Methods An injury surveillance system was introduced in the emergency departments of two hospitals in Makwanpur district. Anonymous data on patients presenting with an injury were collected 24 hours a day between April 2019 and February 2020. A process evaluation involved 14 interviews to explore sustainability of the model.

Results Over 11 months, a total 6942 adult patients with injuries attended the study hospitals. More than half attendees (64.3%) were male and most (55.7%) were young adults (18–35 years). Most injuries were unintentional (86.3%, n=5988); predominantly road traffic injuries (32.2%), falls (25.6%) and animal related harm (20.1%). The hospital management and clinical staff valued the availability and usefulness of injury data that had been collected from the hospital-based surveillance.

Conclusion A large proportion of the work presenting to these two hospitals is injury related, and potentially preventable. Road traffic injuries are a significant component of the adult injuries. The lack of capacity of hospital staff for collecting injury data is a major barrier for sustaining the injury surveillance system in the longer term.

Learning Outcomes Rich injury data can be obtained by embedding data collectors in emergency departments. Such data can enable monitoring of epidemiological trends. Effective surveillance systems require investment and capacity.