**Country update on Injury Surveillance: Sweden**



*Background*

In Sweden, around 5 000 persons die every year as a result of an injury event; about 150 000 persons are discharged from hospitals for the same reason and approximately 500 000 individuals are treated as outpatients at hospitals. An unknown number of persons are treated in health care centres or by a general practitioner.

As in most other European countries, in Sweden the number one killer among children and young adults is injuries. In the same age-group, injuries are also the most common reasons for hospital admissions. It is therefore very important to continue to invest in injury prevention and safety promotion.

However, to be successful in injury prevention, it is essential to know how, when, where and why injuries occur. Sweden has nationwide population-based registers on fatalities, hospital discharges and Emergency Department-attendances. These registers are all based on ICD-10, which works quite well for monitoring injuries and their treatment, but not for prevention purposes as they lack detailed information about the causes and circumstances of injury-events.

*How it started*

Sweden became a member of the European Community in 1995, and during that very same year, Sweden adopted the so-called EHLASS system, a European injury data exchange program that focused on home and leisure accidents. However, quality controls revealed quite soon that collecting only home and leisure accidents resulted into deficiencies in data capture and into a high percentage of missing cases. To manage that problem, it was decided to expand the scope of the system and to collect information on all injuries – both unintentional and intentional- and in line with the successor programme of EHLASS: the European Injury Data Base (IDB).

In 1999 an “all-injury” data collection was started and at the same time IDB-Sweden became a formal part of the nationwide National Patient Register. This implies that the personal Identification number could be added to the Information about the injury event. Now IDB-Sweden can be linked to other registers, like the population register or the hospital discharge register.

Over the past few years, IDB-Sweden included a varying number of hospitals, between three and nine. Together these hospitals cover five to nine per cent of the entire population.

*Current situation*

IDB Sweden is managed by Socialstyrelsen, the National Board of Health and Welfare (NBHW)*.* The NBHW is the national office for collecting statistics in the health and social welfare sector. IDB-Sweden is built on the basis that the County Councils, who actually run the hospitals in the counties, are the owner of their injury data.

The NBHW is a data-user who buys this information. When the data reach the NBHW, their quality is checked and the data are compiled into a national database. The staff of IDB Sweden consists of one full time employed data administrator who analyse and report on the injury statistics.

At present, six hospitals, based in three different counties, are reporting to IDB Sweden. The coverage is now about seven per cent of the population. The data are collected at emergency departments, where the circumstances of the injury event are reported either by the injured person or by an accompanying person. The administrative data and the diagnosis are completed by the medical staff. The collected information is classified and coded by trained staffers before it is submitted once a year to the National Board of Health and Welfare where the data are checked and uploaded into the national database IDB-Sweden.

Altogether, information on approximately 46,000 injury events will be reported in the 2015 database.

The vision is that IDB Sweden, together with injury data from the nationwide registers on cause of deaths and in- and outpatient treatment at hospitals, will function as a representative national information system on injuries. To fulfil the vision, the number of hospitals reporting IDB-data must be increased.

*Data use*

The statistics from IDB Sweden are used by a wide range of authorities, organisations, mass-media and educational institutions. The government also use IDB-statistics – one example is “the investigation about children’s safety at preschool".

For some national authorities, for example the Swedish Consumer Agency and the Swedish

Contingencies Agency IDB Sweden is a most valuable information tool for their injury prevention work. As the participating hospitals own their data, they are also encouraged to use them for local injury prevention actions. Statistics from IDB-Sweden are also used for raising public awareness and for media campaigns.

*In conclusion*

As IDB contains unique and detailed data on injury events, it is very important to ensure that the data remain accurate and help to produce national representative data. The financing of the existing system must be secured, as well as a further extension of the number IDB-reporting hospitals to guarantee the representativeness of the data.

