



Research Article

Utility of routine data reporting injuries requiring hospitalisation in Nepal: a secondary data analysis

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Plain language summary

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Injuries are a serious public health issue in Nepal, being a notable cause of death and disability. Currently, there is no system available to monitor injuries routinely, but admissions to healthcare facilities are routinely reported to central government using the Health Management Information System. In this study, we aimed to explore the usefulness of these data to understand patterns of injuries in Nepal and to explore any differences in injury occurrence by age and sex. We analysed the published national data on injuries for the years 2009/10 to 2016/17. We grouped the data by injury type, using a well-recognised injury classification framework. We found that road traffic injury admissions increased from 2009/10 to 2016/17, while admissions following poisoning almost halved over the same period. Inequalities by age and gender were noted: during the period 2014/15–2016/17, admissions for road traffic injuries most commonly affected adults of working age, and were almost twice more common in men than women. The cause of injury admissions between 2009/10 and 2016/17 appears to have changed over time. In the absence of a national injury monitoring system, routine inpatient data collected through the Health Management Information System could be used to inform policy and practice, but there is a need to address issues of data quality, particularly where the data are incomplete or inconsistently coded.