

Introduction: Injuries have for a while, conventionally been considered as haphazard, inescapable “accidents”. In the last few decades, a better understanding of the nature of injuries changed these old attitudes, and today both intentional and unintentional injuries are viewed as largely preventable events. Because of the result of this shift in perception, injuries and their health implications continue to demand the attention of decision-makers worldwide and injury policy has been firmly placed in the public health arena.

Statement of the problem; Injuries are of common occurrence in Kasese district given the rugged terrain, tribal wars and the presence of Kilembe Mines, where although it is being rehabilitated people still try and mine the copper ore.

Objectives: The purpose of this study was to assess the pattern of injuries and their causes among patients attending Kilembe mines Hospital between September and October 2014.

Specifically, the study aimed at identifying the types of injuries among patients attending Kilembe Mines Hospital between September and October 2014, establishing the contributing factors to the occurrence of injury among patients attending Kilembe Mines Hospital between September and October 2014 and determining the most affected groups by injury in the community between September and October 2014.

Methodology: A cross sectional study design was used in this study. The study population was patients attending Kilembe Mines hospital for medical attention due to injury. The study used a systematic sampling method. The data collecting instruments that was used in this study was a semi structured questionnaire, that consisted of close-ended and open-ended questions, respondents were to complete these independently without the assistance of the researcher.

Results: Burn injuries had been experienced by 85 (53.8%) of the respondents, fractures occurred in 76(48.1%) of the respondents, dislocations had been experienced by 94(59.5%) of the respondents, scalds by 62(39.2%), abrasions by 39(24.7%), cuts by 48(30.4%), sprains by 18(11.4%) while strains were sustained by 9(5.7%) of the respondents. The injury patterns show that the most common injuries by the patients at Kilembe Mines Hospital between September and October 2014 were dislocations (94), fractures (76) and burns (85%). The contributing factors to the occurrence of injury among patients attending Kilembe mines Hospital between September and October 2014 were type of employment engaged in ($p = 0.000$), income levels ($p=0.012$), education level ($p= 0.000$), driving dangerous mechanical condition vehicles ($p = 0.000$), being involved in any domestic fights ($p=0.000$), and doing work involving the use of unsafe tools ($p=0.000$). The most affected groups by injury in the community between September and October 2014 were young people ($p=0.000$), those who consumed alcohol and those who had stayed for less than a year in Kasese region ($p=0.000$).

Conclusion: The pattern of injury in Kilembe mines hospital comprises of mainly the occurrence of

fractures, dislocations, and burns cuts. The contributing factors to these injuries range from environmental, socio economic and demographic factors. The most affected people by these injuries are the young, those who take alcohol, the male, and those who have stayed for a short time in the Kasese area.