# Unintentional Injury among Thai Children and Adolescents in 2010

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**Background:** Unintentional injury has been identified as a public health problem in Thailand as it is the leading cause of death among both children and adolescents.

**Objective:** To explore the number of admissions by unintentional injury and cause(s) among Thai children and adolescents in 2010.

Material and Method: Data on the number of admissions by unintentional injury in the fiscal year, 2010, were derived from hospitals nationwide as well as the three health insurance schemes. Data on Thai children and adolescents (0-18 years) was collected between October 1, 2009 and September 30, 2010. The coding for underlying cause(s) of unintentional injuries and death were done using the International Classification of Diseases, 10<sup>th</sup> edition.

**Results:** A total of 118,323 unintentional injuries were reported. The majority of patients were male and falls were the major cause of unintentional injuries (27,139 admissions; 22.94%) followed by motorcycle injuries (20,499 admissions; 17.32%). Accidental drowning and submersion was the major cause of death in the present study, followed by lightning strikes and accidental threats to breathing (i.e., choking and suffocation).

**Conclusion:** The current study revealed that falls were the major cause of unintentional injury and accidental drowning and submersion the major cause of death.

Keywords: Unintentional injury, Children and adolescents

J Med Assoc Thai 2012; 95 (Suppl. 7): S114-S122 Full text. e-Journal: http://jmat.mat.or.th

Injuries are a major public health concern, accounting for five million deaths per year. The World Health Organization's (WHO) Global Burden of Disease estimates that nearly 80% (3.9 million) of these deaths are due to accidents<sup>(1)</sup>. The WHO defines accidents as unintentional injuries that occur in the absence of predetermined intent, for which the leading causes are traffic accidents, falls, drowning, burns and poisonings. Unintentional injuries account for 3 of the 15 leading causes of death among children and adolescents under 20 years of age<sup>(2)</sup>. Children who survive their injuries may require continuing care, due to a disability that impacts not only their health, but also their education and their family's livelihood.

In Thailand, injuries accounted for 34.4% of

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all deaths among 1-14 years-olds in 1999<sup>(3)</sup>. The injury mortality rate (external causes of morbidity and mortality V01-Y89, ICD 1O) compiled from Thailand death certificates in 2006 was 25.2/100,000 children (under 15 years of age) per year-the first year this was the leading cause of child death. The three leading causes of severe injury were transport injuries, falls and inanimate forces. The two leading causes of death among these children were drowning and transport injury<sup>(4)</sup>.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Thai National Health Examination Survey (NHES) 2008-9 showed that the cause of severe unintentional injury in 1-5 year-olds and 6-9 year-olds was falls, road accidents and sharp injuries. The cause of severe injury in 10-14 year-olds was road traffic accidents, falls and sharp injuries<sup>(5)</sup>.

It is important to approach childhood unintentional injury as a preventable disease. Proper identification of the cause of injuries can lead to the development of prevention(s) and education programs that would help to reduce the incidence of injuries.

The quality of treatment and care given to the injured child and adolescents should be optimal from first contact<sup>(6)</sup>. The objective of the present study was to explore the number of admissions by unintentional injury and the cause(s) among Thai children and adolescents admitted to hospitals nationwide between October 1, 2009 and September 30, 2010.

# **Material and Method**

As per Sutra et al in 'Health situation analysis of Thai population 2010: Implications for health education and health service reform' presented in this journal, the present study focused on the number of admissions by unintentional injury and cause(s) among Thai children and adolescents aged (0-18 years of age) between October 1, 2009 and September 30, 2010.

The coding for the underlying cause(s) of unintentional injuries and death were done using the International Classification of Diseases, 10<sup>th</sup> edition (ICD-10) based on the Bureau of Policy and Strategy, Ministry of Public Health. Data collection included V01-V09 pedestrian injured in transport accident, V10-19, V30-V89 land transport accident, W00-W19 falls, W20-W49 exposure to inanimate mechanical forces, W50-W64 exposure to animate mechanical forces, W65-W74 accidental drowning and submersion, W75-W84 other

accidental threats to breathing, W85-W99 exposure to electric current, X00-X19 exposure to fire and heat, X20-X29 contact with venomous animals and plants, X40-X49 accidental poisoning by and exposure to noxious substance, X40-X49 accidental poisoning by and exposure to noxious substance, X33 victim of lightning, Y85-Y89 sequelae of external causes of morbidity and mortality, Y40-Y84 adverse effects in medical care.