More information:

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*IDB-related publications:*

Skador bland barn i Sverige – Olycksfall, övergrepp och avsiktligt självdestruktiva handlingar [http://www.socialstyrelsen.se/Lists/Artikelkatalog/Attachments/19701/2015-2-8.pdf](https://owa.certsure.com/OWA/redir.aspx?C=B6f7_9Dw-Eqx8gKeCvWLp6sUCZS8SdQI5GpIT2HWJC3E-k07cRfLfi2KStmcyZAGS4QuLhceS8I.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.socialstyrelsen.se%2fLists%2fArtikelkatalog%2fAttachments%2f19701%2f2015-2-8.pdf" \t "_blank)

MSB – Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency has published a lot based on IDB. For instance on this webpage fact sheets about  specific accidents among children [https://ida.msb.se/ida2#page=a0039](https://owa.certsure.com/OWA/redir.aspx?C=B6f7_9Dw-Eqx8gKeCvWLp6sUCZS8SdQI5GpIT2HWJC3E-k07cRfLfi2KStmcyZAGS4QuLhceS8I.&URL=https%3a%2f%2fida.msb.se%2fida2%23page%3da0039) (Only available in swedish).

Thodelius, Charlotta, *Risker och rum. Riskmiljöer och riskfaktorer för barn och ungas skadehändelser i hem- och boendemiljön.*, Chalmers University of Technology, 2016

[http://publications.lib.chalmers.se/records/fulltext/241900/241900.pdf](https://owa.certsure.com/OWA/redir.aspx?C=B6f7_9Dw-Eqx8gKeCvWLp6sUCZS8SdQI5GpIT2HWJC3E-k07cRfLfi2KStmcyZAGS4QuLhceS8I.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fpublications.lib.chalmers.se%2frecords%2ffulltext%2f241900%2f241900.pdf)  (Only the abstract is in english)

Better Safety on Quad Bikes : Joint strategy version 1.0 for the years 2014-2020. Rapport 2013:153. Borlänge: The Swedish Transport Administration, Trafikverket.

[http://www.trafikverket.se/contentassets/2155fdbb83f445adb2c2789407134370/strategi\_fyrhjuling\_eng.pdf](https://owa.certsure.com/OWA/redir.aspx?C=B6f7_9Dw-Eqx8gKeCvWLp6sUCZS8SdQI5GpIT2HWJC3E-k07cRfLfi2KStmcyZAGS4QuLhceS8I.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.trafikverket.se%2fcontentassets%2f2155fdbb83f445adb2c2789407134370%2fstrategi_fyrhjuling_eng.pdf)

Nilson, Finn, Fall-related injuries amongst elderly in Sweden [Elektronisk resurs] : still an emerging risk?, Fakulteten för hälsa, natur- och teknikvetenskap, risk- och miljöstudier, Karlstads universitet, Diss. (sammanfattning) Karlstad : Karlstads universitet, 2014,Karlstad, 2014

[http://urn.kb.se/resolve?urn=urn:nbn:se:kau:diva-31727](https://owa.certsure.com/OWA/redir.aspx?C=B6f7_9Dw-Eqx8gKeCvWLp6sUCZS8SdQI5GpIT2HWJC3E-k07cRfLfi2KStmcyZAGS4QuLhceS8I.&URL=http%3a%2f%2furn.kb.se%2fresolve%3furn%3durn%3anbn%3ase%3akau%3adiva-31727)

Svee, A, A Jonsson, F Sjöberg, and F Huss. “Burns in Sweden : Temporal Trends from 1987 to 2010.” Pending Publication (Annals of Burns and Fire Disasters, n.d.) [http://www.medbc.com/meditline/articles/vol\_40/num\_2/text/vol40n2p1053.pdf](https://owa.certsure.com/OWA/redir.aspx?C=B6f7_9Dw-Eqx8gKeCvWLp6sUCZS8SdQI5GpIT2HWJC3E-k07cRfLfi2KStmcyZAGS4QuLhceS8I.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.medbc.com%2fmeditline%2farticles%2fvol_40%2fnum_2%2ftext%2fvol40n2p1053.pdf).

Pohl, Petra, *Falls in older community-dwelling women and men risk factors and safety strategies. Fall risk awareness, fear of falling, and preferred exercise properties from a gender perspective.*, Umeå Universitet, Umeå, 2015 (Only Umeå data)

[http://umu.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:782389/FULLTEXT01.pdf](https://owa.certsure.com/OWA/redir.aspx?C=B6f7_9Dw-Eqx8gKeCvWLp6sUCZS8SdQI5GpIT2HWJC3E-k07cRfLfi2KStmcyZAGS4QuLhceS8I.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fumu.diva-portal.org%2fsmash%2fget%2fdiva2%3a782389%2fFULLTEXT01.pdf)