

## ABSTRACT

### Emergency Orthopaedic Presentations and Outcomes Among Adolescents and Young Adults at the University Hospital of the West Indies (UHWI)

Anneke Wilson

Orthopaedic injuries continue to be a major public health problem as they contribute to increased morbidity and mortality.

This retrospective study was done among adolescents and young adults presenting during the period 30th November 1995 to 1st January 1996 and examined orthopaedic presentations and outcomes in adolescents and young adults at the Accident and Emergency Unit of the University Hospital of the West Indies (UHWI).

Data was collected using a data collection sheet; 108 cases were collected during the period. Males accounted for 67.5% of the orthopaedic injuries, and females, 32.5% of injuries.

Bone injuries were the commonest, accounting for 55.2% of injuries, ligaments/soft tissue 22.8%, blood vessels 13.8%, muscle 4.0%, tendons 1.6%, nerves 1.6%, joints 0.8%.

Falls and slips were the major contributor to injuries, with 52.7%, followed by violence with 24%, motor vehicular accidents with 20.3% and sporting injuries with 2.7%.

Most patients were treated as out patients. Of this category, 91.6% received outpatient care and 8.3% inpatient care, while 97.2% received closed reduction and

2.7% open reduction. Many patients received drug therapy, 69.3% (75 patients).

The outcome varied with 64.8% being able to function partially and 32.4% fully functional on discharge in comparison to the 25% follow up, in which 20% was partially ambulant, unlike 80% who were fully functional within 3 months of follow up. A small number, 20%, were affected for a longer period.

The majority of injuries were outside of school time and therefore did not affect attendance.