#### Results

A total of 118,323 unintentional injuries were reported and the majority of patients were male (79,483; 67.5%). There was a greater tendency of injury among male patients, with the male-to-female ratio being 2.1:1. The present study revealed that falls (27,139; 22.94%) were the major cause of unintentional injuries followed by motorcycle accidents (20,499; 17.32%) and exposure to inanimate mechanical forces (20,150; 17.03%) (Table 1).

The majority of injuries (36.8%) occurred in the Northeast region while 28.6%, 18.1% and 16.5% of the patients were injured in the Central, Northern and Southern regions, respectively. The patients were between 0 and 18 years and age was categorized as: under 1 year, 1-5 years, 6-12 years and 13-18 years. Most of the injuries occurred among adolescents (13-

**Table 1.** Number of admissions by secondary diagnosis of unintentional injury (ICD 10) in Thai children and adolescents (0-18 years) 2010 by sex

| Cause of unintentional injury                                     | Total   | Ma     | le    | Female |       |
|---|---------|--------|-------|--------|-------|
|   | Number  | Number | Row % | Number | Row % |
| V01-V09 Pedestrian injured in transport accident                  | 1,658   | 1,095  | 66.0  | 563    | 34.0  |
| V20-V29 Motorcycle rider injured in transport accident            | 20,499  | 14,269 | 69.6  | 6,230  | 30.4  |
| V10-19,V30-V89 Land transport accident                            | 6,767   | 4,608  | 68.1  | 2,159  | 31.9  |
| W00-W19 Falls   | 27,139  | 18,735 | 69.0  | 8,404  | 31.0  |
| W20-W49 Exposure to inanimate mechanical forces                   | 20,150  | 15,270 | 75.8  | 4,880  | 24.2  |
| W50-W64 Exposure to animate mechanical forces                     | 7,022   | 4,496  | 64.0  | 2,526  | 36.0  |
| W65-W74 Accidental drowning and submersion                        | 1,267   | 831    | 65.6  | 436    | 34.4  |
| W75-W84 Other accidental threats to breathing                     | 323     | 193    | 59.8  | 130    | 40.2  |
| W85-W99 Exposure to electric current                              | 1,908   | 1,208  | 63.3  | 700    | 36.7  |
| X00-X19 Exposure to fire and heat                                 | 3,309   | 2,063  | 62.3  | 1,246  | 37.7  |
| X20-X29 Contact with venomous animals and plants                  | 10,273  | 6,719  | 65.4  | 3,554  | 34.6  |
| X40-X49 Accidental poisoning by and exposure to noxious substance | 6,564   | 3,858  | 58.8  | 2,706  | 41.2  |
| X33 Victim of lightning   | 37      | 21     | 56.8  | 16     | 43.2  |
| Y85-Y89 Sequelae of external causes of morbidity and mortality    | 391     | 255    | 65.2  | 136    | 34.8  |
| Y40-Y84 Adverse effects in medical care                           | 11,016  | 6,222  | 56.5  | 4,794  | 43.5  |
| Total   | 118,323 | 79,843 | 67.5  | 38,480 | 32.5  |

18 years; 39.9%) (Fig. 1) (Table 2).

The leading causes of unintentional injury also differed by age group. Among children under 1 year, the two major causes of injury were adverse effects in medical care (2,006) followed by falls (862). Among those 1-5 years of age, the two major causes of injury were falls (6,961) followed by exposure to inanimate mechanical forces (4,971). Among those 6-12 years of age, the two major causes of injury were falls (11,956) followed by exposure to inanimate mechanical forces (7,321). Among those 13-18 years of age, the three majority causes of injury were motorcycle accidents (17,340) followed by exposure to inanimate mechanical forces (7,521) and falls (7,360) (Table 2).

