

ABSTRACT

Socio-economic Factors Relating to the Aetiology
of Trauma Cases Presented at the Accident
and Emergency Unit, January to March, 1997.

1997

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Trauma continues to be a major problem in developing and developed countries alike, mostly affecting the young and productive and the socially disadvantaged. This creates a burden in the health system and contributes to increased morbidity and mortality.

A cross sectional study of 197 cases was done at the Accident and Emergency Unit of the U.H.W.I., to provide data on socio-economic factors relating to trauma cases presenting to the unit. Of this total, 143 (73.3%) were male and 52 (26.7%) were females. There was a greater percentage of trauma in the 20-24 year group, with the lowest in the 40-44 year group.

The occupational group of clerical/skilled persons had the highest population of trauma with the most common type being interpersonal/intentional injury as was the trend in all other variables studied.

Ganja use was significantly associated with the types of trauma suffered ($p < 0.05$). Crack/cocaine and alcohol use was reported to a lesser extent.