

Accidents and injuries

Traffic crash injuries

A classic example of practical injury epidemiology for traffic crashes is the demonstrated dose–response relationship between driving speed (dose) and frequency of injury (response) for drivers with and without seat belts . This has served as valuable information for decisions regarding two different preventive approaches: speed reduction and the use of seat-belts.

Workplace injury : they are among the most important types of ill health caused by factors in the workplace. The environmental factors associated with these injuries are often more difficult to identify and quantify than those causing, for instance, chemical poisoning. However, technological and management improvements over the years have resulted in great reductions in occupational injury rates in most high income countries .

Violence

Violence is another public health problem that has been highlighted through epidemiological analysis during recent years. In certain high-income countries, homicides are a major cause of death among young males, and the situation is even worse in some low- and middle-income countries. For example, the WHO mortality database shows that in Brazil, homicide accounts for 40% of all deaths among 15–24 year old males. Firearms are frequently used to commit homicide, and this is an increasing trend in several countries.

Suicides

An important cause of death is suicide. The environmental factors causing suicidal intent are primarily social or economic , suicides are also dependent on access to a suicidal method . When control measures were introduced, the incidence of suicide decreased.