**Country update on Injury Surveillance: the Netherlands**



*Introduction*

In 1986, the Consumer Safety Institute in The Netherlands developed a system for the registration of injuries that are treated at Emergency Departments in Dutch hospitals. Main purpose was to gain insight on the number of injuries due to different types of accidents in the Netherlands, and to monitor the development of injuries through the years. A sample of ED’s started registering ED-treatments on Home and Leisure accidents. In 1997 the registration was extended to traffic accidents, accidents at work and injuries due to violence.

*National IDB-system*

Funded by the Ministry of Health, this Dutch Injury Surveillance System (DISS) currently operates in 14 ED’s and registers 80.000 – 100.000 injuries each year, representing an estimated 750.000 ED-treatments for injuries in the Netherlands. Participating hospitals directly deliver their injury data to the Consumer Safety Institute, where they are checked and processed. The collected data are analysed and reported by the CSI research department.

*Use of data*

These injury data from the Netherlands have guided preventive action throughout this 30-year period. Besides an important estimation of accidents in several injury fields, DISS has directed policy towards different injury risks for specific groups (e.g. falls in the elderly, child drownings), trends (e.g. an increase in sports injuries, alcohol intoxications) and new developments like skateboarding or electric bicycles. Medical costs and cost from absenteeism from work resulting from injuries can additionally be calculated with ED-data from DISS.

Data are used by many stakholders. Several ministries develop most of their policy towards prevention of injuries on information from the Injury Surveillance System. The ministry of Health based prevention of sports injuries on data from DISS for many years. The ministry of Infrastructure and Environment uses injury data collected around New Year’s Eve to monitor fireworks-related injuries. The Consumer Safety Institute itself based numerous preventive interventions on the information from DISS, for example prevention of child falls, drownings, intoxications and injuries through falls in the elderly. In addition, media welcome data on Emergency Department treatments to put news articles in perspective, like ED information on traffic accidents, drugs-related incidents, sports injuries, and the like.

*Future outlook*

In recent years, new developments have been started, in order to improve the quality of the collected information and minimize the actual work load in the hospitals themselves. Currently, DISS hospitals are gradually adapting their registration to a new system, where hospitals only deliver data that are already registered in their own hospital system, accompanied by an extensive injury narrative. Through text analysis, this narrative delivers all further information, which is automatically coded into the relevant variables. With this new approach, collection, checking and processing of injury data is standardized (no bias resulting from different coders) and will take less time and effort, both for hospital staff as for the Consumer Safety Institute, in the future. A further increase in the number of hospitals in the Injury Surveillance System is in progress.

More information:

h.valkenberg@veiligheid.nl



*IDB-related publications:*

Kerncijfers LIS (Key figures DISS)

<https://www.veiligheid.nl/organisatie/actueel/nieuws/ruim-2-miljoen-seh-bezoeken-in-2015>

Vuurwerkongevallen type vuurwerk en letsel 2015-2016 (Fireworks-related injuries)

<https://www.veiligheid.nl/organisatie/actueel/nieuws/opnieuw-fors-minder-vuurwerkslachtoffers>

Alcoholvergiftigingen en ongevallen met alcohol (Alcohol-related incidents).

<https://www.veiligheid.nl/organisatie/actueel/nieuws/alcoholvergiftiging-op-de-seh-in-2015-weer-gestegen>

65 jaar en ouder (Falls in older people).

<https://www.veiligheid.nl/valpreventie/kennis-en-cijfers/cijfers>

Monitor drugsincidenten (Drugs-related incidents).

<https://assets.trimbos.nl/docs/eb36c36b-f945-49f6-ad06-4cd56659a4f0.pdf>

Emergency department visits due to vertebral fractures in the Netherlands, 1986-2008.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22055140>

The economic burden of injury: Health care and productivity costs of injuries in the Netherlands. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/27177394>

Incidence and costs of bicycle-related traumatic brain injuries in the Netherlands.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25939135>