Overall, accidental drowning and submersion was the major cause of death followed by victim of lightning, accidental threats to breathing (Table 3).

When the data were analyzed, the percentage of death by unintentional injury by age group, it was found that pedestrians injured in traffic accidents and other accidental threats to breathing were the two major causes of death among children under 1 year. Accidental drowning and submersion was the major cause of death among 1-12 year-olds (Fig. 2). Lightning strikes were the major cause of death among the 13-18 year-olds (Table 4).

The present study revealed that mortality rate of accidental drowning and submersion (100.7 per 1,000,000), transport accident among 0-12 year-olds (46.1 per 1,000,000), transport accident among 13-18 year-olds (302.8 per 1,000,000), exposure to electric current and radiation (6.2 per 1,000,000), exposure to smoke, fire and flames (2.9 per 1,000,000), other accidental threats to breathing (7.6 per 1,000,000) and falls (1.8 per 1,000,000) were higher than the Index of

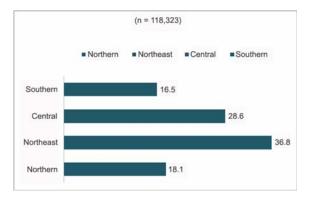


Fig. 1 Percent of unintentional injury in Thai children and adolescents (0-18 years) in 2010 by region

Thai 'A World Fit for Children', 2010 (Table 5).

#### **Discussion**

The analysis revealed that boys comprised the majority of hospitalizations due to unintentional injuries. Gofin et al<sup>(8)</sup> reported that the incidence of hospitalizations due to injuries is nearly four times higher among boys than girls. In the USA between 2000 and 2006, males had the highest number of nonfatal injuries among 0-19 year-olds found (e.g., cuts or piercings, falls, traffic accidents, cycling accidents, struck by or against an object)(9). Other reports on children showed similar trends<sup>(8,10)</sup>. Various theories have been proposed for the difference in injury rates between boys and girls. These include (a) that boys are engaged in more risk taking than girls (b) that boys had higher levels of activity and (c) that boys behave more impulsively. Boys, it is argued, are socialized differently than girls and are less likely to have their exploration restrained by parents(11).

Most injuries occurred in the northeastern region of Thailand, where the majority have a low socioeconomic status. In poor households, parents might have to work and not be able to supervise their children and/or afford safety equipment<sup>(3)</sup>. The WHO Region and Country Income Level, World 2004 reported that greatest burden of childhood injury occurs in lowand middle-income countries<sup>(2)</sup>.

The current research revealed that falls constitute the major cause of unintentional injuries, which is consistent with Monese et al<sup>(10)</sup>. Gofin et al<sup>(8)</sup> also noted that falls were the most frequent cause of injured children's being hospitalized. Van As et al<sup>(12)</sup> reported that falls represented 43% of non-fatal injuries in children.

To prevent falls, the following measures have been suggested by Britton<sup>(13)</sup>: when children are (1) walking or running: a) keep toys and other objects off the floor; b) fix rugs so that they remain in place; c) wipe up any spills. (2) On or near stairs: a) never leave objects on stairs; b) always have a safety gate at the top and bottom of the stairs; c) avoid use of baby walkers. (3) In bed: a) avoid playing risky games on the bed; b) never allow under-sixes to sleep on the top bunk. (4) Near windows or porches: a) install barriers; b) never place a cradle or any other piece of furniture next to a window, roof or porch; c) never allow play on fire escape ladders.

