

## SUMMARY

An investigation on some epidemiologic factors in children with traumatized permanent anterior teeth was carried out in a clinical population of children 6-15 years of age. It was conducted on 196 children with traumatized permanent anterior teeth, who sought treatment from six Consultant Dental and Maxillofacial units in Colombo and Kalutara districts from 15th July 1994 to 15th September 1994. Data were collected not only by clinical and radiological examinations but also by vitality tests and interviewer administered questionnaires.

The results suggested that males showed a higher incidence of trauma with a male to female ratio of 1.9:1.0. The largest percentage of injuries was demonstrated by the nine year old children. Approximately 40% of trauma had occurred at home and 28.1% at school. 51% of these fractures were due to falls either at home or at school. The percentage of children who received trauma to more than one tooth was 46.9%. 83.5% of the fractures occurred in maxillary central incisors. When fractures were classified according to the Ellis classification, 37.9% were Ellis I1 fractures, while 15% were Ellis V11 fractures.

The results of the questionnaire indicated that parents had wrong attitudes due mainly to their poor knowledge about the management of traumatic dental injury. 43% of the parents had first consulted the physician for these traumatic dental injuries and one fourth of the

parents beleived that the fractured teeth should be extracted. 79% of the parents did not know that avulsed teeth can be restored and only the educated parents were aware of the psychological impact of dental injury on their children.

This study also revealed the need for an educational programme aimed at improving the Parents' knowledge about the management of traumatic dental injuries in children.

