

Abstract

Background: There is paucity of injury-related data in Uganda. We conducted a population-based survey on injuries in Namuwongo suburb of Kampala.

Objectives: We assessed the patterns of injuries that were sustained among Namuwongo communities between April and September of 2011, the associated factors and facilities that were attended for care.

Methods: In a cross-sectional survey quantitative data from 144 households were collected using a questionnaire. Qualitative data were collected by focus group discussions in 3 of 6 participating zones and key informant interviews with community leaders and health facility managers.

Results: Ninety-three injuries were reported among 653 subjects in 6 months. Major causes of injuries were road traffic accidents—RTA (24%), cuts (22%) and falls (17%). The mean age of injured people was 33 years (S.D. 12, range 0-67 years), males were more likely to get injured than females (OR: 1.69 CI: 1.05-2.7). 22% of subjects who reported injuries were housewives, 20% were students and 12% were motorcycle riders. Most injuries occurred in the home (54%), roads (27%) and schools (7%). Only 4% of subjects who sought care reported to the local public health facility; 96% sought care at private clinics and hospitals. There were no community-based injury services.

Conclusions: RTA, falls and cuts were the commonest injury causes. Males and some occupations were more affected than others. Kampala City Authority needs to improve injury care services at peripheral units and in communities. A division-wide injury survey including cost analysis would inform policy development and advocacy for injury services.

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