

Abstract

Fatal Domestic Injuries in Iraq, 2010-2015

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Abstract

Background: Home injuries are leading causes of death and disability worldwide. About 5.8 million people die from injuries each year around the world. This accounts for 9% of the world's deaths. About one third of all injuries happen at home.

Objective: This study was conducted to describe the epidemiological characteristics, estimate incidence and identify mechanism of fatal domestic injuries (FDI), Iraq, 2010-2015.

Methods: We conducted this cross-sectional study on all fatalities due to injuries reported from all the coroner offices in Iraq for the period of 2010-2015 as part of Iraqi Injury Surveillance System. The surveillance form included detailed data on the demographics, injury circumstances and injury mechanisms. National and governorates population data were obtained from Ministry of Planning.

Results: Total number of FDI during 2010-2015 was 17,211 with an average annual incidence of 11/100,000Population (P). FDI represented 24.5% of total fatal injuries. The incidence of FDI decreased from 11.6/100,000P in 2010 to 10.2/100,000P in 2015. Female to male ratio was 1.1:1 and 38.8% occurred at the age group 20-39 years. The highest incidence 27.5/100,000P was recorded at the age group=70 years. About 71.5% were unintentional with average annual incidence 7.7 /100,000P and the remaining were intentional with average annual incidence of 1.6/100,000P. About 61% of FDI occurred during 7am-4pm. Main causes of FDI were: Burn (44.5%), electric injury (21.8%), gun fire (7.8%), and fall (4.9%) with average annual incidence rate of 4.9, 2.3, 0.8, and 0.4 per 100,000P, respectively. The highest average incidence was reported in Misan (19.4/100,000P), and Erbil (16.6/100,000P) governorates, while the lowest was reported in Najaf (3.4/100,000P) governorate.

Conclusions: In Iraq, FDI constituted a considerable public health problem. Public Health officials need to develop a comprehensive program to control home injuries particularly burn and electrical injuries and ensure that people have safe and healthy homes.

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