

(1505) Injuries Mortality In Africa 2000-2003, An Analysis Of Specific Etiology From World Health Reports

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PROBLEM

Injuries constitute a great burden of disease globally. Africa recorded 15% of global injury related mortality in 2000 (WHO 2002). Mortality from road traffic injuries remains within the 10 leading cause of death globally and the highest in Africa at the turn of the last century. Fatalities from violence and war contribute equally to the high mortality in Africa. Injuries from violence gained prominence after the WHO 49th assembly of 1996, by resolution 49.25 adopted violence and injuries as a preventive priority.

The world health reports since its inception in 1995 has chronicled health situations and statistics from the various regions of the world. In this review, injury mortality in Africa is analyzed with the view to compare the magnitude of their different etiology leading to increase mortality in a region plagued with other diseases and morbidity. The world health reports are valuable tool from where the basic data for this review is based.

OBJECTIVES

To analyze and discuss the different etiology of injury related mortalities and their importance to public health.

METHOD

Estimates of deaths by cause and mortality stratum in Africa were reviewed using the statistical annexes of World health reports of 2000 to 2003. Both intentional and unintentional injuries and their specific etiology were analysed. The mean of high child, high adult and High child and very high adult mortality were calculated for each type of injury. Percentages were also calculated. Also, SSPS and ANOVA will be employed to produce the final analysis.

RESULTS

Mortality from unintentional injuries was higher than those caused by intentional injuries throughout the years under review. Among the unintentional group, Road traffic related death were highest in the years under review except for 2000 where it was surpassed by deaths caused by fire injuries. (34.8% by fire to 28.7 of RTI). Drowning was the second cause of death in Africa. Mortality from falls remained low, constituting between 3 and 4.1% of all unintentional injuries. Violence caused high mortality, 42.8% and 51.7% of all intentional injuries in 2002 and 2003 respectively. Deaths from War injuries were highest in 2001 and 2002, constituting 54% and 45.9% of all intentional injuries respectively. However, mortality from self-inflicted injuries was relatively low.

CONCLUSION

The trend in this analysis show that unintentional injuries especially, road traffic related led to high mortality in Africa followed closely by drowning. Violence and war related injuries contributed to the high mortality among the intentional injuries in this region. From these summations, public health strategies are to be focused on preventing the individual etiological link thereby reducing morbidity and mortality