

Injury Prevention: A Public Health Concern for India

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Letter to the Editor

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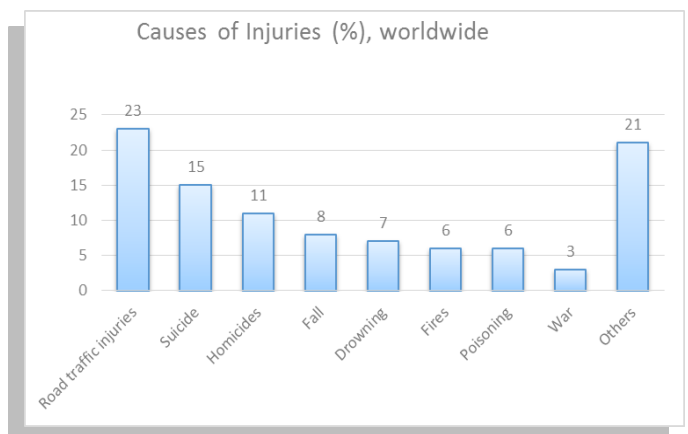
Dear Editor,

I read the article with great interest by Pal R, Injury Epidemiology: The Neglected Chapter, published in Nepal Journal of Epidemiology in 2012¹. This topic is highly relevant for India. Injury prevention is an important and integral part of public health. According to the most comprehensive definition by Winslow 1920, public health is about to prevent diseases, prolonging life, and promoting health and efficiency² cannot be achieved unless strong efforts are made to control injuries. The result of strong public health initiatives life expectancy has been increased by 25 years since 1900 in developed nation USA. The control of intentional and unintentional injuries are one of the major contributing factor of this gain².

According to the World health Organization, injuries lead 5.8 million deaths every year across the world. Every 5 seconds someone in world will lose his /her life as result of

injury³. Presently, they account for 9% of global mortality. More than 90% of deaths that results from injuries occur in the Low and Middle Income Countries³. The worldwide major cause of injuries are shown in figure 1³.

Figure 1: Worldwide causes of injuries (%).



Source: Global burden of disease: 2004

Often injuries lead to a catastrophic impact on individuals and their families. Injuries are one of the major environmental determinants of morbidity, mortality, disability and social disadvantage/disadvantages in India⁴. The literature review presented in Gururaj 2008⁵ explains that road traffic injuries are the top contributing factor among all other injury related factors in rural and urban

India. The poor implementation of traffic rules & regulations, heterogeneous mixed traffic, poorly designed roads, traffic vehicles, increasing speed, poor use of protective device such as helmet, drinking and driving, poor visibility, and poor trauma care are a major concern in reducing the prevalence of injuries and related outcome⁵. Looking at the magnitude of the problems, strong public health emphasis is needed in the areas of research, policy development, community education and awareness, and the health care system in India.

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