Background

Unintentional Injuries comprise the fifth leading cause of death in Nepal in 2017, an increase of 23% compared to 1990. In Nepal, there is minimal community-derived evidence of home or occupational injuries. Our aim was to describe the epidemiology of injuries in the Makwanpur district, including the causes and risk factors associated with those injuries.

Methods

A cross-sectional, household survey was undertaken in three administrative areas of Nepal between April-June, 2019. Data were collected electronically about non-fatal and fatal injuries in the previous three months and five years, respectively.

Results

17,593 individuals from 3,327 households were surveyed; 394 people were injured. 136/394 (34.5%) injuries occurred in homes, 109 (27.7%) were work-related. 225 (55.8%) were males, the age range was 0–87 years. 123 (30.7%) were child injuries, (0–17 yrs). The most commonly reported injury was falls (n=173, 43.9%), stumbling and tripping were the most common reasons and 73 (42.2%) occurred at home. More injuries occurred in rural administrative areas than urban areas, especially occupational injuries (occupational: chi-square=22.05, p=0.000; home: chi-square=13.89, p<0.001).

Conclusions

Home and occupational fall injuries are common, especially in rural areas. Understanding the context of falls, especially identifying and working with particular occupational groups where they are prevalent, may identify risk factors and help target messages about primary falls prevention and interventions.

Learning Outcomes

Using hand-held computers and local enumerators for data collection in sample areas resulted in minimal missing data and monitoring of data quality during the collection period.

TRUCK DRIVERS’ PERCEPTION OF ROAD DANGER IN NEPAL: A QUALITATIVE STUDY

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Background

Nepal is fast expanding its road network, and over 90% of goods are transported by road. Large numbers of truck drivers are therefore exposed to the risk of crashes. We explored the perceptions and experiences of truck drivers and representatives from their professional association regarding road dangers. Understanding crash risk in commercial drivers can contribute to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 3.6.

Methods

We conducted semi-structured interviews with 15 truck drivers and a focus group with 9 members of their professional association. The focus group and interviews were audio-recorded, transcribed, translated, and analyzed using thematic analysis.

Results

Six themes were identified: unsafe road environment; bad attitude of the road users on road; risky road user behavior; inadequate road safety knowledge among road users; poor accountability of government agencies; and poor safety culture in the trucking industry. The following factors were perceived as contributing to road danger by truck drivers: strong desire of both drivers and passengers to arrive quickly at destinations; haphazard road crossing; vehicle overloading; poorly maintained roads and vehicles; and trip-based payments.

Conclusion

Changes at individual, societal, organizational, and governmental levels are needed to improve road safety in Nepal. Key areas for action are education, improved infrastructure, and accountability.

BISENSORY OCCUPATIONAL OVERLOAD AS A RESULT OF EXPRESSIVE DYSPHASIA SYNDROME

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Background

We describe a newly identified manifestation of expressive dysphasia (impaired language production resulting in an inability to meaningfully communicate). Bi-sensory Occupational Overload as a Result of Expressive Dysphasia. This occupational disease is transmitted orally and is highly contagious in large social gatherings.

Methods

Action research into the effects, transmission and severity of Bi-sensory Occupational Overload as a Result of Expressive Dysphasia was conducted biennially over a 3-day period in November for over 30 years.

Results

We estimate that over 30 million Bi-sensory Occupational Overload as a Result of Expressive Dysphasia (BOORED) exposures occur every day (15 million person hours) resulting in a daily loss of $252 million in productivity. The syndrome initially manifests as prosis, lethargy, increasing somnolence, stertorous breathing and drooling. When severe and prolonged those affected may become comatose. It is exacerbated by the intensity of the expressive dysphasia, the number of sensory modalities affected, reduced modulation of auditory stimuli, reduced size combined with increased intensity of visual stimulation, reduced ambient light, increased ambient temperature, duration of exposure, repeated exposure and postprandial depression, of these, expressive dysphasia resulting in increasing loss of meaningful content combined with excessive hot air are the most important causative factors.

Conclusion

Bi-sensory Overstimulation Resulting from Expressive Dysphasia syndrome is highly contagious. Large social gatherings that augment exposure to the syndrome are a significant occupational hazard especially for professionals working in the business, government, health and tertiary sectors. Strategies to reduce exposure are well documented and will be discussed using Haddon’s 10 countermeasures.