

## **Abstract**

### **Introduction**

Injuries both unintentional and intentional primarily affect young adults and often result in severe disabling consequences. Overall injuries accounted for 9.1% of all deaths and over 14% of adult disease burden in the world. In Sri Lanka according to hospital statistics 3,618 cases per 100,000 population were admitted due to injuries, poisonings and certain other consequences of external causes in 2001, a more than two fold increase since 1980.

### **Objective**

The present study proposed to describe the epidemiology of injuries and disability due to injuries in the Galle district, Sri Lanka.

### **Methodology**

The study consisted of 2 components, a community based cross sectional descriptive survey and a hospital based prospective study. The community survey sample was selected by the stratified multistage cluster sampling technique. Fifty clusters comprising of 40 households each were selected probability proportional to size of the populations in the Grama Niladhari divisions (Primary sampling units). 9,595 individuals from the 2000 households were screened for past injury events using an interviewer administered questionnaire. Individuals who reported any injury during the month prior to data collection, an injury requiring a hospital admission during the year prior to data collection and any individual having a disability following an injury were included for further analysis for the survey .

The hospital study selected a systematic sample of 751 patients admitted with an injury during the study period from the 3,047 injury admissions identified during this time. Detailed injury information was obtained from them and they were followed up at end of 5 months with a postal, self administered disability assessment questionnaire to assess their residual disability following the injury event.