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## Health and Well-being



## Factors associated with occupational injuries treated at the Accident Service of National Hospital of Sri Lanka

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Injury that occurs while people engage in their occupation is a major public health concern. This study sets out to determine the demographic and occupational characteristics, causes, types and injury severity of Occupational Injuries (OI) among patients treated at the Accident Service of National Hospital of Sri Lanka (NHSL) and carried out a descriptive cross sectional study. Data related to OIs were collected from the Accident Service Out Patients' Department (ASOPD) and from the casualty wards and Intensive Care Units. An interviewer administered questionnaire was used for data collection. Data was collected during January 2019. Descriptive statistics and ANOVA were used for data analysis. A total of 160 occupational injury victims were reported to the Accident Service of NHSL. Of them, 95% were males. Out of 160 victims, 63.1% (n = 101) were admitted to the ward and 36.9% (n = 59) had left after ASOPD treatment. The mean age of the victims was 39 years (SD 14.7). Among them, 33.7% were breadwinners of the family. Among the victims, 49.5% had studied up to GCE O/L and 32.7% had primary education. The majority (93.1%) of the injuries were reported in private sector. 59.4% of them were temporary workers. The construction sector recorded the highest injuries (39.6%). Most of them had no training in the relevant field. Although most of the victims know the risk (69.3%), safety measures (60.4%) and protective equipment (73.3%) were not used. Common reasons for OIs were negligence (48.5%) and unavailability of protective equipment (30.7%). One third of victims had machinery related injuries (33.7%, n = 34) and nearly one third were injured due to a fall (28.7%, n = 29). Wrist and hand (32.7%) was the commonly injured part of the body and 37.7% injuries occurred to the dominant hand. The highest number of injury category was fractures and dislocations (40.6%). Among the victims 7.9% had severe injuries and 92.1% had less severe injuries. Internal organ, vascular and nerve damage and multiple injuries were recorded as taking the longest length of hospital stay (LOS) (mean 8.7, SD 14.1). The LOS was statistically different between disease categories ( $p < 0.05$ ). OIs are common among young males. Lack of training and not taking safety measures are common factors for OIs. Negligence and unavailability of protective devices are common reasons for not using the protective devices.

**Keywords:** emergency department injury, fatal occupational injuries, non-fatal occupational injuries, occupational injuries, work related injuries, trauma