

ABSTRACT

This prospective study examined the factors associated with motor vehicle accidents and the impact these accidents have on the Spanish Town Hospital during the period January 19, 1998 to February 15, 1998.

One hundred and twenty six persons were recruited in the study, eight four of which samples for blood alcohol levels were obtained by consent. Information was obtained using a data collection instrument designed by the Author and an assessment form which was available at the hospital.

The data revealed that majority of casualties to the hospital were males, less than thirty and passengers in motor vehicle. Most accidents occurred during the peak hours of the day between 6am - 9am and 3pm - 6pm when the roads were congested.

Motor vehicle to motor vehicle (39.8%) was the most common accident while head injury was the most common.

The older persons were more inclined to be intoxicated especially at the higher level of intoxication. If the legal limit from blood alcohol was changed to the World Health Organization Standard of 50mg/100ml then four times more casualties would be considered intoxicated.

The minimum cost of road traffic accidents to the Spanish Town Hospital has \$137,065.00 with a mean cost per patient of \$1,087.81 over a four weeks period.