENSING

THE CASE FOR HAZARD PERCEPTION

- Hazard Perception (HP) is the ability to detect dangerous situations on the road
- Drivers with better HP ability tend to have lower accident rates
- The UK & Australia currently use a HP test in driver licensing
- Almost all HP research has been done in developed countries...
- But 80% of the world's road deaths occur in developing countries, not developed
- E.g. in 2010 Malaysia's road fatality rate was eight times that of the UK
- Could developing countries also benefit from a HP test?



THE PROBLEM WITH MEASUREMENT

- Drivers in more hazardous environments – like that of many developing countries – tend to be desensitized to hazards
- The HP test used in the UK & Australia is therefore less effective, as drivers may see hazards but not consider them dangerous enough to respond
- An alternative test called “What Happens Next?” (WHN) asks drivers to predict events/hazards that are about to happen
- This test has been used successfully with both UK & Malaysian drivers

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- As WHN is not affected by drivers' idea of what a hazard is, it may be more suitable for HP testing in developing countries – and possibly developed
- But its effectiveness mostly depends on the specific videos / hazards used in the test
- E.g. hazards with less obvious cues tend to be better suited for WHN. Decreasing the quality of the video clips also helps
- Understanding the factors that affect WHN will be key to its development