**Country update on Injury Surveillance: Turkey**



*Introduction*

Turkey is a democratic, secular, constitutional republic with a diverse cultural heritage. According to the Address-Based Population Recording System of Turkey, the country's population was 78.7 million people in 2015.

Since its establishment in 2012, the Public Health Institution of Turkey (PHIT) is the main agency carrying out of the primary and public health services including preparation, implementation, coordination and assessment of programmes, plans and activities across the country in order to enhance public health in accordance with the national targets.

In addition to the public health commitment to injury prevention, the consumer policy perspective also provides a relevant angle for government-driven interventions for protection of health and safety of citizens. Market surveillance and inspection is an important tool for the competent the market authorities in protection of consumers against nonconforming or inherently dangerous consumer products. In Turkey, various ministries, agencies and institutions are involved in market surveillance activities and are coordinated by the Ministry of Economy.

A National Market Surveillance Strategy Document (2010-2012) was published by the Ministry of Economy. This strategy document includes the firm commitment of the Government to establish an injury database, enabling to record injuries and accidents related to consumer products and to share them with the competent authorities responsible for market surveillance and inspection.

*National IDB-system*

The PHIT has undertaken the operation of the injury data base and has initiated the work on enhanced injury monitoring in emergency departments at hospitals in cooperation with the Public Hospitals Agency of Turkey.

All relevant ministries, agencies, institutions responsible for ensuring the product safety as well as academic institutions and NGOs have been informed about the development of National Accident and Injury Database.

National Accident and Injury Database is a web-based platform. In addition to the full dataset of European Injury Database, some extra variables are included, i.e. level of education of injured people, characteristics of products and possible product failures. The Coding Manual has also been updated in accordance with the requirements laid down by the institutions responsible for product safety in the country.

The data can be accessed online with the user name and password by the authorized data entry staff. This enables the PHIT to follow up and assess the number of data entered by the staff and their individual performances with regard to data quality.

Main quality control points have been integrated into the database. It is designed to warn user when inconsistent data in data record or blanks in obligatory fields are being detected. Data entered into the system via web application are stored in a data warehouse of the Ministry of Health (MoH), ready for instant inquiry. Assessments made with business intelligence applications are shared with decision makers.

*Insights gained*

In the years of 2012-2014, cases were randomly selected in the emergency departments of 15 hospitals representing the country and data were collected. In 2015 and 2016, data entry was enlarged to 16 hospitals. According to the analyses, monitoring of the data by hospital managers was found to have a positive effect on data entry and reporting modules were prepared to enable monitoring of by the manager of each hospital.

By the end of 2015, 40,381 data were recorded in the National Accident and Injury database. In October 2016, 42,654 data were recorded. The work has been initiated to improve the standards of data collection and to enable sustainability of work to be finalized by the end of 2017.

To ensure the efficiency, priority is given to improve cooperation in prevention among the institutions and to increase the awareness among citizens thereby reduce the number of injuries in the society. Since 2015, regular meetings with stakeholder organizations has been initiated in order to prepare and implement accident and injury prevention programs.

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