

## ABSTRACT

This study was undertaken as there are no properly conducted community based study on home accidents in Sri Lanka. This study was conducted in three parts, a descriptive one, a prospective one and a case control one.

The descriptive study covering a cluster sample of 4450 rural individuals from the Kegalle district, revealed a prevalence of 8.2 percent for home accidents. The rate was slightly higher for males than females. It was higher among the under 05 age group, tended to decline with increasing age up to 60 years. The prevalence was slightly higher among the over 60 age group. 23 percent of the home accidents reported during the study period did not result in injury. 64 percent resulted in mild injuries, 13.1 percent resulted in moderate injuries and only one accident led to serious injury. The common accidents among the less educated people were falls on the same level. falls from height, cuts and objects fallen on the body, while these among more educated people were cut injuries and struck in between objects. More than 80 percent of all home accident events took place in between 6.00 am and 4.00 pm, nearly half of them were occurring between 9.00 am and 10.00 am and 2.00 pm and 4.00 pm. The prospective study conducted on a random sample of 586, 01 to 14 years children, showed that the incidence of home accidents was 827.6 for 1000 children over a period of three months. Girls had more accidents

than boys and the smaller children had more accidents than older. The socio economic and demographic factors identified by the study as risk factors were age, sex, birth order, number of under 15's living at home, age of the mother, educational level of the mother, monthly per capita income of the family, household lighting, social class and the condition of the house.

The case control study was undertaken on 105 pairs of 05 to 10 year old children for the purpose of relating the behaviour to the risk of home accidents. The results revealed that the children with behavioural problems had a 3.9 times higher risk of home accidents than those with normal behaviour.