The current research showed that most injuries occur in adolescents (13-18 year-olds). According to Monese et al, injuries were more

 Table 2.
 Number of admissions by secondary diagnosis of unintentional injury (ICD 10) in Thai children and adolescents (0-18 years) in 2010 by age group

| Cause of unintentional injury                                     |              |      |             | Age group | dnc        |      |             |      |
|---|--------------|------|-------------|-----------|------------|------|-------------|------|
|   | Under 1 year | year | 1-5 years   | ars       | 6-12 years | ITS  | 13-18 years | ırs  |
|   | Number       | %    | Number      | %         | Number     | %    | Number      | %    |
| V01-V09 Pedestrian injured in transport accident                  | 12           | 0.7  | 609         | 36.7      | 715        | 43.1 | 322         | 19.5 |
| V20-V29 Motorcycle rider injured in transport accident            | 135          | 0.7  | 1,064       | 5.3       | 1,960      | 9.5  | 17,340      | 84.5 |
| V10-19, V30-V89 Land transport accident                           | 57           | 8.0  | 1,474       | 21.8      | 3,218      | 47.6 | 2,018       | 29.8 |
| W00-W19 Falls   | 862          | 3.2  | 6,961       | 25.6      | 11,956     | 44.1 | 7,360       | 27.1 |
| W20-W49 Exposure to inanimate mechanical forces                   | 337          | 1.7  | 4,971       | 24.7      | 7,321      | 36.3 | 7,521       | 37.3 |
| W50-W64 Exposure to animate mechanical forces                     | 135          | 1.9  | 1,679       | 23.9      | 2,734      | 38.9 | 2,474       | 35.3 |
| W65-W74 Accidental drowning and submersion                        | 42           | 3.3  | <i>L</i> 99 | 52.6      | 403        | 31.9 | 155         | 12.2 |
| W75-W84 Other accidental threats to breathing                     | 43           | 13.3 | 151         | 46.7      | 06         | 27.9 | 39          | 12.1 |
| W85-W99 Exposure to electric current                              | 95           | 5.0  | 470         | 24.7      | 296        | 31.2 | 747         | 39.1 |
| X00-X19 Exposure to fire and heat                                 | 515          | 15.6 | 1,865       | 56.4      | 564        | 17.0 | 365         | 11.0 |
| X20-X29 Contact with venomous animals and plants                  | 286          | 2.8  | 1,995       | 19.4      | 4,328      | 42.1 | 3,664       | 35.7 |
| X40-X49 Accidental poisoning by and exposure to noxious substance | 451          | 6.9  | 3,151       | 48.0      | 1,498      | 22.8 | 1,464       | 22.3 |
| X33 Victim of lightning   | 1            | 2.7  | 4           | 10.8      | 6          | 24.3 | 23          | 62.2 |
| Y85-Y89 Sequelae of external causes of morbidity and mortality    | 12           | 3.1  | 61          | 15.6      | 110        | 28.1 | 208         | 53.2 |
| Y40-Y84 Adverse effects in medical care                           | 2,006        | 18.2 | 2,633       | 23.9      | 2,820      | 25.6 | 3,557       | 32.3 |
| Total (118,323)   | 4,989        | 4.2  | 27,755      | 23.5      | 38,322     | 32.4 | 47,257      | 39.9 |

Table 3. Percent of death in unintentional injury (ICD 10) in Thai children and adolescents (0-18 years) in 2010 by cause

| Cause of unintentional injury                                     | Total  | Death  |       |  |
|---|--------|--------|-------|--|
|   | Number | Number | Row % |  |
| V01-V09 Pedestrian injured in transport accident                  | 1,658  | 41     | 2.5   |  |
| V20-V29 Motorcycle rider injured in transport accident            | 20,499 | 396    | 1.9   |  |
| V10-19,V30-V89 Land transport accident                            | 6,767  | 68     | 1.0   |  |
| W00-W19 Falls   | 27,139 | 39     | 0.1   |  |
| W20-W49 Exposure to inanimate mechanical forces                   | 20,150 | 39     | 0.2   |  |
| W50-W64 Exposure to animate mechanical forces                     | 7,022  | .00    | 0.0   |  |
| W65-W74 Accidental drowning and submersion                        | 1,267  | 158    | 12.4  |  |
| W75-W84 Other accidental threats to breathing                     | 323    | 12     | 3.7   |  |
| W85-W99 Exposure to electric current                              | 1,908  | 39     | 2.0   |  |
| X00-X19 Exposure to fire and heat                                 | 3,309  | 14     | 0.42  |  |
| X20-X29 Contact with venomous animals and plants                  | 10,273 | 5      | 0.05  |  |
| X40-X49 Accidental poisoning by and exposure to noxious substance | 6,564  | 13     | 0.2   |  |
| X33 Victim of lightning   | 37     | 4      | 10.8  |  |
| Y85-Y89 Sequelae of external causes of morbidity and mortality    | 391    | 2      | 0.5   |  |
| Y40-Y84 Adverse effects in medical care                           | 11,016 | 147    | 1.3   |  |

