

Magnitude of Unintentional Injuries: Record Based Hospital Study

Unintentional injuries accounted for 43% of adolescents (1091/2545) reporting to the emergency department of a tertiary care hospital in Delhi over 3 months.

Keywords: Adolescent, Injury, Unintentional.

Globally, non-communicable diseases including injuries are on the increase both in terms of morbidity and mortality with 16,000 deaths being reported daily. Injuries represent 12% of the global burden of disease, the third most important cause of overall mortality and the main cause of death among 1-40 year age groups(1). A retrospective record based hospital study was carried to determine the magnitude of unintentional injuries with a focus on adolescents reporting to Accident & Emergency [A & E] department of Safdarjung Hospital, a tertiary-care hospital in Delhi after obtaining permission from competent authority. Using simple random technique on the draw of numbers three months were identified i.e. February, May and September and all cases during these months with unintentional injuries were extracted from the master register and results were then analyzed by calculating percentages.

It was observed that on an average 17,746 patients reported due to all causes to emergency department hospital in a month, as shown in **Table I**.

Out of these on an average 5108 (28.7 %) reported with unintentional injury/month. With regard to adolescent [10-19 years], 2545 cases reported per month to A & E department with 1091 [42.86%] reporting due to unintentional injury. The figure was maximum, 56.14 % in the month of February and lowest in September (32.31%). Similar downward trend was observed for all age group during these months. The proportion of adolescent who reported to A & E due to all causes was 14.34% whereas proportion of unintentional injury amongst adolescent in comparison to all age group was higher i.e. 21.35%. Amongst patients of all age group, nearly 29 % of cases whereas amongst adolescent nearly 43% of cases reported with unintentional injuries. To conclude, this study reflects high magnitude of unintentional injuries in a tertiary care hospital especially during adolescent age group.

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TABLE I UNINTENTIONAL INJURIES IN PATIENTS REPORTING TO ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

Month	Total patients reporting due to all causes(a)	Total adolescents [10-19 years] reporting due to all causes(b)	Percentage [%] (b/a)	Patients with unintentional injury (c)	Percentage [%] (c/a)	Adolescents [10-19 years] with unintentional injury (d)	Percentage [%] (d/b)	Percentage [%] (d/c)
Feb	12,449	1,685	13.53	4,418	35.48	946	56.14	21.41
May	19,720	2,590	13.13	5,852	29.67	1,241	47.91	21.20
Sep	21,069	3,361	15.95	5,054	23.98	1,086	32.31	21.48
Avg./ month	17,746	2,545	14.34	5,108	28.76	1,091	42.86	21.35

**Excluding Obstetric & Gynecology, and Burn cases*