

ABSTRACT

Every year since the last decade a mean of 347.5 Jamaicans die as a result of road traffic accidents. Annually those injured amount to approximately 2,780 persons. For every one death due to road traffic accidents there are at least eight injured persons.

The aim of this study was to determine the resource consumption of persons sustaining injuries from road traffic accidents. The public health implications were examined with respect to spectrum of injury, demographic data and resource allocation.

A simple random sample of 200 victims of road traffic accidents from the population of patients seen in 1992 at the Kingston Public Hospital was selected.

The results revealed that men were more frequently injured than women. The most frequent age grouping was that between 15 and 44 years this accounted for 75% of the sample. Of the group classified, pedestrians (40%), passengers (25%), were the most vulnerable road users. They received the largest range of injuries and were the most severely injured. Injuries to the extremities, external injuries and injury to the head and neck were

most frequent. Among drivers facial injuries were significant, 75% of this group received injuries to the face.

One in every three persons treated in casualty required admission to hospital. Of those treated in ambulatory care 25% require the costly service of the hospital's out patients' department. In casualty department a total of 483 medical interventions were needed to treat 200 patients incurring a total cost to the government for basic resources utilized at J\$74,470.89. The mean length of hospital stay was 32 days at a mean cost of J\$29,105.23.

Based on the type and frequency of injuries received, the results indicate that which should be done in the area of prevention.