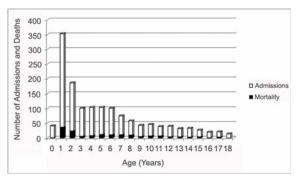


Fig. 2 Number of hospital admissions and deaths of accidental drowning and submersion (W65-W74) in children and adolescents in 2010

frequently observed in the older teens (15-19 year-olds)<sup>(10)</sup>. The leading causes of unintentional injury also differed by age group. Among children under 1 year in the present study, the primary causes of injury were adverse effects in medical care followed by falls. By comparison, in England and Wales between 1968 and 2000, medications accounted for 12.8% of unintentional poisoning deaths in under-tens<sup>(14)</sup>. In the United States, however, among children under 1 year, the majority of nonfatal injuries were due to falls (52%) followed by being struck by or against an object (14%)<sup>(9)</sup>.

Among children between 1 and 12 years of age in the present study, the primary cause of injury

were falls, as was found in other studies<sup>(5,9,13)</sup>. In Thailand, Phuenpathom et al found that head injuries in traffic accidents involving motorcycles were a major cause of death and disability (70-75%)<sup>(15)</sup>. In some Asian countries, where motorbikes are the most common form of transportation, crashes were the leading cause of mortality and morbidity among teenagers<sup>(16)</sup>.

For all unintentional injuries in Thai children and adolescents between 0-18 years, accidental drowning and submersion were the major cause of death. As a percent of death in unintentional injury by age group, it persisted as the major cause of death among 1-12 year-olds. It was the second most common cause of death among 13-18 year-olds while it was the third most common cause of death in children under 1 year. Data from the studies conducted in South and East Asia show that drowning accounts for 90% of all injury deaths for 1-4 year-olds and over 50% of injury deaths for 5-9 year-olds(16). Risk and circumstances of child drowning generally relate to the developmental stage of the child. Infants under 1 year are usually unable to access water by themselves, so unintentional drowning at this age is mostly the result of a child's being left unattended or with an untrained caregiver<sup>(17)</sup>. The increased risk during adolescence was possibly as a result of (a) less supervision and increased independence (b) increased risk-taking and (c) greater exposure to open water during work or leisure(16). Parents and caregivers need to understand that young

**Table 4.** Percent of death in unintentional injury (ICD 10) in Thai children and adolescents (0-18 years) in 2010 by age group

