1C.003  PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY AND FALLS PREVENTION AMONG OLDER PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY

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Background Globally, falls are a leading cause of injury, hospitalisation, disability and death among older people, especially those living in private homes. Public health policy can be a successful population level strategy for injury prevention, however there is a lack of evidence of its impact on incidence rates of falls-related hospitalisations or deaths.

Methods A policy analysis was conducted through a systematic literature review of effectiveness of international public health policy on falls prevention in the community by government jurisdictions for the period 2007 to 2019, using the World Health Organization’s 2007 Global Report on Falls in Older Age as a starting point. Falls prevention policy documents were systematically identified via literature databases and government websites, and were included if they focussed on community-dwelling older people, and if they indicated pre- and post-policy incidence rates of falls-related hospitalisations or deaths.

Results This presentation will provide a synthesis of evidence of the effectiveness of public health policy interventions on falls prevention in the community to stimulate audience conversation and insight into international examples of falls prevention policy. The synthesis will be thematic and narrative.

Conclusions Public health policy is an important population level intervention for falls prevention in the community, however its impact on incidence rates of falls-related hospitalisations and deaths is variable.

Learning Outcomes This presentation will allow insights into international policy approaches to falls prevention in the community which may inform future government policy efforts.

1C.004  EPIDEMIOLOGY OF FATAL HOME INJURIES IN RURAL BANGLADESH

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Background The home is the most common location for fatal injuries in Bangladesh with 60% of deaths occurring in and around the home. This paper describes the epidemiology of fatal home injuries in rural Bangladesh

Methods A census and baseline survey was conducted as part of the Saving of Lives from Drowning (SoLiD) project in 7 purposively sampled rural sub-districts of Bangladesh. Information on socio-demographic characteristics, injury mortality and morbidity were collected from 1.2 million people between June and November, 2013. Descriptive analyses were done to quantify the burden of unintentional fatal home injuries.

Results 267 injury deaths were recorded over the 1-year recall period in the home environment (mortality rate was 23 [95% CI 20–26] per 100000 population per year). Leading causes of home injury deaths were drowning (53.7%), suicide (10.8%), falls (12.3%) and burns (9.3%). Children aged 1–4 years (97 [95% CI 78–120] per 100000) and adults older than 65 years (81 [95% CI 62–105] per 100000) were at high risk for injuries in the home (p<0.000). Drowning was the leading cause of death among children aged 1–9 years. Suicide followed by drowning was the main causes of deaths among adolescent males aged 10–14 years. Suicide followed by burn was the main cause of death among females aged 15–24 years. Falls was the main cause of death among adults older than 65 years.

Recommendation Interventions need to be promoted to ensure safer behaviours and help change home environments for families especially children in rural Bangladesh.