**Country update on Injury Surveillance: Latvia**



*Introduction*

The main areas of responsibility of the Centre for Disease Prevention and Control of Latvia (CDPC) are the prevention of communicable and non-communicable diseases. The Centre also collects, summarizes and analyses public health data and statistical information of health care, provides public health monitoring, carries out studies on the health habits of the general population.

In Latvia, like in other European countries, injuries are significant and wide preventable public health problem. Injury data are being registered in compliance with Regulation Nr.746 of Cabinet of Ministers adopted on 15 of September, 2008.

*National IDB-system*

Data collection started in 2005 with the implementation of European Commission pilot Project for injury surveillance. Information is being collected by hospital staff using a standardized data register form. The data is entered into the Injury register online software. Compared with the previous data collection trails that used paper-pencil formats, the online system provides a number of benefits: data entry has become much faster and the processing data takes less time and resources.

The register contains information about injury cases (accordingly ICD 10 codes S00.0-T78.9). Currently 22 in-patient hospitals are regular data suppliers. In year 2015 ten of the hospitals provide information on ambulatory treated injuries compared with two hospitals in 2012. All hospitals collect information in Full data set level.

To ensure quality and completeness of the data a quality control protocol is in place, where data coding consistency with the injury case narrative are checked and case selection and coding processes in the hospitals are audited regularly. The hospital staff and data entry system users are regularly informed about their most frequent errors and mistakes.

From December 31, 2011 extra information about poisonings was included in register form in response to Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and the Council Following consultations with doctors from The Clinic of Toxicology and Sepsis it was decided to add some extra information in the Injury register form. That allows CDPC to collect and analyses deeper the data about poisoning in Latvia. These changes have positively affected the injury collection.

*Insights gained*

After these changes in the process of injury data collection, the number of poisoning record has increased. In 2015, there were registered 1592 cases of poisoning compared with year 2011 (before changes in the registration form) when there were registered only 67 cases of poisoning.

In accordance with the data of the register for the year 2015, all recorded injuries were 723.6 cases per 100,000 inhabitants in Latvia. In 2015 about 80% of all cases were recorded as unintentional. The remaining cases were assaults (6.4%), intentional self-harm (3.9%), in 7.5% of the cases the intent were not indicated und in 2.2% the intent were undetermined.

Most frequently people get injuries at home - in 50% of cases, while children at the age before four get injuries in 86.5% of cases. The transport area is the second most common place where people get injuries (publicly available highways, streets or roads, parking places) - 22% of cases. It is followed by sports and physical activities area (3.3%), outdoors (3.2%), schools (1.7%), and other places.

Injuries significantly increase after the age of 70. For the men, the number of injuries is highest in the age group 10-44 years.

*Use of data*

The statistics from the Injury register are used by a wide range of authorities, organizations, mass media, educational institutions and national authorities for example the Consumer Rights Protection Centre. Annual statistics are published in CDPC webpage and Statistical Yearbook of Health Care in Latvia.

Main stakeholders for injury monitoring in Latvia are the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Welfare, the Welfare Department of the Riga City, State Labour Inspectorate and Central Statistical Bureau.

*Future outlook*

the Centre is continuously working to improve data analysis capabilities and to update tools for the Web-based Injury register.

More information:

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*IDB-related publications:*

<https://spkc.gov.lv/en>

<https://spkc.gov.lv/en/statistics>

<https://www.spkc.gov.lv/upload/Veselibas%20aprupes%20statistika/Gadagramata/2015/3_sabiedribas_veseliba_2015_1.pdf>

<https://spkc.gov.lv/lv/aktualitates/get/nid/453>

<https://spkc.gov.lv/lv/aktualitates/get/nid/443>

<https://spkc.gov.lv/en/research-and-publications>

<http://grutnieciba.lv/tema/berna-aprupe/>