| Cause of unintentional injury                                     | Age group  |            |             |        |          |      |  |
|---|------------|------------|-------------|--------|----------|------|--|
|   | Un         | der 1 year |             | 1-5 y  | ears     |      |  |
|   | Total      |            |             | Total  | Deat     | h    |  |
|   | count      | count      | %           | count  | count    | %    |  |
| V01-V09 Pedestrian injured in transport accident                  | 12         | 2          | 16.7        | 609    | 13       | 2.1  |  |
| V20-V29 Motorcycle rider injured in transport accident            | 135        | 4          | 3.0         | 1,064  | 13       | 1.2  |  |
| V10-19,V30-V89 Land transport accident                            | 57         | 0          | 0           | 1,474  | 14       | 0.9  |  |
| W00-W19 Falls   | 862        | 4          | 0.5         | 6,961  | 14       | 0.2  |  |
| W20-W49 Exposure to inanimate mechanical forces                   | 337        | 1          | 0.3         | 4,971  | 11       | 0.2  |  |
| W50-W64 Exposure to animate mechanical forces                     | 135        | 0          | 0           | 1,679  | 0        | 0    |  |
| W65-W74 Accidental drowning and submersion                        | 42         | 2          | 4.8         | 667    | 74       | 11.1 |  |
| W75-W84 Other accidental threats to breathing                     | 43         | 6          | 14.0        | 151    | 2        | 1.3  |  |
| W85-W99 Exposure to electric current                              | 610        | 3          | 0.5         | 2,335  | 14       | 0.6  |  |
| X00-X19 Exposure to fire and heat                                 | 515        | 2          | 0.4         | 1,865  | 6        | 0.3  |  |
| X20-X29 Contact with venomous animals and plants                  | 286        | 0          | 0           | 1,995  | 2        | 0.1  |  |
| X40-X49 Accidental poisoning by and exposure to noxious substance | 451        | 2          | 0.4         | 3,151  | 7        | 0.2  |  |
| X33 Victim of lightning   | 1          | 0          | 0           | 4      | 0        | 0    |  |
| Y85-Y89 Sequelae of external causes of morbidity and mortality    | 12         | 0          | 0           | 61     | 0        | 0    |  |
| Y40-Y84 Adverse effects in medical care                           | 2,006      | 70         | 3.5         | 2,633  | 24       | 0.9  |  |
| Cause of unintentional injury                                     | Age group  |            |             |        |          |      |  |
|   | 6-12 years |            | 13-18 years |        |          |      |  |
|   | Total      | l Death To |             | Total  | al Death |      |  |
|   | count      | count      | %           | count  | count    | %    |  |
| V01-V09 Pedestrian injured in transport accident                  | 715        | 19         | 2.7         | 327    | 7        | 2.1  |  |
| V20-V29 Motorcycle rider injured in transport accident            | 1,960      | 21         | 1.1         | 17,803 | 358      | 2.0  |  |
| V10-19,V30-V89 Land transport accident                            | 3,218      | 27         | 0.8         | 2,034  | 27       | 1.3  |  |
| W00-W19 Falls   | 11,956     | 9          | 0.1         | 7,408  | 12       | 0.2  |  |
| W20-W49 Exposure to inanimate mechanical forces                   | 7,321      | 11         | 0.2         | 7,589  | 16       | 0.2  |  |
| W50-W64 Exposure to animate mechanical forces                     | 2,734      | 0          | 0           | 2,493  | 0        | 0    |  |
| W65-W74 Accidental drowning and submersion                        | 403        | 63         | 15.6        | 155    | 19       | 12.3 |  |
| W75-W84 Other accidental threats to breathing                     | 90         | 2          | 2.2         | 39     | 2        | 5.1  |  |
| W85-W99 Exposure to electric current                              | 160        | 8          | 0.7         | 1,121  | 14       | 1.2  |  |
| X00-X19 Exposure to fire and heat                                 | 564        | 2          | 0.4         | 366    | 4        | 1.1  |  |
| X20-X29 Contact with venomous animals and plants                  | 4,328      | 1          | 0           | 3,683  | 2        | 0.1  |  |
| X40-X49 Accidental poisoning by and exposure to noxious substance | 1,498      | 2          | 0.1         | 1,474  | 2        | 0.1  |  |
| X33 Victim of lightning   | 9          | 0          | 0           | 23     | 4        | 17.4 |  |
| Y85-Y89 Sequelae of external causes of morbidity and mortality    | 110        | 0          | 0           | 210    | 2        | 1    |  |
| Y40-Y84 Adverse effects in medical care                           | 2,820      | 14         | 0.5         | 3,597  | 39       | 1.1  |  |

