

Study on Injuries and Violence Recorded by the National Agency for Road Safety (Anaser) and the Emergency Department of Chu Gabriel Touré (Bamako from 1 October to 31 December 2011)

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The Initiative for Injury Prevention in Africa (IPIFA), the Canadian Network for International Surgery and the Quebec WHO Collaborating Center for the Promotion of Safety and Prevention of Injury have initiated a process in Mali to contribute to the fight against trauma problem.

Following a training workshop held in April 2011, it was decided to initiate a trauma surveillance project through data collection over three (3) months at the emergency department of the CHU Gabriel Touré and at the National Road Safety Agency (ANASER).

The analysis of the collected data shows that more than 40 people per day were registered in the emergency department of the CHU Gabriel Touré following a trauma. Nearly 80% of the victims were between 12 and 49 years old and more than $\frac{3}{4}$ were male. In more than 70% of cases, these were victims of a road accident, of which nearly 80% involved at least one motorcycle. Brain damage is by far the most common diagnosis, accounting for 42% of all injuries. Among cranial or cervical traumas occurring following a road accident, in 80% of cases at least one motorcycle was involved.

In light of these results, it can be concluded:

- Injuries are an important public health problem that mainly affects the young male population
- That injuries following accidents on the public highway are the leading causes of injuries, these accidents most often involving a motorcycle.
- That head injuries are of particular concern and are largely associated with accidents involving motorcycles.

At the end of this analysis, the authors of the study make several recommendations, in particular to:

- Strengthen research and data collection capacities on injuries and violence, in particular with a view to strengthening the injury and violence surveillance system.

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- Intensify efforts to increase helmet use among motorcyclists to prevent brain damage. Apply all measures favorable to the wearing of helmets, including repressive measures.
 - Develop research on the prevention and management of trauma. Involve the Traumatology and Neurosurgery departments in studies on traumas by involving other departments that receive trauma patients (Mali hospital, Point and Kati university hospitals, etc.)
 - Set up a network of stakeholders in the field of trauma and violence, for better framing of related activities.