**Country update on Injury Surveillance: Romania**



*Introduction*

In Romania injuries are the fourth leading cause of death for all age groups and the leading cause of death in children and adolescents aged 0-19 years. As stated in the hospital discharge statistics, at national level around 30.000 people received advanced care due to an injury in 2010. The death rate for all types of injuries is 57.2/100 000 inhabitants in Romania, while the EU average rate is of 40.0/100 000.

Romania still lacks a well-established national injury monitoring and surveillance system, therefore, we expect that the real burden of injuries is underestimated. Moreover, there is no national policy ensuring that injury prevention strategies are adopted and implemented. Considering the high costs of injury treatment and care, continuous collection of data on injuries at national level is desperately needed.

Implementing the work of EU-IDB in Romania was the first initiative to have injury surveillance, first as a pilot in one emergency department, followed by other four emergency departments as part of the JAMIE Project. Unfortunately, the system was not adopted by the Ministry of Health as part of the core emergency data surveillance. Romania still lacks of a sustainable injury surveillance system.

*Insights gained*

Since 2012, the Department of Public Health tries to extend the pilot initiative and to include more hospitals and all ages. Through analysis of these data assault, self-harm, and falls were added to this list of injuries with high incidence.

The health systems in the region are in transition, with growing attention to improving health infrastructure. However, acute care systems are lagging behind international standards, one of them being lack of injury surveillance systems. Therefore, there is still an urgent need of a sustainable data collection system on injuries in the Romanian emergency department.

*Use of data*

The data is being used by the Department of Public Health, College of Political, Administrative and Communication Sciences for research and dissemination purposes. Data collected as part of the EU-IDB project was used in several peer-reviewed publications, to develop policy briefs for evidence informed policymaking, and to support other independent research in the field. Data was disseminated to both local and national authorities to support a national injury surveillance system in Romania.

Child safety is another emerging issue on which the Department has concentrated efforts by conducting research and health promotion activities in the field. Using IDB as baseline data we have developed a study to document the use of child restraint systems: *Child Safety Survey in Cluj-Napoca*, funded by the University of Iowa, Injury Prevention Research Center. The study had a great visibility in the community.

The Department used data to document and support the Save Kids Lives Campaign in Romania (2015) is partnership with the Cluj County Police Inspectorate. A child passengers’ safety raising awareness week to inform parents on how to properly use child safety restraints was organized. Parents received leaflets with a checklist to guide them on how to choose child seats and booster seats appropriate for their children’s height and weight and encourage them to look for more information.

More information:

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*IDB-related publications:*

Epidemiology of road traffic injuries treated in a large Romanian Emergency Department in Tîrgu-Mureş between 2009-2010. Traffic Inj Prev, 16(8):835-41. [Link to the abstract](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25830568).

Paediatric head injuries treated in children’s emergency department from Cluj-Napoca, Romania. International Journal of Injury Control and Safety Promotion. 23(2): 206-213. [Link to the article](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4320977/).

Epidemiology of assault and self-harm injuries treated in a large Romanian Emergency Department. Eur J Emerg Med. 19(3):146-52. doi:10.1097/MEJ.0b013e32834ada2e. [Link to the article](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4320966/).

IDB – The link between Emergency Department and Injury Prevention. Jurnalul de Medicină de Urgenţă şi Salvări în Situaţii Speciale, No: I./2011/Anul III. ISFN: 2066-0278

Policy briefs available on the institutional website of the NDA in Romania, [resources section](http://publichealth.ro/index.php/resources/policy-briefs/):

* Reducing children’s unintentional injuries**.** The English version of the Policy Brief no. 1 can be downloaded [here](http://publichealth.ro/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/CHPPH_VIP_Policy_Brief_no1.pdf).
* **Minimum data collection MDS-IDB.**The Romanian version of the Policy Brief no. 2 can be downloaded [here](http://publichealth.ro/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Policy-brief-2-MDS.pdf).
* **Potentially dangerous products for children.** The English version of the Policy Brief no. 3 can be downloaded [here](http://publichealth.ro/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Policy-Brief-3_Potentially-dangerous-products.pdf).