**Table 5.** Rate of morbidity and mortality of External causes of morbidity and mortality (V01-Y98) of children and adolescents as compared to Index of Thai 'A World Fit for Children', 2010 (7)

| Type of External causes of morbidity and mortality (V01-Y98)        | Age (Year) | Rate  | Index per year  |
|---|------------|-------|-----------------|
| Mortality rate of All accidents ( V01-Y98)                          | 0-12       | 211.8 | < 100/1,000,000 |
| Mortality rate of All accidents (V01-Y98)                           | 13-18      | 627.2 | < 150/1,000,000 |
| Admission rate of All accidents (V01-Y98)                           | 0-12       | 73.0  | < 30/10,000     |
| Mortality rate of Accidental drowning and submersion (W65-W74)      | 0-12       | 100.7 | < 50/1,000,000  |
| Mortality rate of Transport accident (V01-V99)                      | 0-12       | 46.1  | < 20/1,000,000  |
| Mortality rate of Transport accident (V01-V99)                      | 13-18      | 302.8 | < 100/1,000,000 |
| Admission rate of Transport accident (V01-V99)                      | 0-12       | 8.9   | < 5/10,000      |
| Mortality rate of Other accidental threats to breathing (W75-W84)   | 0-12       | 7.6   | < 3/1,000,000   |
| Mortality rate of Exposure to electric current, radiation (W85-W99) | 0-12       | 6.2   | < 3/1,000,000   |
| Mortality rate of Falls (W00-W19)                                   | 0-12       | 1.8   | < 1/1,000,000   |
| Admission rate of Falls (W00-W19)                                   | 0-12       | 19.1  | < 2/10,000      |
| Mortality rate of Exposure to smoke, fire and flames (X00-X19)      | 0-12       | 2.9   | < 1/1,000,000   |
| Admission rate of Exposure to smoke, fire and flames (X00-X19)      | 0-12       | 2.8   | < 0.5/10,000    |
| Mortality rate of Accidental poisoning by and exposure to           | 0-12       | 0.7   | < 10/1,000,000  |
| noxious substance(X40-X49)  |            |       |                 |
| Mortality rate of Contact with venomous animals                     | 0-12       | 0.8   | < 10/1,000,000  |
| and plants (X20-X29)  |            |       |                 |
| Admission rate of Contact with venomous animals                     | 0-12       | 6.4   | < 5/10,000      |
| and plants (X20-X29)  |            |       |                 |
| Mortality rate of Intentional self-harm and Assault (X60-Y09)       | 0-12       | 3.2   | < 5/1,000,000   |
| Mortality rate of Intentional self-harm and Assault (X60-Y09)       | 13-18      | 74.1  | < 0/1,000,000   |
| Admission rate of Intentional self-harm and Assault (X60-Y09)       | 0-12       | 1.1   | < 1/10,000      |

children should never be left alone or with another young child in or around any body of water. Parents and caregivers also need to learn basic life-saving and first-aid skills. Most studies showed that swimming instruction improved swimming ability, but no evidence existed that swimming ability protected against the risk of drowning. There were indications that swimming instruction and the consequent increased ability at swimming, as well as greater survival skills, provided some protection, even at relatively young ages<sup>(2)</sup>.

The second major cause of death in the present study was lightning strikes, particularly among 13-18 year-olds. In the United States, there are 300-600 deaths from lightning strikes. A lightning strike generates 100 to 110,000 amperes, with a temperature in excess of 20,000°C<sup>(18)</sup>. Nguyen et al found that death from lightning strikes in Canada predominated among 0-19 year-olds<sup>(19)</sup>.

The present study revealed that mortality rate of accidental drowning and submersion, transport accident, exposure to electric current and radiation, exposure to smoke, fire and flames, other accidental threats to breathing and falls were higher than the Index of Thai 'A World Fit for Children', 2010<sup>(7)</sup>. Therefore,

child mortality rate of these unintentional injuries should be improved. This report will lead to greater awareness of problem and preventability, as well as political commitment to act to prevent child injury.

# Implications for unintentional injury prevention

The present study shows that unintentional injuries persist as an important under-addressed public health problem among Thai children and adolescents. It is important to approach childhood unintentional injury as a preventable disease in order to effectively reduce the burden of injuries. In this vein, effort should be made to (a) improve data collection of injuries (b) define the epidemiology of unintentional injuries (c) estimate the cost of injuries (d) understand public perceptions about injury causation and (e) engage with policy makers to improve injury prevention and control.

#### Study limitations

The present study had several limitations. First, the dataset for the present study represented only a small fraction of the total cases of injury in the community. It did not take into account those injuries treated as out-patients, treated at home and/or in other

facilities within the community. Second, the dataset for the present study did not provide sufficiently detailed information such as costs of injuries, time and place of injury.

# Acknowledgements

The authors wish to thank Mr. Bryan Roderick Hamman and Mrs. Janice Loewen-Hamman for assistance with the English-language presentation of the manuscript.

## **Funding**

The authors gratefully acknowledge financial support for this project from the National Health Security Office (NHSDO) Thailand.

#### **Potential conflicts of interest**

None.

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# การได้รับภยันตรายโดยไม่ตั้งใจในเด็กและวัยรุ่นไทย ปี พ.ศ. 2553

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**ภูมิหลัง**: การได้รับภยันตรายโดยไม่ตั้งใจเป็นปัญหาสาธารณสุขอยางหนึ่งในประเทศไทย เป็นสาเหตุนำของการตาย ในกลุ<sup>่</sup>มเด็กและวัยรุ<sup>่</sup>นในประเทศไทย

**วัตถุประสงค**์: เพื่อสำรวจจำนวนผู้ปวยในที่ได*้*รับภยันตรายโดยไม<sup>่</sup>ตั้งใจและสาเหตุของการเกิดภยันตราย ในเด็กและวัยร<sup>่</sup>นไทย ปี พ.ศ. 2553

วัสดุและวิธีการ: ทำการเก็บรวบรวมข้อมูลจากจำนวนผู้ปวยในที่ได้รับภยันตรายโดยไม่ตั้งใจและสาเหตุของ การเกิดภยันตรายจากโรงพยาบาลทั่วประเทศและจากระบบประกันสุขภาพทั้ง 3 ระบบ ในปีงบประมาณ พ.ศ.2553 ในเด็กและวัยรุ่นไทยที่มีอายุ 0-18 ปีในช่วง วันที่ 1 ตุลาคม พ.ศ.2552 ถึงวันที่ 30 กันยายน พ.ศ.2553 โดยใช้ระบบ การจำแนกโรคระดับนานาชาติครั้งที่ 10 เป็นรหัสของการเกิดภยันตรายโดยไม่ตั้งใจและการตาย

ผลการศึกษา: จำนวนการเกิดภยันตรายโดยไม่ตั้งใจในการศึกษานี้มีทั้งหมด 118,323 ครั้ง ส่วนใหญ่เป็นเพศชาย สาเหตุของการเกิดภยันตรายโดยไม่ตั้งใจส่วนใหญ่คือการพลัดตกหกล้ม จำนวน 27,139 ครั้ง (ร้อยละ 22.94) รองลงมา คือภยันตรายจากการขับขี่รถจักรยานยนต์ในการขนส่งจำนวน 20,499 ครั้ง (ร้อยละ 17.32) สาเหตุการตาย ของการเกิดภยันตรายโดยไม่ตั้งใจส่วนใหญ่คือ อุบัติเหตุจากการจมน้ำ รองลงมาคือฟ้าผ่าและอุบัติเหตุที่คุกคาม การหายใจ (เช่น การทำให้อึดอัด และการสำลัก)

**สรุป**: การศึกษานี้แสดงให<sup>้</sup>เห็นว<sup>่</sup>าสาเหตุของการเกิดภยันตรายโดยไม<sup>่</sup>ตั้งใจส<sup>่</sup>วนใหญ<sup>่</sup>คือการพลัดตกหกล<sup>้</sup>ม และสาเหตุการตายของการเกิดภยันตรายโดยไม<sup>่</sup>ตั้งใจส<sup>่</sup>วนใหญ<sup>่</sup>คือ อุบัติเหตุจากการจมน้ำ